

Overview

Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) has a target to reduce carbon emissions by 10 per cent by 2017* to deliver improvements to its key public buildings. The project demonstrates the Council’s commitment to energy efficiency and achieving value for money for the public sector.

BCC has used the National Re:fit Programme to deliver an ambitious programme for energy efficiency across its estates. This flagship project launched the delivery of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy. While the Council has already made strong progress towards its carbon targets, Re:fit has allowed it to achieve economies of scale and bring improved efficiency to its smallest buildings under a guaranteed savings programme.

The Council, supported by Local Partnerships, ran a mini-competition under the Re:fit programme and Engie was identified as preferred bidder in February 2015. Engie completed Investment Grade Proposals for the first phase of 18 selected buildings at the end of summer 2015 and installation began in spring 2016.

Local Partnerships’ team assisted throughout the process, providing a review of technical and commercial documentation to help gain approval to install the selected measures.

One of the buildings identified for improvements in spring 2016 was the Buckingham Library and Knowledge Centre. It includes a library and adult and family learning facilities. Buckingham Town Council is also based in the building.

Project:	Buckingham Library and Knowledge Centre	
Savings:	£300 energy spend reduction per annum Energy savings of 14,700kWh	4 tonnes of CO ₂ per annum saved
Value:	£5,450 investment of retrofit works	Simple payback of 17 years
Timescale:	Installation completed	



“Local Partnerships’ professional support helped Buckinghamshire County Council through the project’s internal approval stages to deliver a tailored approach. It provided technical expertise to review the differing approaches offered for energy reduction and to select the most appropriate service provider for the Council.”

Rachel Toresen-Owuor, Energy Manager

*2011-12 baseline in the BCC Carbon Management Plan

Summary of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs)

The Council's Buckingham Library and Knowledge Centre project encompassed a number of energy-efficiency measures. These are listed below.

Building Management System (BMS) optimisation and monitoring

Issues were identified with the setup of the previous systems and strategy scripts. BMS ensures the building is set up to operate at optimum energy efficiency and that these optimum conditions persist throughout the payback period.

Engie will monitor ongoing energy performance through its Remote Intelligence Bureau. This ECM is a great way to ensure that buildings operate as efficiently as possible throughout their lifetime and that any issues are identified and actioned quickly.

Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS) and remote optimisation

Replacement of ineffective BEMS, optimisation of existing systems and use of remote management controls provide a full and clear understanding of the building's operation.

Time clocks

Installing time clocks in electrical "point-of-use" water heaters is an effective way to reduce energy and a number of these units have been installed across the site. This will save energy by reducing electricity used to overcome standing losses when the buildings are unoccupied.

Solar PV and PV monitoring

The roof-mounted solar PV solution involved a 9.92kWp-sized system, which provides 9,030kWh annual output. This solution uses 90 per cent of the site's roof space.

Energy efficiency and financial savings through Re:fit

Re:fit is a procurement framework and support service available to all public sector organisations in the UK. Since 2009 it has been helping organisations to deliver "spend-to-save" environmental retrofit projects that both improve their buildings and, importantly, make substantial guaranteed financial savings.

For more information about the National Re:fit Programme, contact robert.mckinnon@local.gov.uk or phone 07920 702 297.