

AIEA –SEI Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Local Authorities

Friday 4 September 2009

Learnings from Workshop

Commitment

- Clear that Management buy-in at various levels required – CCMA, Management Team, Director of Service.
- Difficult to get engagement with some LAs due to current pressures on services and work. Peer to peer networking could be a mechanism to overcome this, in some cases, by demonstration of best practice and value for money.
- Different models for delivery may be required and should be considered e.g. e-learning, different structures for delivery (6 ½ day workshops vs 3 full days) etc.
- Getting an engaged team up and running takes time and may go through a number of iterations.

Management

- Integration of the energy team into existing structures is vital
- Avoiding duplication of structures and double reporting. PMDS structure suggested as a potential mechanism
- Cross department teams are vital with a mix of skills (admin, technical, management etc).
- Noted that the aim is to get cross organisational involvement – right down to individual responsibility for energy is the ultimate goal. Energy MAP approach is one mechanism for that – there may be others.
- Importance and value of a Local Energy Agency (LEA) to the process was highlighted. Noted that LEAs are in various forms but important that LEA has a strategic link to energy and LA
- Lack of benchmarked data a gap and challenge. Benchmarks need to be correct and the lack of a 'measurement culture' needs to be addressed.

Resources

- LAs have particular challenges at present in terms of resources
- LEAs a key resource where available but also LAs should seek to use resources from SEI and other areas where available.
- Energy team needs to have a mix of technical, financial and administrative expertise.
- Noted that IT expertise can be key to help monitor, measure and analyse. Involving IT in the Energy Team is key.
- Capital support is available from SEI programmes but also from a range of EU programmes
- Suggestion that SEI consider support of personnel within LAs for energy actions. Potential for link with EPA on this but it would be a new initiative from SEI
- Dept of Environment restriction on use of development charges will affect level of upgrades which will be completed

- Careful consideration of the best approach in terms of how to implement the E-Map team is needed i.e. set up a new team or integrate it into an existing working group e.g. Climate Change Team.

Communications

- Vital that good networking and communication structures are put in place to avoid duplication and promote best practice
- SEI networking activity under EEPS will be very important and significant interest shown in this initiative
- LAs have some good experience through the EPA Environmental Management actions.
- Good communications will be key to supporting decision making and encouraging engagement in Energy MAP.

Technical

- Noted that hand over and commissioning of new buildings, facilities and equipment e.g. BEMS is vital and needs to be managed properly
- Commissioning is not being done or done incorrectly and as a result there can be significant inefficiencies which have been highlighted.
- Technology is generally not the issue – systems, people and management are normally where solutions can be found.
- Procurement is key and many examples have been given regarding good procurement practice where significant energy savings have been found e.g. electricity tenders, review of facility design before tendering etc.
- Energy efficient design of LA services will be critical to achieving the 33% target i.e. Osberstown example. SEI are piloting some services in this area
- There is support for the development of best practice within EEPS, two groups are established and one on ICT to follow