

# A measure of intelligence

Leicester City Council is encouraging small and medium-sized businesses to take up its intelligent metering scheme – a system which monitors energy consumption patterns around the clock and helps identify areas where energy can be saved.

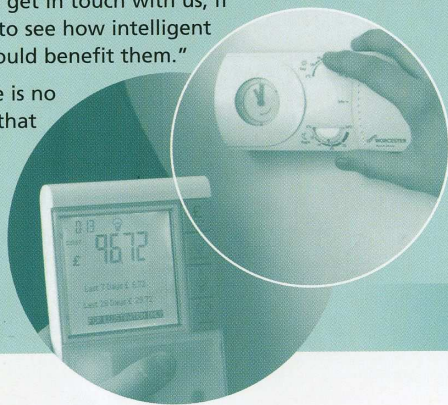
These meters monitor gas, electricity and water consumption every 30 minutes, providing accurate data about energy use – and highlighting energy-saving opportunities.

“Leicester is leading the way in intelligent metering technology,” said Councillor Robert Wann, cabinet member for the environment.

“So far, we’ve installed these meters in more than 300 council-owned buildings, and the savings we’ve made have been tremendous.

“Now we’re keen to encourage factories and businesses in Leicester to get in touch with us, if they’d like to see how intelligent metering could benefit them.”

While there is no guarantee that



the technology will save businesses money, the council has found that it’s made savings in every building where intelligent metering has been installed.

“Because the system measures energy consumption every 30 minutes, it produces data that will quickly reveal any unexpected use,” said Councillor Wann.

“For example, when intelligent metering was installed at one city school, it showed inexplicably high water consumption at times when the school was closed. This led us to discover an underground water leak. The discovery of the leak saved the school £12,000 per year on its water bill.”

It is all part of a European Commission-supported project, entitled aIM 4 SME’s, which is designed to help businesses to keep track of their energy use using the system, and which is also linked to the council’s “Climate Change – What’s Your Plan?” initiative.

In addition to helping identify possible savings, the system has also proved valuable in negotiating energy contracts, identifying patterns of use and encouraging energy-efficient behaviour.

The Council is also working with De Montfort University to provide the monitoring equipment at a reduced cost. The University can loan the monitoring equipment free of charge, so only has to pay a small amount for the installation.

For further information, contact Leicester Energy Agency on 0116 299 4698.

## Free Code workshops for local authorities

Communities and Local Government (CLG) is providing free workshops for local authorities on the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Participants will be briefed on the policy context of the Code, be able to participate in an interactive exercise to build a Code home and hear from a local developer providing a case study of how they achieved a particular level of the Code.

Speakers will be from CLG, the Energy Saving Trust, BRE Global and local housebuilders.

The workshops will take place throughout March and April at various locations throughout England and Wales and are designed to increase understanding and awareness of the Code and explain how it fits within the regulatory framework.

The events take place in:

**Newcastle 10 March**

**Leeds 11 March**

**Manchester 12 March**

**Birmingham 18 March**

**Leicester 19 March**

**Cambridge 24 March**

**Exeter 16 April**

**Port Talbot 21 April**

**Watford 24 April**

For further details on the series of workshops and to book a place go to [www.bre.co.uk/clgcodeevents](http://www.bre.co.uk/clgcodeevents) or telephone 01923 664100.