

Display Energy Certificates (DECs)

A Display Energy Certificate (DEC) is currently required annually for all public buildings over 1000m². The Government is currently proposing to reduce the size threshold to 250m².

A DEC records the energy efficiency of a public building based on metered energy consumption as used annually over periods of up to the last three years (the Operational Rating).

The purpose of introducing DECs is to raise public awareness of energy consumption by informing visitors to public buildings about energy use. DECs provide an energy rating of the building from A to G, where A is very efficient and G is the least efficient. Once obtained, a DEC must be displayed on the building in a prominent place clearly visible to the public and should be no smaller than A3 in size.

Key Benefits

- Shows energy performance of a building based on metered energy consumption
- Renewed annually to keep track of a building's energy costs
- Annual renewal indicates if the energy performance of a building is improving
- Provides a report of key recommendations that can reduce the energy use of the building and costs
- Improved public relations: environmental performance is increasingly important to reputation

Relevant Legislation:

The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates & Inspections) (England & Wales) Regulations 2007 SI 2007/991, amended by SI 2007/1669, SI 2007/3302 and SI 2008/647



A DEC Assessment

For buildings with a total usable floor area of over 1,000m² that are occupied in whole or part by public authorities or by institutions providing public services we undertake the following:

- Survey and assess the building using an approved method set out in the government regulations
- Input the data into a software program designed by the Buildings Research Establishment
- Produce a draft certificate and report that can then be discussed with the client if required
- Issue certificate and lodge at the Landmark Registry
- Supply certificate for display
- Discuss with the client recommendations to reduce energy costs and implementation

Penalties for Non-Compliance

The penalty is £500 for failing to display a DEC at all times in a prominent place clearly visible to the public and £1,000 for failing to have possession of a valid certificate and advisory report. In addition to these penalties a DEC would still need to be commissioned otherwise further offences will be committed.

Did you know?

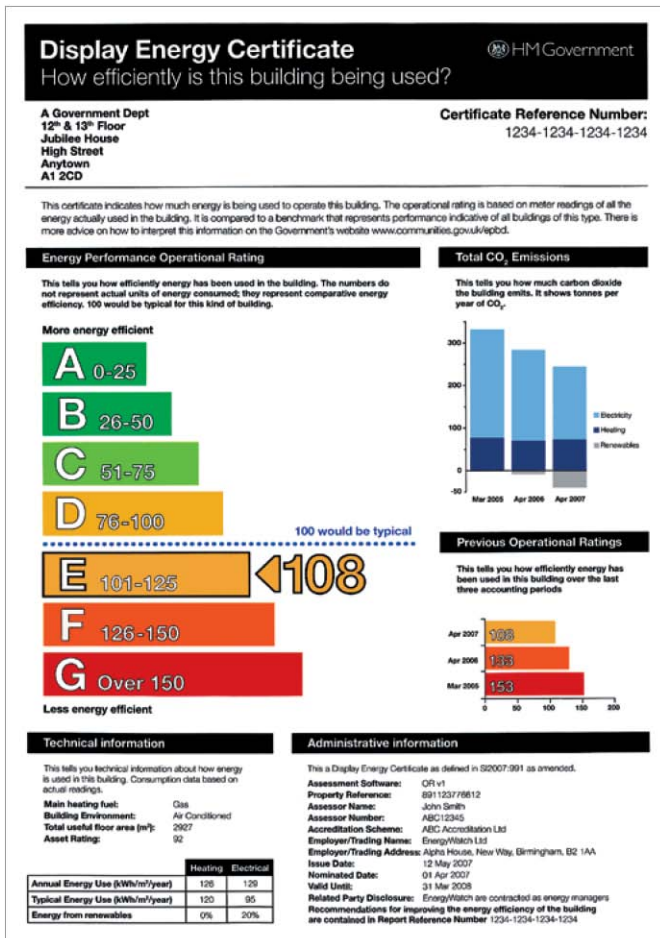
A typical computer, left on all the time, produces 0.8 tonnes of CO₂ emissions in a year

A laser printer operation without a standby facility will use £12 of electrical energy a year if left on at night, weekends or during holidays, this increases to £60 per year

Switching off vending machines at nights and weekends reduces CO₂ emissions by 1 tonne per machine a year

An increase of only 1° centigrade in a room's temperature will increase a heating bill by 6 -10%

A photocopier, left on overnight, uses enough energy to make 5,300 photocopies



Who We Are

HSR are leading independent providers of energy and environmental auditing and consulting services. We operate throughout the UK and offer specialist environmental services, energy assessments and certification, including Energy Audits Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Performance Certificates (DECs).

