



# Wealden District Council Climate Change Action Plan

This action plan outlines the ways in which Wealden District Council will try to limit the effects of climate change by lowering its own carbon dioxide emissions. It also outlines how we will work with partners and the community who are lowering their emissions, or want to do so.

This action plan will address both mitigation and adaptation.

## **Objectives:**

- Work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK climate change programme
- Assess our carbon footprint, evaluate measures to reduce it and achieve a significant reduction of emissions from all of Wealden District Council's operations
- Encourage all sectors in the local community to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action
- Work with key providers, including the health community, emergency services, businesses and development organisations, to assess the potential effects of climate change on our communities, and to identify ways in which we can adapt

## **Performance Monitoring**

Progress will initially be reported through a Portfolio Holder's Advisory Group and thereafter will form part of the performance management framework. Where practical targets set will be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely).

## **Updating the Action Plan**

The action plan will be updated annually.

## CORPORATE

### Mitigation and Adaptation Actions

	Aim	Target (SMART)
C1	Establish a current baseline for monitoring carbon dioxide emission footprint and set targets for reduction of Wealden District Council's emissions by at least 60% lower than 1990 levels by 2050 <sup>1</sup> , in line with the draft climate change bill. This target will be broken down into five-year targets, starting with reducing emissions by 12.5% by 2012.	Establish the Carbon footprint of the Council and investigate the use of Ecological Footprinting by end of 2008 <sup>2</sup>
C2	Implement Wealden's sustainability strategy	Publish strategy by April 2008
C3	Visibly display the Council's commitment to addressing climate change to the public and staff	Display signed copy of the Nottingham Declaration in the office receptions by end of February 2008.
C4	Encourage staff and members to address climate change	Establish cross-service sustainability and climate change group by April 2008
C5		All staff and members to receive training to raise awareness of the Climate Change Policy and Action Plan by end of 2008
C6		Develop an award scheme by end of 2008 to encourage staff to reduce the Council's carbon footprint (see L11)
C7	Embed climate change and sustainability considerations in decision making.	Develop a formalised Environmental Impact Assessment for policy and reports with guidance information on Wealdnet by end of 2008
C8		Develop sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction elements of the Corporate Plan by April 2008.

<sup>1</sup> 1990 Levels for Wealden will be estimated as data was not been collected for Wealden at this time.

<sup>2</sup> Carbon Footprint: total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> produced by the council in its operations. Ecological Footprint: the amount of land and sea needed to provide the resources the Council consumes and the amount required to absorb our waste.

	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target (SMART)</b>
C9		Ensure that energy reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation actions are integrated into service plans from 2008 with clear targets and timescales.
C10		Investigate the adoption of an Environmental Management System for Wealden District Council by 2010
C11	Ensure sustainable outcomes from financial investment and spending	Examine the feasibility of including carbon costs in the evaluation of major revenue and capital projects
C12		Examine the benefits of adopting an Environmental Budget (EcoBudget) as a framework for resource management and target setting <sup>3</sup>
C13		Encourage the East Sussex Local Government Pension Scheme to invest in environmentally sound funds by 2010
C14		Revise the Corporate Procurement Strategy to meet Procurement Taskforce Level 1 <sup>4</sup> standard by June 2008 and implement to level 3 by 2010
C15		Utilise a proportion of financial savings accrued as a result of energy saving measures to reinvest in further energy improvements
C16	Work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK climate change programme	Join the South East Climate Change Partnership during 2008
C17	Maintain services in a changing climate	Continue to assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications for our services and feed into the corporate risk register

<sup>3</sup> EcoBudget: utilises financial accounting methods to measure and set targets for resource use.

<sup>4</sup> The UK's sustainable development strategy 'Securing the Future' established the Sustainable Procurement Task Force to encourage change in public sector procurement practice, the Task Force has five levels.

## SPATIAL PLANNING

### Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Objectives

- Ensure that the Local Development Framework links to the aims and objectives of the climate change strategy
- Work in partnership with developers to reduce the contributions of constructing and running commercial and residential buildings to climate change
- Ensure that planning policy encourages consideration of the risks posed by climate change, and encourages developers to adapt accordingly

	Aim	Target (SMART)
P1	Ensure strategic coherence between the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan	Implement planning policy so as to ensure strategic consistency between the climate change policy and the LDF core strategy
P2		Provide regular training for planners and members on sustainability and climate change in relation to the planning system
P3		Develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on sustainability and climate change after adoption of the LDF Core Strategy and subject to the Local Development Scheme and approval by GOSE
P4	Promote the reduction of carbon emissions in all new developments	Investigate the incorporation of targets into the LDF Core Strategy to reduce carbon emissions in new developments
P5		Encourage renewable energy to be incorporated where appropriate in all new developments
P6		Introduce an award scheme for sustainable buildings in the District by end of 2009 (see L11)
P7		Encourage new developments to attain the Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 progressing to level 6 (zero carbon) by 2016
P8		Lobby regional and national government, to improve building standards, and to devolve power to local authorities to make their own decisions in this regard
P9	Encourage sustainable surface water drainage systems for all new developments where appropriate to help manage risk of changing rainfall patterns	Encourage all developments to meet Sustainability Checklist

## WASTE

### Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Objectives

- Continue to promote waste reduction by homes and businesses to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and methane produced by the decomposition of landfill waste, and the amount of land needed for disposal.
- Continue to increase recycling rates and the use of composting to reduce the impact of waste

	Aim	Target (SMART)
W1	Raise awareness in the community of the need to reduce, reuse and recycle waste	Expand distribution of "Waste Matters" newsletter to all households in Wealden district by end of 2008
W2		Continue to promote the purchase of recycled products
W3		Work with Parish and Town Councils to seek to introduce voluntary bans on disposable plastic carrier bags by 2010
W4		Produce business waste information leaflet and further develop web pages to promote recycling by end 2008
W5		Actively engage with businesses to increase commercial waste recycling rates by 15% by 2010
W6	Improve facilities for recycling and composting across the district	Identify waste streams arising in Council offices introducing recycling collections where appropriate and raise staff awareness to encourage recycling at home and in the office. By end 2008
W7		Undertake Life Cycle Analysis modelling of waste collection service to ensure future service maximises the environmental benefits. Conduct analysis by end 2009
W8		Introduce kerbside recycling to all areas of the District by 2010 whilst seeking to limit additional vehicle journeys (subject to future priorities and funding ability)

	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target (SMART)</b>
W9		Review existing CROWN collection service to reduce number of vehicle journeys. Conduct review by 2009
W10		Introduce mini recycling bins into town centres and public spaces by 2009
W11		Increase home composting of green waste by providing a reduced capacity bin and / or charging for green waste collection
W12	Improve facilities for recycling and composting across the district	Work with East Sussex County Council to promote availability of discounted composters and where possible seek to utilise recycling grants to further subsidise for Wealden residents
W13		Identify more sites for glass banks to reduce driving to amenity sites. Target one additional site per parish by 2010
W14		Review the opportunities available to process biodegradable waste e.g. in-vessel composting. Conduct review by end 2008

## WATER

### Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Objectives

- Improve flood protection
- Encourage people to be prepared for this risk
- Lower water consumption in Wealden District Council, and the wider community

	Aim	Target (SMART)
O1	Continue programme to reduce water consumption in Wealden District Council buildings	Establish a baseline for Wealden District Council's water consumption at offices and depots and set targets for reduction by end 2008
O2		Examine the use of water saving devices and rain-water harvesting / grey water systems for Council offices and depots and make recommendations by end of 2008.
O3		Utilising results of Eco-homes pilots, examine the installation of water butts and water saving devices in Council owned housing stock and introduce into Repair and Maintenance programme where appropriate. Installations due Jan 2008
O4	Lower water consumption in Wealden district	Work with East Sussex County Council to promote availability of subsidised water butts to Wealden residents
O5		Update Wealden website and Business Help pages with information on water shortages when necessary and encourage public to reduce water use
O6		Utilising the Council's communication networks work with water companies to further promote water conservation
O7	Reduce the flood risk in Wealden	Work with our partners to update flood protection plans
O8		Raise awareness of the actions residents and businesses can take to minimise the effect of flooding on property through the provision of information on Wealden website and Business Help pages and events
O9		Review the results of the Uckfield flood protection pilot to inform future projects

## ENERGY

### Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Objectives

- Reduce energy use in Wealden District Council and in the wider community
- Encourage the development of decentralised renewable energy

	Aim	Target (SMART)
E1	Establish a baseline and set targets and monitoring procedure for energy use reduction in Council Offices and Depots in line with the draft Corporate Energy Strategy and CM1	Establish a cross-service Energy Management Team as part of Sustainability and Climate Change group (C4) and devolve responsibility for energy management to individual departments. Establish team by April 2008
E2		Produce a Corporate Energy Strategy and set energy reduction targets. Produce strategy by end 2008.
E3		Continue to monitor energy use at metered sites, report on usage and target areas for action.
E4		Investigate the use of intelligent metering for offices and depots to provide analyses of energy use patterns and target further reductions.
E5	Increase the energy efficiency of Council Offices and Depots.	Ensure energy efficiency measures are introduced where possible in all council buildings by 2010 and are included in all new buildings and renovations
E6		Conduct an audit of computers and devices within Council offices to establish patterns of use by end of 2008.
E7		Investigate the cost-benefits of power saving devices and install where appropriate by end of 2008.
E8		Provide staff training to promote the reduction of energy use in council offices and depots with particular focus on office equipment and lighting. Begin awareness campaign by April 2008
E9	Further the use of on site renewable energy by the Council	Investigate potential for the Council to become a sustainable energy provide



	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target (SMART)</b>
E10		Introduce on site renewables at Council offices and depots, in line with relocation and renovation plans
E11		Review the current renewable energy contract covering electricity supply at Hailsham and Pine Grove offices and seek to extend contract to all Council sites. Review contract by end October 2008.
E12		As part of the review of electricity contracts investigate the purchase of electricity derived solely from renewable sources ("green tariffs") Conduct investigation by end October 2008
E13	Reduce energy consumption in council owned housing and sheltered dwellings	Utilising results of Eco-homes pilots, examine the installation of renewable energy technologies Council housing stock, focusing initially on electrically heated properties, and introduce into Repair and Maintenance programme where appropriate. Installations due Jan 2008. Conduct review and programme in introduction of acceptable technologies by March 2009.
E14		Investigate the installation of renewable energy technology to Buxted and Maryan Court and where practical carry out installation and monitoring to allow new technology to be included in future sheltered scheme updates from March 2009.
E15		Include sustainability and climate change considerations on agenda of council housing Repair and Maintenance Partnership Groups and in assessment of the HRA Business Plan. Incorporate by end 2008
E16		Continue programme to bring all Council housing up to thermal comfort requirement of the Decent Homes Standard by end 2008 and develop a Decent Homes Plus standard during 2008 incorporating a higher level of thermal efficiency to be achieved by 2011.
E17		Increase the average SAP <sup>5</sup> rating of Council housing from the current 72.2 to 80 by 2010

<sup>5</sup> SAP 2001: The Government's Standard Assessment Procedure for the energy rating of dwellings. Expressed on a scale of 1-120, the higher the number, the more energy efficient the property.

	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target (SMART)</b>
E18		Increase Council tenant awareness of climate change and the actions residents can take by featuring a minimum of two articles per year in the tenant magazine (Threshold) and commence a programme of awareness sessions with resident groups.
E19	Encourage the public and others to reduce energy use	Negotiate the incorporation into Freedom Leisure's Funding Agreement the requirement to establish a baseline of energy consumption, set reduction targets and report back to the Council on progress made.
E20		Implement the action plan of the Council's Affordable Warmth Strategy to increase the energy efficiency of all housing sectors in Wealden (measure of progress to be adopted following the HECA review).
E21		Further promote national grants available to the public for insulation and renewable energy technologies.
E22		Seek to secure additional funding for the provision of insulation and renewable technology grants for vulnerable private sector householders. Grant provision to be determined by April 2008
E23		Reduce the fuel used to travel to work and for meetings for Wealden District Council staff and members
E24	Seek to reduce staff business mileage by 2% per annum compared to baseline and review in year 3	
E25		Research existing local authority travel plans to inform the development of Wealden travel plans for staff and members. Research to be completed by end 2008

	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target (SMART)</b>
E26		Provide all visitors with information on how to access the Council using public transport/ bicycle through information on the website
E27		Encourage continuous improvement of emissions levels of fleet vehicles and include consideration of hybrid fleet vehicles within the procurement process
E28		Lower the current limit on emissions levels for vehicles in the lease car scheme and introduce same levels for Wealden Car Allowance Scheme (WCAS) by April 2008
E29		Utilise telephone and video conferencing to reduce the need to travel for Wealden District Council meetings. Investigate the purchase of video conferencing equipment by end 2008

## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

### Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Objectives

- Work with partners to plan to manage risks to the environment posed by climate change
- Protect our natural resources and biodiversity

	Aim	Target (SMART)
B1	Protect Wealden's Biodiversity in light of climate change	Develop a biodiversity policy as part of the sustainability strategy by end of 2008
B2	Ensure coastal protection measures are adapted in light of the risks posed by climate change	Continue to raise issues of climate change adaptation for Wealden district at Coastal Group meetings
		Continue to ensure that shoreline management plans are implemented

## COMMUNITY ACTION

### Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Objectives

- Raise awareness of climate change in the context of broader sustainability issues

	Aim	Target (SMART)
L1	Consultation of draft climate change policy and action plan	Public consultation beginning in Spring 2008
L2	Encourage LSP Partners to set targets for reduction of emissions from own operations, contributing to national carbon dioxide reduction of 60% lower than 1990 levels by 2050	Raise the issue of climate change with LSP partners with a Paper submitted to the partnership by end of 2008
L3		Identify 'climate change champions' within LSP partner organisations by end of 2008
L4	Encourage LSP Partners to assess the potential effects of climate change on service provision and identify methods of adapting	Raise the issue of climate change adaptation with LSP partners with a Paper submitted to the partnership by end of 2008
L5	Encourage sustainability and climate change targets to be included in the Local Area Agreement	Liaise with partners during 2008 in the development of the future LAA and climate change targets
L6	Work with regional Stakeholders, including East Sussex County Council, and other District and Borough Councils in the area.	Determine opportunities for joint initiatives
L7		Raise the issue of turning off streetlights in rural areas to save energy with ESCC by end 2008
L8	Raise awareness and engage with local community on climate change issues	Develop educational display / presentation materials for use at events and in the community
L9		Encourage Town and Parish Councils to consider the risks and opportunities of climate change, and where joint action can be taken.

	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target (SMART)</b>
L10		Work with Town and Parish Councils to promote the establishment of self help eco-groups to disseminate good practice and innovation
L11		Submit two climate change or sustainability articles to Parish news letters annually
L12		Work with local schools to provide a video made by children on climate change by 2009
L13		Establish an annual sustainability award scheme recognising achievements made by businesses, householders, public transport providers and in building design. Introduce awards by end 2009
L14	Continue to provide support for businesses to help them lower their carbon dioxide emissions	Provide two opportunities per year for presentations to the Wealden Local Business Partnership and / or Wealden Business Breakfasts
L15		Update the "Greener Business" pages of Wealden Business Help web site annually
L16		Work with partners to distribute information to local businesses
L17	Work with local public transport providers to encourage increased use of public transport	Update the travel information on the Wealden website and Business Help pages to ensure correlation of information and provision of links to transport providers. Update by June 2008
L18		Examine feasibility and budgetary requirements of varying taxi licence fees according to vehicle fuel efficiency and/or use of alternative fuels. Conduct examination by end 2008
L19	Promote local produce with low 'food miles'	Develop a Local Food and Farming Policy as part of the Sustainability Strategy by end of 2009

## References

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