

Corporate Energy Management Policy

November 2017



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1. Introduction

The use of energy is vital to delivery of Council services and operations. In the context of increasing energy costs and carbon reduction legislation, effective energy management is essential. This Policy and the associated Action Plan identifies key commitments and activities that will enable the Council to reduce energy usage and the effect of future energy price rises. It provides an overarching set of objectives to ensure that Council services are focused on energy efficiency.

As a Community Leader the Council also aims to reduce issues related to fuel poverty across the borough through effective energy procurement, advice for residents on energy saving matters, leading by example on new developments and energy efficient investments to existing buildings.

2. Policy Statement / Vision

The Council commits to improve energy management across the organisation and implement the necessary framework required to facilitate monitoring, reporting and decision making in respect of energy related matters. Our managed approach will be guided by a need to achieve value for money and efficiency in all that we do, coupled with an ambition to be innovative in finding ways to reduce costs and negative environmental impact.

3. Energy Management

Energy management is the systematic use of management and technology to improve an organisation's energy performance. There are a number of reasons why controlling and reducing energy consumption across an organisation is important, in addition to the positive impact it can have on the environment. These include:

Financial sustainability - The more energy consumed by an organisation, the greater the risk that energy price increases or fluctuations can seriously impact on the financial sustainability of the organisation, reducing available funds that could be used more productively elsewhere. Reducing consumption and dependency mitigates this risk, whilst procuring competitive energy supplier contracts allows forward planning and demonstrates value for money.

Opportunities identification – Robust management facilitates the identification of energy related opportunities and provides a framework in which to assess the viability of such opportunities.

Energy efficiency – Developing a culture that supports energy management facilitates consideration of how to secure maximum results or effects from each unit of energy used, thereby achieving the same or better outcomes through less energy usage.

4. Council Commitments

Basildon Council will ensure that the necessary systems and processes are in place to allow continuous improvement in the council's operations through

effective monitoring and management of energy. This approach will ensure the council is best placed to make informed decisions that achieve value for money and reduce operating costs in ways that are less likely to detract from the delivery of services.

Energy management is a continuous process that will evolve overtime. Crucial to its success is securing the foundations required to ensure the council has in place the necessary framework to support energy management.

Basildon council will:

- Manage energy costs and consumption;
- Monitor and target energy usage;
- Provide management reports on a cost and consumption basis;
- Ensure energy procurement is an integrated and proactive component of Basildon Council's energy management approach;
- Procure and secure competitive unit costs for gas and electricity supplies;
- Invest in energy efficiency on a spend to save basis, where opportunities are identified;
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation;
- Increase staff awareness of energy management;
- Take account of the opportunities for energy savings that arise as a result of the management of the council's estate and individual buildings; and
- Support energy efficient design of new or refurbished buildings within the council's property portfolio.

The Housing Asset Strategy outlines further commitments and objectives, providing targets for enhancing the assets energy performance, reducing fuel poverty and education for residents. The combination of low income and poor energy efficiency in the home can lead to issues of fuel poverty, and the strategy commits to make a positive contribution to affordable warmth across the borough.

5. Community Leadership

In its role as a Community Leader, the Council is uniquely placed to influence and encourage activity on matters that meet the needs of residents. The Council will commit to:

- Sustainability of future homes built in the Borough and opportunities to influence development;
- Continued investment in Council owned properties to improve energy efficiency
- Undertake procurement opportunities to benefit local resident
- Education and advice for residents to highlight the steps that can be taken by individuals in the home and at work to reduce energy costs

6. Outcomes and Priorities

The associated Action Plan sets on-going, short, medium and long term actions that deliver the objectives of this policy. The plan details the outcomes and

associated activities for the Council as a whole and will be managed by the Property Business Manager.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Energy and Utilities Management Action Plan

Monday to Friday
10am to 5pm



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