



# St. Peter's College, Oxford University

Energy reduction project



Three factors kick-started St. Peter's College energy reduction project:

- 1) Utilities bills had doubled in 18 months (but the College had no systems for monitoring usage).
- 2) Following a change of leadership, the Buildings Committee was posing questions about energy use.
- 3) A conscientious student was enquiring about the College's carbon footprint.

These factors meant solutions were required.

St. Peter's is one of the 36 constituent colleges of the University of Oxford. It was founded as a Permanent Private Hall in 1929, acquiring college status in 1961.

St Peter's occupies a site that for 600 years has been a home to students, a continuation of the medieval Halls that preceded it.

The project team:

**Richard Gordon**

Bursar, St. Peter's College

**Lidia Hemmings**

Facilities Officer, St. Peter's College

**Timothy Monk**

Consultant, ADIAN Consulting

**Robert Gevargiz**

Director, ADIAN Consulting



# The story...

## Opportunities assessment

Lidia Hemmings, St. Peter's Facilities Officer, took advantage of the Carbon Trust's free opportunities assessment survey scheme. The Carbon Trust appointed ADIAN Consulting Limited (ADIAN) who carried out the project and subsequently presented the results to St. Peter's leadership and the Buildings Committee. The results clearly demonstrated the opportunities to significantly improve energy efficiency at the College. ADIAN's presentation also had an energising effect on the Head of House and the College's Governing Body who fully supported the recommendations for change.

**"The quality of ADIAN's presentation was very professional and to-the-point. If it had been anything less, you won't get away with it at Oxford – they'll pick you to shreds. ADIAN didn't just quote numbers, they were numbers related to actions, which made it compelling."**

– Richard Gordon, Bursar, St. Peter's College



**"Utilities bills are one of those things that unless someone's focused on it, you just pay the bills. ADIAN got our attention and showed us the benefits."**

– Richard Gordon, Bursar, St. Peter's College

## Changes

In their assessment ADIAN had identified the potential for a 40% energy reduction in the buildings. Work was already being undertaken to refurbish some College rooms with energy efficient insulation (without losing any of the original Edwardian features and character) and closing off open staircases. Then, during the survey process the College's 50-year-old boiler (pictured below left) disintegrated. This created an opportunity to replace it with a new energy-efficient boiler system (pictured below right).

**"The analyses and the explanations from ADIAN have always been very clear. Because it's very clear, it has led to change and something we can work with."**

– Richard Gordon.

With a reduction in consumption achieved, ADIAN began auditing utilities costs. Although St. Peter's is part of a wider buying consortium they still have autonomy to choose suppliers. However having the understanding and finding time to get into the details can be daunting. ADIAN's Robert Gevargiz is currently working directly with the College consortium to negotiate new contracts for St. Peter's. This will deliver savings. Having ADIAN negotiate the detail allows Richard and Lidia at St. Peter's time to concentrate on other areas.



## Results...

By implementing ADIAN's recommendations, the 40% reduction in energy usage is expected to achieve a **£40k saving per year**. The ongoing work reviewing utilities suppliers will deliver further savings both short and long term.

The survey and the presentations also achieved a shift in leadership focus. **Energy efficiency is now regarded as a priority that can deliver both environmental and economic savings.** St Peter's has signed up to the 10:10 campaign. The campaign is aimed at getting individuals, companies and institutions to cut their carbon emissions by 10% in 2010. Through installing the energy-efficient boiler alone the College is already on the way to reducing their carbon footprint by 5%.

## Next steps...

The next phase of the project is working towards giving St. Peter's a system to measure and manage their energy usage by the half-hour, in preparation for the Carbon Reduction Commitment introduction in April 2010. This includes smart metering software and monitoring consumption by location and time. The data will provide the detail to identify further savings, on which ADIAN will be able to advise.

**"ADIAN are very professional. They always take the time to explain things, and I feel I've learnt a lot about energy efficiency and preparation for the Carbon Reduction Commitment."**

– Lidia Hemmings, Facilities Officer, St. Peter's College



### Key insights:

- It's easy to put-off tackling your energy usage, but a good consultant will provide the focus for you and deliver results.
- Make use of the grants available from the Carbon Trust for free opportunities assessments.
- There are energy efficiencies to be had in every type of organisation – you just need the expertise to know how.

**ADIAN**  
consulting

For further details on how ADIAN can benefit your business, contact Robert Gevargiz on 01908 306 018 or email: [robert@adian.co.uk](mailto:robert@adian.co.uk)

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