

CLIMATE CHANGE

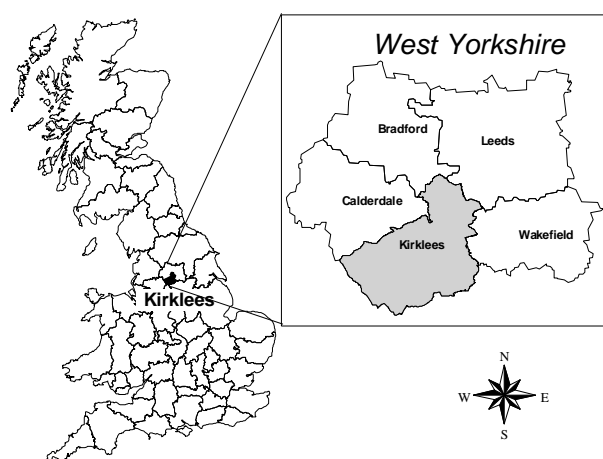
KIRKLEES (United Kingdom)

The district of Kirklees, like a model British student, is leading actions to encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. These are managed by the Environment department in close cooperation with the district's other departments. The district is a member of Energie-Cités.

THE CITY

The district of Kirklees is a region of contrasts, with urban and rural areas rubbing shoulders over 41 000 hectares.

It is bordered to the East and North by the Bradford and Wakefield coalfields and to the South by the Peak District National Park. Kirklees was created in 1974 during a regional reorganization. It is the third biggest district in the United Kingdom in area and seventh in population, with 391 000 inhabitants. The main towns are Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley. Most of them are suffering from the decline in manufacturing industries, especially textiles. The unemployment rate is 5.6%, which is 0.5 of a point higher than the national average.



CONTEXT

On a national scale

In virtue of the Kyoto Protocol and "sharing the load" with the European Union, the United Kingdom is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% by 2008-2012 relative to 1990 levels. The first report drawn up for 1990-1999¹ is encouraging because it shows a 14% fall in emissions (essentially due to the fall in coal consumption over this period).

The British government has also set other, more ambitious objectives: a 20% fall in emissions by 2010. To achieve this, it has set up a programme based on a partnership approach between public and private operators. This programme relies on a complete series of regulatory measures, economic instruments, information campaigns and subsidies. The "Climate Change Levy" came into force on 1st April 2001 and is the key economic measure in this national action. It is an ecotax levied on all industrial, commercial, agricultural and public establishments in the country. Local authorities are therefore subject to it as well.

This tax concerns all commercial energy sources excluding fuels – which are taxed separately: electricity (0.13 p/kWh), gas (0.15 p/kWh), coal (1.17 p/kg) and LPG (0.96 p/kg). Part of this tax is used for the "Carbon trust", set up to encourage investment and R&D into energy efficiency and support for the development of renewable energies.

Local authorities are a major target for the national programme against climate change. They also act as a relay for the national campaign "Are you doing your bit?", which targets the general population. The government provides local authorities with methodological tools and forums to help them orient their actions and exchange "how to do" experience in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Energy Saving Trust (EST), a non-profit making organization set up by the government and the private sector gives advice in the form of guides and distributes good practices to administrative employees, service and department managers. 23 local authorities in England and Wales are also part of the CCP Campaign run by ICLEI.

¹ Source: European Environment Agency, press release Copenhagen, 20 April 2001

EXPERIENCE OF KIRKLEES

For several years, Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC) has led an active policy linking the environment and sustainable development.

For example, it is the first British district to have drawn up environment audits, published in the form of annual reports –SOTER, *State Of environment Report* - since 1989. The contents of the first report helped the urban area draw up its formal Charter for the environment, signed in 1990. One year later, the Environment Department was set up to take lateral charge of all environment problems. The operations performed in the fields of energy and the environment receive strong political support from town councillors and administrative managers.

A partnership approach

In October 1999, KMBC passed a document entitled "The Kirklees partnership: our agenda for change". This was a strategic discussion, held in close cooperation with all the district's economic and social operators: local authorities, businesses, schools and associations... This document provides guidelines to be followed over the next five years for six main themes. It involves building a society based on:

- a strong economy (jobs);
- involving everyone (equity);
- encouraging personal development (education);
- supporting social equality (housing, health, safety);
- protecting the environment (natural resources, sustainable development);
- finally, promoting better quality of life and a strong regional identity.

The environment section contains a strategy and objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, quantified and planned over time, and for which partners have been named. The content of this strategic document has strongly influenced definition of the local Agenda 21.

Actions	Partners	Timetable / objectives
Create an energy agency to promote energy efficiency and the development of renewable energies	KMC Department of the environment Yorkshire electricity University Kirklees homeowners and tenants union Green Business Network	By March 2000
Set up programmes to improve energy efficiency in the residential sector	Energy services KMC Kirklees homeowners and tenants union KMC housing The energy department	Reduce CO ₂ emissions in the residential sector by 30% compared with 1990 levels Reduce energy precarity
Set up programmes to improve energy efficiency	Green Business Network Energy services KMC	Reduce CO ₂ emissions in the tertiary sector by 30% compared with 1990 levels
Develop renewable energy projects at local level	KMC Department of the environment Yorkshire electricity	Provide 10% of electricity by 2010
Build cogeneration plants and use domestic waste as fuel	Environmental services KMC Department of the environment	Set up a heating network project by 2005

Extract from chapter 7 of "Kirklees partnership: our agenda for change", objective 2: reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Commitments in favour of reducing emissions

In the fight against greenhouse gas emissions, Kirklees has made a double commitment:

- a commitment dictated by law

The law on home energy conservation (HECA, Home Energy Conservation Act) of 1995 requires all local authorities managing housing units to prepare, publish and submit to the Home Secretary, a report in which they describe the energy conservation measures they consider to be applicable, profitable and likely to make a significant improvement (30% growth) in the energy efficiency of all buildings used for

housing within their territory. Local authorities must present a strategy to improve energy efficiency in housing, aimed at achieving this objective within 10 years starting on 1st April 1996.

- *a voluntary commitment*

In 1996 Kirklees local authority signed the Friends of the Earth (FOE) Charter, in which it undertook to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2005, compared with the 1990 level. This Charter includes 193 action recommendations.

This double commitment is restated in formulating the Local Agenda 21 action plan, signed by 40 organizations, in which the energy section is essentially oriented towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

To meet its commitments, Kirklees has three main levers for action:

- to take action in favour of reducing CO₂ emissions internally: monitored management of consumption by various stations, environmental management;
- to encourage campaigns for energy control and promote environment-friendly means of transport in the Kirklees region;
- to encourage the development of renewable energies in the Kirklees region.

KMC has begun an EMAS certification procedure in all its departments. Each department therefore has the objective of reducing the CO₂ emissions it engenders by 4% per year.

Organization

The Environment Unit, set up in 1991, manages actions to reduce energy consumption and the corresponding pollutant emissions. It employs 14 people (12 full-time equivalent). This department plays an essential role in inter-departmental coordination, notably between the Kirklees local energy agency (Kirklees Energy Services), the Transport department, the Town Planning department and the Construction Department.

The Environment department also runs campaigns to circulate information to the public and schools on the theme of the growing greenhouse effect.

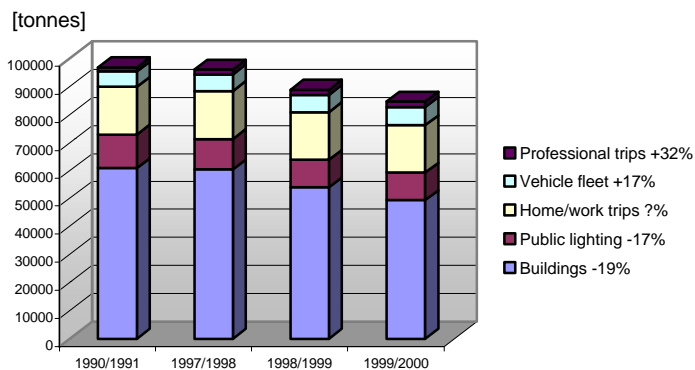
Inventory of greenhouse gas emissions

This is produced using the software developed by ICLEI which models energy consumption per sector and translates it into equivalent CO₂ emissions.

At the same time, KMC carries out an annual survey with households in the District: 1% of households are questioned on their motorized travel habits (types and frequency) and on the work done during the previous year to improve energy efficiency overall in their home.

KMC also interviews energy suppliers, with more success with gas, oil and coal operators than with electricity suppliers, who are more greedy with statistics...

CO₂ emissions produced by the KMC
(-13% for the period 1990-2000)



Since 1999, this inventory has also been based on detailed monitoring of consumption in buildings belonging to the Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council. Energy budgets are drawn up and distributed once a year to the managers of the 600 buildings in question. The ratios of consumption and CO₂ emissions allow them to make comparisons between buildings and evaluate the differences with respect to national averages. These surveys and the methods used are synthesized to estimate the quantity of CO₂ emitted in a given area.

EVALUATION AND OUTLOOK

In June 2001, Business Week published the results of the third *Green index* for Yorkshire and Humberside. This classification rewarded "the environmental commitment" made by participants, with 87 structures: universities, industries and local authorities. KMC led the list of participating local authorities, partly due to its commitment to reducing CO₂ emissions.

The example set by the Kirklees district, in trying to involve various operators and stimulate them to meet joint objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, is a model of good energy and environmental management in a district.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Kirklees Metropolitan Council

Bill EDRICH

Mission manager

Department of the Environment

23 estate Buildings

Railway Street

UK- Huddersfield HD1 1JY

Tel : +44 1484 223 568

Fax : + 44 1484 223 576

E-mail : environment.unit@kirkleesmc.gov.uk

Site Internet : www.kirkleesmc.gov.uk

This case study was supported by the technical and financial backing of the "Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie" (Environment and Energy Control Agency) (ADEME).

