

Energy Security Select Committee

Carolyn McKenzie

Head of Sustainable Business and Community – KCC

Biography

Carolyn is Head of Sustainable Business and Community at Kent County Council, covering Kent County Council's environmental performance as a business, as well as the implementation of the Kent Environment Strategy. Carolyn has over 15 years of experience of working in the Low carbon and environmental field across the public, private and not for profit sector.

Neil Hilkene

Economic & Spatial Development Officer – KCC

Biography

Neil is a qualified town planner and member of the Royal Town Planning Institute with 34 years experience covering development control, strategic and local planning, regeneration, conservation, environment and sustainability. He has been employed by the County Council for the past 17 years. Prior to this he held posts at Woking Borough Council, London Borough of Croydon, London Docklands Development Corporation, Gillingham Borough Council and Medway Council.

Over the past 10 years he has specialised in renewable and low carbon energy, working on projects and studies to realise the economic and community benefits from more sustainable energy solutions. He is currently leading a feasibility study to consider the viability of establishing a district heat network in Maidstone.

Steve Baggs

Energy Manager – KCC

Biography

Steve has 20 Years of experience of working in the energy industry, with a BA(Hons) in Economics and an MSc in Environmental Policy and Technology from Imperial College, London. He has worked for a number of local authorities on energy initiatives to reduce energy consumption and costs, as well as renewable energy initiatives. At KCC he has spent ten years working with schools and KCC estate to reduce energy costs and set up renewable energy projects, such as solar PV on

Invicta House and Ashford Highways Depot. He has a background in energy financing and funding and is currently managing the SALIX fund which allows energy efficiency measures to be installed at 0% finance through a joint KCC/Central Government Fund which is recycled.

Steve works with community organisations across Kent to reduce energy costs and look at innovative ways of financing community schemes, such as Sheppey Community Energy Trust, where he negotiated a community fund with a large solar farm developer.

At present, he is working on a District Heating network for Maidstone which is currently at the feasibility study stage.