



SE² Project Profile: Reducing carbon dioxide emissions in your local authority area - the guide

Background

The Energy Saving Trust commissioned SE² to identify local authorities' information needs related to National Indicator 186 and to develop a comprehensive suite of online guidance to help local authorities in their work.

National Indicator 186 focuses on reducing carbon dioxide emissions in a local authority area, encompassing emissions from domestic and non-domestic buildings and from road transport. An extremely broad indicator, it challenges local authorities to think across their whole carbon footprint.

Methodology/Activities

To establish local authorities' information needs, an email survey was developed and issued to local authority managers and officers across housing, energy, transport, planning and performance teams. Responses were received from around one-third of English authorities. These responses were supplemented by intensive workshops with the Energy Saving Trust's local authority services team and the Surrey Climate Change Partnership, a survey of regional government climate change coordinators, and telephone interviews with the Energy Saving Trust's regional representatives and Advice Centre leads.

Information gathered was drawn together into a content plan for the guidance, framed by a set of principles about style, tone of voice and accessibility. All other comments were fed back to EST to inform their ongoing development work on their website.

Once the content plan had been approved, the SE² team drew together a series of 2-3 page briefing papers across more than 45 different topic areas, ranging from reducing emissions on the local authority estate, to working with social housing providers, to developing travel plans with local businesses. Practical, action-focused briefings were placed within the context of strategic briefings to help local authority officers work with senior management and Elected Members, develop internal and external partnerships, identify and manage resources and build an evidence base for reporting on NI 186.

The project was carried out between November 2008 and March 2009, with the guidance launched by the Energy Saving Trust in April 2009. The guidance can be downloaded at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/NI186.

Project Team/Partners

We were delighted to have the support of Stephanie Moore of Red Earth PR Ltd and Jo Lacey of Aquila Green in the research phase of this project. Liz Warren was the overall project manager and lead author of the guidance.

Achievements and Successes

A comprehensive suite of guidance was developed and produced within a very short timescale, built on a solid foundation of research views gathered from its ultimate audience. Organisations that will work closely with local authorities to deliver NI 186 - regional government and the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centres - were involved in the development of the guidance, to ensure that it was helpful to achieving their objectives.

Liz Warren of SE² said:

"NI 186 provides the strategic framework for local authorities to deliver real emissions reductions in their areas, but there were still a lot of unanswered questions. The guidance aims to steer local



authorities towards answers, and to help them develop and implement action plans across their whole carbon footprint.”

Further Information

For more information on SE²'s involvement with *Reducing carbon dioxide emissions in your local authority area - the guide*, please contact:

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