Birmingham
(Lib Dems in coalition)

Free Wind Turbines & Solar Panels
Wind turbines and solar panels have been fitted free of charge in more than 300 Birmingham homes in the council’s drive to reduce CO2 emissions and tackle fuel poverty. This green initiative will create an “eco neighbourhood” where residents can generate their own power and sell any surplus capacity to the National Grid. The project will also fully insulate all the homes in the project area which will add to the energy savings that can be achieved. The £550,000 cost of the project is to be met from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and will reduce carbon emissions by 60,000 tonnes per annum. The area chosen for the project is an inner city community with higher than average levels of unemployment and significant fuel poverty issues.

Details at: http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/GenerateContent?CONTENT_ITEM_ID=97979&CONTENT_ITEM_TYPE=9&MENU_ID=276

Chesterfield
(Lib Dem run)

- large Barratt Homes building site where 10% of all new homes are being built with solar panels - Barratt’s first such scheme in the country - also with other buildings on the site to have a range of environmentally friendly measures - work underway at the moment with lots of activity;
- major photo-voltaic installation on leisure centre and smaller one on coach station;
- four council buildings which are now totally heated and cooled by geo-thermal heat from 100 metres underground

Northampton (LD led)

New housing development where 1,300 new homes are being built to very high standards with PV panels, solar water heating etc - and the next phase is to build zero carbon housing.

South Gloucestershire

- Taylor Woodrow housing - new development with 10% solar panels
- Community building with geo-thermal heating pumps

South Shropshire

- A range of new affordable homes built to good environmentally friendly standards (BREEM in technical jargon!) - email attached - in addition the council also supports a Furniture Scheme. Re uses 250 tonnes furniture per year and trains young people in carpentry, sells furniture, supplies to those without, recycles books, computers and phones, puts on all sorts of training.
- Also has an Anaerobic Digester which recycles green waste, cardboard and kitchen waste. Currently recycles over 52% of household waste, despite being a sparsely populated district.
Eastleigh (LD run)

- Led the way in Hampshire on School Travel Plans, although traditionally a Hampshire County function. Each school in the borough has a plan mapped out by the students themselves to get more walking, including walking buses, cycling and car-sharing. They also funded cycleways to help.

- Eastleigh have had Alternate Weekly Collection since 1996 and are regularly in the top 3 councils for collection of dry mixed recyclables, that’s paper, card, cans and plastic bottles. A strong communication plan with residents about their recycling and waste collection service, together with collection of kitchen waste every week and encouraging home composting, has meant that the Lib Dem administration has not suffered at the ballot box for alternate weekly collections. They also added door-step collection of glass and batteries with lots of bring banks for textiles.

- Eastleigh concentrated on waste minimisation so have given out over 16,000 home composters over the last few years and have a paid-for garden waste collection service which is much more sustainable than collecting it for free, even though it depletes the overall recycling rate. But being sustainable is more important than league tables! Likewise Eastleigh restricts bin sizes, one and two person households are given a smaller 140 litre bin for non recyclable waste and only households of three plus get a larger 240 litre bin. However, there is no restriction on how much recycling we collect!

- Eastleigh has made planning applications for renewable energy schemes free for residents and businesses. They have a large wind turbine at one of their county parks helping to power the Visitor Centre and he is heavily used as an educational tool, even having his own party, Windy Bill’s Birthday Bash! A new building at the same country park was recently constructed using local wind fallen timber, with sheep wool insulation, a ground source heat pump, rainwater harvesting and even waterless urinals. Another country park has solar water heating for it’s toilets and showers.

- They have a Combined Heat & Power system providing heating and hot water for Eastleigh’s large leisure Centre and also providing hot water for the adjacent Civic Offices (they already had a Green energy supplier) The scheme has been designed so that other local businesses can link into it in the future.

- Eastleigh aims to be carbon neutral in all its activities by the London 2012 Olympics. The plan covers all areas of the council’s activities and buildings, including benchmarking so they know their starting point.

In March 2008, Eastleigh announced its own carbon offsetting scheme whereby residents, businesses and the council can invest in local projects instead of sometimes less sustainable projects on the other side of the world. First priority will be home insulation for older homes in the borough which are largely in the lower income areas. Look at www.eastleigh.gov.uk/carbonfree for more information. They got the fund started by investing £50,000.

Finally, they were very pleased and proud to be awarded Beacon Council for Climate Change in February 2008.

Islington (LD run)

£3 million Climate Change Fund

The fund will support investment towards concrete, additional and visible measures to reduce carbon emissions in Islington. Capital projects will be funded that will achieve significant reductions in carbon emissions, either through renewable energy or transport projects.

To be eligible for funding a project must:

- Have significant carbon saving potential
- Benefit Islington residents
- Be an additional project as opposed to being part of an existing environmental measure.
- Willingly be publicised as an example for others.

Benefits: As well as reducing carbon emissions, the measures will also have direct benefits to residents through: reduced fuel poverty, reduced costs of energy consumption, health benefits through improvements to lifestyle and greater security in energy supply.

Cost: £3 million in funds will be moved from general balances as a one-off allocation for the fund. Measures funded will generate savings to the council and other organisations and at least 10% of the savings generated will be reinvested back into it. This will allow it to continue to contribute to reducing emissions on an ongoing basis.

Uses of the fund...
**February 2007**
Islington Council approved its 2007-08 budget and with it the creation of a £3 million **Climate Change Fund** - the largest dedicated investment in renewable energy by any local authority.

**July 2007**
Islington’s Executive approved the first three projects to be funded. These were:

- Hot water solar panels at Highbury Pool. Cost is £105,000 and the annual CO2 saving is estimated at 45 tonnes.
- Solar water heating at the New Park Day Centre. Cost is £22,000 and the annual carbon saving is estimated at 9 tonnes.
- A biomass boiler at the Ecology Centre in Gillespie Park N5. Cost is £12,000, carbon saving 9 tonnes. Replacing the conventional boiler, together with the existing wind turbine will mean the Ecology Centre runs entirely on renewable energy.

**October 2007**
A second round of projects were agreed at the Council’s Executive. These were:

- A solar thermal installation at the North Islington Nursery, Tollington Park N7. The contribution from the Fund is £14,000 and the installation will be part of a wider package of green construction and energy efficiency measures designed to bring the new development up to a BREEAM rating of ‘Excellent’ for energy use.
- A solar photovoltaic at Grafton Primary School at a cost of £10,500.
- Ground source heat pump, solar thermal and solar PV at the Mayville Community Centre. This funding of £218,850 is part of a major redevelopment designed to make the Centre an exemplary green building - a total reduction in carbon emissions of 84 per cent is planned. The project is the first funding from the Climate Change Fund for a local charity.
- Solar photovoltaic at the Factory Children’s Centre (another voluntary sector site) at a cost of £22,500. The solar PV will be accompanied by additional roof insulation.

**November 2007**
The domestic renewables grant programme opened for resident applications. Third round of renewable energy projects were agreed by the Executive, costing a total of £89,000:

- Solar thermal and PV at the Central Library in Holloway. The installations will complement recent energy efficiency measures including new condensing boilers and heating controls. The Climate Change Fund grant is £38,000.
- Solar thermal at the Wray Court Care Home in N4. The £7,200 grant funds part of a wider refurbishment package that includes new roof insulation and boilers.
- St Joseph’s Primary School in Highgate Hill N19 will have solar thermal and PV installations - costing £38,000.
- Freightliners City Farm in Sheringham Road N7 will have photovoltaics at a cost of £6,000. This will be installed on the roof of the Farm’s cafe

The transport section of the Fund was activated, with the Council’s Executive agreeing to spend £500,000 on the following projects:

1. Installation of ‘stop / start’ technology into 50 vehicles in the Council’s fleet to reduce carbon emissions. The mechanism enables engines to shut down when stopped at traffic lights in the same way as hybrid vehicles. (£100,000).
2. Encouraging people to give up their cars - a package of incentives for residents not to renew their parking permits, including vouchers towards purchasing bikes and Car Club membership will be offered. To include the conversion of on-street parking bays to cycle parking. (£140,000).
3. Provision of two secure bike parking sheds, one on a public highway and one a housing estate. Access for users via smart cards (£40,000).
4. Encouraging travel behaviour change towards cycling - a programme of incentives including physical measures. (£140,000).
5. Small business and community group grant scheme to encourage reductions in transport emissions. (£80,000).

**January 2008**
The first group of renewable energy projects for Islington’s council housing was agreed by the Executive, granting £119,000 from the Fund.

Two estates will get solar thermal installations to provide hot water - Birchmore Walk in Highbury (28 properties) and Barnabas House on the Kings Square Estate.

Another five blocks will see solar photovoltaic systems installed to provide electricity. Three are in the Old Street area - Steadman Court (46 dwellings), Batholomew Court (38 dwellings) and Godfrey House (120 dwellings). The other two are near Kings Cross - Sherston Court (27 properties) and Bevin Court (118 properties).

Five other projects were approved:

- A 6kW wind turbine at the Market Road football pitch site to power floodlighting and changing room lighting - the first wind project to be...
Funded by the Climate Change Fund, (£30,000).

- Solar PV on the barn roof at Freightliners City Farm in Holloway (£31,500).
- Solar PV at Archway Methodist Church (£9,450).
- Solar thermal and PV at the Peel Institute, a charitable community centre in WC1. (£12,600 and £39,500).
- A biomass boiler at Islington Town Hall, rated at 500kW output and reducing the Town Hall's carbon dioxide emissions by 172 tonnes a year (£276,000).

February 2008
The Council’s Executive agreed a further six solar energy projects around Islington:

- PV and solar thermal panels on a new build extension to the New River Green Early Years Centre in Canonbury (Grant £18,400).
- Solar PV array at Hornsey Road Baths - this is a new council office building currently under construction as part of a wider mixed use development including housing and a nursery. (Cost £75,000).
- Solar PV at Pooles Park primary school - 170 sqm installation on a large flat roof which will generate the largest carbon saving of this round of projects - 7.5 tonnes annually (£97,300).
- The Refugee Therapy Centre is moving to a derelict Victorian industrial building which will be refurbished. £55,000 of CCF funding will pay for solar PV to provide 65 per cent of the building’s electricity needs as well as extra insulation over and above building regulations.
- Whittington Park community centre near Archway will get solar PV and solar thermal systems as part of a wider refurbishment project (£34,000).
- Tindlemanor in EC1, a non-profit company providing office and meeting space to women’s charities, will receive a PV installation (£14,500).
- Islington have also have launched SwapXchange, a part of the council’s website that enables residents to swap unwanted goods. Last year there were 11,400 unique visitors to the site. Over 10 tonnes of material has been exchanged – a lot of which would have ended up in landfill;
- They have restricted staff car parking and introduced travel card provision for staff on council business, to help reach a target to reduce car commuting by staff to 13.5%;
- They have an extensive green fleet of council vehicles, including 48 dual fuel LPG cars, 12 Oxygen and EVT electric scooters, one electric tricycle, 3 G-Wiz electric cars and 1 electric van. Our waste collection partner has now made their trucks more environmentally friendly and Islington has a hybrid-electric car programme.
- They have also offered a council tax reduction for people who give up their parking permit

Sutton (Lib Dem run)
Sutton Council was one of the first Council’s in London to implement a workplace travel plan. The aim of this document is to encourage staff and visitors to travel sustainably, from and during work and reduce unnecessary travel.
- The Council’s travel plan achieved a 20% increase in staff using sustainable modes of transport over 2 years.
- And of course Sutton have created the UK’s largest carbon-neutral eco-community - the first of its kind in this country (The Beddington Zero Energy Development (BedZED)).

Salisbury (Lib Dem led)
Liberal Democrat-led Salisbury District Council has been placed third in a green league table of 60 UK cities in a WWF (World Wildlife Fund) survey.

The report ranks the 60 cities in England, Scotland and Wales by the average ecological footprint of their residents. The WWF looked at a range of green issues including how environmentally friendly our houses are, what kind of transport we use, what food we eat and consumer goods we buy and what public and private services we use. The ecological footprint is made up of the land and sea area required to feed, provide resources, produce energy and to absorb waste and pollution.

Salisbury was only beaten by Newport and Plymouth who came equal first.

Local initiatives that contribute to minimising the ecological footprint of Salisbury residents include:
- Ensuring that developers put sustainable transport considerations at the centre of proposals.
- A park and ride scheme that reduces local car journeys by about 4,700 each week.
- The majority of retail and leisure facilities located in the city centre, reducing reliance on out-of-town shopping.
- Pedestrianisation of city streets removing cars and prioritising pedestrians.
- Housing stock that is in the top 25% nationally for energy efficiency.
- Enhanced concessionary bus fare scheme above that required by law - giving eligible residents free all-day travel across the county.
- 20 MPH city centre zone.
- Promoting energy saving measures, such as cavity wall
and loft insulation, to local residents.

- A green travel plan for council staff aimed at minimising car journeys.

**Somerset (LD run)**

Districts and county work together on waste and recycling - 50% recycling across the whole county. They have not for profit company ECT - Ealing Community Transport - doing waste collection, recycling and disposal. You don’t have to use the big private waste companies!

**Uttlesford**

Uttlesford District Council - the first authority in the country to use climate change as a reason to refuse the planning application to expand Stanstead airport.

**Woking**

First UK local authority to have adopted a Climate Change Strategy on a scale likely to meet the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution targets of 60% reductions of CO2 equivalent emissions by 2050 and 80% by 2100. It includes the UK’s first sustainable energy 200kWh fuel cell and the first heating and cooling sustainable energy station in the country.

Source: [http://www.woking.gov.uk/environment](http://www.woking.gov.uk/environment)

**York (LD led)**

The ecoDepot sustainable office is the biggest building of its type in Europe.

Located at Hazel Court, James Street, off Hull Road the depot will be highly energy and water efficient, operating with renewable energy and recycled water. At the centre of it all will be an office building made up of a timber frame and straw bale cladding.

The ‘eco office’ will be the biggest building of its type in Europe. The whole depot will be a national exemplar of sustainable construction, and its performance will be constantly monitored. It will be a national resource for learning and education on sustainable construction.


**London Borough of Camden (LD led)**

- Offers homeowners a series of eco-grants of up to £1,500
- Recently refused planning permission for a listed building to get a large air-conditioning unit – using the planning process to help reduce the carbon footprint of buildings
- Every new development in Camden must have a plan to re-use “grey” water or use rainwater to help save on water use.

**Milton Keynes (LD led)**

If a new development is not carbon-neutral, developers have to pay into a carbon reduction fund.

**Oxford City Council (LD led)**

Switching to alternate weekly collections has doubled the recycling rate in the City

**London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LD run)**

Richmond is of course well known for introducing a sliding scale of on-street parking permits linked to the CO2 emissions of residents vehicles – and being the first council to do so. This ranged from electric cars being zero-rated to “gas guzzlers” having to pay a 200% increase in the previous parking charge. It took Richmond just 6 months from the scheme being suggested to full implementation.

**Watford Borough Council (LD run)**

Have issued a “bag for life” in conjunction with local businesses to encourage a shift away from single-use carrier bags.

**Windfarms**

While not all sites for windfarm applications are appropriate, recent examples of Liberal Democrat Councillors supporting windfarm applications include:

1. Windsor and Maidenhead (before we lost control to the Tories) We passed planning application 06/01620  Belmont Crescent Maidenhead on the 30th of August 2006. Turbine application lodged 10 July 2006. 1 Tory spoke against.

2. West Berks (Lib Dems official opposition) An application for a wind turbine was rejected here, Lib Dems were in favour but outvoted by the Conservatives. It was very helpfully followed by an article in the Guardian which nominated “West Berkshire Council as Britain’s most ecologically dismal authority” as a result of their decision.

3. Islington (Lib Dem run) The Lib Dems supported the installation of wind turbine mounted on a nine metre mast on the roof of an existing 18 storey residential building- Kestrel House- against opposition from the Labour party.

4. Vale of White Horse (Lib Dem run) we recently (2006) approved a wind farm site and the turbines are in place.

5. Leeds - Richard Brett - Leeds Lib Dem group leader and currently leader of council - is backing the Hook Moor Wind Farm application. He and another Lib Dem councillor are also backing Yorkshire Water in their plan to put in a single wind turbine at Knostrop treatment works within their ward (Burmantofts and Richmond Hill).