

Energy Efficiency & Sustainability in Schools Report of the Energy & Sustainability Officer

Recommendations

The Premises Board is asked to:

a) Take note of the new development and be aware of the impending push in term of energy and sustainability in our school estate.

1.0 Summary

1.1 Devon County Council has a large and diverse estate and is aiming to make Devon the Greenest County in the UK. This report outlines a few of the initiatives that have evolved over the past few months and the proposal for future action:

1.2 Energy Efficiency

Development

The Energy & Sustainability Officer is currently drafting an Energy Efficiency Action plan for the period 2006 to 2011 to assist all Devon Schools to align with the Devon County council Devon Strategic Plan to make Devon the Greenest County in the UK.

This report will highlight those initiatives necessary to move all our schools to best practice in terms of their energy efficiency. The action plan will deal with raising awareness, training premises managers, the investment required, renewable energies and the engagement of external partners to help facilitate these services to the schools of Devon.

The implementation of the finalised Energy efficiency action plan will lead to significant savings for schools in Devon.

One example of working with external partners has been our association with the national initiative 'Global Action plan'. We have been running a comprehensive energy action programme in ten secondary schools to raise awareness and engage with the whole community. This financial year we would like to expand the programme but start to work with the feeder primary schools.

1.3 **BREEAM For Schools :**

Devon County Council has now been accredited as an official licensed BREEAM for Schools Assessor which allows us to assess and give certification for new build projects within DCC and also to offer this service to external clients.

BREEAM has become a benchmark of environmental responsibility for buildings in the UK, and has gained international recognition. The first BREEAM scheme, devised by BRE back in the 1990s, assessed the environmental performance of offices. Since then schemes have been developed for other types of buildings – retail developments, homes, hospitals and prisons.

A BREEAM certificate represents current best practice, and says that a building has gone beyond what is required by regulations. Over the years it has become a highly sought after label that demonstrates the environmental credentials of buildings and developments.

BREEAM Schools are the latest addition to the BREEAM suite and its development was funded by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Energy & Sustainability Officer was involved with its development as part of the steering group. The scheme will form the basis of an independent and credible certification scheme against which DfES will set targets for new build and major refurbishment projects. It replaces the Schools Environmental Assessment Method published by DfES as a self-assessment tool in 1995.

How does the scheme work?

BREEAM Schools assesses the performance of buildings in the following areas:

- Management - Overall policy, commissioning and procedural issues.
- Energy Use - Operational energy and CO2 issues.
- Health and Wellbeing - Indoor and external issues affecting health and wellbeing.
- Pollution - Air and water pollution.
- Transport related issues.
- Land Use - Greenfield and brownfield sites.
- Ecology - Ecological value of the site.
- Materials - Environmental implication of building materials.
- Water - use and efficiency.

Each building is assessed against performance criteria developed by BRE in agreement with the DfES and the

steering group and awarded credits based on the level of performance. The percentage of credits achieved under each category is then calculated and environmental weightings are applied to produce an overall score for the building. The overall score is then translated into a BREEAM rating of:

PASS, GOOD, VERY GOOD, or EXCELLENT

The rating achieved is presented on a BREEAM Certificate, which can be used to verify and promote the environmental credentials of a school or individual building.

There is a requirement for DCC to achieve a Very Good rating by DfES. We are currently working with the University of Exeter in developing a system by which we can assess the BREEAM credits against a number of different criteria including: capital cost, fees, Educational benefit, climate change impact and how it fits with DCC policies.

1.4 Renewable Energy

A new Renewable Energy Programme has started this month in Devon entitled RED4 Devon. This has specific targets for the installation of renewable energy technologies in schools. We are currently looking at all the schools within Objection 2 area (North Devon, Torridge, South Hams and part of Mid Devon to ascertain the most suitable sites for the different renewable energy techniques.

The Government has recently launched a new funding mechanism for renewable energy called 'The Low carbon Building programme'. This fund will allocate 50% of the capital expenditure for renewable energy. For a school to be eligible for the 50% funding they will have to have addressed certain energy efficiency measures in the school, which the energy and sustainability team will be able to help them develop.

We are working with the University of Exeter and the members of the RED4 Devon team in creating a guide on renewable energy for schools. This will take the schools through the whole process from initial advice about suitable renewable energy to final installation and commissioning process.

It is possible for schools to contact the Energy & Sustainability team for free initial advice

Sam Allen – Head of Devon Property

