

Janey Bray – Research and Project Manager, AmicusHorizon

Janey graduated from the University of Brighton in 2005 with a degree in Environmental Science. After graduation she worked at the University for two years as a Research Assistant for the Waste and Energy Research Group and for the Principal Lecturer in Sustainable Development, then worked on a number of Defra-funded projects. She co-developed and taught a course for Waste Prevention Officers for West Sussex County Council which resulted in their winning the Green Apple Award.

Janey has worked at AmicusHorizon for almost two years and focuses on alleviating fuel (and water) poverty for residents. She also works to reduce the environmental impact of the organisation's business operations which involves managing the Energy Administrator and energy reduction projects, which include both service charged energy and office energy consumption.

She has recently submitted funding applications for various energy saving projects to benefit the housing stock and is currently carrying out resident and staff consultations as part of her work to develop an over-arching Sustainability Strategy for AmicusHorizon.

Before joining AmicusHorizon Janey worked on a Mayor of London-funded programme, assisting all 33 London Boroughs, Corporations and SME's in embedding sustainability, sustainable procurement and waste minimisation with part-time secondments to Wandsworth Borough Council and Hammersmith and Fulham Borough Council as an in-house waste minimisation officer.

Suggested themes & Questions

1. Could you please tell us briefly about your organisation and your role.
2. Could you tell us about the awareness level and understanding of sustainability, energy and carbon reduction issues in your sector and about the capacity of your organisation to make changes.
3. What, if anything has been the effect of the Decent Homes Programme on the energy profile of the housing stock?
4. In your view, what could be done to raise awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy issues – and who should training/awareness-raising be aimed at?
5. How many properties and residents does your organisation have in Kent and could you tell us how the energy needs of residents are managed?
6. What steps have been taken to reduce business energy use and the energy charged to residents or increase the energy efficiency of buildings – have any of these steps been particularly effective?

7. In developing a Sustainability Strategy for AmicusHorizon – could you indicate the kinds of issues that, from your consultations, were of concern to staff and residents with regard to energy? To what extent do you feel this represents the views of Kent residents generally?
8. In your view, could renewable energy play a role in improving quality of life by reducing fuel poverty among your residents and in the wider population (while at the same time reducing dependence on fossil fuels)?
9. What do you believe would be the key challenges to implementing schemes and do you envisage a role for the public sector in progressing this?
10. In making decisions about increasing the energy efficiency of housing stock and use of renewable energy - are you guided by any examples elsewhere in the UK or internationally?