

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP REPORT – REDUCING THE COUNCIL’S CARBON EMISSIONS  
REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BY CABINET ON: 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2013 and subsequent reports**

Information from previous updates are in lighter shading and the most up to date information is in **bold**.

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>1) That Cabinet notes the importance of a corporate and co-ordinated approach in relation to reducing carbon emissions. This approach is facilitated through the Council’s Carbon Management Programme Board and in order to continue to fulfil this function, Service groupings should proactively engage with the Board to ensure a joined up and planned approach.</p>	<p>The corporate Carbon Management Programme Board Continues to lead the Council’s work on carbon reduction and energy savings. All service groupings are represented and quarterly reports are received by the Board on all relevant capital and revenue projects.</p> <p><b>The Board has continued to meet and receive reports on projects. Further details on progress and actions are included in this report and in the presentation.</b></p>	Carbon Management Programme Board	Ongoing
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<p>2) That in view of the recent increases in energy prices, the Council/Cabinet continues to explore opportunities to ‘invest to save’ that will result in significant reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions and ultimately lead to savings and efficiencies. Consideration also needs to be given to whether schemes should be undertaken that provide the opportunity for large scale carbon reduction, but do not meet the usual financial pay back criteria.</p>	<p>Further projects have been initiated. These include boiler optimisation, new lighting in five leisure and office buildings and surveys have been carried out on three main depots with recommendations for new invest to save projects. These will be approached using an innovative “whole buildings” methodology which, if successful, will be rolled out across the full site of retained non-school buildings once the building review is complete. Further projects are also being looked at and are in feasibility stages.</p> <p>A new Carbon Management Plan is currently being produced. This will outline our actions for the next five years towards our target of a 40% reduction by 2020. It will initially concentrate on ensuring that our Office Accommodation Programme embeds carbon savings in its work and the good practice learnt from the first five years is carried forward.</p>	Carbon Management Programme Board	Ongoing

	<p>Since the last report the Energy team has had three members of staff leave their posts for new jobs. This has impacted on current work planning. An internal restructure of the Sustainability, Energy and Climate Change team is being prepared and staff are currently covering essential roles but this has inevitably meant slower progress on projects than anticipated.</p> <p>The Government is currently making significant changes to the support network for renewables (Feed in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive). This is creating a very unstable environment for medium and long term planning in this field, and a number of projects have been scaled back or are at risk because of the proposals.</p> <p><b>The new carbon management plan was approved by CMT on 8 June 2016. The Sustainability team is now the Low Carbon Economy Team and staff are adjusting well to new roles.</b></p> <p><b>The unstable political environment at a national level has continued and work has concentrated on back to basics technologies and projects rather than rely on incentives such as the feed in tariff.</b></p>		
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<p><b>3)</b> That the Council's Elected members be provided with detailed information on any trials/schemes in relation to street lighting in their area, prior to residents being notified.</p>	<p>The street light retrofits installed to date have been generally well received by the public. The elimination of light has taken some residents a bit of time to get used to, however when the benefits are explained to them they are more comfortable with the new lights. As reported previously, there has been extensive compliance testing across a wide range of sites demonstrating conclusively that the new lights comply comfortably with required standards.</p> <p>With over 26,000 street lights already retrofitted affecting in excess of 100,000 homes, customer complaints received so far have been relatively modest and we've also received a small</p>	<p>Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project Board.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

number of compliments as well as a welcome range of positive anecdotal feedback.

In addition, part of the programme involved removing redundant street lights and de-illuminating traffic signs. This started in April 2014 due to the need to undertake a thorough road safety risk assessment and consultation exercise prior to any street lights being removed.

In Year 2 308 street lights have been removed and 329 traffic signs have been de-illuminated. We're targeting 1,000 removals during Year 3 and 250 sign de-illuminations.

LED retrofit numbers to date are:

Year 1 to 31st March 2014 - total 8,138 units converted

Year 2 to 31st March 2015 – in year total 12,004 conversions so that's a grand total of 20,142 to end of Year 2

Year 3 target to 31st March 2016 is a further 12,000 conversions and we're currently on programme.

By the end of the current financial year (ie Year 3) we'll have completed 32,000 conversions out of the planned 41,000 and will be well ahead of the original programme.

**2016- We have retrofitted over 34,000 street lights to date countywide with new energy efficient LED street lights as part of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project. We are ahead of programme and generally the change has been very well received.**

**We continue to receive a small number of complaints as residents get used to the reduced light spillage but on the whole residents are supportive of the move to LEDs.**

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Year 2 to 31st March 2015 – in year total 12,004 conversions so that's a grand total of 20,142 to end of Year 2

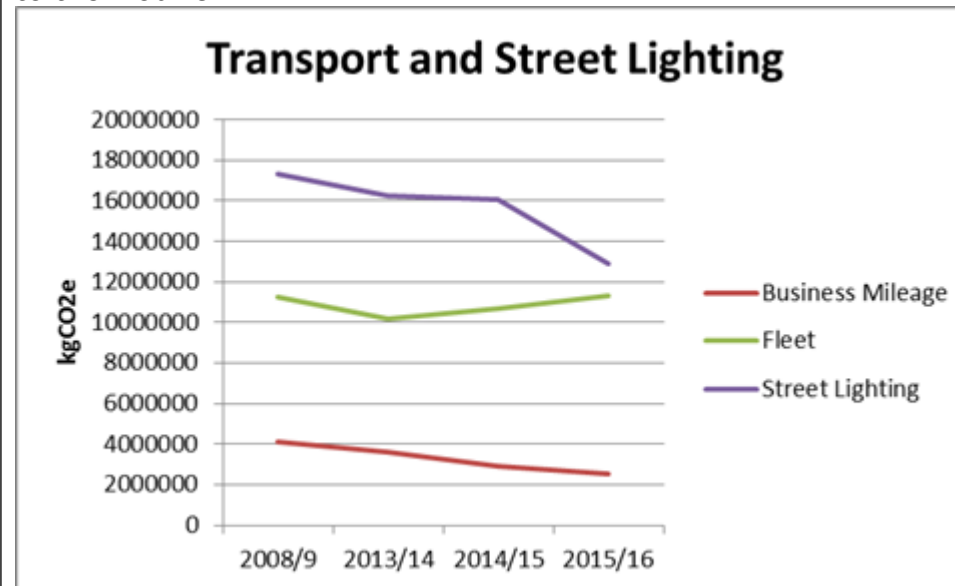
**Year 3 to 31st March 2016 – a total of 12,183 conversions were completed meaning that we are ahead of the original programme of 8000 per annum**

**Year 4 target is 12,000 to 31st March 2017 and we are well on the way to achieving this with over 4,500 achieved to date.**

**We continue to carry out compliance tests to demonstrate to residents that the new lights meet current standards.**

**We also continue to remove street lighting where it is safe to do so and to date have removed over 450 street lights as well as de-illuminating over 500 traffic signs. We operate a thorough road safety risk assessment and consultation exercise process prior to any street lights being removed. We have also entered into a number of service level agreements with Parish and Town Councils whereby they take on responsibility for the cost of maintaining the lighting including the energy costs for a period of 10 years.**

**The graph demonstrates the cumulative effect of the savings to the Council.**

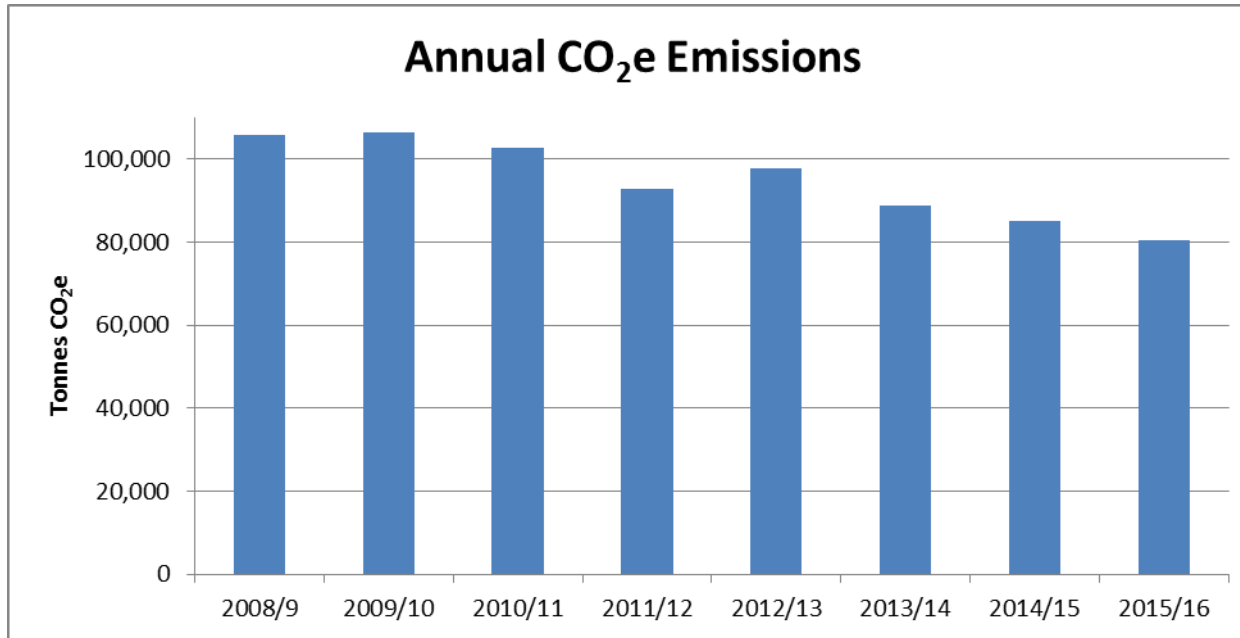


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<p>4) That the drive to recruit more Eco Champions to promote simple energy saving changes continues, and that consideration be given to the possibility of providing Elected Members with information on the Council's carbon management programme, as part of the corporate induction programme and seeking volunteers from Elected Members to act as Eco Champions.</p>	<p>Surveys have shown that Durham County Council is ahead of most other councils in respect of the number of Eco Champions to staff. The programme continues to be reviewed to assess how we can increase this further and provide a support network for all the Eco Champions. Carbon Management is now part of the induction programme and is also included in staff reviews.</p> <p>To date we have not recruited elected members as Eco Champions, but we will continue to assess this option.</p> <p>Updates on key initiatives and projects have been circulated to Eco champions. This year there have been 8 articles in Buzz, including pieces on fuel efficient driving, the Big Switch Off, cycle to work and schools carbon emissions.</p> <p>Building energy use data is available to Eco-champions (and Members / staff) via: <a href="http://intranet/Pages/BuildingSpecificEnergyUse.aspx">http://intranet/Pages/BuildingSpecificEnergyUse.aspx</a></p> <p><b>A review of the eco-champions is currently being undertaken, looking at how the eco champions can contribute to corporate aspirations. It is also looking at broader environmental reporting. Changes to DCC structures and reporting are being factored in. As new Service structures develop we will seek to maintain good eco champion representation.</b></p>	Carbon Revenue Project Board	Ongoing
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<p>5) That in relation to the need to reduce business travel, consideration be given to making more use of innovative technology such as</p>	<p>General awareness of the alternatives available instead of travelling has been raised through Eco Champions and the Fleet Review. This has included conference calls which have been trialled in several services for regular meetings. A new report from Myview has also been created. This is sent monthly to managers showing business mileage for all their team and a comparison to the previous year.</p> <p><b>New methods of working such as hot desking and tele/video conferencing are being incorporated into the Office Accommodation Programme. ICT Services can</b></p>	Carbon Management Board	Ongoing

<p>skype, telephone conferencing, video conferencing and promoting the availability of 'hot desks' at council offices throughout the county.</p> <p><b>Review Recommendation</b></p>	<p>provide laptops/tablets with Juniper software to enable employees to work remotely.</p> <p>Regular updates on topics such as pool cars are included in Eco-champion literature and staff magazines.</p> <p>In spring, 72 staff took up an offer to take a free course on Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving led by the Local Motion project and the Road Safety Team :</p> <p><a href="http://www.dothelocalmotion.co.uk/ways-to-travel/drive/safed-training/">http://www.dothelocalmotion.co.uk/ways-to-travel/drive/safed-training/</a></p> <p>Participants improved their fuel efficiency by an average of 16%.</p> <p><b>Actions have continued in a similar fashion to previous years. As the Inspire programme develops, we will consider the possibility of eco champions acting as information points to facilitate the roll-out of more sustainable choices such as using skype or pool cars.</b></p> <p><b>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>Resib'ty</b></p>	<p><b>Timescale</b></p>
<p>6) That the committee continues to monitor the progress being made to achieve the Council's carbon reduction targets through the current quarterly performance monitoring reports and receive regular updates by members of the</p>	<p>Updates to this report will be provided and ongoing monitoring of electric, gas and water consumption and of the performance of capital and revenue projects to date can be provided on request.</p> <p>Durham County Council achieved 9.5% reduction in 2013/14 compared to 12/13. In total a 16.5% reduction from baseline 2008.</p> <p><b>The Council has continued to make carbon savings. In 2014/15 we reduced our emissions by a further 9,200 tonnes.</b></p> <p><b>In total the Council has reduced emissions by 25% since 2008 saving 26,330 tonnes of carbon per year. This represents financial savings of around £3 million per year against business as usual projections.</b></p>	<p>Maggie Bosanquet</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Council's Sustainability, Carbon and Climate Change Team and Carbon Management Programme Board.

**We have identified a couple of errors in last years reporting which have now been corrected. Due to quarterly billing of gas a number of sites had been underestimated. Also, overall mileage had been used rather than just business travel. The graph below shows the correct data.**



**The Council is continuing to make carbon and financial savings. In the coming years we are still looking to reduce emissions, however industry experts are beginning to predict an increase in utility costs, and this is likely to be amplified due to the current state of the pound versus the dollar/Euro, as energy is an international commodity.**

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<p>7) That all staff and Elected Members be made aware of the Council's carbon reduction targets, the financial impact of energy use and the savings that can be made by using energy more effectively. This could be achieved through training sessions and the Council's performance appraisal scheme – focusing on staff actions/achievements that protect the County's environment and mitigate the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>Regular articles in Buzz and Member Updates have kept staff and members up to date with projects. The Big Switch Off has continued to make impressive savings in buildings where it has taken place, demonstrating to staff the importance of making a few minor changes to their behaviour.</p> <p>There has been continued engagement with staff with a Big Switch Off event being ran in the Green Lane offices at Spennymoor. This is the biggest site so far and they achieved 5% savings in their electricity consumption and have improved on that figure since.</p> <p>In October the campaign will be at the Greencroft offices.</p> <p><b>Staff changes in the Energy (now Low Carbon Economy) Team, combined with staff relocations across the Council have limited the option to expand the programme further. We have maintained monitoring and reminders for sites that have been involved in the Big Switch Offs and they have continued to sustain savings. As the main civic sites are occupied through the Inspire programme we will look to engage with the new occupants.</b></p>	<p>Maggie Bosanquet</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>