



# Cheshire East Council's carbon neutral pledge

## Supporting the council's transition to zero carbon by 2025

Decarbonising Cheshire East Council's building stock to facilitate the move to net zero.

**Equans Cheshire East Services Partnership is working at pace to ensure the council's ambitions to become a net zero authority by 2025 can become reality; planning and delivering energy improvements across its property portfolio**

Striving to achieve an important and ambitious target

In 2019 Cheshire East Council announced their pledge to become a net zero authority by the challenging target of 2025. They engaged Equans to design and deliver a series of energy improvement measures to reduce the council's carbon output in buildings right across the borough, including leisure centres, libraries, depots and day centres.

Having secured Government funding through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Equans identified potential measures that could be implemented at each location, their costs and the impact against the overarching net zero target. Installation was planned to minimise disruption to service delivery at each location.

With a growing range of low-carbon energy options available, the project consisted of:

- More than 3,000 solar panels on 16 buildings;
- Improved building insulation;
- LED lighting upgrades;
- Air source heat pumps in 14 buildings across the borough
- Improved energy control systems

With electricity and gas in the council's buildings accounting for more than half of its total emissions, and against the backdrop of radical increases in energy costs, the importance of successful delivery across this project in terms of environmental and financial impact, cannot be understated. By installing the air source heat pumps alone, the council is set to save 570 tonnes of carbon each year, as well as becoming more energy independent.

Working together to benefit the community

Cheshire East Council's drive to become carbon neutral in a short time frame set the standard to inspire other authorities as to the importance and possibilities of carbon reduction.

Of course, with ambitious deadlines comes high pressure, but the Equans team worked determinedly to see this inspirational goal come to life.

Ryan Pearce, partnership director at Equans hails the relationship between the two organisations, and the strength of resolve of those working on the contract as instrumental in achieving the successes seen so far:

"The partnership between Cheshire East Council and Equans demonstrates that when organisations come together with alignment in aims and capability with passionate people, real progress can be made."



## Key facts

**Client:** North East Lincolnshire Council

**Value:** £8.3m

- ▶ £8.3m funding received through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS).
- ▶ Air source heat pumps in 14 buildings saving an estimated 570 tonnes of carbon per annum.
- ▶ 3,000 solar panels on 16 buildings.
- ▶ LED lighting installation
- ▶ Insulation improvements
- ▶ Improved Energy Control Systems

