

The Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme Case Study: Islington Council

June 2007

Background:

The Carbon Trust works with UK business and the public sector to cut carbon emissions and develop commercial low carbon technologies. It launched its Local Authority Carbon Management (LACM) Programme in 2003, to help councils reduce their carbon emissions and take the lead in demonstrating to local businesses and communities the importance of tackling climate change, whilst benefiting from reduced energy use and spend. To date, the scheme has worked with 143 local authorities – just under one third of all UK authorities. During the first four phases of the programme, annual savings of more than £33 million and 500,000 tonnes of CO₂ were identified for the councils involved.

Islington Council:

Islington Council joined phase three of the Carbon Trust's LACM Programme. Working in collaboration with the Carbon Trust, it was able to identify priority actions that would have a drastic impact on its carbon footprint, bringing annual carbon emissions down from 40,980 tonnes, to 37,490 tonnes by 2010, a reduction of 8.5 per cent. However in real terms, when accounting for factors such as anticipated energy price rises, the saving would equate to more than 70,000 tonnes.

Priority actions:

Through the LACM Programme, Islington Council and the Carbon Trust developed several key actions, including:

- **Awareness campaigns.** Energy efficiencies achieved through campaigns aimed at staff and schools will save £43,000 and 196 tonnes of carbon emissions each year.
- **Computers.** The introduction of auto-sleep mode for computers and screens will generate significant savings. The cost of introducing this action will be contained within existing IT maintenance budgets.
- **Facilities Management.** The council will introduce regular utility meter readings at all operational buildings and spot-check visits for use of unauthorised equipment.
- **Buildings.** Improving the thermal performance and energy efficiency of council buildings, including leisure centres and council houses, will create annual savings of £105,000, or 3,280 tonnes of carbon emissions.

Work is already underway on these actions, and payback on the initial capital investment of more than £3 million is likely to be achieved as soon as 2009.

Richard Rugg, Programme Manager at the Carbon Trust, commented: "Cutting carbon emissions as part of the fight against climate change should be a key priority for local authorities – it's all about leading by example. Our Local Authorities Carbon Management programme is designed to equip councils like Islington Council with the tools they need to save money on energy and put it to good use in other areas, whilst making a positive contribution to the environment by lowering their carbon emissions. We're proud to be working with one fifth of the UK's local authorities and encourage others to get onboard and find out how much they could save."

Further information: For more information, visit www.carbontrust.co.uk. For media enquiries, please contact: the Carbon Trust press line on 020 7544 3100.