

## **EU Green Capital Competition 2015**

### **Section 11 Environmental Management of the Local Authority**

#### **A. Describe the present situation concerning the environmental management system in your city**

In 2002 BCC adopted a plan to improve its environmental performance. This plan was to:

- Adopt a corporate Environmental Policy.
- Set and achieve corporate environmental management targets.
- Implement the EU Eco Management and Auditing System (EMAS) for every council department and accredit the whole organisation.
- Use the environmental management system to create and deliver an environmental programme to achieve continual environmental improvement.

To implement this action plan BCC created a dedicated 4-person staff team, in addition to specialists working on energy and biodiversity management.

Services related to water supply and wastewater management are provided by privatised utilities and their performance is described in more detail in the relevant chapter.

This section excludes activities that may be provided by municipalities in other European countries, including:

- Public transport services generally
- Supply of energy services.

#### **Environmental policy**

BCC's corporate environmental policy covers all of the council's operations. Compliance with this policy has been assessed regularly by independent, external EMAS auditors and is regularly reviewed by the Council's senior management and approved by the Chief Executive and Council Leader.<sup>1</sup>

## **A1. Number of municipal departments with certified environmental management systems (ISO 14001/EMAS)**

Bristol is one of only four City Councils in the UK that have an EMAS registration.<sup>2</sup>

All departments comply with the environmental policy, have an environmental management system and are contributing to the achievement of environmental targets. Currently 3 out of 4 departments have EMAS registration: Children's Services (education and social care) will be audited in November 2012 to complete the whole organisation.

The 2002 action plan for EMAS implementation began with those departments with the most significant operational environmental impacts and risks, such as transport, catering, cleaning, grounds maintenance and joinery. The first EMAS registration was achieved in 2004.

The environmental management programme has been created by auditing services to identify their significant environmental impacts and creating local EMAS action plans which the team or departmental managers are responsible for delivering. This ensures that there is local commitment and clear accountability. To date more than 1,000 individual EMAS action plans have been created.

The environmental programme is audited and co-ordinated by dedicated internal Environmental Advisers and once action plans are completed further action is planned with the managers to ensure continuous environmental improvement. BCC's senior management regularly review progress and make improvements to the management system.

Corporate strategic issues are managed through the following processes:

Corporate Decisions: assessed using Eco Impact Assessment (based on Environmental Impact Assessment). Environmental impacts are identified, quantified (where possible) and mitigated. The results are made publicly available within Cabinet Reports.<sup>3</sup>

Procurement and Commissioning: the sustainability (environmental, social, economic) impacts of commissioning and procurement are formally assessed. Contracts with significant impacts include requirements for environmental performance improvement and provision of performance data against agreed indicators. In addition, a sustainability assessment of the tender forms part of the overall quality score and affects the ranking of bidders.<sup>4</sup>

Management Commitment: each council department has a designated "Environmental Champion" – a senior manager with responsibility for ensuring management commitment, adequate resources and ensuring continual improvement in environmental performance.

**A2. Percentage of consumed eco-labelled and organic products by municipalities, measured as a share of the total product consumption within similar category**

BCC implemented a Sustainable Procurement Strategy in 2009, containing a set of eleven objectives to procure sustainably, and influence others to do so. Under this strategy, and through a national programme for sustainable procurement, BCC has led the UK South West Sustainable Procurement Network<sup>5</sup>, through:

- Delivering sustainable procurement training for public sector procurement professionals throughout the South West<sup>6</sup>
- Arranging annual sustainable procurement conferences
- [Hosting a best practice website.](#)

Examples of sustainability criteria in procurement are given in the Table 1.

<b>Product/ category</b>	<b>Eco-label/ standard</b>	<b>Details</b>
ICT equipment	EU Energy Star	100% of applicable equipment
Joinery Timber	FSC or PEFC	70% in 2010/11
Food	Organic	30% of school meals
	MSC	45% of frozen fish
	Fairtrade	100% of bananas
	Free range	100% eggs
	Locally produced	>45% of core foods (catering) and >50% (school meals)
Compost	Peat free	100% of compost used by Bristol City Council is peat free.
Paper & stationery	Recycled or sustainable (FSC/ PEFC)	96% of paper and 38% of other office supplies meet this standard, 59% overall.

*Table 1: Examples of sustainability criteria in procurement*

## **Bristol Food Standards**

Bristol City Council launched a municipal Food Charter<sup>7</sup> in 2010. With 10 ambitions the Charter addressed all aspects of the food system and was supported by an adopted set of food standards to specifically inform internal corporate food purchasing policy. The 2012 'Good Food' Charter was developed by Bristol's Food Policy Council<sup>8</sup> to support a citywide vision of sustainable food.

Contract requirements based on the Bristol Food Standards are built in to all new food and catering contracts for BCC Whilst these cover a range of areas relating to food security, there is a requirement for sustainable food, Fairtrade goods, and products that meet monitored welfare standards (e.g. meat and eggs).

## **URBACT II**

Bristol is one of 5 initial Partners in the EU URBACT II project 'Sustainable Food in Urban Communities'<sup>9</sup>. Recognising the significant carbon impact of conventional food systems, the project seeks to make a step change to reduce this while addressing local concerns regarding public health, food poverty, re-skilling, employment and the local economy. The project focuses on the development of a local strategic group of food professionals and the production of an action plan. This aligns with Bristol's Food Policy Council and its sustainable food agenda.

Stage 1 of URBACT is underway to identify specific Partner priorities and synergies, plus several further Partners to join the project in October 2012 ready for Stage 2. Should the bid for Stage 2 prove successful, Partners will visit each other's countries 2013 to 2015 to share good practice, supported by commissioned specialists from exemplar European cities and projects.

Bristol City Council is hosting a 3 day event from 15 - 18th October to welcome all partners: Brussels, Amersfoort, Messina, Athens, Oslo, Gotenburg, Vaslui, Lyon and Ourense, to Bristol for the completion of the first phase of EU URBACT 'Sustainable Food in Urban Communities'. The visit will provide an opportunity to showcase some of Bristol's innovative food projects e.g. Avon Wildlife's 'Feed Bristol' food-growing project that demonstrates wildlife friendly food growing. Ideas from the visit will inform the second phase of EU URBACT 2013-15 once this has Secretariat approval

## **A3. Disadvantages resulting from historical and/or geographical factors that may have influenced this indicator area**

A number of the city's public services are provided by other organisations, either completely independently or through contracts with the council. Several of these organisations have implemented their own environmental management systems:

- Environmental regulation and improvement (Environment Agency – EMAS)
- Municipal waste collection (May Gurney – ISO14001)
- Waste water treatment (Wessex Water – ISO14001)
- Majority of bus services (First Bus – ISO14001)

**Word Count for Indicator 4A = 997**

**B. Measures implemented over the last five to ten years.**

**B1. Policy for environmental management of municipal activities**

Bristol City Council implemented its Environmental Policy in 2003, and by Nov. 2012 all its activities will be verified to EMAS.

BCC has embedded environmental targets in the corporate performance management system.

A full analysis of performance is provided in the independently audited [annual Environmental Statement](#) and is summarised in Table 2.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Metric</b>	<b>2003/4</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>Result</b>
Energy	Building Energy Consumption (MWh) (Gas & oil weather corrected.)	178,582 (estimate)	127,866	28% reduction.
Travel	Business Mileage (million miles)	4.623	3.159	32% reduction
CO <sub>2</sub>	Corporate CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (tonnes)	73,933 (estimate)	58,265	21% reduction.
Waste	Corporate recycling rate (%)	38 2007/8 first year of measurement	52	37% reduction in waste to landfill
Water	Water consumption from top 50 sites (m <sup>3</sup> )	196,350	161,040	18% reduction

*Table 2: BCC Performance against baseline year*

## **Energy**

BCC has reduced energy use through:

- A programme of awareness raising and training for BCC staff
- Improved management and control of energy use through automatic monitoring of all electricity meter and mains gas consuming sites
- Investing £2.2m to improve energy efficiency of 80 buildings, generating annual savings of £800,000 and approx. 4,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## **Travel**

BCC has achieved reductions through:

- Implementation of Travel Plans at all main buildings
- Improving monitoring, awareness and communication
- Route planning in high mileage services.

## **CO<sub>2</sub>**

BCC has made substantial CO<sub>2</sub> savings and is on track to achieving the target of a 40% reduction by 2020.

The main improvements have been in building energy efficiency and corporate travel. BCC has also installed 15 biomass boilers and created the UK's first municipally owned wood fuel station, supplied with fuel from the city's parks and trees.

## **Waste**

Bristol is one of the very few UK councils to measure and publish audited performance data for its own operational waste. Implementation of single corporate contract and comprehensive recycling and food-waste facilities has substantially reduced waste to landfill, by 37%.

## **Water**

In 2011/12 BCC has focused on reducing consumption at the highest consuming sites, for example the Town Hall and the City Centre Water Feature. Audits have take place and action taken. Early results are encouraging, reducing consumption on top of the 18% already achieved.

In recognition of work undertaken to manage water, Bristol City Council was selected as the UK entry for the European EMAS Awards 2012<sup>10</sup>, and will contest the final on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012

## **Continual Improvement of BCC Service Delivery**

BCC also identified priorities for action where quantifiable corporate targets were not appropriate. The following section describes some of those actions.

### **Public events and facilities**

The sustainability of public services and events has been improved. The [Bristol Harbour Festival](#)<sup>11</sup> improved its recycling rate from 23% to 41% over four years, and won the [Greener Festival Award](#)<sup>12</sup> in 2010. The [CREATE Environment Centre](#) has an “A” rating for building energy efficiency, and has a [Green Tourism Gold Award](#)<sup>13</sup>.

### **Biodiversity**

BCC has eliminated peat from its parks operations, and increased the percentage of wood from certified sustainable sources (FSC or PEFC) by 87% since 2003.

In 2012, Bristol was Gold medallist in the Entente Florale<sup>14</sup> competition, which aims to improve the quality of life for urban communities. Specifically:

- The greening of towns
- Flowers, shrubs, green spaces, parks
- Development which is environmentally and ecologically sensitive
- Educational and communication initiatives that promote environmental awareness.

### **Climate Adaptation**

BCC is using its new Climate Change Risk Register to embed climate change adaptation into strategy development, risk management and key decision-making. 100 key experts from all relevant organisations contributed to this through a comprehensive risk assessment of climate change threats.

### **Environmental Assessment**

To implement its environmental policy BCC has developed a bespoke assessment methodology for all major Council decisions, corporate projects, procurement and commissioning, as described in Section A.

Procurement for a new waste collection and recycling contract<sup>15</sup> achieved:

- 32% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- CO<sub>2</sub> measurement certificated to ISO14064
- New EURO V/ EEV collection vehicles
- Route optimisation and driver training
- Trial of electric street-sweepers
- Use of renewable electricity in waste depots
- Improvements to building energy and lighting.



## ICT

BCC has taken innovative approaches to reduce ICT energy use:

- Our new data centre at the Town Hall was procured on a whole-life cost basis, integrating energy costs and resulting in an 80% saving by water-cooling from the moat<sup>16</sup>
- Replacing ICT air-conditioning with evaporative cooling, saving over 500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## **B2. Increasing the share of the total consumption of eco-labelled, organic and energy-efficient products**

BCC has substantially improved the environmental performance of its procurement. Section A (2) shows the requirements for some of the eco-labelled, organic and energy efficient product types. Issues that are considered during tenders include:

- packaging
- sustainability of materials
- design
- global warming and ozone depleting potentials
- suitability for intended use
- environmental performance in use
- lifespan

## **Implementation of Green Procurement**

BCC implemented a Sustainable Procurement Strategy in 2009 it has eleven objectives to procure sustainably, and influence others to do so.

Specialist internal Environment Advisers provide advice on tenders, evaluate submissions and sit on interview panels. These qualified environmental auditors will undertake visits to contractors' sites as part of tender evaluation, to verify written submissions and to help set contract performance clauses.

Tenders are assessed against the environmental performance of contractors, the way they will deliver the contract and the environmental performance of the products they will supply.

**Word count: 795**

## C. Describe the short and long term objectives for the future and proposed approach to achieve these

### C1. Base line study quantitative targets

Bristol City Council carried out an initial environmental review as part of EMAS implementation. Baseline data was gathered, and current performance is compared to the baseline in Table 2, Section B.

In 2010/11, the council set a series of new targets for environmental improvement. We are pleased to report that, overall, significantly improved environmental performance can be demonstrated.

Category	Metric	Scope	Target	2011/12	2010/11	Status	Notes
Energy	Energy Consumption – carbon emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2e</sub> )	Reduce energy-related emissions from our operations, including BCC buildings, streetlights and schools.	3% year-on-year reduction	54,995	62,904	13% reduction	Combination of better data, streetlighting programme and building efficiency works. Milder winter accounts for c. 1800 tonnes of saving.
Travel	Reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions for fleet and business mileage. (tonnes CO <sub>2e</sub> )	BCC fleet vehicles and staff mileage claims	3% year-on-year reduction	3270	3720	12% reduction	32% reduction
Waste	Reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions arising from waste production (currently measured using % recycling rate)	Reduce lifecycle CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from corporate waste disposed via Viridor contract	3% year-on-year reduction	52	59	12% increase in waste to landfill	Specific depot issue with classification of skip waste responsible in part. Have also re-launched office waste user guide. Performance has now risen to over 60%.
Water	Water consumption from top 50 sites (m <sup>3</sup> )	BCC buildings, including schools, parks, allotments, leisure centres, City Centre Water Feature.	3% year-on-year reduction	161040	186345	14% reduction	No longer supply municipal swimming pools – but still a 10% reduction even if taken into account.
Procurement	Reduce the carbon footprint of corporate procurement	Reduce direct CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from large contracts, e.g Public Transport and Municipal Waste	3% year on year reduction	No data	No data	N/a	Emissions data for new municipal waste contract will be available at the end of 2012

*Table 3: Targets for BCC environmental improvement*

## **C2. The iterative process for continuous improvement**

BCC will pursue continuous improvement through its EMAS accredited system supported by 4 members of staff, delivering continued legal compliance, site auditing, performance monitoring and strategic improvement.

Plans to deliver the targets for the future are detailed below:

### **Climate Change**

BCC's Climate Change and Energy Security Framework 2012-2015<sup>17</sup> sets out 19 actions to improve BCC's performance to achieve the target of a 40% cut in carbon emissions by 2020, including:

- Renewable energy in schools – 10 new biomass boilers, using locally-sourced wood - £4m, saving 1,600t CO<sub>2</sub> p.a.<sup>18</sup>
- Street lighting modernisation citywide – A white light retrofit programme is underway – next phase will replace a further 23,000 lamps, reducing energy use by 35% and saving 4,400t CO<sub>2</sub> p.a
- Upgrading the city crematorium to reduce energy use<sup>19</sup>
- A £1 million revolving fund for energy efficiency improvements.<sup>20</sup>

### **Reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions for fleet and business mileage**

BCC will:

- Update Travel Plans for all main sites
- Maintain an allowance for business travel by bicycle
- Offer tax-free incentive for bicycle purchase
- Provide a fleet of pool bicycles
- Specify all new fleet vehicles to reduce emissions and comply with the Clean Vehicles Directive
- Monitor travel patterns
- Install charging points for electric vehicles.

### **Reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions arising from waste production**

BCC will:

- Introduce food-waste composting at Elderly People's Homes
- Auditing to ensure that existing recycling facilities are being used correctly
- Storage and re-use of unwanted furniture and ICT to reduce waste and avoid new furniture purchases
- Improved recycling facilities for major public events.

### **Reduce the carbon footprint of corporate procurement**

BCC is the first Council in the UK to have undertaken a detailed assessment of the carbon footprint of all its procurement activities. BCC will assess the carbon footprint of future contracts using its rigorous procurement process.

Contractors are required to report their performance.

### **Reduce water consumption at top 50 BCC sites**

In partnership with Bristol Water, BCC will audit high consuming sites and schools.

### **C3. Social aspects**

The economic, environment and social aspects of sustainability are included in the sustainability assessment described in Section B. If potential social impacts are identified, appropriate specification clauses and contract performance clauses will be used to manage those impacts

BCC will increase training for young people in construction through apprenticeships and is promoting this with other public sector bodies, while complying with EU procurement law.

BCC encourages its construction contractors to make apprenticeships available and has established its OnSite<sup>21</sup> team to help contractors find and train apprentices to recognised qualifications. BCC is also signing up to the National Skills Academy, to help establish a consistent public sector approach to requiring skills development in contracts, while complying with EU procurement law.

Other types of potential social impacts that have been identified for different contracts include:

- Services meeting individual needs
- Improving access to community services and green spaces through better design and information
- Educating customers to allow informed purchasing decisions
- Improving equality of service provision
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles through service design
- Minimising risk to people from hazardous substances in products through safety training
- Minimising risk of customer distress, injury, or frustration through timeliness and quality of products and services
- Minimising risk of unethical investments
- Minimising risk of substance misuse causing long term impacts to people through effective treatment and recovery programmes.

If potential social impacts are identified, appropriate specification clauses and contract performance clauses will be recommended to manage those impacts.

Where suitable selection and award questions are also recommended, standard marking guidance will be used. Method statements may be used instead of questions, where appropriate. For social aspects, the recommended clauses, questions and method statements are mainly based on sources other than the EU Green Public Procurement guidance, which is environmental in scope. The sources are referenced in the assessment reports.

Bristol has been a Fair Trade City<sup>22</sup> since 2005 and in 2011 it won the UK award for Outstanding Achievement Award for Fairtrade. It will build on this to:

- Raise the profile of businesses that sell and promote Fairtrade through a Fairtrade Business Awards scheme.
- Increase Fairtrade purchasing in the public and private sectors through a regional Fairtrade Procurement Conference, 2013 using the new EU sustainable procurement guidance (due out Jan 2013).

**Word count for Indicator 4C = 774 – here we have counted subheadings because they are part of the text, clearly not EC questions and there are a lot of them.**

## D. List how the above information can be documented

Our EMAS documentation can be found on the following website:

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/environmental-policy-and-performance>

<sup>2</sup> <http://ems.iema.net/emas/ukregister>

<sup>3</sup>

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/CommitteeMeetingFinder?year=2012&cmcode=UA000&Task=listname#meetinglist>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.bristol.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/business\\_in\\_bristol/tenders\\_and\\_contracts/css-proc-proc-strat.pdf](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/business_in_bristol/tenders_and_contracts/css-proc-proc-strat.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://swspn.org.uk/drupal/>

<sup>6</sup> For example:

<http://info.uwe.ac.uk/events/event.aspx?id=13650>

<http://www.environmental-inet.co.uk/procurement>

<http://www.swspn.org.uk/drupal/index.php?q=node/119>

<http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk/events/national-sustainable-public-procurement-programme>

<http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk/events/sustainable-procurement-conference-webinar>

<http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk/events/finding-your-way-low-carbon-economy-swspn-event-procurement-0>

<http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk/events/whole-life-costing-swspn-0>

<http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk/events/developing-your-local-supply-markets>

<http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk/events/finding-your-way-low-carbon-economy-swspn-event-procurement>

<http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk/events/local-multiplier-measurement-training-swspn>

<http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk/events/measuring-carbon-your-supply-chain-swspn>

<http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk/events/south-west-fairtrade-procurement-conference>

<http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk/events/swspn-sustainable-procurement-conference>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/food-bristol>

<sup>8</sup> <http://bristolfoodpolicycouncil.org/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/low-carbon-urban-environments/sustainable-food-in-urban-communities/homepage/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/emasawards/nominees.htm>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.bristolharbourfestival.co.uk/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.agreenerfestival.com/>

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.green-business.co.uk/GreenBusiness\\_Criteria\\_Introduction.asp](http://www.green-business.co.uk/GreenBusiness_Criteria_Introduction.asp)

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.entente-florale.eu/results\\_2012](http://www.entente-florale.eu/results_2012)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.maygurney.co.uk/customers/55.html>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.eqovmonitor.com/2010/02/09/bristol-city-council-data-centre-wins-innovation-award>

<sup>17</sup>

[http://www.bristol.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/environment/climate\\_change/CC%26ESF%202012-15%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/environment/climate_change/CC%26ESF%202012-15%20FINAL.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/environment/council-use-renewable-energy#jump-link-3>

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2010/ua/ua000/0624\\_8.pdf](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2010/ua/ua000/0624_8.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/environment/council-use-renewable-energy#jump-link-4>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.onsitebristol.co.uk/index.php>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.bristolfairtrade.org.uk/>