

Display Energy Certificates (DECs) are now required for public buildings in the UK, but what are they, why and when are they required, do you need one and, if so, how do you get one?

What are Display Energy Certificates?

To meet its long term CO_2 reduction targets the UK Government is committed to raising public awareness in Climate Change. To help this and to implement the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) the annual record of the energy performance of a building will be shown on a Display Energy Certificate (DEC). Accompanying the certificate will be an Advisory Report which can show how the energy consumption may be reduced over seven years.

The environmental performance of organisations is becoming increasingly important to their reputation. Many building users will be displaying energy certificates beyond mandatory requirements to show transparency and responsibility.

Who needs them?

Public buildings, buildings operated by government departments or providing a public space and those with a high turnover of visits by the public (for example hospitals, schools and colleges), are required to publicly exhibit a Display Energy Certificate if they are greater than 1000m². Renewal of the DEC certificates will be required each year and the Advisory Reports every seven years.

Private organisations may show a DEC for any building they choose and benefit from the Advisory Report without obligation.



When do I need them?

The timetable required DECs to be provided for relevant public buildings by 1st October 2008. For many building owners this means that the process should have already started in order to gather the required information and complete in time for full compliance. The Government have recently announced that they will not pursue those who have engaged an accredited Energy Assessor and so if you have yet to do so, now is the time to act as full compliance will be required by 1st January 2009.

For those with large multi-building sites compliance may be speeded in the first year by a Site Certificate to meet the deadline. Individual Certificates and Advisory Reports will be required for each qualifying building in subsequent years.

Silcock Dawson Capability

Silcock Dawson employ over 100 experienced and technically accomplished engineers and are equipped with the required training, accredited software and tools to carry out the efficient production of DECs and ARs.

Silcock Dawson has developed an enhanced service, if required, with a finely focused Advisory Report which will provide cost effective and bespoke, practical recommendations specifically for your building beyond mere compliance, in order to achieve genuine energy and carbon emission reductions (important for those required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment). The resulting certification will be fully verified.

Silcock Dawson Experience

Silcock Dawson has been producing Display Energy Certificates since the inception of the scheme and has built a portfolio of experience in satisfying this legislation. With a background of 30 years experience in energy surveys, management of energy reduction and energy conscious design Silcock Dawson are perfectly placed to give the best possible service in the provision of DECs, EPCs and air-conditioning system inspections. Silcock Dawson have already completed commissions providing this service to large portfolio holders and have developed an efficient methodology in order to achieve best value.

During their history Silcock Dawson & Partners have built up a wide range of clients and a continuous flow of repeat business. This is a result of working closely alongside our clients in order to fully understand their commercial and other requirements.

This is an opportunity to turn a mandatory requirement into a benefit.

Who to Contact

If you wish to discuss the topic in general or have any requirements for properties to be prepared for certification please contact:

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