



**Horsham
District
Council**





ACTING TOGETHER ON CLIMATE CHANGE



A Strategy for the Horsham District

June 2009

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Leader's introduction A Strategy for the Horsham District

The Council is committed to addressing climate change. We have for some time been taking actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our own buildings, transport and operations. We are now looking to increase this effort wherever we can. We also need to do more to prepare for the future effects of climate change. As Leader I want these actions to continue and become more embedded within our organisation. This Strategy helps to move this forward.

Horsham District Council has a good record as leader of the community and working in partnership with other organisations. This approach will be important in terms of climate change. It is only by acting together that climate change can be addressed.

Although it may seem the actions that we take are insignificant, acting locally can have an impact globally. No one will be immune from the effects of climate change.

This document gives suggestions for actions that we can all take that will make a difference. As a responsible citizen I will be playing my part in reducing the impact that climate change will have in the future. I urge you to do the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.C. Nye' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Cllr Robert Nye
Leader
Horsham District Council



Introduction

CLIMATE CHANGE is one of the biggest global challenges we are currently facing.

There is a growing consensus among the scientific and international community that the world's climate is changing and that urgent action is required.

The greenhouse gases we produce through everyday activity are contributing to climate change. All communities will have to work together to achieve more sustainable lifestyles.



The purpose of this Climate Change Strategy is to plan the actions needed to meet the demanding cuts in greenhouse gas emission that are now required. It also points the way in terms of adapting to future climate conditions.

Although the Strategy contains actions that Horsham District Council is intending to take to address climate change, **it is not just a Strategy for the Council.** All

of us who live and work in the District can have an impact on reducing the emissions

that contribute to climate change. Changes to the climate will affect all of us. We all need to be prepared for the changes that will happen.

Only by acting together can climate change be addressed.

This document is the starting point for action and it will be continually updated. **We welcome your comments on it.**



Targets

- ⊙ **For the District** - aim to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 26% up to 2020 and 80% by 2050 (against a 1990 baseline)
- ⊙ **For the Council** - aspire to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 42% by 2020 and become carbon neutral by 2050
- ⊙ **Adaptation** - assess the threats and opportunities from climate change on Council operations and services and assemble evidence for the wider community by 2011
 - undertake a comprehensive risk assessment by 2012

Aims of the Strategy

- ⊙ to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations and services;
- ⊙ to ensure that measures are taken to prepare the Council's assets and services for likely future changes to the climate;
- ⊙ to raise awareness in the wider community about climate change;
- ⊙ to work in partnership to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for the future changes to the climate across the District.

Acting Together on Climate Change

*A herd of cows
belches more climate
changing gases than
a family car*



There is a County wide target for reducing carbon emissions. This agreement seeks to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 9.5% between 2008 and 2011. The target in this Strategy takes a longer term view of carbon reductions but incorporates the West Sussex wide target.

Data on our own carbon dioxide emissions is incomplete which is why there is not a firm target in this strategy. More information on this will be available later this year.

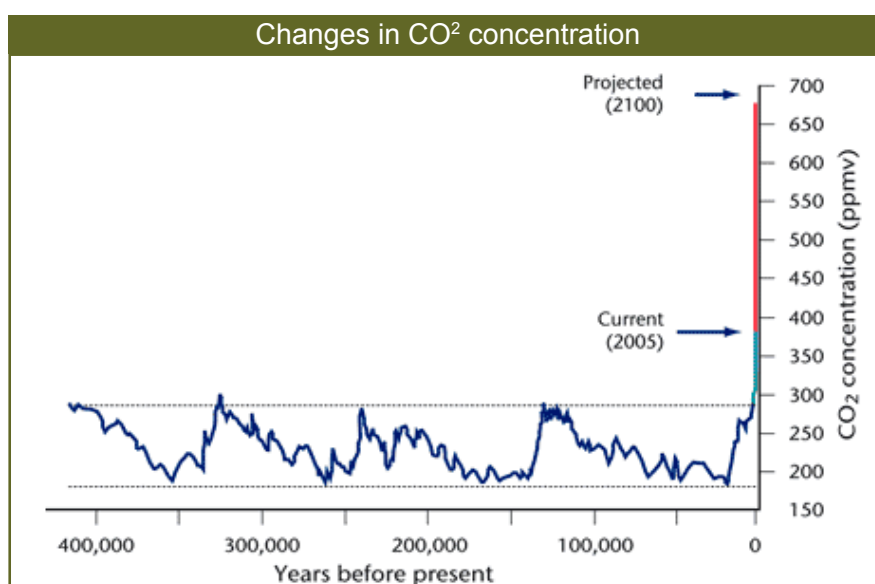
It is not possible to have a quantitative target for adaptation. However, the Government has given Councils a framework of actions to prepare for future changes to the climate. The proposed target reflects this framework.

What is climate change?

Without a phenomenon known as the greenhouse effect the temperatures on earth would be much colder. Gases in the earth's upper atmosphere create the greenhouse effect. These gases trap heat and ensure that the temperatures on earth can sustain life.

The main greenhouse gas (by volume) in the atmosphere is carbon dioxide. It is also the greenhouse gas produced in the greatest quantities. Carbon dioxide accounts for 85% of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions. Methane is another powerful greenhouse gas (20 times more powerful than carbon dioxide) but it is produced in smaller quantities.

Levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have shown a marked increase since the industrial revolution and they are continuing to rise.



Global temperatures are also increasing. Average global surface temperatures have increased by 0.15°C per decade since the mid-1970. Warming has been unprecedented over the last 50 years and the 17 warmest years have occurred in the last 20 years.

Carbon dioxide is mainly emitted from burning fossil fuels for energy; i.e. to power our homes and offices and to provide fuel for transport. However, land changes such as deforestation also add a significant amount annually.

Increasingly scientists are concluding that the rise in global temperatures is due to human activity. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that there is a 90% probability that global warming is linked to human activity.

Even if no more greenhouse gases were added to the atmosphere there would still be changes to the earth's climate over the coming decades. This is due to the increased concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that have already taken place. The changes to the climate will be more pronounced in some parts of the world than others. The Polar Regions are already experiencing significant changes.

Although the climate has always changed, the changes over the coming decades are likely to be more extreme than human civilisation has faced before. The picture is complex, however; across the world there is likely to be a rise in annual temperatures, and polar ice caps will melt leading to a rise in sea levels. The changes are likely to have a major impact on agriculture and water supply, and many coastal and low lying areas will be threatened by flooding. This situation could be compounded by an increase in the amount of intense storms and hurricanes.

If you are interested in finding out more on the science of climate change the following websites are useful:

■ www.realclimate.org.uk

■ www.metoffice.org.uk



A Strategy for the Horsham District

Some studies suggest that it is warmer now than it has been for at least 1000 years



Courtesy West Sussex County Council

Acting Together on Climate Change



Climate change policies

Internationally Governments are working together to agree actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The current framework for action is known as the Kyoto Protocol. The UK is likely to surpass its commitments under the Protocol for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions but nationally carbon dioxide emissions have started to rise again.

The UK Government is now committed to far higher reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. The Climate Change Act 2008 sets legally binding targets for reducing carbon emissions, by at least 34% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050 (using a 1990 baseline) The Act also gives a framework for action on adapting to climate change.

These targets are very challenging and can only be achieved by actions across society. However, there will also be some opportunities from climate change; such as saving money by using less fuel and opportunities for business from the change to a low carbon economy.

Why the focus on carbon dioxide (or carbon)

The large volume of carbon dioxide and the rises in levels of this gas are the two main reasons why actions on climate change focus on reductions in carbon dioxide. It can help to “see” what a certain amount of carbon dioxide looks like.



**One party balloon
= 1kg of carbon
dioxide (CO₂)**



**One hot air balloon (10m across)
= 1 tonne of carbon dioxide (CO₂)**

(It should be noted that throughout this Strategy carbon emissions is used as a short hand for carbon dioxide emissions)

Current Carbon Emissions - Horsham District

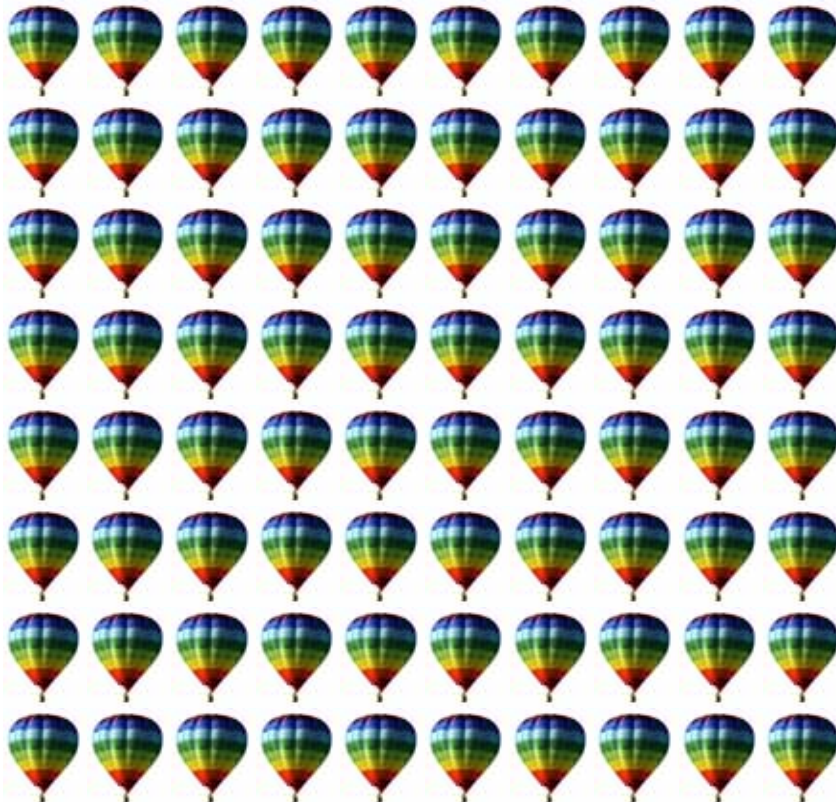
In order to understand how to the aims and targets of this Strategy might be achieved it is useful to have an overview of the main sources of carbon emissions.

The emissions for Horsham District are compiled by Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Only the data for 2005 and 2006 can be compared. The latest information available is for 2006.

The data showed that:

- ⊙ Horsham District had the highest tonnage of carbon dioxide emitted compared with all the district/borough Councils in West Sussex (with a total of 968kt CO₂)
- ⊙ Emissions fell slightly between 2005 and 2006 (from 983ktCO₂ to 968ktCO₂)
- ⊙ Per capita emissions were the third highest in West Sussex (with 7.5 tonnes per capita).

968kt of CO₂ = 182,952 hot air balloons

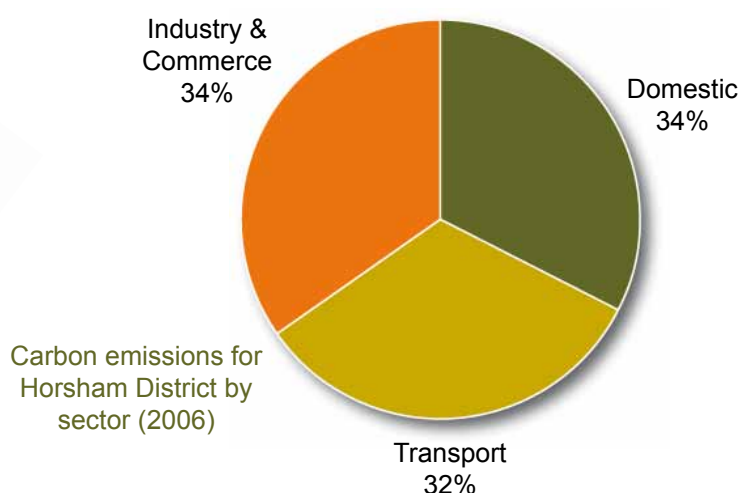


A Strategy for the Horsham District

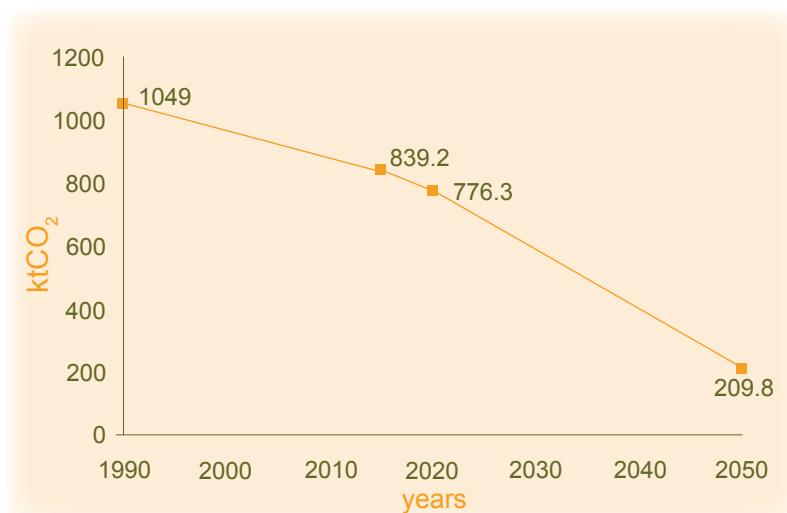


Acting Together on Climate Change

The carbon emissions are recorded across three sectors; industry and commerce, domestic and road transport. The figure below shows that there was an even spread of emissions from these three sectors.



The targets set for the District reflect those that are currently being used nationally. The graph below shows how much of a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions will be required to achieve the targets suggested in the Strategy.



Potential reduction in carbon dioxide emissions (kt) between 1990 and 2050 across the Horsham District

The question is where is this likely to be achieved? There is not a clear picture at the moment, although most of these savings will come about through national policy.

Some rough calculations can give an idea of where reductions could be made. A reduction of 59ktCO₂ (or 6%) could be made in the domestic sector through:

- installing cavity wall and loft insulation,
- draught proofing homes,
- installing efficient boilers,
- using energy efficient light bulbs.

Encouraging similar actions across the three sectors will achieve approximately 15% reduction in emissions. The longer term targets will, therefore, be very challenging.

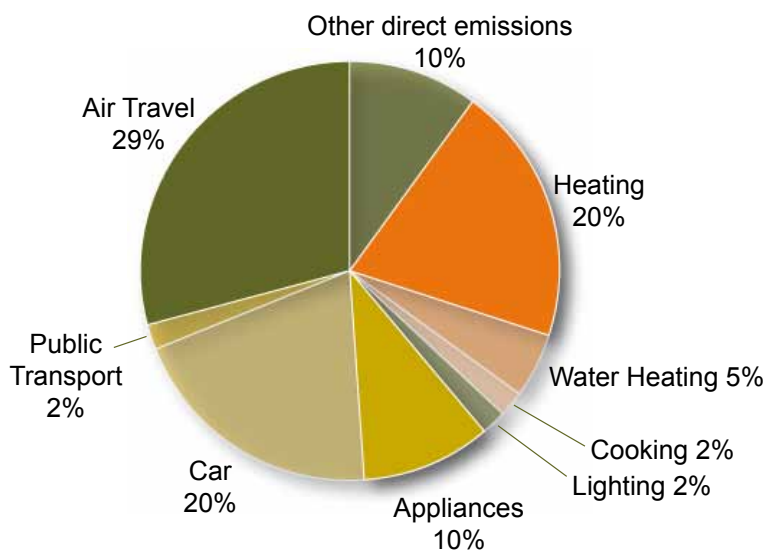
Horsham District Council's Carbon Emissions

More comprehensive data is currently being compiled on the carbon dioxide emissions from the Council's buildings, vehicles etc. for a national performance indicator that will be submitted to Government. This will be available later this year and will record emissions from Council buildings, business travel and outsourced services for 2008/2009 (financial year).

"Average household emissions"

In order to take action on climate change it is useful to understand which actions produce the most carbon dioxide. The figure below shows this for an average household.

This shows that transport makes a big contribution. Another big contribution comes from heating our homes, which is why insulating our homes and using efficient heating systems is so important. If we all take actions in these areas we can make a difference.



Directly produced carbon dioxide emissions for an average household in the UK (taken from *How to Live a Low Carbon Lifestyle* by Chris Godall)

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Acting Together on Climate Change

Did you know?

The heatwave of 2003 is predicted to become the norm by the summers of the 2050s and to be considered relatively cool by the 2080s.

Impact of climate change on the District

The South East of England is likely to experience the greatest changes in its climate compared to the rest of the UK. Predictions by the United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) that the South East will experience hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, higher sea levels and an increase in extreme events such as heat-waves, droughts and flooding.

Some actions can be taken now to prepare for future climate conditions. Preparing for more instances of flooding is one example. An increase in high intensity rainfall events is likely. This can give more instances of flash flooding, as well as flooding from streams and rivers. Businesses and households will need to be more prepared for such events.

Another example is where and how new buildings are designed. Buildings need to be located away from areas that will be more prone to flooding. They need to be designed to withstand higher wind speeds and increased risk of subsidence and to provide more comfortable conditions for users as summers become hotter.

Adaptation is the aspect of climate change that is often overlooked. However, changes to the climate in the coming decades will affect everyone.



Iain McGowan

Climate Change Actions

This is the main part of the Strategy that sets out the actions that we can all take, as individuals, community groups or businesses that can help to address climate change.

At Home

Homes, and individual travel, account for 40% of all UK CO₂ emissions. By taking energy efficiency measures, the average household could reduce this by one third, and save £340 per year.

For an average home most carbon dioxide is generated from transport and heating. The following gives an idea of how much carbon is saved by certain actions.

Actions	Savings in carbon dioxide (kg)
Commute three miles a day by car - switch to cycling or public transport	500
Cavity wall insulation	800
Install a condensing boiler	875
Turning the thermometer down 1oC	330
Solar thermal panels for hot water	325

Source: the Energy Savings Trust

The amount of carbon you personally produce in a year can be determined using a **carbon calculator**. This will give you a measure of all of the carbon dioxide emissions that were generated by your activities over a specific time frame (usually a year). This is known as your **carbon footprint**.

There are several websites where you can calculate your carbon footprint and get a personalised action plan. This sometimes requires information on household energy bills and how much travelling you do. Others require less detailed information. The suggested actions will save carbon and can save you money.

Websites

- www.actonCO₂.direct.gov.uk - personal carbon footprint and ideas for action
- www.independent.footprint.wwf.org.uk - a simpler carbon calculator
- www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Greenerlivingaquickguide - general ideas on more sustainable living

A Strategy for the Horsham District

Did you know?
Each household in the UK generates around 6 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year - enough to fill 6 hot air balloons 10 meters in diameter



Acting Together on Climate Change

Energy Efficiency

About 27% of the UK's carbon emissions come from the energy used to heat, light and power our homes. We can do much in our homes to **use energy more efficiently** which will reduce carbon emissions and save money on fuel bills. Being more energy efficient at home is one of the most cost effective ways of reducing carbon emissions.

The main **tips to reduce energy** are:

- ⊙ don't leave appliances on stand by, turn them off (including lights)
- ⊙ insulate your house (cavity wall and loft insulation, and draught proof around doors)
- ⊙ insulate the hot water tank and pipes
- ⊙ turn the thermostat down by 1 degree centigrade (this could cut your heating bill by 10%)
- ⊙ buy energy efficient appliances
- ⊙ replace boilers with energy efficient models
- ⊙ install appropriate heating controls.

Many of these measures are simple but can save a lot of energy (and money). For example, 30% of heat can be lost through the walls of your house and 15% through the roof. Cavity wall and loft insulation dramatically reduces these losses. Cavity wall insulation can save you up to £160 a year and 800kg of carbon.

There are **grants and discounted schemes** available towards the cost of home insulation and heating systems. The Warm Front Grant gives money towards the cost of new heating systems and insulation to those on various forms of benefit. Those over 70 years old can usually obtain free cavity wall and loft insulation.

Websites

- www.energysavingtrust.org.uk. or 0800 512 012 - how to save energy/ obtain a free home energy check/financial assistance with insulation and heating.
- www.warmfront.co.uk or phone 0800 612 8735 for heating and insulation grants.
- Energy company websites - information on their discounted and free insulation schemes.



Renewable Energy

There are **various types of technology** which can provide hot water for washing and bathing, heating and electricity. The costs of these vary significantly; though there are grants available. It is best to get advice on what would be appropriate for your home as this will depend on many different things; from the age and size of your house, its location, to the type of existing heating and how many people live there. The Council can provide some information and there are numerous organisations that can give more technical advice.

Solar thermal hot water systems are one of the cheaper forms of renewable energy to install. These use the heat of the sun to provide hot water. It is a proven form of technology and can work alongside your conventional water heater. They can provide you with a third of your hot water needs. Carbon savings will depend on the fuel you use but can be around 325kg of carbon dioxide per annum.

There are **grants** available towards the cost of many types of renewable energy, such as Low Carbon Buildings Programme. The Council supports some local initiatives for example, the Sussex Solar scheme for installing solar heating panels.

Another way of reducing the carbon emissions from your energy use is to **switch** to a utility company that produces energy from renewable sources.

Websites

- www.energysavingtrust.org.uk - advice on renewable energy technology and grants
- www.nef.org.uk - National Energy Foundation provides information, advice and technical support on renewable forms of energy
- www.lowcarbonbuildingsprogramme.org.uk - national grant scheme
- www.greenelectricity.org or www.simplyswitch.com - to switch to suppliers that provide energy from renewables

A Strategy for the Horsham District

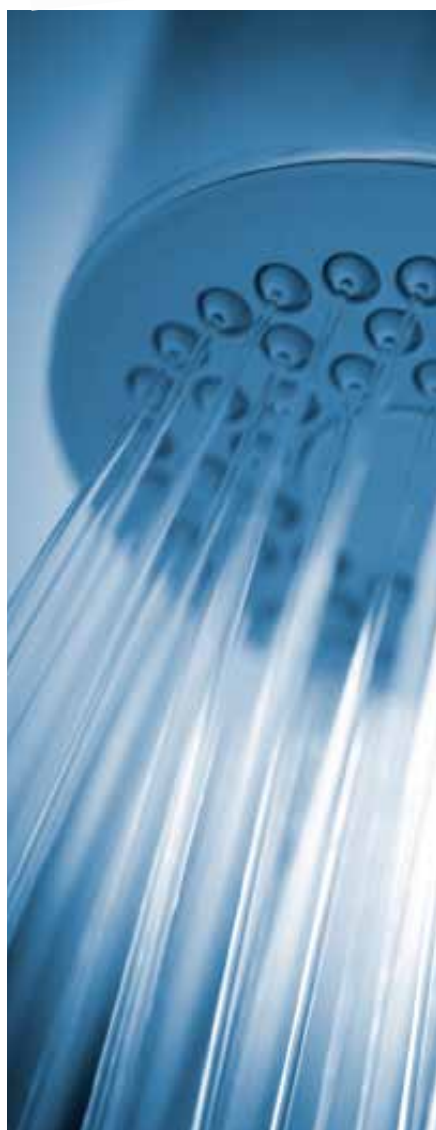


Did you know?
West Sussex is the second most wooded county in England, giving great potential to use wood to generate heat



Acting Together on Climate Change

Did you know?
A third of your
daily water
usage goes
down the toilet



Water

The amount of water that each of us uses has increased significantly over the last 25 years. Even though it often seems to rain in England, south east England actually has less water per head than parts of Italy and Spain

Climate change could make water a more **precious resource**. In the south east there are likely to be drier summers. Saving water will become even more important. When water becomes scarce it can also damage the natural environment. For example, low river flows make it more difficult for fish to breath and breeding sites for wildlife can be lost.

Although summers may become drier, heavy rainfall and wetter winter could mean that there is a greater chance of **flooding**; and not just from rivers or streams. There are steps that we can all take to be prepared for flooding. The Environment Agency website contains some very useful advice on this.

There is a direct link between the water that we use and carbon emissions. The energy used to pump, treat and heat the water in the average family's home produces the carbon equivalent of a return flight from London to New York ; so reducing water consumption will directly reduce energy consumption.

Some tips for saving water:

- ◆ put a "displacement device", such as a hippo bag in the toilet cistern (but not in a low flush toilet)
- ◆ take a shower rather than a bath (though be careful how long you shower if you have a power shower as these use a lot of water)
- ◆ do not leave taps running when brushing your teeth or cleaning vegetables
- ◆ try to use a full load in washing machines or dishwashers
- ◆ in the garden install a water butt and use a mulch of bark or leaves to reduce water loss

Websites

- www.environment-agency.org.uk - extensive tips for saving water/guides on preparing for flooding, and what to do during and after a flood
- www.waterwise.org.uk - advice on products that use less water/water saving tips



A Strategy for the Horsham District

Waste Minimisation

The amount of waste that we produce as a society continues to increase. In 2007, West Sussex households produced approximately 450,000 tonnes of rubbish. This is enough to fill The Royal Albert Hall approximately six times.

Some of the waste that goes to landfill will decompose over time and this process produces methane. This is a strong greenhouse gas, so reducing waste to landfill plays an important role in tackling climate change.

Reducing waste through reusing products also reduces the demand for goods and raw materials, as well as the energy that is used to produce and transport goods. Recycling waste reduces the demand for energy.

The best way to reduce waste is to **not produce it in the first place**;

- ⊙ cut down on unwanted mail by contacting the Mail Preference Service
- ⊙ donate unwanted furniture to Furni-Aid; a local charity which provides second hand furniture and household goods to people in the Horsham area on low incomes
- ⊙ repair broken goods rather than buying a replacement.

Try to reduce the amount of **food** that you throw away - if we halved the amount of food being wasted this would be the same as taking 1 in 5 cars off of the road. (see the Love Food Hate Waste Campaign). To recycle your unwanted food waste, **compost** it at home. You can purchase subsidised composters and food waste digesters through a local scheme.

In the Horsham District the kerbside **recycling** service for households is due to be extended. This will increase the types of household waste that can be recycled. There is also a network of local community recycling sites.

The **West Sussex Waste Prevention Advisors** have been trained on all aspects of waste prevention and are based in local communities. They can make home visits, come to community events and make presentations.

A booklet called “**For Better Tomorrows**” is packed with information on all aspects of waste prevention and waste minimisation.

Did you know?
Recycling one plastic bottle saves enough energy to run a 60 watt light bulb for six hours

Did you know?
Each day in the UK we waste one million slices of ham and 2.8 million tomatoes



Acting Together on Climate Change

*In West Sussex we
are throwing away a
staggering 77,000
disposable nappies
every day*

Websites

- www.wrap.org - general advice on reducing waste and recycling
- www.recyclenow.com - what can be recycled/home composting/ explains the recycling symbols
- www.mpsonline.org.uk - Mail Preference Service
- www.furni-aid.org.uk - donate unwanted furniture or household goods
- www.lovefoodhatewaste.com - how to reduce household food waste
- www.westsussexcounty.gov.uk - the "For Better Tomorrow's" booklet/home composting bin promotion (0845 077 0757)
- www.horsham.gov.uk - kerbside collection service/community recycling sites local waste minimisation services
- www.westsussexwpa.org.uk - Waste Prevention Advisers
- www.bettertomorrows.org.uk - a local waste prevention company

On the Move

Most vehicles are powered by fossil fuels which emit gases that contribute to climate change. Nationally transport accounts for 28% of carbon dioxide emissions. In Horsham District this figure is slightly higher at 32%. If you own a car about 20% of your carbon dioxide emissions could come from driving.

In addition, emissions from vehicles add to local air pollution which can contribute to health problems. In West Sussex 77% of air pollution is produced by motor vehicles.

If you own a car try to reduce the amount that you use it. Try to **walk, cycle or use public transport** when you can. Just switching from your car for your commute twice a month would make a significant difference. Walking and cycling will save you money and help you get fitter. Local bus services have improved a lot in recent years; make sure you are not missing out on a new or improved service where you live. See the County Council Map and Guide for Public Transport for more information.

Even when using the car it is possible to reduce fuel use and emissions by **changing your driving style**. For example;

- ⊙ change gear at lower revs,
- ⊙ avoid sharp breaking and acceleration
- ⊙ have your car serviced regularly
- ⊙ make sure your tyres are correctly inflated.

When **buying a new car** this is a great opportunity to reduce your carbon emissions. Think about;



- ⊙ the size of car that you want,
- ⊙ the fuel you will use (some fuels such as diesel emit less carbon),
- ⊙ the cars fuel efficiency.

Cars are now rated according to their carbon emissions making it easier to be informed. This also directly related to the car tax that you will pay.

Flying significantly increases your carbon footprint. Take fewer flights if possible. If you must fly you could offset your emissions. Many airlines offer this option or you can contact an offsetting company direct.

Websites

- www.traveline.org.uk or 0871 200 22 33 - local and national public transport information
- www.energysavingtrust.org - driving to save fuel and reduce emissions, buying a new car etc.
- www.actonCO2.direct.org.uk - ranks cars according to their carbon emissions and fuel efficiency
- www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk - carbon emissions and fuel efficiency of new cars and second hand cars back to year 2000
- www.carbonneutral.com and www.climatecare.org - calculate the carbon emissions from your travel and offset them by buying into community projects that reduce carbon emissions
- www.westsussex.gov.uk - Map and Guide for Public Transport in West Sussex/ TravelWise



A Strategy for the Horsham District



Acting Together on Climate Change

Did you know?

The production, distribution and consumption of food in the UK are responsible for around 22% of total greenhouse gas emissions



Shopping

The products we purchase can have a significant influence. One example is the growth in demand for organic produce. Between 2005 and 2006 the market grew by 53%; double that of the main supermarkets. We all, therefore, have considerable power from what we chose to spend our money on. The way that we shop is related to climate change, as the production and transportation of goods generates carbon dioxide emissions.

Purchasing local produce reduces emissions as well as helping the local economy. Every year the Horsham Food and Drink Festival celebrates local produce. The District Council website has information on this and details of the local produce and farmers' markets.

The more that we consume the more carbon dioxide is generated. It is therefore, important to **buy goods that are more durable**. This can be cheaper in the long run; energy saving light bulbs are a good example.

Try to buy products containing **recycled material**. This will help to sustain the market for recycled material and less carbon dioxide is usually emitted during their production.

The amount of **waste** that is produced can also be reduced by the choices we make when we go shopping;

- ⊙ Purchase unpackaged goods - loose fruit and vegetables
- ⊙ If possible buy non-perishable goods in bulk
- ⊙ Purchase concentrated products or refills
- ⊙ Buy rechargeable items e.g. batteries
- ⊙ Avoid buying disposable products such as single use cameras and nappies.

In West Sussex we are throwing away a staggering 77,000 disposable nappies everyday. The Real Nappy Initiative gives advice on using 'real nappies'.

Take a **reusable bag** when you go shopping. There are a number of campaigns in the Horsham District that are working to promote reusable bags and reduce the 13 billion plastic carrier bags given to UK shoppers every year.

Environmental labels on goods and products can be helpful. For example, you can check if they can be recycled. Labels with a ranking system to illustrate the energy efficiency of white goods have been used for some time. A similar system is now being used for cars and for houses and buildings which the public can access.

A few products now have “**carbon reduction labels**” which shows you the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted as part of a product’s manufacture, distribution, use and disposal.

Websites

- www.horsham.gov.uk - local producers and farmers’ markets/Food and Drink Festival
- www.westsussex.gov.uk - Real Nappy Initiative for a starter pack and where to buy real nappies
- www.defra.gov.uk/environment/consumerprod/glc/greenuk.htm - explains “green” labels for various products/free shoppers guide on green logos
- www.carbon-label.com - the new carbon labels

Working Together



Join a voluntary or community group

Sometimes more can be achieved by taking action together. Why not **join** a local environmental or community group or start your own group? There are many groups in Horsham District taking actions that are tackling climate change.

The library and the District Council website are useful sources of information on community groups.

A good example of a local initiative is the reusable bag campaign in Henfield. Run by Henfield Community Partnership it encourages the use of reusable shopping bags. Since its launch at least 350,000 bags have been saved.

Another successful group is Horsham in Bloom which works to improve the environment of Horsham town, through floral displays, landscaping and tackling litter and graffiti. It works with other conservation groups in the town to raise awareness about environmental issues, such as using water wisely.

The District Council is working with the **Greening Campaign** to establish new groups in the area. These groups will encourage their local communities to work together to reduce their carbon emissions and environmental impact.



Acting Together on Climate Change

Through the Greening
Campaign residents in
Oving, West Sussex
saved 37 tonnes of CO₂



Actions for existing groups

If you are already a member of a voluntary or community group there are **actions** that your group can take. These range from carrying out a water audit of your community building to using recycled paper for any publications/posters. (For ideas see The Every Action Count website).

If your group is interested in reducing energy or want to explore whether **renewable energy** could be used in your community, Community Action for Energy can provide support, training and advice over sources of funding. Some Parish Council's in the District have had energy checks of their village halls and implemented energy efficiency measures. The checks were carried out by Action in Rural Sussex.

If there are environmental issues that concern your group you could work together to improve them or **start a campaign** to encourage more in the community to take action.

Some actions require **funding**. The DEFRA website has information on grants for community groups and a "Sources of Grant" leaflet. The Greener Living Fund is the main grant for community environmental projects. The LEADER project seeks to promote wealth in rural areas. Funding is available to improve energy efficiency and to install renewable energy in community buildings.

Action plans

Parish Council's and the District Council they run the **Village Action Plan** process. This is a way for communities to establish the key priorities for their villages and actions for the future, including environmental priorities. Several of these are currently being produced. If one is being produced for your area why not get involved.

Websites

- www.horsham.gov.uk - contact details for community groups/running a re-useable bag campaign
- www.horshaminbloom.org
- www.greeningcampaign.org.uk
- www.everyactioncounts.org.uk - actions that community groups can take on climate change
- www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe - Community Action Energy
- www.defra.gov.uk/eniroment/eaf/index.htm - "Sources of Grant" leaflet
- www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/how-do-we-work/third-sector/strategy/greener-living-fund.htm - Green Living Fund
- www.westsussex.gov.uk - LEADER programme and funding
- www.ruralsussex.org.uk - Action in Rural Sussex

Businesses

A third of the carbon emissions in the District come from businesses. Businesses therefore, have a significant role to play in tackling climate change and are fundamental in promoting the shift to a low-carbon economy.

Some businesses are embracing climate change as an opportunity for increasing resource efficiency, strengthening their current position and developing new business directions.

Larger organisations are likely to be affected by legislation encouraging them to reduce their carbon emissions. Inevitably this will impact on small and medium sized businesses in their supply chains. It is, therefore, worth being prepared for these changes.

Even in difficult economic times it can still make business sense to act on reducing carbon emissions. In many cases taking action will save your business money and it can give you a competitive advantage.

Useful organisations

There is much support and advice available now, but it is often difficult to know where to start. The following organisations can help.

The Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust is the lead organisation providing advice and support to businesses to identify practical ways to reduce your carbon footprint, tackle climate change and cut costs. It can offer free surveys, tools, a range of publications and some financial assistance.

www.carbontrust.co.uk

Envirowise

Envirowise offers free, independent support for businesses and gives advice on becoming more resource efficient and cutting waste at source.

www.envirowise.gov.uk

The Environment Agency

The Environment Agency implements and enforces environmental legislation, but also provides advice and information for businesses on a range of environmental issues.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

A Strategy for the Horsham District



Acting Together on Climate Change



Business Link

Business Link is the first point of call for businesses needing information and support on how to deal with the challenges and opportunities of running a business. Sustainable Business Advisors can help you diagnose the best course of action to tackle climate change and signpost other useful organisations.

www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast

West Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership (WSSBP)

The WSSBP offers free support to businesses within West Sussex in adopting sustainable business practices. Support is provided through newsletters, seminars, training events (many of these are free) and Environmental Reviews. It also runs a helpline 01243 756 869.

www.westsussexsbp.org.uk

Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)

A government funded service that offers hands-on practical support for manufacturers to achieve real bottom line benefits. It provides a free helpline, manufacturing reviews, supply chain maximisation and advice on lean manufacturing techniques.

www.mas-se.org.uk

General advice

It can be worthwhile using an **Environmental Management System (EMS)**

- ⊙ gives a structured approach to improving the environmental performance of your business,
- ⊙ assists with ensuring that your organisation is compliant with relevant environmental legislation,
- ⊙ these consider more than just reducing greenhouse gas emissions; though many of the measures that would be identified through using an EMS would help with this process,

There are several EMS systems; such as the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme and ISO 14001. The Acorn scheme is better suited to smaller businesses as it allows phased implementation.

Another option is having a **basic environmental survey** of your business;

- ⊙ several organisations offer this service; often for free,
- ⊙ the survey identifies low cost measures and the payback period,
- ⊙ Business Link website has a basic checklist which is used to generate your own sustainability report with ideas on actions you could take.

Did you know?

The Carbon Trust suggests that many companies have made savings of 20% through no cost, low actions identified through its free carbon survey service

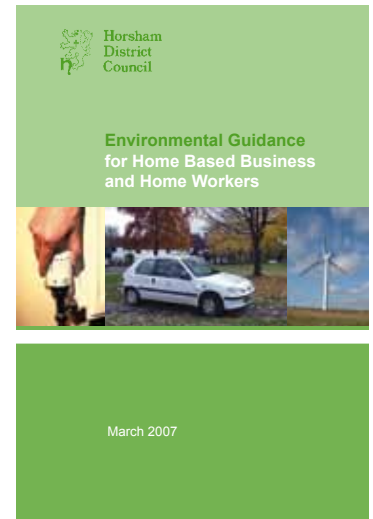
Another place to start is to establish the **carbon footprint** of your business;

- ⦿ understanding where your company's emissions are generated can allow you to focus on the areas where there are the greatest opportunities for savings
- ⦿ the information can be reported to shareholders or customers to show that your organisation is addressing this issue.
- ⦿ The Carbon Trust provides extensive information on this process and provides a basic tool for calculating your organisations carbon footprint.

Home based businesses form an important part of the Districts economy. If you have a home based business we have produced a guide on how you can reduce your environmental impact and reduce your carbon emissions.

The Council also runs a free Microbiz events to provide information for small businesses in Horsham District; including environmental advice.

A Strategy for the Horsham District



Websites

- www.defra.org.uk - an overview of Environmental Management Systems
- www.carbontrust.org.uk - free carbon survey to organisations with annual energy bills of more than £50,000/carbon foot printing tool / publication on how to calculate the carbon footprint of your business
- www.wssbp.org.uk - free Environmental Review service - match funding grants
- www.businesslink.org.uk/southeast/how sustainable - generate your own sustainable report
- www.horsham.gov.uk - Environmental Guidance for Home Based Businesses/Microbiz event

Energy

Taking the time to **monitor and manage** your energy can save your business money. As the emissions produced by the production and use of energy contribute towards climate change; reducing energy use also has environmental benefits. Some simple actions can reduce your organisations energy bills. For example, working with your employees to ensure that equipment is switched off when not in use can make savings. A single computer and monitor left on 24 hours a day will cost over £50 a year.

The best place to start is by understanding where your organisation uses energy through **monitoring your energy bills**



Acting Together on Climate Change



**SMEs, on average,
make 5% carbon
savings using
advanced metering**

To gauge whether your energy use is high or low it can be useful to compare the level of use with similar organisations (**benchmarking**). If this suggests that your business is a high energy user then there will be opportunities to save energy and probably money.

Another way forward is to carry out an **energy survey**. Advice is available to do this yourself or there are organisations that provide this service. These surveys will give information on energy use and recommend costed actions to reduce consumption.

Financial assistance is available to install equipment or upgrade equipment to reduce energy consumption. For example, Energy-Efficiency Loans for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME's) are available from the Carbon Trust.

Advanced metering can also help with monitoring and managing energy consumption. There are various systems available and they provide more detailed information on energy consumption. A study by the Carbon Trust has found that even in SME's energy and cost savings can be made through advanced metering.

Another way of reducing carbon emissions and operating costs is to **install renewable energy**. Advice on the different forms of technology is available from the Carbon Trust and Energy Savings Trust. Nationally financial support is available to businesses to assist with the costs of installation. Locally LEADER provides funding to support the production and development of crop/woodlands for renewable energy.

'Green electricity' is electricity produced from sources such as sun, wind or hydro power which do not produce carbon dioxide. To reduce your emissions, you could change to a **'green tariff'**. Both "green tariffs" and energy from renewables are exempt from the Climate Change Levy. This Levy is included in business energy bills, so these changes can reduce energy costs.

Websites

- www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast - general advice
- www.carbontrust.org.uk - useful publications/energy surveys for companies with energy bills of over £50,000/ information on Energy Efficiency Loans, the Enhanced Capital Allowance for energy technology and Renewable Energy Interest Free Loans
- www.westsussexsbp.org.uk - advice/limited number of energy audits available (for businesses with energy bills of less than £50,000 per annum)
- www.westsussex.gov.uk - LEADER project and funding
- www.greenelectricity.org - electricity supply from a green tariff

Water

All businesses can benefit from using water efficiently. Water may be costing your business more than you think; as you are paying for it to be supplied and for the waste water to be removed.

Cost savings from water efficiency can be significant. In manufacturing industries, water bills can cost over 1% of turnover and in other sectors, businesses could halve their water bill by implementing simple and economical water minimisation measures. Using less water may mean you can rely fully on the mains supply and not have to pay for a water abstraction licence.

As with energy the first step in reducing water use is to **understand how much water your business is using**. The Envirowise website contains a tool to monitor and analyse your water use. You can compare your businesses water use with other similar organisations to get an idea of whether your use is high. This can be done by “**benchmarking**”. Envirowise has developed a “Water Account Tool” to give this information.

Financial support is available for businesses wishing to invest in water-efficient technologies, for example, the Enhanced Capital Allowances scheme. This is a tax break supporting businesses investing in sustainable water technology.

For some organisations **rainwater harvesting** can reduce water supply from the mains. This will only be viable where rainwater can be collected in sufficient volumes to be re-used (for example, if your buildings have a large roof area). It is most cost effective where an organization uses low quality water supply, for example, for washing vehicles.

Websites

- www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast - general advice
- www.envirowise.org.uk - useful information/water analyzing tool/benchmarking tool/advice on rainwater harvesting
- www.eca-water.gov.uk - Enhanced Capital Allowances for the Water Technology List
- www.southernwater.org.uk - guide for businesses to save water/advice on audits



A Strategy for the Horsham District

A dripping tap can cost your business £400 per year.



Acting Together on Climate Change

*A well designed
travel plan can cut
commuter miles
by 15%*



Transport

Transport is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions, with commuter and business travel making up nearly 40 per cent of miles driven by car.

Travel consumes resources, even though much of the cost is not immediately evident. Hidden costs to your business include staff time spent travelling and providing parking spaces.

To manage the travel generated by your business you could create a **staff travel plan**. These can reduce your environmental impact, provide financial benefits and improve productivity, saving your business and staff, money and time. These aim to reduce the need for travel and support more sustainable modes such as walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing.

You can encourage car sharing by promoting the **West Sussex Car Share** resource. This forms part of the national liftshare network, connecting schemes and individuals from around the UK under one united scheme.

To promote cycling you could set up a **Cycle to Work scheme**. This is a tax exemption scheme under which employees can typically save up to 50% off the retail price of a new bike.

One way of reducing costs is to try and **reduce the need to travel** in the first place. As part of your business travel plan it can be worth considering if any staff can work remotely or if there are opportunities for video conferencing.

To find out what other businesses are doing and to share best practice you could join **ACT TravelWise**. This is a network for all businesses and organisations working to promote sustainable travel. It provides learning opportunities, partnership working, marketing support and networking events.

Depending on the size of your organisation, your **fleet** can also add considerably to the cost of your business. A clean, environmentally friendly fleet can reduce transport costs and vehicle emissions and enhance your corporate social reputation.

The Energy Saving Trust runs a **transport advice programme** for businesses. This aims to reduce the costs and improve the environmental performance of car and van fleets. Depending on the size of your fleet you can either get free advice over the telephone and a monthly fleet update or a Green Fleet Review.

There will be travel requirements for businesses that cannot be reduced. Some businesses chose to “**offset**” carbon emissions that

are otherwise difficult to reduce. There are several organisations that sell carbon offsets.

Websites

- www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/travelplans/ - guidance on how to produce Travel Plans
- www.westsussexcarshare.com - links to a national car sharing network
- www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/cycling/ - Cycle to Work Scheme
- www.acttravelwise.org.uk
- www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Transport-in-business - free fleet advice (0845 602 1425)
- www.carbonneutral.com and www.climatecare.org - carbon offset companies

A Strategy for the Horsham District

It is estimated that waste can typically cost up to 4% of business turnover

Waste minimisation

Using your resources efficiently and reducing waste is becoming increasingly important. With the cost of waste disposal increasing, you can reduce businesses costs by considering how to reduce, reuse and recycle the waste you produce.

Being **resource efficient** is not just an environmental issue; it is also a business process that can save your company money. By finding ways to reduce waste, your company could become more profitable.

Having an **environmental review or survey** can be a useful starting point when trying to identify waste reduction in your business (details at the start of this section).

Your organisations waste may be useful for another business. The following organisations provide information on “**waste exchanges**” between businesses:

- ⦿ For local organisations contact the WSSBP
- ⦿ For larger amounts, contact the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme.

Horsham District Council are trialling a **Business Waste Recycling Scheme** in the District offering mixed paper, card and corrugated cardboard collections. The WSSBP also has lists of local recycling companies that recycle a range of materials.

If your business produces **biodegradable waste** you can send these for composting or set up a composting facility yourself.



**ELIMINATE
REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE
DISPOSE**

Acting Together on Climate Change

Did you know?
67% of people said
information on products'
carbon footprint would
influence what
they buy.

Both Envirowise and WRAP provide a wealth of information on reducing waste, recycling and resource efficiency guidance for businesses on recycling and reducing waste.

Websites

- www.wsbp.org.uk - waste exchanges/recycling
- www.nisp.org.uk - National Industrial Symbiosis Programme
- www.businesslink.gov.uk - composting biodegradable waste
- www.envirowise.org.uk or 0800 585794
- www.wrap.org.uk - Waste and Resources Action Programme



Purchasing

The supply-chain decisions you make can have significant effects on the environment, but there are some straightforward steps you can take to ensure that any adverse impact is minimised.

Driving environmental and carbon efficiency through the **supply chain** may appear difficult and time consuming, but it is a process with increasingly clear business benefits. You save money by identifying wasted resources, and with customers increasingly using environmental issues in their purchasing decisions, you could enhance your reputation.

Rather than just looking at the upfront costs of the items your business buys think about the lifetime costs of a purchase. This can lead to better value in the long run. It can also lead to environmental benefits, as products with low whole-life costs tend to be those that are energy-efficient and materials-efficient.

Life-cycle assessment allows you to consider a wider range of environmental impacts such as use of energy and resources, output of waste and pollution and disposal at end of life.

There is also a methodology for **assessing the greenhouse gas emissions** from products across their life cycle (available from the Carbon Trust).

Consider **sourcing products and services locally** to reduce transport costs and support sustainable local businesses.

The **Horsham Business Incentive Scheme** HBiS is an innovative incentive scheme set up and run by local service providers. It is designed to encourage employers and employees to 'Keep it Local', offers them preferential terms on services from HBiS partner providers, that are available using a personal 'HBiS card' given to employees by employers who join the scheme.



The **Horsham Business Directory** is useful to identify local businesses and potential suppliers. The Council also runs an annual month long **Food and Drink Festival** which is a celebration of locally produced food and drink.

Websites

- www.businesslink.org.uk - 'How to make your supply chain greener' guide
- www.netregs.gov.uk and www.envirowise.org.uk - information on life cycle assessment
- www.carbontrust.org.uk - how to assess the carbon footprint of goods and services (document number PAS 2050)
- www.horshambis.co.uk - Horsham Business Incentive Scheme
- www.horsham.gov.uk - Horsham Business Directory/Food and Drink Festival

Adaptation

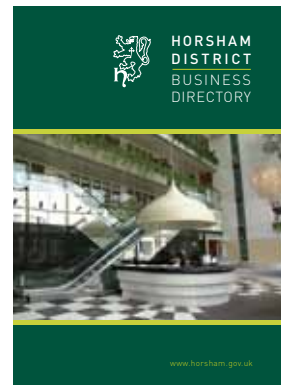
It is worth **preparing your business** for the likely future climate conditions. There will be benefits as well as challenges from the new climate. Your business may be able to develop new markets from changing consumer demand. There could be the potential of disruption to supply chains and threats to infrastructure from flooding or storm damage which could damage your business.

It is predicted that our winters will get milder and wetter and our summers drier and hotter. There will be increases in the frequency of extremes of weather that could cause flooding, drought and heat waves. The first step for any business is to assess where your current business is vulnerable.

Risk assessment methodologies can help to identify the risks that climate change could present to your business and quantify them. By identifying any high risks to your business you can make preparations to minimise these and limit the consequences.

Another tool is **business continuity planning**. This is a process that can help to manage the risks that can threaten the survival of your business. The Sussex Local Authority Emergency Planning Group suggests that 50% of businesses that have such a plan in place survive a major disaster. The Council's website contains information on this and has a template to help you draw up a plan. The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) produces information on future climate conditions and advice to different sectors on how to adapt. It has produced a **Business Areas Climate Impacts Assessment Tool** (BACLIAT) to assist businesses. This is aimed at SME's and is a simple checklist for assessing the impacts of climate change, under a number of headings.

A Strategy for the Horsham District



Acting Together on Climate Change

Did you know?
One in four
businesses suffered
disruption due to
weather in 2006

A more extensive approach would be to draw up an adaptation strategy. UKCIP has developed the '**Adaptation Wizard**'. This is a tool to help you to identify options to address your key climate risks, and help you to develop a climate change adaptation strategy.

Websites

- www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/adapt/index.htm
 - www.ukcip.org.uk - UK Climate Impacts Programme and the Business Areas Climate Impacts Assessment Tool/Adaptation Ward
 - www.horsham.gov.uk - business continuity planning
 - www.climatesoutheast.or.uk - future changes to the climate in the south east
-



Horsham District Council

A Strategy for the Horsham District

The Council signed the **Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change** in 2007. This pledges that we will take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our own buildings, transport and operations and also work with the community to do likewise. The importance of taking action on climate change is also acknowledged in the Councils Corporate Plan 2008-2011.

For several years we used the framework of an **environmental management system** to continuously improve our environmental performance. We have now moved on from this approach. We are focusing on seven key areas and are integrating our environmental management within our corporate performance management framework and relevant strategies and plans. Much of this work directly relates to reducing carbon emissions. Indeed, several key strategies already contain commitments that contribute to tackling climate change.

Producing a climate change strategy provides an opportunity to pull together existing work within the Council and build on this. However, we can also have an influence beyond our own buildings and transport. We can provide leadership on this issue and bring organisations together to take action.

In this section there is a brief description of some of the actions that we have already taken in relation to climate change, followed by actions for the next five years. This **will be a starting point for action** and we will need to continually review and update what we are doing.

As a starting point there are some overarching issues associated with carbon emissions that do not fall within the subject headings.

Future Actions

Initiative	Description
1 to 2 years	
Carbon emissions from Council buildings, transport and operations	Finalise a "carbon profile" for carbon dioxide emissions from main Council activities and reaffirm the targets for reducing emissions.
Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme	Investigate the implications of the Council joining this Programme;
2 to 5 years	
Low carbon exchange	Investigate establishing a low carbon exchange for the Sussex area; creating carbon credits to fund local projects that reduce carbon emissions

Buildings

Buildings account for 40% of carbon emissions nationally. Reducing energy consumption in buildings for heating, cooking and using electrical equipment would, therefore, make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions.

Current activities

- ⊙ started an analysis of our own buildings to identify potential energy and carbon savings.
- ⊙ promote **domestic energy efficiency**; and give advice on grants and discounted schemes; achieved a 19% improvement over the last 12 years.
- ⊙ reduce **fuel poverty** (where households spend a significant amount of their income on heating) through training and advice on grants that are available for heating and insulation.
- ⊙ provide grants for minor household repairs (targeted at those on benefits) for replacing inefficient boilers and increasing thermal efficiency of homes.
- ⊙ **planning policies** seek to reduce carbon emissions from new build through appropriate design, location and orientation and through improved energy efficiency and insulation.
- ⊙ **provide advice** on sustainability measures in **new developments**. Produced a guide "Creating High Performance Sustainable Buildings". A qualified assessor for the Code for Sustainable Homes can give advice on the Code; which assess the environmental performance of new homes.
- ⊙ **sustainable design and construction policies** set the standards for new Council development. One policy seeks to achieve "very good" or excellent" for non-residential development under the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM).
- ⊙ **Asset Management Plan** commits to using whole life costing techniques for construction projects; this can reduce carbon as it considers costs over a products whole life and not just the initial cost.
- ⊙ work with Registered Social Landlords; **new build social housing** to achieve Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, up to Level 4 after April 2011 (Housing Strategy 2008-2011).
- ⊙ **housing projects** are already being built to high sustainability standards; six houses at Arun Road, Billingshurst are being constructed to Code Level 5 (incorporating ground source heating and rain water harvesting).



Horsham District

Initiative	Description
1 to 2 years	
Building Energy & Carbon Management Policy & Strategy	Will reduce energy use and carbon emissions within the Councils' buildings; reductions to be benchmarked against a Government target of 12.5% reduction in energy use by 2010/11 and 30% by 2020
Council's major leisure centres	Work with the Council's main contractor to investigate options for reducing energy consumption
IT Server	Servers and applications migrated to virtual environment & power saving
Fuel Poverty Action Plan	Produce an updated Action Plan
Energy efficiency in domestic properties	Investigate models used by other Councils to improve the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock and investigate the potential for cross funding from new development as "planning gain"
Smart Metering	Investigate promoting smart metering in domestic properties
Mobile Home Insulation Trial	Facilitate a trial project to identify the best scheme for insulating mobile homes
Sustainability in new social housing schemes	Monitor Registered Social Landlord delivery of the Decent Homes target
2 to 5 years	
Planning Policy - Review of Core Strategy	Review will involve studying the potential for measures to reduce carbon emissions from both residential and non-residential developments
Sustainable Design & Construction	Review and update the Council's existing policies
Decent Homes & Energy Efficient Homes Project	Work with the Regional Housing Board Project to bring properties up to Decent Homes Standards including energy efficiency
Energy efficiency in social housing	Explore opportunities to work with the Registered Social Landlords to improve energy efficiency standards in this sector

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

There are considerable opportunities across the District for more buildings to be powered and heated by sustainable forms of energy. We can play our part by promoting and using these forms of energy.

Current activities

- ⊙ use sustainable energy in our **own developments**. For example, the energy for the new leisure centre in Billingshurst has a Combined Heat and Power plant which generates less carbon dioxide in providing most of the heat and power for the building.
- ⊙ use sustainable energy where we **work in partnership** on social housing schemes. Schemes in Storrington Abbey Court (8 flats) and Abbey Walk (12 houses) include solar thermal panels (hot water), photovoltaics (which supply electricity) and a small community heating scheme.
- ⊙ **planning policies** encourage renewable and low carbon energy generation in new developments throughout the District. For example, certain residential, industrial and commercial schemes should reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 10% above current building regulations.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Initiative	Description
1 to 2 years	
Building Energy & Carbon Management Policy & Strategy	Will assess the potential for using renewable sources of energy within existing Council buildings
Replacement boiler	Feasibility study for replacement boiler within Park North
Options for sustainable energy in the wider estate	Work with contractors on potential for retrofitting a combined heat and power plant at the Pavillions in the Park
Advice on renewables	Investigate the potential of joining an advice service being developed in West Sussex
Renewable and low carbon energy opportunities study	Complete the joint study with other West Sussex authorities on the opportunities for new or extended renewable and low carbon generation for new and existing development
2 to 5 years	
Support the Sussex and Low Weald LEADER Programme	Seeks to support the diversification of the rural economy; including revitalising woodlands, utilising alternative crops and farm waste for additional income streams; all of which could provide renewable forms of energy
Wood fuel supply chain	Partnership with other Council's in the Gatwick Diamond to study the potential for wood as a fuel source in the area and to develop a high quality reliable wood fuel supply chain
Sustainable design & construction	Review the current policies
Grants for renewable energy	Investigate the methods used by other Council's to provide grant funding for households for renewable energy
Energy Services Company	Investigate the potential of establishing an Energy Services Company locally; possibly in partnership with another Council

Transport

Our own vehicle fleet produces carbon dioxide; a previous study (in 2007) suggested that this was 2700 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum. We need to reduce our own transport emissions and put policies in place that encourage others to use more sustainable modes of transport, use more fuel efficient vehicles and less carbon intensive fuels.

Current Activities

- ⊙ **Staff Travel Plan** seeks to reduce car use and switch to more sustainable forms of transport.
- ⊙ **Alternative fuels and more fuel efficient vehicles**; some of our vehicles use Liquefied Petroleum Gas and biodiesel. We also have an electric powered car.
- ⊙ work with the County Council to **improve cycling facilities** and the quality of **public transport** provision in the District.
- ⊙ ensure compliance of **parking controls** and manage demand for parking.
- ⊙ **planning policies** promote the sustainable location of new development, prioritise provision for non-car modes of transport and ensure that Green Travel Plans are adopted for certain new development schemes.
- ⊙ **promote** more sustainable forms of transport with **our own staff**.



Horsham District Council's Electric Car

FUTURE ACTIONS

Initiative	Description
1 to 2 years	
Analyse staff business mileage	Increase understanding of business miles across the Council to inform opportunities for new working practices
New Refuse Fleet	New fleet and improved collection method will improve fuel efficiency, reduce mileage and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
Hybrid + Drives	Trial electric assist Hybrid + drives on Council's light goods vehicles
Tyres for Council fleet	Investigate make of tyre purchased to reduce fuel consumption
Cycling	Work with the County Council to use the review of cycling in Horsham to improve the cycling environment.
Real Time Information at Bus Stops	Work with the County Council to provide real time information at bus stops in key locations, as well as online and via text messages.
Air Quality Action Plans	Develop air quality action plans; include actions to restrict traffic where pollutants are higher than national limits
2 to 5 years	
Staff Travel Plan	Review existing travel plan
Office accommodation review	As part of this process review current working practices e.g. investigate the potential for flexible and home working options
Electric Powered Vehicles	Ongoing trial of electric vehicles for the Council's fleet
Hydrogen power	Investigate the use of hydrogen power for Council vehicles
Driver Training	Staff training for driving techniques that reduce fuel consumption
Railway station	Work with rail operators and County Council to improve the accessibility of stations by sustainable forms of transport
Air Quality Action Plans	Implement air quality action plans



Waste Prevention

A Strategy for the Horsham District

With landfill sites filling up and the direct link between waste and climate change, it is increasingly important to reduce the amount of waste we produce in all Council activities and through Council policy.

Current activities

- ⊙ run a successful **kerbside household collection service** and a comprehensive network of **community recycling facilities**. Recycling rates have increased from 13% in 2003 to 38% in 2007/08.
- ⊙ introduced recycling in our **leisure venues** with bins for cans and plastic bottles.
- ⊙ **planning policies** ensure that new developments make provision for recycling.
- ⊙ worked with contractors to minimise construction waste by using **Site Waste Management Plans** in our own development.
- ⊙ our **office waste minimisation scheme** has resulted in a 17% reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill from the Council's main offices.
- ⊙ run a scheme that provides second hand furniture/white goods to the voluntary sector.
- ⊙ liaise between the supermarkets and voluntary organisations so that products that would otherwise be thrown away are used.



New side-loading Waste Collection Vehicle

FUTURE ACTIONS

Initiative	Description
1 to 2 years	
New expanded mixed dry recycling scheme	Introduce a new waste collection service for households which will increase items that can be recycled and reduce the need to separate waste
Business Recycling Scheme	Trial a new recycling scheme for businesses in the District
On-street Recycling scheme	Provide recycling bins to collect plastic bottles and cans in Horsham town centre
2 to 5 years	
In house waste minimisation scheme	Ensure improved provision of recycling facilities through the office accommodation review
New County Waste Treatment Plant	Work with the County Council over the potential development of a new waste treatment plant which will reduce waste to landfill and provide a potential source of fuel



Horsham Park Pond

Natural Environment: - Biodiversity and Water

Natural open spaces can help to mitigate climate change and also have a role in adapting to future more extreme weather conditions. The Council manages a significant amount of open space and needs to do so with climate change in mind. It can also influence the provision of new space as well as the management of the natural environment beyond its ownership. The same is also true of water. We are acting to reduce our own consumption as well as encouraging others to reduce theirs.

Current activities

- ⊙ sites are managed to **maximise biodiversity** through the development of site management plans.
- ⊙ most of the **timber** from our sites is reused; smaller pieces are used to create log pile habitats and larger pieces of timber are sent to a power station which uses biomass as a fuel.
- ⊙ **planning policies** require the protection and enhancement of natural areas, biodiversity and open space, as well as the creation of new open areas in new development schemes.
- ⊙ **planning policies** seek to reduce levels of water consumption in new developments.
- ⊙ reduced water consumption in our **main offices**, for example, the installation of waterless urinals.
- ⊙ use innovative planting schemes to **reduce water use in parks and open spaces**.
- ⊙ installed **rainwater storage tanks** to capture rainwater which is used to irrigate planting schemes in Horsham.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Initiative	Description
1 to 2 years	
Building Energy & Carbon Management Policy & Strategy	Will include actions to reduce water consumption in Council buildings
Low water planting schemes	Continue to innovate with the planting schemes used on Council owned land that reduce water use
2 to 5 years	
Rainwater Harvesting	Investigate utilising rainwater captured on existing or new Council developments to provide water for highway sweeping and cleaning fleet vehicles
Site management plans	Continue to use these plans to increase biodiversity and adapt to climate change.
Mowing regimes	Investigate alternative grass cutting regimes for some of the Council's open spaces to reduce the use of vehicles

Procurement

The way that the Council purchases goods and service can have a significant impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It has a multi-million pound budget so the way that this money is spent can have a direct impact on carbon emissions as well as influencing others.

Current activities

- ⊙ **purchase goods** that have **less environmental impact**, for example, we purchase stationery with a high recycled content. We purchase timber for construction projects from accredited sustainably managed sources.
- ⊙ our Sustainable Procurement Strategy (2008-2011) contains numerous initiatives that contribute to reductions in carbon emissions e.g. introducing demand management for all Council expenditure would challenge whether new goods are necessary.
- ⊙ the Strategy also seeks to **reduce the business miles** travelled by the goods, works and services delivered to the Council.
- ⊙ commitment to support **small local businesses** by signing the Small Business Friendly (SME) Concordat. Purchasing local goods and services not only helps the environment but also the locally economy.
- ⊙ provide advice and information to **contractors and suppliers** to encourage them to take action to reduce their carbon emissions.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Initiative	Description
1 to 2 years	
Business case	Business case culture for all formal tender procurements to include sustainability
Carbon footprint	Undertake carbon footprint measurement exercise against one key area of the Council's procurement
Recycled products	Establish standards for minimum recycled content of products and monitor compliance
Vehicle procurement	Produce a new vehicle procurement policy
Building Energy & Carbon Management Policy & Strategy	Include proposals to ensure that all electrical equipment purchased by the Council is energy efficient
2-5 years	
Local economy	Consider using New Economic Foundation method to assess the impact of the Council's procurement activity on the local economy



Adaptation

Even if greenhouse gas emissions are reduced there is likely to be some changes to the climate. These changes could affect many Council services. We need to be prepared and help others to be prepared.

Current activities

- ⊙ joined **Climate South East** which focuses on the implications of the likely new climate conditions.
- ⊙ **emergency planning**; we work with the emergency services to ensure that tested plans are in place to deal with extreme events, such as flooding and storms.
- ⊙ **health impacts** of climate change; we are part of Sussex Air-Alert which gives free air quality alert service for people with respiratory conditions.
- ⊙ provide advice to businesses and residents on the importance of temperature control during heat waves
- ⊙ produced a **Policy Statement on Flood Defences**; sets out our approach to flood defence working alongside the other relevant agencies.
- ⊙ **planning policies** seek to ensure that new developments do not increase the risk of flooding and encourage the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS)
- ⊙ completed a **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment** that sets out the locations that should not be developed to avoid excessive flood risk.
- ⊙ Sussex Building Control can provide advice on **flood and subsidence risks** for development

FUTURE ACTIONS

Initiative	Description
1 to 2 years	
National Indicator on adapting to climate change	Identify the actions required for the Council to progress through the different levels of the adaptation Indicator
Risk management	Investigate using the Council's work on risk management to include adapting Council services and operations to future climatic conditions
Joint working	Investigate areas of joint working on adaptation with other Councils
Sustainable Community Strategy	Work with the Horsham Community Partnership to identify areas for joint working on adapting to future changes to the climate
Private Water Supply Regulations	Implement new regulations to ensure safety of private water supplies which take pressure off of public water supplies
2 to 5 years	
Greening Campaign	Use this project to work with communities on how they can adapt to climate change
Emergency Planning	Ensure future reviews of the Emergency Plan take account of the most up-to-date scenarios for future climate conditions
Review Core Strategy	Review will need to consider measures to prepare new development for future climate conditions which may result in new planning policies
Foundation Design	Provide advice on the changing requirements for foundation design due to changes in soil conditions
Pest Control	Adaptation of services to new types of pest due to changing climate





Partnership Working and Education

Although the Council can achieve a certain amount on climate change working through our own buildings, fleet and operations, the greatest impact will be made by working in partnership with others. We also have an important role to play in raising awareness on climate change through educational work, training and publications.

Current partnerships:

- ⊙ with businesses through the **West Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership** to inform them how they can reduce costs through energy and water efficiency and minimising waste,
- ⊙ with the local **Energy Saving Trust** advice centre and other relevant organisations to promote domestic energy efficiency and to tackle fuel poverty,
- ⊙ with **Horsham in Bloom** and other community groups on environmental projects and increasing environmental awareness,
- ⊙ partnership approach with **other West Sussex local authorities** on a range of waste minimisation initiatives, energy efficiency, transport etc.

The **Horsham District Community Partnership** is a very significant partnership. This is comprised of organisations that affect the well-being of the people of the District. It has produced a new Sustainable Community Strategy which sets out a vision for improving the quality of life for everyone that lives and works in the District up to 2026.

Current activities for awareness raising:

- ⊙ information and advice on **waste, recycling and composting** for residents and community groups,
- ⊙ using **Eco Schools and Junior Citizen** to promote sustainable lifestyles to schools and pupils,
- ⊙ **guidance** for architects, builders and agents to encourage sustainable design and constructions through publications, the website and seminars,
- ⊙ held an **Eco Fair** in Horsham town where organisations gave information on sustainable lifestyles,
- ⊙ **train and inform our own staff** with regular features in the in-house newsletter, seminars and training events.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Acting

together on

Initiative	Description
1 to 2 years	
Sustainable Community Strategy	Work with the Community Partnership to identify projects in the Action Plan which will contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions and adaptation to climate change
Greening Campaign	Work with 5 communities in the District to reduce their carbon emissions, in partnership with West Sussex County Council and the Greening Campaign
West Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership	Work with the Partnership on a series of new seminars for businesses on resource efficiency
Training on fuel poverty	Continue to provide training for relevant organisations, staff and Members
Training on renewable energy and sustainable construction	Provide training for staff and Members
Educational garden	Create a new garden in Horsham Park which to demonstrate the link between humans and plants
2 to 5 years	
Horsham District Community Partnership	Continue to work with the Community Partnership on opportunities to reduce carbon emissions across the District



This publication can be requested in alternative formats.
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