**Nottingham and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership**

In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire local authorities are using UNO to target their projects and to monitor and evaluate results

*“We chose UNO because it’s versatile, comprehensive, easy to use, with a good level of ongoing support.”* Dr Rina Jones, LAEP Partnership Coordinator

The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) is made up of 14 district authorities across the two counties and has been working to tackle climate change, encourage sustainable energy and address fuel poverty since 1996. Its work is held up as an exemplar nationally of what can be achieved by local authorities working in partnership.

 In 2011, the LAEP was successful in obtaining funding from the East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership to trial the creation of housing stock energy databases in 7 district housing authorities in Nottinghamshire.  In December 2012, funding was approved from DECC and used to extend the project throughout Derbyshire as well.

The Partnership chose UNO because it had been used very successfully for many years by Newark and Sherwood District Council, one of the five Beacon Councils for Tackling Fuel Poverty (2002) and a member of the LAEP. NSDC had developed its UNO database to near 100% coverage and used it to target energy efficiency offers and grants to households. Use of the database was credited with improved efficiency through making better use of resources, for instance by reducing wasted visits by surveyors to homes that were already well insulated. It was also found that accurate energy data made it easier to attract funding from fuel companies.

The LAEP sees its adoption of a sophisticated data-led approach, characterised by its use of UNO, as being central to its ambition to be at the vanguard of the transformation of the UK housing sector to low carbon. It should help attract ECO funding to the area, which in turn would bring wider economic benefits in the form of “green” jobs. It is also seen as likely to result in greater environmental benefits as a result of the carbon reductions that will flow, and social and health benefits, particularly for those on low incomes, the chronically ill, older people and those experiencing fuel poverty.

“*Benefits will grow and materialise over the current decade as new data is entered and the datasets become increasingly comprehensive. In addition, as more insulation measures are installed and the number of un-insulated homes correspondingly shrinks, it will become increasingly important to know with precision which actual homes remain untreated. The database will save very significant resources by enabling publicity and subsidies to be targeted exactly where they are likely to have the maximum benefit*.”

Dr Rina Jones, Partnership Coordinator

The initial contract to supply UNO to the Notts authorities was agreed in February 2011 and fulfilled in a month. This resulted in all seven authorities holding a database containing every residential postal address in their area together with energy related data collected by them, or others such as EST. Also included are ward, output area, Lower Super Output Area and relevant data at small area level that may be useful for targeting such as BRE estimates of fuel poverty, IMD, any data on over 60s, benefit levels, numbers of social housing providers, etc.

Nominated users had initial and follow up training sessions to ensure they were able to use all of UNO’s features successfully, and they continue to be supported by the UNO technical team.

Following the successful DECC bid, all 7 Notts authorities had their software upgraded to also include the Improvements (ECO and Green Deal) module and they also received the EPC data for their area, which had been converted by the UNO Technical Team into the appropriate format for UNO.

For the Derbyshire Councils, a different model was designed where Amber Valley Borough Council took responsibility for maintaining a central database on behalf of the rest of the authorities, with the others having their own non-calculating versions for reference purposes.  These authorities may upgrade to the full version in the future should resources allow.