A The National Archives



Leaders of Change: Strategies for Meeting the Environmental Challenge

Nancy Bell Head of Collection Care The National Archives, UK



The question

Can we provide appropriate environmental conditions (relative humidity and temperature) for the collection, meet government targets on CO_2 emission and energy usage and prolong the lifetime of the collection?





The National Archives



REW PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Q1 1978 3 repositories ~6,500m² each



Q1 repositories

4 Plant rooms, each servicing a quarter of all three repository floors above it







The aim of the model

The aim of the model was to examine options to maintain a sustainable preservation environment for the storage of TNA's collection.

- Reduced energy consumption in line with sustainability
- Built resilience in light of climate change predictions
- Inform ongoing capital investment
- Contribute to the development of appropriate conservation standards and guidelines

Remain and control of the linear solution of

targets

UCL



Developed using EnergyPlus

EnergyPlus is a building energy simulation program for modelling building heating, cooling, lighting, ventilating and other energy flows. Developed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and trademark of the US Department of Energy.







Model construction







Scenario testing

The environmental options were explored through a series of what-if scenarios tested using the simulation model



KIW PUBLIC RECORD OF GL



Research to practice

- 1. Demand for cooling is 70% of total energy load
- 2. Powering down HVAC over the weekend: Up to 22% saving *without affecting* the preservation environment
- 3. Seasonally adjusted HVAC set points: Up to 43% saving with *improved quality* of preservation environment
 - Set points between 40% 55%RH and 16°C 20°C
 - Savings of approximately £180k per year.
- 4. Increasing roof insulation *and other myths*: No significant net change
- 5. The capacity of the archival material to moderate conditions is marginal whilst HVAC is in operation
- Projected climate change will increase operation energy load by 15% by 2050 and 24% by 2080
- 7. Under certain conditions the building can maintain the environment without HVAC system in April, May and December





The power of evidence

- Transformed thinking and practice in The National Archives
- Demonstrated the potential of computer modelling for our sector



Developing standards

Act as a guide - measurable attainable goals • Synthesise

of research • Inform policies • Save time and money





Challenges: Shaping policy

- Building the evidence base
- Co-ordinated international research strategy
- The unexpected.....



