

## £4m saved thanks to innovative energy conservation works



An ambitious project to significantly reduce carbon emissions and energy costs has reached a milestone £4,000,000 in savings for Gwynedd Council.

Since 2010, the Council's Carbon Management Plan has been in place as part of the local authority's commitment to reducing the impact it has on the environment.

Now, thanks to a combination of different projects including installing efficient lighting in buildings and street lights; insulation projects; renewable energy; swimming pool covers; and a number of energy saving technologies for IT equipment, its carbon footprint has reduced by a phenomenal 34.5% during this period, in particular within the following areas:

- Street lights down by 45%
- Fleet down by 17%
- Business Travel down by 10%
- Buildings Energy down by 39%

During 2017, 239 tonnes of the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (enough to fill 239 hot air balloons) were generated from renewable energy, such as solar PV panels.

But as well as investing in capital projects, there has also been a focus on behaviour change, with the aim of raising awareness of the effects of climate change, to encourage more widespread environmentally friendly behaviour.



For instance, in schools, where savings of over a quarter have been realised, the Sbarci a Fflic Scheme has played a key role in promoting the importance of saving energy to pupils, both in the classroom and at home.

Working with Leisure staff and giving them the skills and knowledge to manage energy consumption within

Healthy Lifestyles Centres has also helped to save nearly 10% on their carbon emissions.

To date, more than £4,000,000 has been saved on revenue costs, and over the past year it has prevented 185 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from being released into the atmosphere.

But the authority is already preparing to reach its next target, which is to reduce its carbon emissions by 40% by 2021.

Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: “We’re tremendously proud of what the Council has achieved to date as part of this innovative project.

“The plan has allowed Gwynedd Council to be at the forefront of reducing carbon emissions in Wales as well as to make financial savings without having a negative impact on the people of Gwynedd.”

To save energy (and costs) at home, you can do things like:

- search for a better tariff from suppliers
- switch equipment and plugs off when they’re not in use
- turn lights off when they are not needed
- use low energy bulbs
- consider investing in renewable energy, such as solar panels, wind turbines etc.
- insulate and draught proof your home

*For more information about the Carbon Management Plan, visit [www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru](http://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru) and search for ‘Carbon Management Plan’.*