

UNITED KINGDOM

CASE STUDY OF A SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAMME/STRATEGY

1. The problem or issue addressed: Promoting exchange of good practice on Sustainable Energy

Decision-Making:

- Access to electricity and other energy services, through either grid extension or decentralized energy technologies, in both urban and rural areas
- Efficient use of energy in the household and commercial sectors through, minimum energy performance standards for appliances and lighting, energy efficient building codes, and metering.
- Improved efficiency in energy supply (e.g. energy generation, transmission and distribution).
- Policies to facilitate the transfer of modern energy technologies, such as export promotion policies or establishment of an enabling environment for investments.
- Participation of private companies in the electricity sector, their impact on electricity services and their involvement (e.g. generation; transmission; distribution).
- Major Groups participation in energy decision-making, at the national or community level.
- Measures and programmes adopted to improve fuel efficiency for transport vehicles.
- Existence of nuclear energy programme and information on nuclear materials transported within or across national boundaries; national programmes that ensure nuclear safety; arrangements in place for public review and hearings.

Capacity-Building, Information and Research & Technologies:

- Efforts to establish new, or strengthen or reform existing national and local institutions responsible for national programmes on energy for sustainable development.
- Training or other capacity-building activities undertaken to strengthen energy planning, management of energy efficiency or development of new and renewable sources of energy.
- Launching of public information campaigns and educational programmes to raise awareness of energy efficiency and environmentally sound energy systems.
- Networking between centers of excellence on energy for sustainable development that has enhanced information sharing, capacity-building and technology transfer.
- Internet websites related specifically to the issues contained in these Energy Guidelines, provide homepage addresses (URL).

2. Name of the programme: **Beacon Council Sustainable Energy Programme**

Further information: <http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=631470>

3. Timeframe: **1 year** Year started: **2005**

4. Status: ☐ Ongoing ☒ Completed in year: **2006**

5. Main objectives:

- **Demonstrating policy innovation and best practice in sustainable energy provision**
- **Highlighting leadership skills required to empower communities**

6. Lead institution: **The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)**

7. Other implementation arrangements and stakeholders involved (public, private, NGOs, CBOs, international support, etc.): **The government, private sector, community groups, schools, science and academia,**

8. The results achieved (if possible, please address the social, economic and environmental impacts of the programme):

Seven local authorities are participants in the national ‘Beacon Council’ programme – Coordinated by the IDeA but funded and supported by the UK government department with responsibility for local government – the ‘Office of the Deputy Prime Minister’. The scheme offers all local authorities in the UK an opportunity to learn about standards of excellence and best practice in driving sustainable energy initiatives forward at the local level. The Beacon scheme encourages the selected authorities to hold workshops and speak at key events – such as the Sustainable Energy learning exchange organized through IDeA. Some examples of what each local authority has achieved are outlined below:

Partnership – Cornwall Council established a consortium called the ‘Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership bringing together public health, business, education and energy suppliers . They have established planning guidance on fostering sustainable energy, produced a fuel-poverty and energy efficiency action plan – to better reach the poorest in a many rural community; a home health plan; established environmental construction standards (utilising the Building Research Establishment’s Environmental Assessment method) for all Private Finance Investment projects contracted by the authority.

Auditing and project management – High Peak Borough Council has achieved EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) in 2001 and established a framework, in partnership with various local actors , to deliver local climate change, fuel poverty, energy efficiency, and air quality objectives. IT resulted in a 21% reduction in carbon emissions by the Council. It included a car-share scheme in partnership with a local business; it funded a range of local sustainable energy projects; 15% of energy supplied to local users is now from renewable sources – bringing together a regional partnership of nine local authorities. The authority has established an Energy Efficiency Advise Centre providing information and advise to help people and businesses in the local community make the changes to better energy. The centre has conducted over 250 energy audits of small to medium sized local businesses.

Innovation and integration – Woking Borough Council has established a climate change strategy on eight themes: Planning and regulation; energy services; waste; transport; procurement; education and promotion; natural habitat management; and adaptation. Each theme has a regularly reviewed set of actions, timescales and reporting mechanisms. The innovative energy supply system is based on a diverse portfolio of energy sources utilizing: CHP (Combined Heat and Power) and district heating ; fuel cell CHP; energy efficiency; solar Photo-Voltaics; ground source heat pumps; and a private wire distributed generation system. The authority has focused on training community workers on energy efficiency issues to improve conditions for harder to reach house-holds; developed a ‘show house’ and a good practice guidance enabling the construction of 14 eco-homes spreading good practice in the private sector.

9. The relationship of the programme to internationally agreed goals and targets:

The case study is an example of a national and local good practice exchange contributing to UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol targets.

Note: Kindly provide any appropriate facts, figures or charts that document the problem addressed and the results achieved. Noteworthy case studies may be published and/or summarized in UN publications as a means of sharing information on best practices.