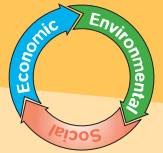




Energy



Climate Change is one of the greatest environmental threats facing the world. The devastating floods, droughts and storms we have seen in the UK and across the world in recent years show all too clearly how vulnerable we are to climate extremes. The main greenhouse gas responsible for Climate Change is carbon dioxide (CO₂) which is released when fossil fuels are burnt. Wind, wave, tidal and solar power are clean, renewable forms of energy capable of replacing fossil fuels, but in 2000 only 2.8% of electricity was produced using renewable energy.

Energy in the home

The Home Energy Conservation Act (1995) required district and unitary councils to draw up a plan for reducing energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions in dwellings. It set a target of 30% reduction in CO₂ emissions from dwellings over the following ten years. The plan to achieve this target is to reduce energy use by improving the energy efficiency of dwellings, and simultaneously, through advice and education, raising the public's awareness of what can be done to reduce consumption and provide advice on grant funding that is available.

INDICATOR EN1 - Energy Efficiency in Homes

Reduction in Carbon Dioxide from Domestic Premises

% Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂) Reduction since 1996	
Broxbourne BC	9.4%
Dacorum BC	13.23%
Hertsmere BC	8.42%
East Hertfordshire DC	No figure this year
North Hertfordshire DC	14.23%
St Albans City and District	12.36%
Watford C	2.6%
Welwyn Hatfield DC	12.16%
Stevenage DC	4.645%
Three Rivers DC	8.2%

For ideas on how to improve your energy efficiency visit www.energy-efficiency.org.uk or the energy efficiency hotline on 0800 512 012. Also for information about the home insulation bulk discount scheme 'Warmer Homes Greener Herts' phone 0800 783 2503, and for advice on solar energy contact the East Hertfordshire Solar Club on 01279 655261.

INDICATOR EN2 - Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings

The county council has a dedicated budget to fund energy conservation measures in public buildings including schools. The priority is to improve the efficiency in the county's one hundred least energy efficient buildings. All premises are monitored for gas and electricity consumption and compared with the National Performance Indicators. Water consumption is also monitored. Typical improvements include installing new digital boiler controls and lighting sensors. Central grants are obtained and premises contribute towards the schemes. The data for this indicator is currently being reviewed. This is because the new indicator will reflect the Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI), which means long-term trends will be captured. This year however a timely assessment could not be supplied.