



Northamptonshire  
County Council



## ***Towards a Low Carbon Northamptonshire***



***Action Plan***

*April 2013*

# • ***Towards a Low Carbon Northamptonshire*** •

## **Background**

Northamptonshire County Council and British Gas held a Workshop in March 2013 to discuss the potential for collaboration between the two organisations principally around the area of energy-related benefits for both residents and businesses within Northamptonshire.

## **Strategic Alliance**

As a result of this collaborative Workshop, a wide range of potential opportunities of mutual benefit were identified. Such was the interest generated by the Workshop, it was agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) be established. The MoU sets out the key principles for the establishment of a Strategic Alliance between British Gas Trading Ltd and Northamptonshire County Council with the view to developing the concept of a “*Low Carbon Northamptonshire*” in partnership for the mutual benefit of the Parties.

The Key Principles of the Strategic Alliance were identified as being:

- Agreement to work together to develop a *Low Carbon Northamptonshire* through a collaborative partnership that allows the sharing and exchange of information, ideas and resources that will be of mutual benefit to both Parties.
- An overarching arrangement that may lead on to potential binding agreements where appropriate that could include, but not exclusively, the following:

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| i.   | The Green Deal and ECO                         |
| ii.  | Collective Switching                           |
| iii. | Energy Infrastructure Investment               |
| iv.  | Energy Service Company (ESCo) Support          |
| v.   | Energy Performance Partnership                 |
| vi.  | Support for Local Businesses and Supply Chains |
| vii. | Low Carbon Transport                           |

- Agreement to negotiate, consult and work together in good faith with a view to agreeing and executing any mutually beneficial initiatives and developing formal agreements where necessary.

## **Action Plan**

Based on the discussions in the Workshop, an initial Action Plan has been developed which summaries those activities and initiatives which were deemed worthy of further exploration. The Action Plan follows the main headings in the MoU with an additional section to include the further areas around Education and Wellbeing identified for potential collaboration.

# • Action Plan •

<b>The Green Deal &amp; Energy Company Obligations (ECO) /Affordable Warmth (AW)</b>				
<b>Business Opportunity</b>	<b>NCC Lead</b>	<b>BG Lead</b>	<b>Way Forward</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<p><b>Supporting Northamptonshire Local Authorities’ Energy Saving Service*</b>. (*Services/ initiatives provided by LAs e.g. Affordable Warmth, fuel poverty, energy efficiency advice and funding):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCC has access to data-sets for those households eligible for green deal, ECO/AW, smart meters, fuel switch etc... BG (&amp; other utilities) able to access this data for a referral fee, which would help BG meet its government Green Deal, ECO/AW targets and enable LA service to become more sustainable.</li> <li>NCC’s delivery of the ‘Social Fund@ emergency help - work with DC/BC and third sector partners to look at how we can direct people to and deliver longer term support to alleviate fuel poverty</li> </ul>	D Perry & Districts/ Boroughs	Richard Hughes	<p>NCC / BG to discuss referral requirements and potential payments for data-sets Legal / confidentiality matters to be clarified Build a commercial model to maximise opportunities for ECO/AW spend in the county based on data-set analysis</p> <p>Look at how intelligence from social fund emergency help feeds onto practical ways to support fuel poverty</p>	Large scale project to be commenced immediately
<p><b>Frontline Eyes &amp; Ears:</b> BG / NCC staff (inc Fire &amp; Rescue Officers) visiting households to make referrals and provide services regarding areas of joint concern/ interest eg. Heating failures, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, sprinkler fitting, energy monitors, fire hazards, H&amp;S issues/ advice etc...</p>	M Emberson	Christine Tate	Explore opportunity for mutual referrals/ services	Medium term

<b>Collective Switching</b>				
<b>Business Opportunity</b>	<b>NCC Lead</b>	<b>BG Lead</b>	<b>Way Forward</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<p><b>Northamptonshire Tariff / Collective Switching</b> (Branded energy supply contract for Northants households): Mutual financial benefit from encouraging householders to ‘switch’ to new NCC endorsed scheme.</p>	D Perry	Nick Bellman	<p>BG to provide NCC with proposal (based on value not just price). BG/ NCC to consider financial model Legals / procurement to be clarified</p>	Medium term
<p><b>SMART Northants:</b> <b>Smart Meters:</b> Explore energy infrastructure opportunities including installation of smart metering which measures energy use, <b>SMART Grid:</b> infrastructure opportunities for a SMART Grid in a locality; <b>Smart Tariff:</b> Optimising energy pricing based on known collective</p>	D Perry	Martin Orrill	Help develop a joint ‘Smart Northants’ Strategy for the County	Longer term

household energy use				
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<b>Infrastructure Investment</b>				
<b>Business Opportunity</b>	<b>NCC Lead</b>	<b>BG Lead</b>	<b>Way Forward</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<b>Off Grid Solutions:</b> Provide gas infill / alternative fuels to those not on the gas network in urban & rural areas of the County – to help reduce fuel poverty.	D Perry	Richard Hughes	Develop an 'Infrastructure Plan' for the County.	Longer-term / immediate opportunities
<b>Waste as a fuel:</b> BG to consider opportunity for Power purchase agreement Northants municipal waste output post cessation of current 7 year contract.	R Boulton	Martin Orrill	NCC to supply BG with waste data to inform potential commercial opportunity	Long-term
<b>Better Coordinated Roadworks:</b> Share information on prospective highway infrastructure management regime to reduce disruption eg. Broadband, gas mains..	D Farquhar	Martin Orrill	Mutual supply of information on projects requiring roads/ street works	<b>Quick Win</b> Immediate
<b>Project Angel:</b> BG to consider providing energy supply to the new building allowing NCC to have reduced capital build costs	R Beeby	Dylan Crompton	NCC to provide BG with information regards the build. BG to make assessment on viability to provide the energy Legal Agreements to be clarified if viable	<b>Quick Win</b> Immediate discussions Med. term
<b>BG Existing/ Future Investment in Northants:</b> BG to provide NCC with indicative figures of existing and future investments/ on-going spend, nos. Employed, no. of customers etc.. in the County to help demonstrate BG commitment to the area.	Comms	Martin Orrill	NCC/ BG use metrics to help illustrate high-level benefit of strategic alliance.	Medium to long-term

<b>Energy Services Company (ESCo)</b>				
<b>Business Opportunity</b>	<b>NCC Lead</b>	<b>BG Lead</b>	<b>Way Forward</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<b>Review Waterside proposal to establish District heating in Enterprise Zone (ESCo):</b> BG to review current business case and to consider level of support and assistance to the scheme. Consider other options for local energy production at other locations.	D Perry	Martin Orrill	Meeting BG/ NCC & NCC Advisors to decide way forward	<b>Quick Win</b> Immediate
<b>Large-Scale Renewables:</b> Explore opportunities on NCC assets eg. Solar PV on all schools and solar park on former landfill site and potential for BG to provide finance towards schemes	D Perry	Martin Orrill	Meeting to discuss opportunities	Medium-term
<b>Support for NCC energy&amp; carbon team:</b> BG to provide assistance as appropriate	D Perry	M Orrill M Davies	Meeting (s) to discuss opportunities	Ongoing

<b>Energy performance Partnership</b>				
<b>Business Opportunity</b>	<b>NCC Lead</b>	<b>BG Lead</b>	<b>Way Forward</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<b>Energy Performance Contracts:</b> Managing NCC estate energy & deliver guaranteed savings	D Perry	Martin Davis	NCC to provide energy & property data all sites for BG to analyse BG to provide proposals for consideration	Medium-term
<b>Schools PFI Energy Efficiencies:</b> Improving energy performance of Northampton Schools PFI contract – with cash savings to NCC, schools & AMEY. BG to explore existing business relationship.	D Perry	Martin Davis	NCC to provide energy data for PFI schools BG to analyse / explore opportunity BG to propose to AMEY	Short-term

<b>Support for Local Businesses and Supply Chains</b>				
<b>Business Opportunity</b>	<b>NCC Lead</b>	<b>BG Lead</b>	<b>Way Forward</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<b>Low Carbon Northants:</b> Engage with business to facilitate low carbon jobs and investment. Local supply chain development eg. manufacturing boilers / kit and linkage to high performance engineering.	NEP/ D Farquhar A Parry	Martin Orrill	Electric Corby to host next BG/ NEP business event at Saints to explore opportunities further	<b>Quick Win</b> Short-term
<b>Business Development/ Training:</b> BG to support training/ re-skilling regards energy efficiency/ gas fitting etc... and to give consideration to supporting IN-VENT scheme or similar to meet BG business need.	NEP	Martin Orrill	Further discussion to explore options	Medium-term

<b>Low Carbon Transport</b>				
<b>Business Opportunity</b>	<b>NCC Lead</b>	<b>BG Lead</b>	<b>Way Forward</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<b>University Bus Company</b> (University bus operator): Collaborate on securing a new low carbon transport fleet for University	D Farquhar D Perry	Simon Stacey	BG / NCC to determine opportunity and options	Medium Term
<b>Charging Points for Electric cars:</b> Establish more vehicle charging points utilising government grants and incentives. Explore opportunity for a 'solar powered' car parks/ canopies to provide re-charging.	D Farquhar D Perry	Simon Stacey	Meet to discuss all transport opportunities BG to assist in bidding for funds as appropriate	Medium-term
<b>Electric Vehicles for Community/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector use:</b> Give consideration to supporting local voluntary sector/ social enterprises through a fleet of electric vehicles available for hire/ loan	D Farquhar D Perry	Simon Stacey	Meet to discuss all transport opportunities	Medium to Long-term
<b>Promotion of Low carbon Transport/ Increased take-up.</b> Link with car manufacturers/local businesses on initiatives to increase/ incentivise take-up of electric vehicles in the county. Have a go days, discounts etc.	D Farquhar D Perry	Simon Stacey	Meet to discuss all transport opportunities (Provision of charging points to link with initiatives to increase ownership.)	Medium to Long-term
<b>Low Carbon Transport Zone</b> (the 'golden triangle' of Northants as national centre for freight distribution): Providing 'gas-hubs' for vehicle re-	D Farquhar NEP	Simon Stacey	Discuss opportunities for hubs in County's main industrial areas & for gas fuel vehicles.	Medium-term

fuelling on industrial estates and encouraging gas fuelled freight vehicles.		M Orrill	Develop further actions as appropriate	
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<b>Education &amp; Wellbeing</b>				
<b>Business Opportunity</b>	<b>NCC Lead</b>	<b>BG Lead</b>	<b>Way Forward</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<p><b>Schools/ Young People:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutual opportunity to expand curriculum using BG materials and NCC current resources including EU ZECOS project.</li> <li>• Potential for BG funding for a Northamptonshire school for energy efficiency measures (up to £130k)</li> <li>• Sponsorship of apprenticeships/ engineering/ key sector training for young people</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to integrate various awareness raising schemes in schools eg resource efficiency, waste reduction, fire safety, emergency planning</li> </ul>	<p>D Perry</p> <p>P Osborne/ A Cheal M Emberson, M Hoy, D Perry</p>	<p>Christine Tate</p>	<p>Further discussion of business opportunity</p>	<p><b>Quick Win</b> Short term</p>
<p><b>Linkages to NCC Personalisation Programme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Web Portal:</b> Sponsorship opportunity towards development of one-stop 'personal budgets' web portal to enable customers / clients to buy council approved services – with associated commission/ referral fees.</li> <li>• <b>Pre-paid card initiatives</b></li> <li>• <b>Personal Budgets</b></li> </ul>	<p>P Osborne Sue Grace</p> <p>Carolyn Kus</p>	<p>Jane Poxon</p>	<p>Further discussion of business opportunity Link to work NCC are doing in customer services on the new payments engine and shopping cart facility</p> <p>Linkages to NCC 'personalisation'</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>
<p><b>Linkages new NCC Public Health responsibilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Metering and controls:</b> Monitor and control use of energy 'remotely' on behalf of vulnerable clients.</li> <li>• <b>BG Swimming Pool Scheme:</b> NCC to explore opportunity to access BG swimming sponsored scheme (celebrity endorsements) encouraging healthy exercise</li> <li>• <b>Joint commissioning with Health</b> – sponsorship opportunities / CSR</li> </ul>	<p>P Osborne C Kus</p> <p>Chris Holmes</p>	<p>Christine Tate</p>	<p>Explore feasibility/ costs for installing systems into clients homes</p> <p>Links to NSport , and its role in taking on the swimming contract for NCC and its delivery of sports coaches</p>	<p>Medium-term</p>
<p><b>Generation Green/ Volunteering/ CSR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beanstalk:</b> Volunteer scheme for BG to read in libraries</li> <li>• <b>Direct sponsorship</b> of appropriate NCC initiatives / schemes/ competitions etc</li> </ul>	<p>S Grace</p> <p>P Osborne M Emberson</p>	<p>Christine Tate</p>	<p>Further discussion of business opportunity</p>	<p><b>Quick Win</b> Short-term</p>