

Greening IT at Newport

Newport's Green IT Forum is working hard to 'spread the word' and improve the environmental impact of technology used at Newport City Council.

With its approach of targeting changes in user behaviour, there is no denying that the forum has been successful:

Power management – last October the IT service worked with users across the council to promote a weekend 'shutdown' of non essential systems. For the shutdown weekend, the civic centre overall saw an 8.4 percent reduction in use and specific area savings ranged from four percent to almost 25 percent. Work at one school building alone has seen a 33 percent reduction in energy use. If replicated every weekend and evening this would show estimated annual savings of 57,657 KWh for the Civic Centre and 21,480 KWh at one school site.



Work has now started to ensure that all new desktop PCs are set up with an appropriate power management scheme and to apply these standards across the existing desktop infrastructure during this year.

Print Rationalisation - Since printer rationalisation started in 2005 Newport has removed over 440 print devices; equating to estimated savings of 7.8 tonnes of CO2 per year and £5,000 in



electricity costs. A 'think before you print' poster campaign and heavy internal promotion via the intranet played a key role in changing user behaviour.

Virtualisation - The IT service completed a major infrastructure project in 2008 which included replacing older data storage facilities and servers with smaller, more power efficient machines. The service is now reducing servers through virtualisation resulting in the removal of around 30 physical machines from the data centre, reducing the power and space used and heat generated, which in turn should reduce the cooling requirements.

Greener IT Procurement – Contracts are currently being reviewed with the aim of moving to more energy efficient corporate desktop PCs with projected energy savings of £14.50 per unit with CO2 emissions avoided estimated at 0.22 tons per annum.

Recycling old equipment - The IT service works in partnership with E-inclusion Recycling, an organisation that helps to bring communities together through computer recycling.

Web development - Web development has focused over the last two years on the introduction of online forms in order to move to more transactional services, enabling citizens to interact with the council online, rather than submitting paper forms. An intranet service, including a comprehensive document management system, also reduces the distribution of paper internally.

Is your council using technology to reduce its carbon footprint?

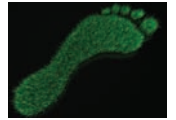
If so, and you would like your programme to feature in an issue of LGITU, please send details to editor, Helen Olsen Helen@infopub.co.uk



Merton Council welcomed members of the Spanish Federation of Local Authorities (FEMP) recently to showcase the merits of the renewable energy planning policy, the Merton Rule, and debate the future of monitoring and researching carbon dioxide emissions. Merton is developing the database with UK renewable energy and sustainability consultancy, Metropolis Green, to measure how much renewable energy is generated from buildings across the borough.

GeoInformation Group and Oxford Brookes University have developed a geographic information map to help local authorities reduce CO2 emissions by determining a baseline for the area. Powered by DECoRuM, (Domestic Energy, Carbon Counting and Carbon Reduction Model) Carbon Mapping provides a low cost authority-wide baseline model for residential CO2 emissions that takes into account the properties of each house. www.citiesrevealed.com

Green briefs...



Lewisham Council has embarked on a groundbreaking initiative to support its suppliers to reduce their carbon footprints. Having met the government's requirement to measure the council's direct CO2 emissions, Lewisham is now working in partnership with Trucost to look at the carbon footprint of its entire supply chain.

New Boundary Technologies has launched Policy Commander 2, a green IT solution that enables a business to manage power use in all its PCs, laptops and servers. The company says the product cuts consumption by up to 60 percent, with cost saving of over £200,000 annually for an organisation with 5000 PCs. Powered by Policy Commander and the company's PwrSmart technology, Policy Commander 2 can also provide the reporting necessary to demonstrate the savings achieved. www.newboundary.com

Océ UK has launched Océ Green Services, a new development in eco-friendly management services, following the success of a pioneering project with Pfizer, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies. The services are targeted towards medium and large organisations that work with Océ Business Services on long-term contracts for managed on-site document services. Bron Curley, MD Océ UK, said, "The green story is surviving the economic downturn and, in our experience, realistic environmental cost benefits are still high on the agenda. Integrating sustainability into our offering has become one of our key priorities. We recognise our corporate duty to actively help manage our clients' environments." www.oce.com/uk

Islington Borough Council is using a UPS Systems methanol fuel cell in its demonstration project promoting the benefits of clean energy technology. The unit will be on display in Islington's foyer and at several events across London over the next few months. Zoë Hatherly, sustainability officer at Islington, said, "We were keen to use fuel cells instead of conventional power because they offer a clean energy solution. The fuel cell will be on display in several locations across London and will be made available to anyone in the council to use so they can benefit from its clean credentials to reduce their carbon emissions and improve air quality. It will also be an educational tool so we can all learn about the benefits of implementing fuel cell technology."