



WALES AUDIT OFFICE
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

Wales Audit Office / Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru
2-4 Park Grove
Cardiff / Caerdydd CF10 3PA
Direct Tel / Ffôn: 029 20 262 641
e-mail / e-bost: jeremy.colman@wao.gov.uk
PA / CP: Fiona Bashford, fiona.bashford@wao.gov.uk
www.wao.gov.uk



JEREMY COLMAN, AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES / ARCHWILYDD CYFFREDINOL CYMRU

Ms Janet Davies AM
Chair of the Audit Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Date 20th December 2005
Our reference JC/0160/fgb
Your reference
Tel No 029 20 262641
Fax No 029 20 262631
E-mail jeremy.colman@wao.gov.uk
Pages 1 of 2

Der Chai

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON ENERGY AND WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR IN WALES

The Clerk's letter of 14 December 2005 requested my advice on the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the recommendations made by the Audit Committee in its report *Energy and Water Management in the Higher Education Sector in Wales*.

The Welsh Assembly Government has responded positively in agreeing all nine of the recommendations contained within the Committee's report. There are already signs of progress being made by the Funding Council and individual institutions, in conjunction with the Carbon Trust, to raise the profile of energy and water management and to identify new opportunities for reducing energy and water consumption.

Crucially, the Welsh Assembly Government's response to Recommendations 1 and 2 recognises the importance of each institution having a robust monitoring and targeting system for energy and water consumption, and the benefits that these systems can deliver. The progress already made by institutions that were developing these systems at the time of my report, and the action taken to share with other institutions an understanding of the system used at Cardiff University, is encouraging.

Your reference:

Date:

The Committee's report notes that staff and students play an important role in helping reduce energy and water consumption. The project being undertaken in conjunction with the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and the Carbon Trust, highlighted in the response to Recommendations 5 and 6, should assist institutions by identifying practical ways in which staff and students can be encouraged to use energy and water efficiently.

In response to Recommendation 7, the Welsh Assembly Government states that a new energy management working group has been established by the Funding Council to provide a forum for policy development and implementation in this area, encouraging greater collaboration between institutions. Although the Committee's report does not refer specifically to cross sector collaboration, the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to disseminate across the wider public sector the Committee's recommendations, and its response to them, rightly recognises that energy and water management issues have cross-sectoral significance. As the Committee will be aware, I have recently published my report on NHS energy management in Wales, and the Wales Audit Office is continuing its examination of the management of energy and water consumption across the local government estate.

The Wales Audit Office will continue to monitor the progress made by the Funding Council and the higher education institutions in Wales in implementing the Committee's recommendations and improving the management of energy and water consumption. We will draw to the Committee's attention any areas where we consider that further action by the Committee is merited.

I hope that you find this response helpful. I should be happy to discuss this matter further with you or the full Committee.

Yans Smith

Jeremy Colman

Jeremy Colman
Auditor General for Wales