



## Partnership working case study

<b>Beacon theme</b>	Sustainable energy
<b>Authority name</b>	Nottinghamshire County Council / High Peak Borough Council
<b>Case study title</b>	Partnership working

### Overview of service delivery

Nottinghamshire County Council places great emphasis on partnership working through a range of mechanisms including the Nottinghamshire Agenda 21 (NA21) Forum, the Nottinghamshire Public Service Agreement partnership for carbon management, the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities Energy Partnership (LAEP), the Newark and Sherwood Energy Agency, and through Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).

Nottinghamshire County Council also plays a leading role at the regional level, having had a major input into the Regional Energy Strategy and Regional Planning Guidance. High Peak Borough Council is also a partner of the LAEP, the Newark and Sherwood Energy Agency and hosts the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on behalf of the EST.

Nottinghamshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council are involved in various strategic partnerships at National, Regional and local level to promote the take up of energy efficiency and low carbon technologies.

### At a national level:

- advisor to the Local Government Association (LGA) and contributed to the original and revised Energy Policy for Sustainable Communities
- the Best Practice Programme publication (GIR53) entitled 'Building a Sustainable Future' was produced by the Newark and Sherwood Energy Agency
- Nottinghamshire County Council was one of the 24 pilot authorities selected by DEFRA to develop the Councils for Climate Change Project (CCP) within the UK
- lead-out authority for the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Scheme for Local Authorities which has led to securing £500,000 finance from the Carbon Trust for the implementation of energy efficiency and carbon management measures. High Peak Borough Council joined the second round of the Carbon Management scheme.

### At a regional level:

- as a member of the Regional Assembly Energy Task Group, and with grant funding from the DTI, Nottinghamshire County Council assisted in the development of the Regional Sustainable Energy Strategy
- securing £100,000 funding to establish the Community Renewables Initiative
- in a partnership led by Loughborough University secured £275,000 EU Social Funding for the development of a network of sustainable energy training within the East Midlands
- led the development of the energy policies on behalf of the East Midlands Regional GA in the original Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands; worked with the Regional Assembly in the development of current revision of RPG, giving evidence at the recent Examination in Public
- the authority has been closely involved with the development of both the Regional Transport Strategy and the Regional Waste Strategy.

- Nottinghamshire County Council hosts the regional Centre of Procurement Excellence, and is the local authority representative on the Regional Sustainable Procurement Group
- High Peak Borough Council represents local authority activity in the East Midlands on the East Midlands Business Resource Efficiency Network

#### **At a local level:**

- the Nottinghamshire Agenda 21 Forum has provided a mechanism to develop energy strategy with a range of private, public and voluntary sector partners. Nottinghamshire County Council has also engaged in District based Local Strategic Partnerships, Local Agenda 21 processes, and Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships
- establishment of the Local Authorities Energy Partnership for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire consisting of all 19 local authorities in the area, which has secured over £3 million of external funding to implement energy efficiency improvements and low carbon measures
- a £120,000 EU funding has been secured to form a European Energy Agency in partnership with Newark and Sherwood District Council
- established the Nottinghamshire Millennium Electric Vehicles project and secured £300,000 funding for the partnership members to purchase electric vehicles
- working in partnership with all Nottinghamshire District Councils and Nottinghamshire Police to secured a Public Service Agreement for £1.5 million to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- development of the Nottinghamshire 'woodheat' project in partnership with a number of local agencies such as the Forestry Authority and Regional Development Agency, and establishment a 'not for profit' renewable energy company
- Produced the 'Sustainable Developers Guide' – a guide to sustainable development solutions and regional best practice, in partnership with all Nottinghamshire District Councils, the Environment Agency and the Energy Agency.
- work through a number of local partnerships in delivering transport and waste objectives, including Bus Quality Partnerships, the Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership, Nottinghamshire Concessionary Travel partnership, and the Nottinghamshire Local Authorities Waste Partnership
- High Peak is an LGA Pathfinder Authority in partnership with Derbyshire County Council

#### **Objectives**

- the establishment of regional or sub-regional energy partnerships, modelled on the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire LAEP, with at least three other regions
- production of practical guidance on the benefits of establishing regional/sub-regional local authority energy partnerships, using the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire LAEP as a practical example of good practice

#### **Methodology**

##### Stage 1

- identify the geographical boundary for your network – suggested by the county.
- identify relevant officers and elected members responsible for energy management.
- either hold an event or carry out a survey to establish the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed Local Authority group. (Beacon help can be provided at this stage)

##### Stage 2

Hold an inaugural meeting to agree an outline scope of the partnership ie, which energy issues are to be covered? Agree a constitution and membership fee if appropriate – beacon help can be provided with this stage.

### Stage 3

Launch the partnership (with regional and national support) and engage elected members with the subject and issues. Demonstrate the added value by reference to other successful partnerships – beacon help can be provided with this stage.

#### **Outcomes**

By working in partnership with other agencies, Nottinghamshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council have achieved significant benefits and positive outcomes within the wider community. The following are some examples:

- supported by the Energy Saving Trust, the Local Authority Energy Partnership (LAEP) has established a Central Energy Advice Centre co-ordinating the activities of 15 local advice centres and a mobile centre which tours the region providing advice and information to the public on all aspects of sustainable energy.
- over 75,000 residential home energy surveys have been undertaken and energy efficiency schemes, such as loft insulation, cavity fill, boiler and control systems undertaken as a result. These have received positive feedback from residents benefiting from those projects
- there has been excellent take up for the LAEPs recent Sungain project, which aims to install 150 solar thermal panels on roofs for households wishing to take up low carbon solutions for their energy use
- the ‘woodheat’ project, through ReNU, is bringing wider economic and social benefits by generating a local market for forestry residues and waste wood. In the long term this will lead to much needed rural jobs, and better environmental land management

#### **Positive learning points**

- gaining wider experience and expertise by working with partners
- maximising resources
- avoiding duplication
- high success rate in extracting funding

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