

# Reducing Carbon Emissions in Small-to-Medium Sized Enterprises

save save save



## Free advice on how your business can save money, save energy and save the environment

The Leicester Energy Agency is running a project to help businesses in Leicester and Leicestershire to assess their carbon footprint and to consider measures to respond to climate change.

The Reducing Carbon Emissions in SMEs project is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and is aimed at supporting economic development by addressing the issue of resource efficiency in businesses.

Businesses can receive FREE advice and information through the project on a number of energy-related issues including:

- Analysis of fuel bills
- Energy efficiency assessment of your business
- Staff energy awareness training
- Basic energy advice and signposting to grants for energy saving measures
- Measuring your CO<sub>2</sub> footprint
- Renewable energy feasibility studies

As well as this free support to help your business save energy and money, the project also offers an **80% grant to help fund the installation of intelligent metering**. See overleaf for more information on how intelligent metering can help your business and how you can obtain a grant for this technology.



## What Is Intelligent Metering?

Intelligent metering monitors the consumption of utilities (gas, electric and water) on a half-hour basis. This allows businesses to see exactly how much energy is being used at any one time and eliminates the need to rely on estimated energy bills.

This information not only identifies wasted energy but also ensures that you are not being overcharged. Previous businesses that have intelligent metering have not only seen significant energy savings but have also used this information to negotiate their fuel tariffs for future years.

### Benefits of Intelligent Metering:

- Can help reduce energy consumption
- Empowers building users to make informed operational, maintenance and investment decisions.
- Standard reporting of energy use
- Exception reporting for abnormal energy use
- Bill validation
- Helps with negotiations for future fuel tariffs
- Benchmarking your energy use against similar organisations

### Grants for Intelligent Metering:

The Reducing Carbon Emissions in SMEs project is offering grants to part-fund the installation in businesses in the Leicestershire area. These grants can cover about 80% of the equipment and installation costs and every business who receives a grant will have access to a free bureau service for the lifetime of the project to analyse the results and identify potential energy savings.

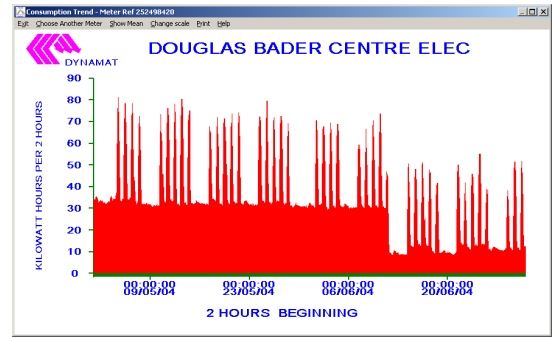
### Next Steps:

For more information on the Reducing Carbon Emissions in SMEs project or to book an initial consultation with an advisor please contact the Leicester Energy Agency on 0116 299 5153 or email [Peter.Webber@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Webber@leicester.gov.uk)

*The Leicester Energy Agency aims to help make Leicester a leading authority in the energy sector. Our role is to help individuals, businesses and organisations realise the potential effects of climate change and rising energy prices on their work and help them reduce their energy consumption. For more information on the Leicester Energy Agency and its work visit [www.energyagency.co.uk](http://www.energyagency.co.uk)*

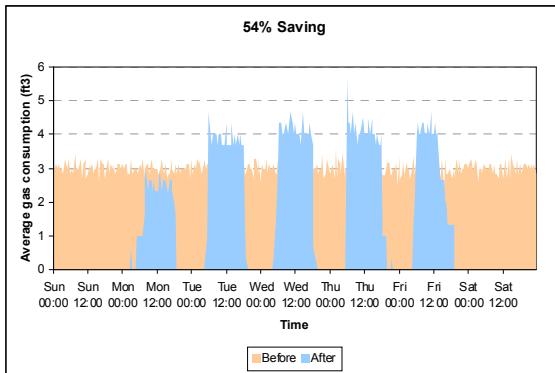
# Case studies

Leicester City Council has installed intelligent metering (automatic meter reading) in over 300 of its buildings, including offices, schools, leisure centres and business units. The half hourly consumption data is collected automatically and analysed. This has enabled many energy and water savings opportunities to be identified.



The Leicester Energy Agency is helping local businesses to monitor their energy/water consumption to help them reduce their energy bills. A few examples of local businesses the Energy Agency has helped with energy/water monitoring are given below.

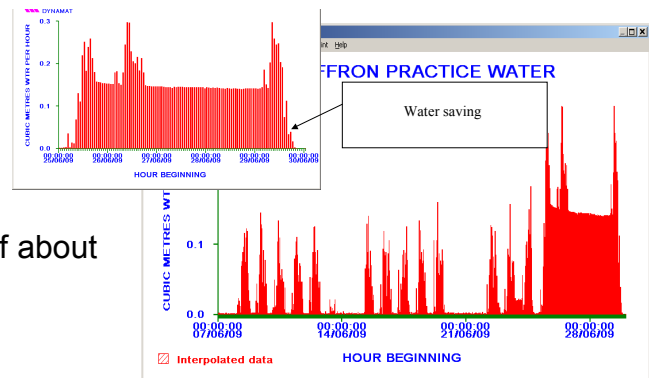
## Gas



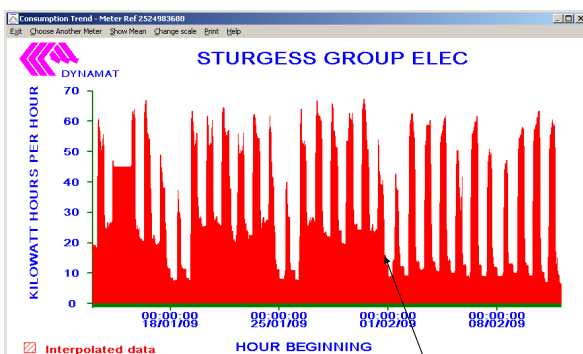
Label Apeel are a label manufacturer based in Leicester. With the help of 1/2 hourly monitoring of gas consumption, by no cost measures, they have been able to make significant energy savings. From looking at the data, in the winter of 2008/9 it was noticed that gas consumption did not vary with the time of day or the week. Adjusting the time that the heating was on to more closely match working hours of the business gave gas savings of roughly 50%.

## Water

Data from automatic water monitoring revealed unusual water consumption at a General Practice in Leicester. This was found to be due to a faulty ball valve, which when replaced gave a potential saving of about £2,800/year.



## Electricity



Electricity saving

In the winter of 2008/9, a new air handling system was installed at a Leicester car showroom using intelligent metering connected to the Leicester Energy Agency system. After this was installed an increase in electricity consumption out of hours was noticed. This was reported to the site manager who had the equipment checked and re-commissioned. A saving of about 1,000kWh/week was achieved.