

Overview

The City of Cardiff Council (CCC) are using Re:fit in order to optimise the energy efficiency of certain properties, improve their building performance, reduce CO₂ emissions and save money. Re:fit was seen as an ideal approach to contribute to the Council's desire to be an exemplar in energy saving and carbon management and meet CCC's stringent carbon management objectives.

The Council are involved with a number of European projects promoting energy and water saving initiatives, were the first authority in Europe to publicly display the energy consumption of our built estate (via the internet) and are the first organisation in Wales to contract through the Re:fit framework.

With over 300 properties in the Council's property portfolio and energy spend of £10 million per annum, the potential benefits could be significant. The first tranche of CCC's Re:fit programme covers 8 properties including Cardiff Castle, City Hall and a range of schools.

The Council commissioned Local Partnerships to support the development and delivery of its Re:fit project. To date, the Council has undertaken the following towards achieving its project goals:

- undertaken a mini-competition and selected Engie Services as its Re:fit service provider
- agreed the cost and performance requirements for the initial buildings following the initial assessments, with improvements planned to commence in the second half of 2016
- identified additional buildings that could create a rolling programme of energy savings retrofits

Assessments and initial proposals for the first tranche of buildings show exciting opportunities for financial and environmental benefits. The programme is on track to significantly exceed the original 15% savings target as well reducing backlog maintenance and equipment issues. As the project progresses into detailed design, Engie has contracted to produce the detailed investment grade proposals to show delivery for:

- a minimum 29% CO₂ savings (including 50% CO₂ savings in one property) and a minimum 28% energy cost savings (including over 50% net energy cost saving at one school)
- reducing energy consumption by over 3,000,000 kWh per annum and reducing energy cost by over £200,000 per annum

Senior Management are keen to realise savings across the Council's portfolio. This Re:fit project is an exciting opportunity to help deliver ambitious energy savings and contribute to the 35% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across the Council's built estate by 2022, identified by the Carbon Reduction Strategy. This project also supports the ideal of cost-neutral investments and setting the exemplar for other organisations in the city and across Wales to follow.

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 further information

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