

2008/09 Update Report on Climate Change Actions

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Key Objective 1: To reduce the impact of development on climate change and to ensure new developments are 'climate proofed'

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (April 08 – April 09)	Date to be Achieved
DPM1	Development Control Manager	All development (either new build or conversion) with a floorspace in excess of 1,000m ² , or ten or more residential units, to incorporate embedded energy from renewable sources, in order to provide at least 10% of the predicted energy requirements.	<p>The 10% embedded renewable energy policy received a boost in 2008 when the new Regional Spatial Strategy included a similar policy requirement, meaning that all local authorities across the region should implement this same policy.</p> <p>Within Sedgefield Borough there have been over 20 developments that have been subject to the 10% policy since it was first implemented in 2007. Although data has not been available for all developments it is predicted that the 10% renewable energy policy will save at least 500,000 kg per/year of CO₂ within these developments. This figure does not include the installation of the biomass boiler at Heighington Lane West which could potentially save over 2,000,000 kg of CO₂ per annum. Various technologies have been installed under this policy including biomass boilers, ground/air source heat pumps and solar thermal panels.</p>	Ongoing
DPM2	Forward Planning Manager	Reduce the impact of development on climate change, through the Local Development Framework.	<p>Two technical papers are currently being produced by SBC's Sustainable Communities Section that will help inform the new LDF for the County with reference to reducing the impact of climate change. These are: 'Renewable Energy Developments' and 'Energy Efficiency in Developments'. Climate Change is a central thread running throughout the whole LDF and all technical papers currently being produced to inform it.</p> <p>The energy efficiency paper will help to reduce the impact of development by ensuring they reduce the need for energy, are as</p>	01/2009

			energy efficient as possible and use renewable energy. The renewable energy paper will help to influence and shape the role of major renewable energy developments in County Durham.	
DPM3	Development Control Manager, Sustainable Communities Manager	Developers to be encouraged to use most sustainable methods of construction available.	Ongoing - Continuation of best practice advice through 'One Stop Shop' and to individual developers upon request.	06/2008
DPA1	Forward Planning Manager	All new development sites to be directed to flood zone 1 (areas that are at little or no risk of flooding) as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report.	Ongoing – Flood Mapping remains an issue which is being investigated regionally. This is likely to be of high priority within the new Unitary Authority for County Durham.	Ongoing
DPA2	Development Control Manager, Sustainable Communities Manager	Promote design of new developments that takes into account future climatic conditions.	Ongoing – Developers are given advice upon request and are signposted to relevant professional guidance (e.g. TCPA).	Ongoing

Conclusion

Planning policy is the ideal tool to ensure developments incorporate sustainability principles. During this period, policy implementation has meant that new developments have reduced their potential energy consumption, helping to, as a consequence, reduce their utility costs and improve economic competitiveness. Developers are assisted wherever possible to achieve greater sustainability and many are now recognising the economic benefits and building this into their initial proposals.

The new LDF for County Durham is currently being drafted along with technical papers as described above. This will help to shape future planning policy for the whole of County Durham, ensuring that sustainability is embedded throughout.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS & CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Key Objective 2: To substantially reduce the consumption of natural resources from Council activities

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (March 08 - April 09)	Date to be Achieved
PBM1	Energy Management Group	Implement the actions encompassed within the 2007 'Sustainable Energy and Water Policy' and associated 'Annual Energy Management Plan', to provide for a 3% reduction in energy consumption.	<p>Energy consumption data will now be monitored through National Indicator 185 <i>CO2 emissions from the local authority estate</i>. This gives local authorities a renewed focus on energy consumption as they aim to reduce emissions. The baseline year for this indicator is to be 2008/09. Previous data has been collected by SBC for calendar years and as such comparisons and reduction targets can no longer be made sufficiently.</p> <p>There is an ongoing process to ensure this indicator is completed by July 2009 and a County working group has been established to ensure co-ordination of data.</p> <p>SBC are now fully compliant with EPBD legislation, which requires us to have energy performance certification displayed. Results are below: Classification of buildings ('A' being most efficient and 'G' being least efficient):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Lane: E • Locomotion: B • Newton Aycliffe LC: E • Spennymoor LC: D • Ferryhill LC: C • Shildon LC: C 	2007- 2012
PBM2	Valuation & Corporate Property Services Manager	Establish a comprehensive management system for energy and water within the six main operational buildings.	System agreed with Durham County Council's Energy Management Unit (DCC-EMU). All appropriate consumption and billing data is sent to DCC for them to produce annual reports, validate bills and check consumption. Annual reports are due in January 09.	03/2008

PBM3	Energy Management Group	Reinvest up to 50% of financial savings from energy savings measures into new energy conservation initiatives and investigate potential external funding sources.	<i>Removed due to LGR</i>	07/2008
PBM4	Technical Services Manager	Produce a strategy for the sustainable management of municipal waste throughout the Borough.	Waiting for information	03/2009
PBM5	Valuation & Corporate Property Services Manager	Assess feasibility of generating electricity from on-site renewable technologies at each location within the Council's building portfolio. Where appropriate and cost effective, generate 5% of a building's total electricity usage by 2012.	<i>Removed due to LGR</i>	03/2012
PBA1	Valuation & Corporate Property Services Manager	Review ventilation strategies in the existing building portfolio, to ensure that the most financially & environmentally sustainable standards are introduced.	<i>Removed due to LGR</i>	03/2009

Conclusion

Unfortunately many of the key actions have had to be severely curtailed because of LGR, on the basis that significant works should not be carried out when there is no certainty over the current portfolio. It is likely though that this will be a key area that will need to be addressed as a priority for the new authority.

One of the key highlights was ensuring that all applicable buildings received their energy certification on time. Although the results were mixed, it was not unexpected, leaving us with more proof of the need to upgrade plant and improve efficiencies. The new national indicator further raises the profile of the local authority's requirement to reduce energy consumption and emissions.

HOUSING

Key Objective 3: To improve the energy rating of all domestic properties in order to achieve an average SAP rating of 62 across the Borough by 2012

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (March 08 - April 09)	Date to be Achieved
HM1	Sustainable Communities Manager	Continue to deliver energy efficiency and grants advice to all residents in partnership with the Home Improvement Agency (HIA), EAGA and The Energy Saving Trust (EST).	<p>GoWarm are completing work in 8 wards carrying out 619 measures (April – November) at a cost of £174,642, helping to reduce instances of fuel poverty. The scheme has overall, been welcomed by residents. There are some issues as to the length of time taken from assessment to installation, due to the capacity of the installers. This is being closely monitored by SBC. GoWarm is contracted to run to April 2009 and beyond using the same ward-by-ward approach.</p> <p>Warm Front has continued to deliver household energy improvement grants throughout 2008 and will continue post April 2009. Referral levels have declined in recent months, due the high level of work already completed. It has been suggested that Sedgfield Borough has hit a ceiling whereby major mailouts are no longer worthwhile and a more targeted approach be implemented.</p> <p>The Borough Council still has an obligation under the 1996 HECA act to compile annual home energy reports. For the year 2007/08, energy consumed within domestic properties fell by 3.51%, giving a total energy reduction of 24.74% since 1996. Although there has been a suggestion that this act may be repealed in 2009, it is now looking more likely that local authorities will be required to continue to monitor this performance indicator until its conclusion in 2011.</p>	Ongoing
HM2	Sustainable Communities Manager	Accurately record household energy data to enable annual energy performance (SAP) reports to be produced for all non Council housing stock.	Sedgfield Borough Council alongside the other County authorities engaged the Energy Saving Trust to carry out a survey that would help to record SAP data but would also produce the data required for the new national indicator 187 on fuel poverty. The results showed that domestic properties in Sedgfield Borough have an average SAP (Energy Rating) of 57 out of 100, with only 4% of properties below the significant SAP 35 threshold. It is likely that further work will be undertaken in 2009 to acquire a full domestic stock database relating to energy efficiency to help target measures at those most in need. Details of those properties with SAP ratings of below 35 have been passed to the Housing	03/2009

			Department or in the case of private rented accommodation to the Environmental Health Section.	
HM3	Design & Management Manager - Housing	Review heating systems of grouped accommodation and investigate the potential for installing renewable technologies, where appropriate.	No Further Comment Made	03/2009
HM4	Design & Management Manager - Housing	Increase average SAP rating of Council housing to 78 (SAP 2001 methodology (out of 120)).	Current rating 74 (SAP 2001 Methodology (out of 120))	03/2008
HA1	Design & Management Manager - Housing	Continue to carry out regular inspections of council housing stock in relation to the potential adverse impacts of a changing climate.	No Further Comment Made	Ongoing

Conclusion

Most of the actions which cause climate change take place at a domestic level through our gas and electricity usage. By promoting energy efficiency and practical insulation measures to private residents and installing over £3 million (2007/08) worth of measures into Council properties SBC has succeeded in helping to reduce instances of fuel poverty and reduce CO₂ emissions by nearly 25% over the 1996 Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) baseline.

The new national indicator (NI 187 – fuel poverty) will further highlight the existing work being undertaken throughout Sedgefield Borough and the County. The 7 District Council's have been working in partnership to progress fuel poverty alleviation schemes since 1996 and are therefore well placed to progress this issue further within the new Unitary Authority for County Durham. With the survey suggesting that only 4% of housing in Sedgefield Borough falls below the SAP 35 threshold, this shows that the Council and its partners have been successful in targeting help and grants at those most in need.

The creation of a new full stock database will be central to achieving the above key objective and is something that will be taken forward as a priority within the new authority. This, as indicated, will help to improve targeting further.

The new authority also needs to work closely with the range of social housing providers to ensure that energy efficiency measures continue to be installed and recorded as is currently undertaken by Sedgefield Borough Council.

GREENSPACE & BIODIVERSITY

Key Objective 4: To manage green spaces to take account of changes to the climate

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (March 08 - April 09)	Date to be Achieved
GSM 1	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Develop a Woodland Management Strategy to: a) Improve the management regime of existing woodland sites. b) Identify opportunities for extensive tree planting. c) Identify local opportunities to utilise felled materials such as biofuel or fuel in biomass generators.	<i>Removed because of LGR</i>	03/2009
GSA1	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Discourage planting of high water demanding plants and encourage use of native species of local provenance in appropriate locations.	Probable removal of hanging baskets in some towns, due to health and safety and cost implications rather than water saving issues	Ongoing

GSA2	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Develop a Green Space Strategy (GSS) to identify partnerships and resources for the protection and enhancement of important habitats and the links between them (ecological corridors).	<p>Production of the Green Space Strategy was delayed by over 3 months due to the departure of the Countryside Officer (Planning & Strategy) at the beginning of the financial year and subsequent delays in recruiting new officers due to HR policies imposed by LGR.</p> <p>The draft strategy is now out for consultation. Green Space policies in relation to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change have been drafted and are being consulted on presently. Wider consultation is planned for the end of January 2009. The final Green Space Strategy will be published by March 2009. The Green Space Strategy is being used to inform the development of the Local Development Framework for the new Unitary Authority for County Durham.</p>	11/2008
GSA3	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Incorporate potential climate change impacts and opportunities for adaptation, into site specific management plans, strategies and project work.	<p>Delay in recruitment of Countryside Officers earlier in the year, means that this task is around 3-4 months behind schedule. A review of the five-year site management plan for Ferryhill Carrs (SSSI) has recently commenced. Each revised site management plan will take into account the potential impacts to the reserve from climate change impacts.</p>	03/2009
GSA4	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Disseminate guidance, and develop policy on the identification, avoidance and removal of invasive exotic plant species.	<p>Delay in recruitment of Countryside Officers means that this task is around 3-4months behind schedule. However, a policy on the identification, avoidance and removal of invasive exotic plant species has been drafted as part of the draft Green Space Strategy.</p> <p>Data in respect of known locations of invasive species will be recorded onto the GIS once the strategy has been finalised and implemented in the new year.</p>	03/2010

Conclusion

The production of the Green Space Strategy will help to ensure all green spaces within the Borough take account of changes to the climate. It will also help to inform the LDF process for the new Unitary Authority.

TRANSPORT

Key Objective 5: To reduce fuel consumption from all vehicles operated by the Council by 5% by 2012

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (March 08 - April 09)	Date to be Achieved
TM1	Sustainable Communities Manager & Policy and Finance Manager	Produce a comprehensive package of information/events to promote alternatives to the car to staff and residents.	<i>Staff Car Sharing scheme still ongoing. Other items removed because of LGR.</i>	Ongoing
TM2	Transport Manager	Appraise all aspects of the utilisation of fleet vehicles, aiming to reduce costs and consumption of fuel.	A new fuel management system has been installed for fleet vehicles, helping to accurately assess mileages done by vehicles.	03/2008
TM3	Human Resources Manager	Review the environmental impacts of the Council's current policy on lease cars.	<i>Removed because of LGR</i>	03/2008
TM4	Transport Manager & Sustainable Communities Manager	Implement actions outlined within the Borough Council's Travel Plan.	<i>Removed because of LGR</i>	03/2009

Conclusion

Because of LGR it has not been possible to further many of the actions within this objective. Records show that emissions from fleet vehicles and business travel have reduced on a yearly basis since records began in 2003. While it is not known if this trend is set to continue, it is essential that transport remains a high priority within the new authority. The new national indicator (NI185 – CO₂ emissions from local authority operations) includes transport as part of the measurement criteria and as such this brings with it more emphasis on reducing fuel consumption and costs.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Key Objective 6: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable procurement solutions

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (March 08 - April 09)	Date to be Achieved
SPM1	Policy & Finance Manager	Develop sustainable procurement practices and ensure effective communication to key staff and suppliers.	Will be progressed with new Authority	03/2009
SPM2	Policy & Finance Manager	Ensure sustainability impacts are identified and that 'whole life costing analysis' is adopted when determining purchasing specifications and evaluation criteria.	Sustainability is used as part of the evaluation criteria within the assessment toolkit. This % score can be changed in relation to the significance initiators place on sustainability for each contract.	03/2009
SPM3	Audit Manager	Investigate purchase of renewable electricity (in preference to green electricity) at contract renewal periods.	SBC are now in the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) which allows the authority greater power to purchase energy at reduced costs. Renewable electricity is prohibitively expensive at the moment because of a shortage of supply. Electricity is therefore purchased from 'Good Quality CHP' (the simultaneous generation of usable heat and power (usually electricity) in a single process).	03/2010

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Conclusion

Sustainability is now used as part of the evaluation criteria for most contracts. Although cost remains the overriding evaluation criteria, sustainability can no longer be ignored and businesses must show what, if any sustainability policies they have in place and which are acted upon.

AWARENESS RAISING

Key Objective 7: To ensure employees, businesses and residents have a clear understanding of the potential impacts of climate change, how they can adapt to these impacts and contribute positively towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress	Date to be Achieved
ARM1	Sustainable Communities Manager	Provide climate change and energy awareness advice to Borough Council Members, staff and residents.	<p>Energy awareness leaflet distributed to all members of staff in 2008. There have been a number of awareness raising schemes during 2008, with 6 articles printed within INFORM and a range advertising on the 'intranet' and 'noticeboard', together with a specific event for Energy Saving Week.</p> <p>No approach has been made in line with the recommendations from ANEC regarding the appointment of a climate change champion at Chief Officer and Member level, due to LGR.</p> <p>A renewable energy event was held at Locomotion in June 2008, which aimed to answer resident's questions regarding the various technologies.</p>	Ongoing
ARM2	Regeneration Manager & Sustainable Communities Manager	Develop a Borough-wide Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in partnership with the LSP, communities and local businesses.	Removed because of LGR.	03/2009
ARM3	Economic Development Manager & Development Control Manager	Stimulate the development of a renewable energy infrastructure and environmentally sustainable buildings at key business locations within the Borough.	Some progress made in helping to promote the use of renewable energy technologies in various developments, through the 10% embedded renewable energy policy.	08/2009



ARA1	Sustainable Communities Manager & Carelink Services Manager	Raise awareness of potential climate change impacts and provide adaptation advice to communities.	Awareness raising activities in general have centred around INFORM articles including a large 1 page spread in the August Issue. Measures have also been highlighted with Carelink Services, who already have heatwave plans in place.	Ongoing
ARA2	Head of Financial Resources & DCC	Ensure emergency procedures for all sites are updated and meet requirements for increased risks.	Removed because of LGR.	03/2008

Conclusion

Raising awareness of the impacts of climate change has continued to be a central theme in activities throughout 2008. Highlights include the Renewable Energy Event held at Locomotion, which attracted exhibitors and residents alike and resulted in a number of firm orders for technologies. The full page spread about climate change impacts and adaptation in INFORM in August reiterated previous messages about the need to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle at home and at work.

Carbon Management Matrix

The matrix below shows the performance of SBC in 2008 and 2007 against the categories shown. The results shows that improvements have undoubtedly been made from 2007 to 2008 and that the Council could be regarded as good/very good compared to the 2007 level of fair/good.

-  2007 Level: Fair/Good
-  2008 Level: Good/Very Good (columns with no blue shaded box represent no progress)

Carbon Management Matrix

	POLICY	ORGANISATION	INFORMATION AND DATA	COMMUNICATION AND TRAINING	FINANCE	MONITORING & EVALUATION
Excellent	Specific climate change policy with targets signed off and implemented + Action plan with clear goals and regular reviews to confirm actions undertaken and targets achieved/being progressed	As 4: + Climate change responsibilities integrated into responsibilities of senior managers in different departments <i>+ Political support from the highest level in the council.</i>	CO ₂ emissions compiled for all main LA sources for a baseline year and regular collation of annual emissions data + Data externally verified	As 4: + Communication on carbon and energy related matters with the community and other key business partners	Well defined and effective internal financing mechanisms for carbon/energy saving projects + Extensive use of external finance sources as appropriate + Good internal resources for management/coordination tasks	Management Review of carbon management process by senior management. + Regular reviews by core team on progress with carbon management
Very Good	Specific climate change policy with targets developed and signed off, but not implemented	Climate change/carbon management is a <u>full</u> -time responsibility of an individual + Climate change responsibilities integrated into responsibilities of senior managers in different departments	CO ₂ emissions compiled for all main LA sources for a baseline year (i.e. buildings, streetlighting, transport (fleet and commuting) and waste if relevant) + Data internally reviewed	Formalised communication and training plan for all staff on carbon and energy related matters, including integration in induction and other normal training processes	Internal & external funding on a regular basis for carbon/energy saving projects + Sufficient internal resources for management/coordination tasks	Regular reviews by core team on progress with carbon management (e.g. review of actions, check against emissions profile and targets, addition of new opportunities etc.)
Good	Climate change included in wider policy documents.	As 2: + Climate change responsibilities integrated into responsibilities of people in different departments	CO ₂ emissions data compiled for some sources for a baseline year (e.g. buildings and streetlighting) and source data available for other sources (e.g. transport)	Ad hoc communication and training delivered to all staff on carbon and energy related matters	Internal & external funding on an ad hoc basis for carbon/energy saving projects + Limited internal resources for management/co-ordination tasks	Ad hoc assessment of all aspects of carbon/energy policies/strategies, targets and action plans
Fair	Climate change as an aspiration in non-policy documents	Climate change/carbon management is a part-time responsibility of an individual	No CO ₂ emissions data compiled for any sources but energy data compiled on a regular basis	Communication and training to specific groups in the Council (e.g. energy team) on carbon or energy related matters	Some internal financing on an ad hoc basis for carbon and/or energy efficiency related projects + Limited internal resources for management/coordination tasks	Ad hoc reviews of specific aspects of carbon/energy policies/strategies, targets and action plans
Poor	No climate change policy or strategy and no mention of climate change in policy/strategy documents	No individual with responsibility for climate change issues	No CO ₂ emissions data compiled for any sources and energy data not compiled on a regular basis	No communication or training to staff on carbon or energy related matters	No internal financing or funding for carbon and/or energy efficiency related projects	No monitoring of carbon/energy policies/strategies, targets and action plans

