

SUMMARY

Aberdeen City has firmly established itself as an Energy Capital due to the prevalence of the oil and gas industry in the North East. However the projected decline in oil and gas is something that cannot be ignored therefore the City is working hard to create a large renewable energy industry in North East Scotland which will underpin the future prosperity and sustainability of the local economy.

WHAT WE DID

Aberdeen aims to build on its long-established global reputation as an Energy Capital by initiating and delivering key renewable projects. The Council is helping deliver this through both public and private initiatives.

The Council itself has developed a Decentralised Energy Programme for the City, which means that for any new build Council properties or replacement of heating and hot water systems, the installation of a decentralised energy system is the normal default position. Also all electricity purchased by the Council comes from accredited green sources, and whenever possible from locally generated sources.

As part of the decentralised energy programme the Council has developed 3 Combined Heat and Power (CHP) district heating schemes providing low cost, low carbon heating and hot water to 14 multi storey blocks and 8 public buildings, including the newly opened Sports Village. These schemes were originally developed as a solution to fuel poverty within the city, since the Council has 4,500 flats in 59 multi storey blocks with very low energy ratings. These flats were consequently difficult and expensive to heat, leading to 'fuel poverty' for many tenants. The solution was to develop Combined Heat and Power schemes for the city and in 2002 Aberdeen City Council created 'Aberdeen Heat & Power', a not-for-profit company, to do this.

On 17 August 2009, Aberdeen's Scottish European Green Energy Centre (SEGEC) opened. SEGEC will focus on marine energy, offshore wind, long distance super grid development and smart distribution grids, carbon capture and storage, renewable heat and energy efficiency. It aims to help the Scottish green energy sector secure maximum benefits from engagement with Europe through developing partnerships with businesses and institutions, designing collaborative projects and identifying and accessing European funding.

In 2001 the Council and partners established a private public partnership, AREG (Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group) which aims to ensure that Aberdeen City and Shire and its businesses play a major role in the energy revolution. They are currently championing the proposed Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm.



KEY CONTACTS

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Combined Heat & Power Plant



Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm

LOOKING AHEAD

Combined Heat & Power: discussions are ongoing to extend the Seaton CHP installation by adding another generator to increase the capacity to 3MW electrical output and 4.2MW of heat. As well as plans to change the fuel supply from natural gas to biomass. Further plans include the development of a city centre network to link with other blocks of flats and public buildings. The longer term aim is to develop a 'ring main' of multiple CHP stations run on a variety of fuels.

Carbon Management Programme: the Council are currently undertaking for the 2nd time the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme. The Council was one of the first authorities in the UK to take part in this Programme in 2004 and as a result achieved a CO₂ reduction of 31% by 2006 surpassing the set target of a 10% reduction by 2010. This time around a target has been set to reduce CO₂ emissions by 23% by 2015, 42% by 2020 (based on 2008/09 baseline).

Low Carbon City Wide Strategy: the Council are planning to develop a Low Carbon City Wide Strategy in order to co-ordinate renewable energy approaches across the City. This strategy will make recommendations on low carbon approaches to be taken in different areas of the city focusing on such issues as densities, proximity to possible district heating network, type of energy demand (residential or industrial), renewable resource (water, sun, wind).