

BSI's Kitemark for energy reduction verification helps local authority prove 6% reduction in emissions for buildings and street lighting.



“Being awarded the prestigious and widely recognised Kitemark provides credible external verification that our data collection activities and Carbon Management Action Plan are effective. The achievement also demonstrates the Council's commitment to continued environmental improvements.”

Councillor Alan Farnell  
Leader of Warwickshire County Council

**Customer objectives**

- Achieve more with less and address ongoing cuts to revenue
- Collect reliable energy data to enable effective analysis
- Demonstrate energy savings as a result of energy efficiency projects
- Demonstrate legal compliance
- Implement and maintain an effective energy management system

**Customer results**

- Enhanced reputation demonstrating that the Council is leading by example
- Ability to meet legislative requirements and provision of Early Action Metrics for the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC)
- Structured framework for achieving process improvements and continual improvement of environmental performance

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## Why certification?

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) provides a wide range of services to over half a million residents and is responsible for a budget of over £750 million. It works with other public, private and voluntary bodies to make Warwickshire a better place for people to live and work. However, with ever diminishing resources available to the Council, it has become evident that implementing and managing energy use is no longer enough.

WCC made the decision to gain certification to BSI's Kitemark for Energy Reduction Verification (KM ERV) in order to ensure corporate readiness for the demands of the government's Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC) and to demonstrate more widely the Council's commitment to improving its efforts to manage and reduce carbon emissions. "There is clear evidence that energy prices and carbon taxes are going to rise substantially over the next five to ten years," says Councillor Alan Farnell. "If we do not act to reduce costs now we will be losing more and more money from front line services."

BSI's KM ERV builds on an organisation's good energy and carbon management practices and independently verifies the output of that good practice. KM ERV not only confirms the management and measurement behind the figures but also confirms the reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Implementation

WCC has delivered over 85 projects under the WCC/Salix Finance Loan Fund (50/50) or the Climate Change Initiatives Fund. As part of the energy reduction verification process BSI completed site visits to some 16 locations around the county. The visits were carried out over a three week period, including assessments at Warwick's Montague Road, Budbrooke Depot and Shire Hall, Bedworth's Kings House and Nuneaton's Caldwell Grange Home for the Elderly. These involved the review of energy reduction measures such as LED lighting,

pipework insulation and eco coolers. The verification also included the checking of reported meter readings and discussions with staff about their understanding of carbon reduction activities. The process was made easier by the collaborative working relationship between WCC's environmental management and energy team which provided a robust platform from which to verify the emissions in just five months.

## Benefits

WCC has identified the following benefits to date as a result of gaining certification to BSI's Kitemark for Energy Reduction Verification:

- Improved management of data
- External recognition/validation of best practice energy management
- Independent verification that WCC's energy projects are helping to meet carbon emission targets
- Enhanced positive PR
- Cost savings from better energy management for example 6% reduction in emissions of buildings and street lighting

## Working with BSI

WCC already had a good working relationship with BSI since its adoption of the Environmental Management System standard, ISO 14001 in 2005. Critical to the choice of WCC's verification provider was the fact that the scheme had to be approved by the Environment Agency. "At a time when resource is at a premium it was essential that our energy verification solution was cost effective and value for money," says Energy Manager, Jacky Lawrence. "Since we already had our environmental and energy management systems in place, a verification solution from BSI made sense. Having a very supportive auditor who understood the complexity of our organisation made a big difference to the success and speed of the task."

Moving forwards WCC hopes to execute a number of 'invest to save' projects as part of its future energy management strategy. These include: more energy efficient equipment (in particular ICT), water efficiency initiatives, 'whole building' energy/water retrofits. The Council is also considering how to enhance related projects from core maintenance budgets. Despite cuts in resource, WCC will endeavour to support renewable energy projects not wholly funded by the Feed in Tariff or Renewable Heat Incentive.

WCC will also be piloting emerging technologies that will help secure its future energy needs more effectively.

## Next steps

BSI instils the habit of excellence in businesses across the world. The company's Kitemark for Energy Reduction Verification offers organisations of any size with a way to independently validate and certify the reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from energy use. The KM ERV helps businesses present clear and independent information about energy consumption to stakeholders, investors, specifiers, consumers and regulators alike.

To find out how BSI can help your business make excellence a habit visit

[www.bsigroup.co.uk/ervkitemark](http://www.bsigroup.co.uk/ervkitemark) or call **0845 080 9000** to speak to someone.



Contact us to find out how BSI can help your business make excellence a habit

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The BSI Kitemark can be used on your stationery, literature and vehicles when you have successfully achieved certification.