

The Energy Echo

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The Energy Management News Bulletin



Energy Saving is for life

– not for just one week!

Energy Efficiency Week - 24th to 30th October 2005

Has America seen the light? From Grunge to Green

Seattle Washington; famous for the 'grunge' rock phenomenon spearheaded by Nirvana in the early nineties has recently become home to a grass roots movement to defy the US government on it's stance on the Kyoto Protocol and encourage American cities to sign up to the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.

The document launched by Greg Nickels the Mayor of Seattle seems to have fired the imaginations of his fellow mayors who are concerned about rapid climate change right across the states. Not only has it transcended geographical boundaries – cities from the pacific west coast right across to the eastern seaboard have signed up – but it has also crossed the political divide with Republications signing up alongside the more traditionally environmentally aware Democrats.

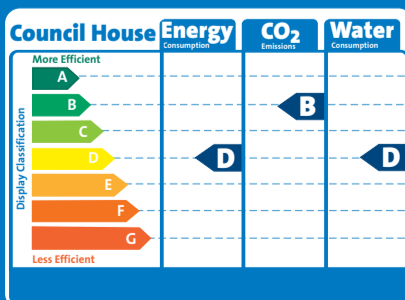
As of the 1st of September 178 Mayors representing nearly 40 million Americans have signed up to the agreement. Major cities such as Chicago, San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia and even Washington DC have all pledged to commit themselves to the following three points:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities;
- Urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol; and
- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan Climate Stewardship Act, which would establish a national emission trading system.

With more mayors signing up on a daily basis the consensus of opinion within the US regarding climate change and the question of human impact seems to be increasingly shifting away from that of President Bush. Even California's Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared recently "the debate is over" as he called for the Golden State to dramatically cut its greenhouse-gas emissions.

So whenever you hear people saying there is no point in the UK trying to meet it's Kyoto targets because "America hasn't bothered signing up" you can point to the efforts of Greg Nickels and his fellow likeminded mayors & tell them otherwise.

How does your building compare?



Say goodbye to STANDBY



After his summer holiday in Cornwall, U Turnitoff has calmed down....

During energy efficiency week we are asked to focus our minds on what simple things we can do differently in our lives to reduce our energy use, reduce our "carbon footprint" and generally lessen our impact on the environment.

So we dutifully **hide the television remote** for a week, ensuring we have to get up and turn it off rather than leave it on standby, **put on a jumper** rather than turn the heating on and we might even think about **switching our electricity to a green tariff**.

All too soon however good intentions go out of the window and we return to bad habits, but why? It's not as if it's really that difficult to save energy. The question is do we want to?

Unfortunately all too often in today's world **what motivates most people is money**.

But hang on a minute, **saving energy does save you money**: *Would you leave your car running over night?* No of course not, it'd be a waste of petrol and money – so why leave your telly and other electrical equipment on standby all the time then? **Turn them off!**

Over the course of a year this could **SAVE up to 10% of your electricity bill**.

Interested? Want to save more ...

Turning your heating down by just one degree could **save you a further 10%** from your energy bills.

With energy costs rising all the time this could be a sizeable amount.



Why was the energy wasting emu ignored by his colleagues?

Because they were ostrich-cising him!



For further information T: 0117 922 4436 or www.bristol-city.gov.uk/energymanagement