

Working for you

Harrogate District Climate Change Strategy

Summary



September 2009



Contents

INTRODUCTION	4
PART ONE: SETTING THE SCENE	5
1. WHY TAKE ACTION?	5
2. LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION	7
PART TWO: THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN	8
3. THE SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY.....	8
4. MONITORING AND REPORTING PERFORMANCE.....	9
5. HEADLINE TARGETS	9
6. ACTION PLAN 2009-2012	10

INTRODUCTION

The causes of climate change, and the need to take action, are now well understood. The main principle of climate change is that gases in the atmosphere – known as greenhouse gases – trap heat and cause the Earth to warm up. This is a natural process, which keeps the Earth at a temperature that can sustain life. However, if the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere rises above natural levels, the average temperature of the Earth also increases and this changes the climate in a variety of ways.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (NO_x) are all greenhouse gases. The amount of these gases in the atmosphere has increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceeds pre-industrial values.

Carbon dioxide is the most significant greenhouse gas, and the global increases in CO₂ concentration are due primarily to fossil fuel use.

The increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases is resulting in climate change. Observations over time show that warming of the climate system is unequivocal. Evidence for this is seen in increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level.

The Royal Society, the UK's leading independent science body, states that "the international scientific consensus agrees that increasing levels of man-made greenhouse gases are leading to global climate change" and that "none of... the alternative explanations of global warming are well enough founded to make not taking any action the wise choice".

The main aim of this strategy is to set out how Harrogate Borough Council intends to reduce CO₂ emissions from our own operations, and how the council can help residents reduce CO₂ emissions.

Our ultimate aim is to make a 40% reduction in CO₂ emissions from the council's own operations by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050; and to help make a 40% reduction in CO₂ emissions across the district as a whole by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050.

Our first interim target is to make a 4% reduction in CO₂ emissions resulting from the council's own operations by 2011.

PART ONE: SETTING THE SCENE

1. WHY TAKE ACTION?

The need to take action on climate change is clear. Climate change will have a number of significant impacts at the international, national and local scale, and efforts must be made to reduce carbon emissions to avoid the worst consequences.

The council is required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment, and we have made a number of commitments to tackle emissions in our strategic plans and by signing the Nottingham Declaration on climate change.

1.1 Outline of climate change and expected impacts

1.1.1 *Expected nation-wide impacts of climate change*

- The UK will continue to get warmer.
- Summers will continue to get hotter and drier.
- Winters will continue to get milder and wetter.
- Some weather extremes will become more common, others less common.
- Sea level will continue to rise.

1.1.2 *Expected impacts in the Yorkshire and Humber Region*

- 1 to 2.5°C warmer by the 2050s.
- 1.5 to 4°C warmer by the 2080s.
- Wetter winters and drier summers will accompany this warming.
- A reduction in average annual rainfall of up to 10%.
- Increased risk from tidal flooding.
- Impact on the quantity and quality of water in rivers and groundwater systems.
- Increased yields, employment and possibly profit in the forestry industry.
- Shallow rooted broad-leaved trees such as beech will decline due to drought stress.
- Afforestation and changing rural land use have important roles to play in adaptation strategies in other sectors, such as flood defence, water supply and recreation and tourism.
- Northward movement of species that can migrate.
- Increased bracken invasion.
- Increased fire risk on heathlands.



1.1.3 *Economic impacts*

In 2007, HM Treasury commissioned Sir Nicholas Stern to conduct an independent review into the economics of climate change. Stern's main finding was that "the benefits of strong, early action on climate change outweigh the costs".

Stern stated that taking action to reduce emissions must be viewed as an investment, a cost incurred now and in the coming few decades to avoid the risks of very severe consequences in the future. By analysing the risks posed by predicted climate change, Stern showed that, based on "business as usual" climate change will reduce standard of living by an amount equivalent to a reduction in consumption per head of between 5 and 20%.

In order to stabilise emissions, Stern estimated that the cost is likely to be 1% of GDP by 2050. He stated that although challenging, reaching this cost is feasible, and can also offer opportunities for growth and job creation in some sectors and improved efficiency.

1.2 **The council's strategic commitments**

The council has made high level commitments to ensure we continue to protect and enhance our natural and built environment.

- Caring for the Environment is our top corporate priority.
- The council will address its carbon footprint through implementing an Action Plan.
- The council will complete the Harrogate District Climate Change Strategy and establish target for National Indicator NI185.
- The council has made a public commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions and adapting to Climate Change, by signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.
- The council will be required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment emissions trading scheme.
- Several national indicators relate to reducing CO2 emissions and adapting to climate change.

1.3 **Harrogate District Local Development Framework and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan**

- In the Harrogate District, our Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy sets out the strategic policies for development and conservation up to and beyond 2021.
- Core Strategy Policy EQ1 (Reducing Risks to the Environment) states:



- Non-residential development must meet the BREEAM “Very Good” standard.
 - Residential development must meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 by 2010, Level 4 by 2011-15, Level 6 by 2016 onwards.
 - There is a 10% Renewable Energy requirement for all new development over 10 dwellings. New development of more than 10 dwellings or over 1000m2 should secure at least 10% of their energy from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon sources.
- Core Strategy EQ1 recognises that partnership working, particularly between Forward Planning and the Action for the Environment Group will be key to the delivery of this policy.

The AONB Management Plan encourages the development of small-scale renewable energy within the AONB.

2. LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION

2.1 Climate Change Strategies in other local authorities

Within North Yorkshire all councils have signed the Nottingham Declaration, and five have relevant strategies either in place or in development.

2.2 What has the council done already?

Harrogate Borough Council’s existing Agenda 21 Plan Action for the Environment has stimulated a wide range of local activity, some of which has achieved national recognition.

The council has achieved all of the targets set out in Action for the Environment, apart from target E2 (to reduce energy use in the main administrative council buildings by 10% over a five year period from April 2003), where improvements have been made more slowly than expected partly due to the ever increasing demand for IT equipment.

The council has drawn on its own experience and that of other local authorities in preparing this strategy. This new strategy will build on, and replace, the Local Agenda 21 Plan by focusing the council’s environment strategy on addressing climate change, which is an overarching issue.



PART TWO: THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

3. THE SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

3.1 What will the Climate Change Strategy do?

The Climate Change Strategy will outline:

- How the council intends to reduce its carbon emissions through its own operations.
- How the council can help reduce carbon emissions across the district (mitigation).
- How the council can prepare for inevitable changes to the climate (adaptation).
- How the council will approach its obligations under the new performance framework; and the Carbon Reduction Commitment and Comprehensive Area Assessment.
- How the council will monitor its progress towards these aims.

Although linked to the climate change issue, waste reduction and recycling are not covered by this strategy, because a separate Waste Strategy already exists for the Harrogate District.

3.2 Key Issues for mitigation

Mitigation relates to work that we can do to reduce CO2 emissions. Several Key Issues have been identified, which will help achieve this. The Key Issues are:

- Energy Use – for example, improving energy efficiency in homes, businesses and in the council's operations; promoting and using renewable and other low carbon energy sources.
- Transport – for example, improving vehicle efficiency in the council's fleet; promoting alternatives to private cars.
- Purchasing – for example, using our purchasing power to adopt sustainable procurement principles within the council.
- Raising awareness and changing attitudes – for example, working with schools and community groups; providing information to householders in both public and private sector housing; providing assistance for local businesses, and raising awareness within the workplace.

3.3 Key Issue for adaptation

Careful planning is required in order to prepare the Harrogate District for inevitable changes to weather patterns. For example, flood management needs to be fully linked to planning, highways, waste services and other areas of work.





The adaptation component of this strategy is a new field of work. Therefore, the first task is to carry out a detailed assessment of what is required in order to ensure we are prepared for climate change.

The need to develop an adaptation strategy is reinforced by National Indicator (NI) 188 - Planning to Adapt to Climate Change.

Therefore our priority action for adaptation at this stage is:

- Develop the adaptation Action Plan – ensuring links are made with all relevant work areas such as emergency planning, highways, flooding and biodiversity. An outline of work required is given in section 4.4.

Once the adaptation Action Plan has been drawn up, it will be incorporated into this strategy.

4. MONITORING AND REPORTING PERFORMANCE

- 4.1 The main aim of all the mitigation actions is to reduce CO2 emissions. Therefore wherever possible, monitoring of performance will need to calculate changes to the real levels of CO2.**

Some actions in the plan can be monitored using other statistics, for example the number of people engaged in environmental activities and the number of website visitors.

To ensure the effective management of the action plan, progress will be reported annually to the Cabinet and Corporate Management Team, and the Cabinet Member for Environment. Regular reports will be provided for the council's Environment Strategy Corporate Group.



5. HEADLINE TARGETS

- 5.1 This strategy shows how the council will meet the following targets:**
- **4% reduction in CO2 emissions resulting from the council's own operations by 2011.**
 - **40% reduction in CO2 emissions from the council's own operations by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050.**
 - **40% reduction in CO2 emissions across the district as a whole by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050.**

6. ACTION PLAN 2009-2012

The Action Plan focuses on the five key issues - Energy, Transport, Purchasing, Raising Awareness and Changing Attitudes and Adaptation. The table below is a summary of the Action Plan. The full version which contains more detail is available online.

Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer / Cabinet Member	How will we measure the Impact?
Key Issue: Energy Use				
Improve energy efficiency NI 185 and 186				
1. Implement energy efficiency measures as identified by consultant	Sep 2009 – Mar 2011	DDS budgets and staff resources	Head of Property and Economic Development CM Resources	% reduction in CO ₂ emissions (kg/CO ₂ /m ²)
2. Implement an energy saving campaign internally, using named "energy champions"	Sep 2009 – Sep 2010	DCS & DDS staff resources Energy Champions	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Staff survey, % reduction in CO ₂ emissions (kg/CO ₂ /m ²)
3. Renew Energy Performance Certificates, and Display Energy Certificates	Oct 2009 – Mar 2010	DDS budgets and staff resources	Head of Property and Economic Development CM Resources	Certificates in place for relevant buildings
4. Increase number of council homes with SAP 65 or higher by certain percentage (to be confirmed)	To be confirmed by Dec 2009	DCS budgets and staff resources	Head of Housing CM Housing	SAP ratings assessment
5. Generate uptake of 100 home energy efficiency measures annually, increasing year on year	Ongoing	DCS budgets and staff resources	Head of Property and Economic Development CMs Environment & Housing	Total number of lofts and cavities installed with CO ₂ reduction
Participate in Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme (CRC) NI 185				
6. Assess financial implications of CRC (including achieving a 40% CO ₂ reduction by 2020) and prepare a strategy for participation	Jun 2009 – Mar 2010	DCS, DDS & DR staff resources DDS budgets	Head of Property and Economic Development CM Resources	CRC plan in place
Promote low carbon/decentralised energy generation NI 186				
7. Carry out feasibility study on developing an Energy Services Company with partners	Ongoing to Mar 2011	DCS budgets and staff resources	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	ESCO model adopted or rejected

Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer / Cabinet Member	How will we measure the Impact?
8. Evaluate Ground Source Heat Pump installations in council homes by the end of 2010, with a view to determining the cost benefits of extending these to the remaining council housing stock.	Ongoing to Dec 2010	DCS budgets CERT Funding Staff resources	Head of Housing CM Housing	Units installed in certain % of council housing stock (to be confirmed)
9. Participate in EST renewable research programme	Ongoing to Mar 2012	DCS budgets and staff resources EST, EA Technology	Head of Housing CMs Environment & Housing	Detailed analysis of performance available by 2012
Reduce Fuel Poverty NI 187				
10. Provide a local energy efficiency grant to residents over 60 in council tax band A, B, C	Ongoing to Mar 2010	DCS and S4Y staff resources; Regional Housing Board funding; CERT funding,	Head of Housing CM Housing	Number of lofts, cavities and heating improvements installed. Estimated CO ₂ saved
11. Carry out annual fuel poverty survey (NI 187) in partnership with other NY councils, and set targets for future improvements	Feb 2010	DCS budgets and staff resources, S4Y	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Housing	% household below SAP 35 and % above SAP 65
12. Carry out two mailshots each year, to increase take-up of energy grants and discounts	Ongoing	DCS and DR budgets and staff resources, S4Y, EAGA Ltd, NY local authorities	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Housing	Number of cavities, lofts and heating measures installed, and total number of Warmfront referrals
Work with partner organisations NI 186				
13. In conjunction with others in the York and North Yorkshire area, the council will assist with the drawing up and implementation of joint action plans for climate change LAA indicators, sharing best practice throughout the County and the Region	Ongoing - Mar 2010	DCS budgets and staff resources, LAA partners	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Joint action plan in place for North Yorkshire with LAA targets met
14. Obtain 500 hits annually on Climate Action Programme web pages and 10 bookings for resources	Ongoing	DCS Staff resources	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Number of web hits and bookings

Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer / Cabinet Member	How will we measure the Impact?
15. Provide one business advice event in Harrogate	Apr 2009 Apr 2010	DCS & RECG staff resources, NYCC Community Fund	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Number of businesses engaged, and estimated CO ₂ savings
16. Visit 25 community groups and schools and train 15 volunteers to support their own carbon reduction programme.	Ongoing to Apr 2010	DCS Environment business unit reserves NYCC Community fund	i) Environmental Strategy Manager ii) CM Environment	Number of volunteers trained number attending events, CO ₂ reduction by participants
Key Issue: Transport				
Reduce emissions from the council's vehicle fleet NI 185				
17. Investigate options for greener driver training to reduce CO ₂ fleet emissions by 2011 and quantify potential CO ₂ reduction targets.	Mar 2010 – Apr 2011	DCS resources and staff	Waste and Environmental Services Manager CM Environment	Reduction in average mpg
18. Bring fleet up to highest Euro standards - specific outputs to be identified	?	DCS resources and staff	Waste and Environmental Services Manager CM Environment	% of fleet meeting highest standard
Reduce emissions from staff car mileage NI 185 and NI 186				
19. Agree a mileage reduction target for NI 185	Apr 2010 - Apr 2011	N/A	TBC	Reduction in total staff mileage
20. Develop and implement Green Travel Plan	TBC	TBC	TBC	
21. Increase membership of internal car share scheme by 10%	Ongoing to Mar 2010	DCS resources and staff	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Number of scheme members, active sharers and CO ₂ savings
Promote alternatives to private car use NI 186				
22. Work with NYCC to promote cycleways	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
23. Funding secured for the continuation of Harrogate District Car Share scheme. 5% increase of registered users	Ongoing	DCS staff and resources	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Estimated reduction in CO ₂ emissions and number of members

Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer / Cabinet Member	How will we measure the Impact?
Key Issue: Purchasing				
Implement Sustainable Procurement Principles NI 185 and NI 186				
24. Corporate training/briefings on sustainable procurement	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	N/A	TBC	
25. Updated Environmentally Friendly Purchasing Guide	Sep 2010 - Mar 2011	N/A	TBC	Environmentally Friendly Purchasing Guide published
26. Adopt a standard pre-qualification questionnaire of suppliers' environmental policies and procedures for environmental management	Sep 2009 - Mar 2010		Business Support Manager CM Resources	Pre-qualification questionnaire approved
Move towards including whole life costings in procurement decisions NI 185				
27. Implement a Pilot Scheme (dependent on resource needs being established)	Apr 2011- Mar 2012	N/A	Business Support Manager CM Resources	
Key Issue: Adaptation				
Develop an adaptation strategy NI 188				
28. Demonstrate public commitment and prioritised risk-based assessment; carry out adaptation study	Sep 2009 - Jun 2010	DCS resources and staff	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Self assessment against NI 188 criteria
29. Achieve Level Four by 2015	Ongoing	DCS Resources	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Self assessment against NI 188 criteria
Manage biodiversity in a changing climate NI 188				
Target output will be included following Adaptation Action Plan project	From 2012	N/A		
Key Issue: Raising Awareness and Changing Attitudes				
Improve awareness amongst council staff NI 185 and NI 186				
30. All new staff to understand corporate environmental policies	Ongoing	DCS and DR staff and resources	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Corporate Induction attendees feedback

Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer / Cabinet Member	How will we measure the Impact?
31. Audit of staff requiring environmental training, and what training is available, including for managers with supervisory responsibility	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	N/A	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Training provided where required
Improve awareness amongst elected Members NI 185 and NI 186				
32. Hold leadership event on climate change	Sep 2009 - Mar 2010	DCS staff RIEP funding	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Feedback from event attendees
Public Engagement NI 186				
33. Attend events and exhibitions, provide advice and generate publicity	Ongoing	DCS staff and resources; External project funding/ sponsorship where available	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Number of people engaged in environmental activities
34. Provide toolkit for 25 community volunteers	Ongoing – Jun 2010	DCS staff and resources HDSP funding	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Estimated carbon saving achieved by users of toolkit, number of people engaged
35. Hold biennial “BAFTERS” (Best Action for the Environment Roadshow) Awards	Ongoing – Jul 2011	DCS staff and resources; external funding sources where available	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Feedback from participants; case studies available
Action for the Environment Group NI 186				
36. Group members to plan and implement up to two public campaigns each year, and raise awareness via LSP	Ongoing	DCS staff	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Campaign monitoring
Website NI 186				
37. Review and update content, including Climate Action Programme content	Sep 2009 - Dec 2009	DCS resources and staff	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Number of interactive visits to Environmental Strategy pages
Internal Environmental Management NI 185				
38. Annual Environment Index submission	Jan 2010 - Mar 2010	DCS and DDS staff	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Ongoing improvements to Index score
39. Extend Parks risk management system to one other service area	2010 - 2011	N/A	Environmental Strategy Manager CM Environment	Risk management system in place

Glossary

CERT	Carbon Emissions Reduction Target requirement for utility companies to implement carbon reduction measures
CM	Cabinet Member
DCS:	Department of Community Services
DDS:	Department of Development Services
DR	Department of Resources
EAGA Ltd	Company contracted nationally to deliver the Government's energy efficiency grant scheme (Warmfront)
ESCO	Energy Services Company
EST	Energy Saving Trust
HBC	Harrogate Borough Council
EA	Environment Agency
HDSP	Harrogate District Strategic Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership for the Harrogate District, comprised of public sector bodies, voluntary groups and business
HIC	Harrogate International Centre
LAA	Local Area Agreement which is made between local authorities and the government on priorities and spending
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership – in the Harrogate District this is known as the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership (HDSP)
NI 185	National Indicator no. 185 – reduction in CO2 emissions from the council's operations
NI 186	National Indicator no. 186 – reduction in per capita CO2 emissions across the district
NI 187	National Indicator no.187 – tackling fuel poverty (reduction in number of household receiving benefits with SAP rating less than 35, and an increase in SAP rating above 65)
NI 188	National Indicator no. 188 – adapting to climate change
NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council
RIEP	Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership
SAP	Standard Assessment Procedure - national home energy efficiency rating system, properties are rated on a scale from 0 -100
S4Y	Sustainability 4 Yorkshire Ltd (formerly Ryedale Energy Conservation Group Ltd)

