

Reducing electricity consumption

Sessions House, Maidstone

- **Average kWh consumption: Reduced by 11.4%**
- **Projected annual savings: £15,310**
- **Projected reduction of carbon dioxide emissions: 96.3 tonnes**

Kent County Council is committed to reducing its energy consumption to achieve both financial and carbon savings. Research was carried out to identify how to reduce electricity consumption at the council's headquarters in Maidstone. As the first step a staff awareness programme was introduced to reduce energy usage and simple energy saving measures were installed.

It was also identified that the site's voltage was, like many UK sites, running higher than that required by its electrical equipment (220 volts). A powerPerfactor unit optimises voltage to the level needed as opposed to the supply voltage received. This reduces energy usage and cuts costs whilst improving the operation and lifespan of electrical equipment.

Since the unit was installed in February 2009 an 11.4% average reduction in energy consumption has been made achieving significant financial, energy and carbon savings. The powerPerfactor unit ensures the site's equipment operates at a higher level of efficiency, as well as providing protection from power surges of up to 25,000 volts.

Large public buildings and schools are ideal for installing a voltage optimisation unit because of high energy and carbon emissions.

If you would like more information, please contact the LASER Energy Team at 01622 605307 or email steve.baggs@kent.gov.uk

"I am delighted that the powerPerfactor is showing real savings. I have identified a simple annual reduction greater than 10%. I hope that we can use this trial at Sessions House to encourage other council departments and schools to consider using this."

Andy Morgan, Head of Energy Management

