

Public sector case studies:

Schools

Llandrindod High School has installed a biomass heating system that burns organic material. The Carbon Trust in Wales arranged an 'exemplar visit' for decision makers to see first hand how installing systems powered by a renewable energy source can cut their carbon emissions.

Higher education

University of Glamorgan currently has a water turbine in place and two small scale wind turbines. The university has also just completed a wind survey and are looking to install small scale wind generation on two residential blocks to generate approx 2KW each. This is a trial for a larger project to role out additional small scale wind at other locations.

NHS Wales estate

Biomass boilers for the provision of heating and hot water are being installed at the new hospitals currently being built at Llwynypia and North Merioneth. These are large installations of 880kW capacity for the North Merioneth site and approximately 1.3MW for the Llwynypia installation, which it is believed to be the largest of its type in Wales and one of the largest in the UK.

Local authority

Flintshire County Council

An Energy Team has been established comprising five full time officers headed by the Energy Manager who is responsible for implementing the energy action plan. The team includes the HECA officer whose responsibility covers all aspects related to domestic energy efficiency, fuel poverty and energy related health and wellbeing issues.

Among other successes the Energy Team were allocated funds for improvement measures which have resulted in an estimated financial saving of £55,000 a year through reduced energy consumption, achieving a payback of just under 5 years in total.

Based on the evidence so far, the Council believes that resourcing a specialist energy team of this nature will ensure a continued corporate focus on energy efficiency.

Due to the financial risk of rising energy costs to the Authority and the environmental implications of Climate Change, energy is now a major consideration when developing future Council policies.

Welsh Assembly Government estate

Merthyr Tydfil

The new Assembly Government building is on course to receive a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) excellent rating for sustainable development.

The building design has included the use of sustainable building materials such as timber from managed sources under the Forest Stewardship Council, the recycling of waste building material and locally sourced labour and supply chains wherever possible.

Improvements to public transport links have included a new bus stop being introduced within 500m of the office, an improved bus service serving Merthyr and Cardiff running every 15 minutes, ongoing consultation with Arriva Trains to improve the frequency of the rail service, car sharing and cycling initiatives.