

Display Energy Certificates

Sept 2012

Andrew Boyd, Sustainability Manager, University of Cumbria sent an email to the Members' network asking,

“We are in the process of renewing our building DEC’s and I have been asked to find out whether or not we could train someone internally as an energy assessor and carry out our own self assessment. I am unsure if this would be permitted but would be interested to know if anyone had any thoughts on the subject, in particular:

- Does anyone do this at present?
- If so, is there a DEC / energy assessor training course / provider they can recommend?
- Does anyone know if this approach is permitted or do DEC’s have to be produced by an independent ‘external’ source?”

Member Responses

“I carry out the DEC assessments for UCLan. Part of the DEC software asks whether there is any connection between myself & the client, but there is no issue. Cost to train me was circa £2500 via Adapt Training, I think it was Manchester way & then I had to apply to either BRE or Stroma etc. etc. to join their accreditation scheme.”

Ruth Taylor, Energy & Carbon Management Officer, University of Central Lancashire

“We have someone who does them internally. Courses are run by CIBSE and BRE and cost around £500 I am told.”

Rebecca Cottington, Environmental Officer, Birmingham City University

“I know a lot of councils have trained in-house staff to do their own DEC’s and there are several institutions that will provide training if you fit the criteria (just type DEC training into Google but this site is quite helpful <http://cibsetraining.co.uk/energyassessor/dec-training>). Once you have completed the training you have to be registered with the organisation to be allowed to register the DEC’s.





I did think about doing the course but was put off when people started talking about insurance etc. I also wasn't sure I'd have the time to actually do the audits when they come around."

Pam Brandwood, Energy Manager, Edgehill University

"I do the building DEC's here at Newport. Speak to CIBSE. You can go on a 2 or 3 day course to become a Low Carbon Energy Assessor with CIBSE. Following the completion of an exam, submission of a training DEC and completion of some Continual Professional Development (CPD) forms followed by a yearly CIBSE membership fee, you should then be able to complete DEC's using the OR Calc software. You do have to have some basic energy management / background knowledge before you are able to take the course." See download for the self-assessment questionnaire that they use.

Matthew Bellamy, Environmental Officer, University of Wales, Newport

"I'm a DEC assessor and do my own institution's DEC's after going through training to become part of the CIBSE low carbon energy assessors scheme. They do require an annual registration fee, proof of regular CPD and a full application. Also lodging the final certificates produced is an additional cost. Otherwise generating the certificates is pretty easy, you'd have to collate the energy data for a consultant anyway so might as well just do it in-house. The ORCalc software is free, process can be fiddly but not horrendous. When you register, you can register to only produce DEC's for your own institution so are covered by the relevant insurance and CIBSE do regular quality assurance checks. I don't know about any other assessor schemes so afraid I couldn't comment on which provider of training is the best."

Sara Kassam, Sustainability Manager, University of East London

"We considered training someone - I think CIBSE offered a course when we first looked around in 2008. But we found that the cost of DEC's dropped as competition increased for the work, and staff time could be better used in other areas. For a once a year process it may be a waste of resource to train someone, **depending largely on how many buildings you have**. As with any complex piece of work that only happens once a year, there's also a danger that you will have forgotten how to undertake the process 12 months down the line (but that's probably just me). For our 20 odd buildings, I feel it's worth paying the relatively small sum to a (good) external assessor to evaluate our site each year, and add a bit of value generally by providing comments and suggestions. I also think that keeping the whole process

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impartial and independent is good practice. But I may look again when I have time”

Martin Walton, Environmental and Sustainability Manager, Southampton Solent University

“I am trained DEC assessor for the University and have issued certificates in the past. I will be issuing DEC certificates to all University properties over 500 SqM this year.

I did my training 4 years ago with “Adapt and Sustain” - <http://adaptandsustain.co.uk/> - and accredited under BRE. You can approach one of the building services institutions such BRE, CIBCSE, Stroma Certification Ltd, etc. to find out what routes are available.

I have done both. During the first year, I did all the data gathering work and asked an approved DEC assessor to verify and lodge the certificate. Second year, I issued and lodged the certificates on my name. For the last 2 years, due to lack of time and resources, I outsourced the work. This year I am in the process of doing the work myself. One of the main benefits, if you have the time, of doing this work in-house is you learn more about your building’s energy performance. Otherwise it becomes more of a paper exercise.”

Chrispal Anand, Carbon & Energy Manager, University of Leicester University Road, Leicester

“Personally whilst you can spend time and money training someone, I’m left wondering why? This is a mandatory requirement and if you get it wrong it can be embarrassing. It’s easier to pass to a specialist and let them do all the calculations. If you opt to train, you normally only train one individual and then do not have any peer review, if you bring in external to peer, then why bother to do internally. My preference and recommendation is to outsource.”

Kenneth Kinsella, Director of Capital Development, London School of Economics & Political Science

Many thanks to all who contributed to this resource.

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