

## Environmental and Planning Review Committee: Study into Carbon Management – Progress Report

Recommendations	Comment
<p>1. We recommend that issues of carbon management and energy efficiency be embedded into all aspects of Council business e.g. strategies, programmes and capital plans.</p>	<p>An Environmental Guidance for All Council Employees was adopted in May 2008, stating employee responsibilities to help reduce the Council's environmental footprint., which will be included in staff induction.</p> <p>The Sustainability Impact Assessment has been trialed by the Projects and Programmes Office, which includes a requirement that new council projects and service consider, and reduce, their carbon footprint.</p> <p>Sunderland was chosen for a pilot study, looking at the carbon footprint of service delivery in six sections, which showed that online services have a lower carbon footprint than conventional services.</p>
<p>2. We need to adopt a council wide strategy on climate change and sustainable energy. The Council should consider the adoption of targets for the reduction of carbon emissions</p>	<p>The Carbon Plan, adopted in June 2007, is a council wide strategy aiming to cut the Council's own carbon emissions by 10% by 2012. From the first year's activity, Council carbon emissions dropped by 1.6%</p> <p>The citywide Climate Change Action Plan is to be considered by Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008. This action plan will set carbon emissions targets for the city to reach over the next 15 years.</p>

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<p>3. We need to look further at the role of procurement and ways in which the Council can use its buying strategy to reduce carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency</p>	<p>Corporate Procurement is already using contracts to support the reductions of the council's carbon emissions (e.g. new mains-fed water cooler contract, vending machine contract, commercial vehicle contract). In addition, the council's electricity supply contract stipulates that all electricity comes from green sources (e.g. wind energy or high quality combined heat and power).</p> <p>Corporate Procurement have developed a Sustainable Procurement Policy, to be incorporated in the Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy, which is expected to be adopted in November 2008. This will set out how the Council is to work towards Level 5 of the Flexible Framework, within the Sustainable Procurement National Action Plan by 2011/12.</p>
<p>4. We feel that renewable sources of energy should be given a priority when considering new buildings and developments.</p>	<p>For council buildings, new construction projects already are specifying renewable energy sources (Hetton Lyons Primary has wind turbine, and small woodpellet boiler, the 50m Pool has a combined heat and power plant to provide heat and electricity on-site, and the first six schools within BSF are being designed to get 50% of their heat from wood fuel).</p> <p>For all other major development in the city, new planning policies within the forthcoming Local Development Framework ask for at least 10% of energy to come from renewable energy systems on-site.</p>
<p>5. More detailed research should be undertaken into the feasibility of woodchip boilers for the city – both in terms of their cost effectiveness and reliability and in terms of security</p>	<p>Grant funding has been received from DEFRA, towards the costs of installation of a woodchip boiler at South Hylton House, which should be operational by Sept 2009. Similarly, Gentoo have</p>

<p>of supply over other woodfuel sources, e.g. wood pellets</p>	<p>received grant funding from the Low Carbon Building Programme to fund a woodchip boiler within their Leafield Green sheltered housing scheme in Southwick.</p> <p>Secondary schools within Wave 1 of the Building Schools for the Future programme, although designed to take wood pellet initially, have been specified to allow conversion to woodchip at a later date.</p> <p>A funding application, in partnership with Gentoo, has been made to DEFRA, requesting funds to establish a wood storage and chipping station, that can process waste tree prunings into woodchip fuel.</p>
<p>6. That the draft Staff Travel Plans for Directorates are finalised and implemented.</p>	<p>Travel Plan officer post is currently vacant. The draft Sunderland City Council Travel Plan has been updated and is close to completion.</p>
<p>7. The possibility of extending the support offered to staff for Metro and Network season tickets to include season tickets operated by local bus operators be investigated further</p>	<p>The local bus operators have been contacted and have agreed that their individual season tickets can be offered to staff on the same basis as Metro season tickets and Network travel passes. A relaunch to staff of the discounted travel pass offers that are available is planned.</p>
<p>8. That the Council's lease car scheme continues to review the carbon emission levels of cars available to employees, and reduce them further where possible</p>	<p>Since setting carbon emission limits of new employee lease cars, the total emissions of all lease cars has dropped by 2%.</p> <p>New company car taxation allowances for low emission vehicles</p>

	<p>come into force on April 2008, which should further support uptake of low emission lease cars.</p> <p>No change.</p>
<p>9. That the outcome of the trial by Gateshead Council into the use 20% bio fuel be reported to this Committee</p>	<p>The trial was not able to find a way of using 20% biodiesel in council vehicles without invalidating vehicle warranties and new, tighter exhaust emission requirements. In addition, the wider sustainability of using biodiesel has been questioned in the past year, especially where rainforest is being destroyed in the developing world to plant palm oil plantations, which is often used in biodiesel production.</p> <p>No change.</p>
<p>10 That the Council continues to seek to identify sources of capital funding to develop schemes to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency</p>	<p>The Council's energy efficiency fund has been increased to £480,000, through additional £100,000 contribution from Children's Services, matched by £100,000 from the Carbon Trust's SALIX scheme..</p> <p>The Council's Strategic Investment Plan has committed £1.2M of funding to install 3 wind turbines, 1 wood boiler, 1 wood processing station, and other improvements to energy management controls in Council buildings.</p>
<p>11 That improved and more visible recycling facilities be provided for staff in all our buildings</p>	<p>A waste audit of waste produced by council services is ongoing, and will be reported to EMT in 2008/9. Within this audit, new recycling facilities are being trialled in both the Civic Centre, and Contact Centre, to test their effectiveness.</p> <p>Development and implementation of a corporate Waste Plan is required in 2008/9, and requests have been made to the Medium Term Financial Plan to provide the resource to carry this out.</p>

	<p>All buildings have received details of how to comply with new hazardous waste regulations, but otherwise no change – still awaiting resources to develop a Waste Plan for Council buildings and services</p>
<p>12 That the Council consider the development of a guidance note for partners and the public on renewable energy</p>	<p>Currently awaiting further Government guidance on micro generation of energy and renewable energy.</p>
<p>13 That the Council develop a Renewable Energy Policy</p>	<p>The Council is developing a general energy policy for Council operational properties to link with the carbon management plan and this will include a section on renewable energy. It is hoped that the policy will be complete by January 2009.</p> <p>Other developments include the production of 200+ display energy certificates which should be in place by the end of November. Legislation was stated 1<sup>st</sup> October but this has been delayed nationally due to a lack of assessors. In addition we will also be starting in November to install smart metering for all monthly billed electricity council sites, schools and Fire Service sites.</p>
<p>14 That the Council consider the feasibility of developing energy partnerships within the city</p>	<p>Supported by Environment and Planning Review Committee, an Energy Summit was held in March 2007, to initiative citywide partnership working on energy and carbon issues.</p> <p>The Consultation on a citywide climate change action plan from July – September 2007 sought views from partners on the best options for reducing carbon emissions.</p>

	<p>The sustainability team has been supporting the development of the new Sunderland Strategy, and encouraging the Sunderland Partnership to include climate change, and carbon emission targets, within the objectives of the new Sunderland Strategy.</p> <p>The forthcoming Climate Change Action Plan, due for adoption in November 2008, will secure commitments from key city partners in reducing their own carbon emissions, and set an overall framework for partners to work towards. To support this, in March 2008, the Council's Strategic Investment Plan has committed £40,000 to engage other private and public sector organisation in reducing carbon emissions, to be championed through the Sunderland Partnership. This Carbon Reduction Commitment campaign will be announced, alongside the Climate Change Action Plan.</p>
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