

CRC energy efficiency scheme – creative solutions?

HBJ Gateley Wareing

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All local authorities should, if they have not already done so, be considering the extent of their obligations under the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme ("Scheme").

Any local authority which has half hourly electricity meters settled on the half hourly market will be required, depending on its level of energy consumption, either to register as a participant in, or to provide an information disclosure under the scheme by the 30 September 2010.

Participating local authorities are likely to be responsible for the emissions of various entities. For example, a participating local authority will be responsible under the scheme for the emissions of:

- any schools which it maintains; and
- any academies or City Technology Colleges which are geographically located in the area for which the local authority exercises educational functions.

Each participating local authority will be required in April 2011 to purchase allowances to cover the local authority's predicted scheme emissions for the financial year 2011/2012, including the predicted emissions of the entities for which the local authority is responsible for.

Each participating local authority will also be required to submit a footprint report and an annual report for the first year of the scheme by the last working day of July 2011.

Whether a local authority successfully meets these requirements will depend heavily on co-operation from the various entities whose emissions the local authority is responsible for.

Some creative thinking may be required to encourage entities to report and assist local authorities to meet their obligations. A case study undertaken by DECC into Southampton City Council's preparations for the scheme highlights that a creative approach may be beneficial. Southampton City Council implemented an "Energy Meter Reading Lottery" so that each time a school takes a meter reading it earns an entry into a lottery and gets a chance to win monetary prizes at the end of the year.

Each local authority is likely to face its own challenges adapting to the scheme and the procedures put in place by local authorities to obtain the required information in time and in the correct format are likely to differ from local authority to local authority.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this update, please contact:



Jeannine Barraclough
Solicitor
Commercial
dt: +44 (0) 115 983 8231
JBarraclough@hbj-gw.com

