

Case Studies: How ICT is helping to deliver the low carbon economy



Title: Modern Office

Company: IBM

Summary of what has been achieved:	Optimized Office environment, enabled through modern ICT technology , achieves energy savings up to 50%
Parties involved:	IBM
Sector/s:	All applicable to administration, office etc.
Approx scale:	Worldwide
Outcome:	By 2006 a reduction of energy consumption of about 50% based on 2002 has been achieved for the 8 affected locations.
Timeline/dates:	Developed and implemented between 2002 and 2006

Key Objectives

Modern office concepts, enabled by ICT technology creates opportunities for companies to restructure their office environment as such that the use of available office space is optimized, temporarily un-used space can be divested and by this the energy consumption per employee and the total energy consumption reduced up to 50%.

Description

The IT structure of the offices in 8 major locations in Germany, Austria and Switzerland has been changed as such, that PC and Monitor for employees have been completely replaced by notebooks. The telephone system has been changed from stationary telephone to cordless phone. Workplace printers have been nearly removed and a new printer concept with workgroup printers for groups up to 40 employees has been developed. The printer concept is completed with large printers and multifunction devices (combination of Copier, Printer and Scanner) for each floor in a building.

This concept allows employees to work mobile in the building. By establishing an open office space environment and avoiding single user offices the concept offers high mobility of employees, allows the easy establishment of teams according to business needs.

With the additional concept of non-territorial workplaces, in which a given number of employees has a given space with a cabinet, but not a personal desk, the normal absence of employees offers the reduction of space without changing the comfort of the working environment. The reduction of space results in the reduction of energy used to heat or cool the office.

Moreover by combining the office concept with new management concepts, such as working time flexibility, mobile working and home or tele working. Further reductions in space a possible with demonstrated reductions of up to 50% per employee

Environmental Benefits

Increased energy efficiency, reduced energy consumption up to 50% and reduction of carbon emissions up to 50%

Scope for further work identified?

Deployment to other locations throughout Europe will lead to further saving