

# The Big Picture

## Renewable energy toolkit



### What was the issue to address?

**In November 2005 the Renewable Energy Policy was ratified by cabinet, putting in place the council policy to incorporate renewable energy sources into the design of all new building and construction developments procured by the council to achieve by 2010/11 a target of at least 30% of the estimated total energy consumption.**

**This was a tremendous step forward in the ambition to reduce the carbon dioxide output of Kirklees. However, the skills with which to implement this policy were identified as missing across both internal and external resources.**

### What did we do?

In recognition of this, the Renewable Energy Toolkit was developed by a small team from Design and Property Service (D&PS).

The toolkit is an innovative solution which fills a large information gap amongst building services professionals. The toolkit guides non-specialist professionals through the often unknown requirements of a building's integrated renewable energy installation, providing confidence and expertise to professionals in these new technology areas.

Unlike any other renewable energy software package available, the toolkit has been designed and written by professionals in local authority for other professionals in similar situations.

The toolkit is cd-ROM based with a graphical front end. It contains:

- A Building Regulation Part L guidance tool, aligned with the Royal Institute of British Architects plan of works, enabling engineers to comply with the Building Regulations.
- A site specific Renewable Energy Technology suitability options appraisal tool.
- Whole life costing and carbon dioxide emission reduction calculators.
- Project checklists to guide professionals through each type of technology project.
- Case study library to share ideas and best practice information.

- Image library presenting virtual tours around some of the varied installations in the Yorkshire region.

### What difference did we make?

The toolkit is to be used on Design and Property Service new build projects and throughout the council. It is also being offered by Yorkshire Forward to other engineering, architectural and consultancy practices throughout Yorkshire and the Humber region free of charge. The aim is to enable Kirklees' staff to feel confident about integrating renewable energy technologies into their projects and also encourage other external engineers and architects to consider the implementation of renewable energy technologies into their designs.

### What was the key to our success?

The conception and development of the toolkit was carried out as part of an MSc Dissertation project by D&PS Engineer Katy Deacon, sponsored by Kirklees Council. Research done for this project provided the background drivers to enable the progression and development of the toolkit. Securing funding support from Yorkshire Forward was vital to ensuring the toolkit's development, which has been so successful that it has won the NICEIC Electrical Industry Awards Energy Efficiency Product of the Year 2006.

### What will we do next?

Renewable energy installations are only one way of reducing the carbon dioxide emissions of the council. The eventual aim is to incorporate the tools embedded in this product into an online system, including low carbon building advice, planning advice and other useful services for internal and external consultants.

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