

Energy in the public sector

INTRODUCTION

The public sector has a significant role to play in the energy market and the opportunities are substantial. These include:

- creating or improving income streams through energy generation projects;
- reducing costs for householders and non domestic properties by means of energy efficiency schemes;
- securing lower cost heat and power for domestic and commercial users through collective switching, CHP and district heat networks; and
- by embracing these opportunities and by accessing available sources of subsidy, grant and finance, contributing to local investment, job and skills creation, and a reduction in fuel poverty.



ABOUT US

The energy sector can seem a daunting and unfamiliar place, but it can be readily navigated with the right advice and support.

Walker Morris combines a deep appreciation of the challenges facing the public sector market with specialist experience of the energy and renewables market, supporting clients through its focused Renewables, Energy & Resources Group. We have a strong relationship with the Association of Public Sector Excellence (APSE), and are APSE's strategic legal partner for all aspects of the energy, renewables and/or energy efficiency agenda.

We regularly advise clients operating in this sector on challenges and opportunities in providing energy services, forming joint ventures and special purpose vehicles (such as an Energy Services Company (ESCO)), trading powers and procuring delivery partners. Our experts will help you get these matters right at an early stage to avoid delays or difficulties at a later date. We have seen a number of projects falter where this has not been the case.

The Group advises a broad range of clients including local authorities, registered providers, health providers, utility companies, gas and electricity transmission and distribution companies, power generators and suppliers, energy from waste developers, water companies, project companies and commercial banks. This extensive sector experience means that we have a strong grasp on the energy sector and current trends.

OUR EXPERIENCE

We already have strong experience of advising the public sector on energy-related projects, including:

- Wind: advising a City Council on a municipal wind project.

- Solar (roof-mounted): advising a City Council and a Scottish local authority on their respective projects to install roof-mounted solar PV panels on a range of council owned buildings.
- Solar (ground-mounted): advising a District Council on its 5MW solar farm scheme.
- Biomass: advising a large metropolitan authority and a national regeneration trust on biomass schemes which involve biomass supply chain issues, free (or subsidised) boiler provision and Renewable Heat Incentive sharing.
- Energy from Waste: advising local authorities on waste derived fuels supply contracts such as SRF (Solid Recovered Fuel) and RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel).
- Collective switching: advising a unitary authority on its proposed collective switching scheme.
- Energy procurement: advising a public sector buying organisation on its flexible electricity purchase contract with one of the "Big 6" suppliers.
- ECO and Green Deal: advising a unitary authority on a proposed Green Deal scheme and accessing ECO monies from energy suppliers.
- Structuring and collaboration: working with APSE to advise a group of councils on structuring energy projects and collaboration between authorities on renewables and energy efficiency schemes.

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