



Report to: Cabinet

Subject: Energy Policy and Action Plan

Date: 3rd February 2011

Author: Head of Planning & Environment

Background

Over the last two years, Gedling Borough Council has been working with the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust to establish its carbon footprint and develop plans to reduce it. This has involved assessing the impact of the Council's own buildings and fleet, and auditing its role as a provider of strategy, services and community leadership. The latest event was an officer and member workshop which reviewed the results of this and prioritised areas for future action. The results of this workshop have now been developed into an Energy Policy and Action Plan.

Energy Policy

Using the Energy Strategy adopted in November 2008, the Energy Policy has been developed to reflect the work already undertaken by the Borough Council and the change in economic circumstances since then. The emphasis is now upon using energy sensibly, focusing on how the Council and others can save money by reducing energy use, reducing their carbon footprint at the same time.

The Policy focuses on six areas;

- 1. To deliver action on climate change:** To become a high performing authority, striving to be low-carbon and preparing to adapt to future climate change.
- 2. Local economy:** Helping Gedling's economy adapt, grow and prosper by reducing emissions through the products and services the Council buys;

3. Buildings and land: Reducing the energy and resources used in managing buildings and land, and ensuring that they are resilient to future climate change

4. Transport: Promoting sustainable travel;

5. People and communities: Giving Council staff and people in Gedling the help they need to reduce their energy use, and become more aware of, and able to adapt to, the impacts of climate change;

6. Waste and environment: Ensuring that the Council's waste and local environment is managed sustainably – by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to future risks of climate change.

Action Plan

The action plan focuses on a number of proposed priorities which reflect the progress already made by the Council in this field and its own priorities;

- Review and monitor the Borough Councils own energy use, looking at opportunities to generate renewable energy
- Ensure the Borough Council procures sustainably
- Review the operation of the Councils vehicle fleet
- Train staff to be energy-wise
- Work closely with partners and the private sector
- Give clear advice to the public
- Promote the role of the Borough Council in reducing energy use

Scrutiny review

The Carbon Footprint Scrutiny Review made a number of recommendations including;

- Revisit the recommendations of the Carbon Trust Audit
- Maximise funding opportunities available through the forthcoming 'Green Bank'
- Develop a Travel Plan focusing on sustainable travel
- Pursue opportunities to generate and sell back energy under the Feed in Tariff initiative
- Align sustainability work with neighbouring Councils as part of the Aligned Core Strategies
- Develop a formal mechanism for member involvement in reviewing and developing the Energy Policy.

A number of these are already included in the Energy Policy, and the opportunity to introduce other suggestions will be reviewed following the public consultation exercise.

Recommendation

That Cabinet note the report and submit the Energy Policy and Action Plan for public consultation.



Draft Energy Policy and Action Plan 2010-2012

The need for action

Experts agree that without urgent action to reduce greenhouse gases by 80% over the next 40 years, climate change, more rapid than anything seen before, will have dramatic economic, social and environmental costs. Rising temperatures, hotter summers, wetter winters and more extreme weather, such as heat waves, storms and floods will affect councils like Gedling District Council, local businesses, the health and wellbeing of all communities and individuals, and the local environment.

The Council and the activities of businesses, households and transport in the district all contribute to the problem. The Council's buildings, staff travel and operations emitted over 5 000 tonnes of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2007/08. Most of these emissions came from the products that it buys. Rising costs of energy mean that the Council, local business and residents of Gedling will face increased bills for electricity, travel, food and other goods and services. Reducing energy costs, emissions of CO₂ and preparing for future changes in the climate will help make the Council, businesses and households stronger for the future.

The Council's commitment

The Council is committed to tackling the causes of climate change, by reducing its emissions of greenhouse gases through energy use, and addressing the impacts and effects of current and future climate change, by preparing to adapt.

The Council's existing actions

The Council has already demonstrated its commitment to tackling climate change by signing the England-wide 'Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change' in 2005. It has also helped through its activities to achieve international, UK and Nottingham-wide targets for reducing CO₂ emissions and adapting to climate change. This Climate Change Strategy, the Council's Corporate Plan, and other Council policies, particularly the Local Development Framework will ensure that action is taken across Council services to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for future rising temperatures and changes in the global and local climate.

The Council is already making progress, for example it:

- Is saving energy and water in its main buildings, and working with Gedling Homes to improve the efficiency of its homes in the District;
- Is reviewing opportunities to generate its own sustainable energy;
- Is working with other organisations in Nottinghamshire to prepare for extreme weather events, such as high winds and storms and subsequent emergencies;
- Promotes sustainable construction and land management throughout the District through its operations, services and planning policy;
- Is reducing the impact of travel by its staff and service vehicles by promoting walking and cycling and using more efficient vehicles e.g. for waste collection;
- Is raising awareness of climate change amongst its staff and other people in Gedling
- Reducing waste in its offices and across the District by encouraging the re-use of waste materials, recycling and composting.

The Council's approach

The Council will concentrate initially on getting its own house in order; by ensuring that its buildings, transport and services are efficient and are able to adapt to changes in the climate. The Council will then concentrate on working with communities and partners in Gedling to encourage better understanding and wider action on climate change.

The Council has six key areas that it has prioritized

1. **To deliver action on climate change:** To become a high performing authority, striving to be low-carbon and preparing to adapt to future climate change.
2. **Local economy:** Helping Gedling's economy adapt, grow and prosper by reducing emissions through the products and services the Council buys;
3. **Buildings and land:** Reducing the energy and resources used in managing buildings and land, and ensuring that they are resilient to future climate change
4. **Transport:** Promoting sustainable travel;
5. **People and communities:** Giving Council staff and people in Gedling the help they need to reduce their energy, and become more aware of, and able to adapt to, the impacts of climate change;
6. **Waste and environmental services:** Ensuring that the Council's waste and local environment is managed sustainably – by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to future risks of climate change;

The Council will monitor and report on its progress on a regular basis.

Action Plan

Purpose

Gedling Borough Council recognises the impact on global climate from carbon dioxide emissions arising from our energy related activities. We recognise the need to urgently reduce our carbon dioxide emissions to sustainable and equitable levels in line with national energy and climate change targets. The Borough Council recognises that it needs to be a low carbon organisation in a lower carbon economy.

This action plan outlines the actions that Gedling Borough Council will take in order to make our contribution to reducing carbon dioxide emissions. We will work, with the Energy Saving Trust and others, to deliver, monitor and update the actions outlined in this action plan, with the aim of reducing energy usage and achieving a sustainable level of carbon dioxide emissions.

To achieve this the Borough Council will develop a strategic approach to the reduction of energy use across all local authority energy related activities. The action plan encompasses both our internal operations and our role as a community leader. We will also aim to improve our current benchmark position in the areas of strategic approach, services, community leadership and own estate and fleet.

Baseline

CO2 emissions for the Borough 2009/10; 4 803 868 tonnes

CO2 resulting from Borough Council activity;

2005	5.0 tonnes per capita
2006	5.1 tonnes per capita
2007	5.0 tonnes per capita
2008	4.9 tonnes per capita

Organisational structure for the plan

Manager; Peter Baguley, Head of Planning and Environment
Portfolio Holder, Safe and Sustainable Neighbourhoods; Councillor Carol Pepper

Communication strategy

To get people involved through regular staff briefings, Contacts articles, Borough Council website and links to other organisations, communicating on a regular basis with all staff, partners and the public.

Recommendation	Action	Who	When	How	Corporate fit	Monitoring
Set aim to reduce resource consumption within own estate and throughout the Borough	Confirm baseline consistently across the Council	HOPE/ Cabinet	Year 1	Draw together existing information		Annual
	Confirm baseline consistently across the borough	LSP	Year 1	Use existing NI 186 data but ensure there are local methods of data collection available.	A place where we care for the environment	Annual
	Set targets for reduction in amount of natural resources being used.	SMT/Cabinet	Year 1		Energy Strategy/Notts Partnership	
	Agree resources to enable targets to be met	SMT/Cabinet	Year 1	Review resources in order to allow this to be addressed full time.		
	Investigate opportunities to reduce energy emissions through reducing the number of premises and vehicles the Council operates	SMT	Ongoing			
	Ensure yearly monitoring and reporting of progress to enable new targets to be set.	SMT/Cabinet	Year 2 and Ongoing	SMT		
	Investigate opportunities to generate renewable energy	HOPE	Year 1	Review of property portfolio		

Adopt a sustainable procurement policy for both contractor work and purchase of goods.	Review existing policies to establish the current emphasis on sustainability	Procurement/SMT	Year 1	Top down review	A place that contributes to a vibrant and prosperous Greater Nottingham	Annual
	Update current procurement policy if necessary	Procurement	Year 1			Annual
	Enforce and monitor the success of the sustainable procurement policy	Procurement	Year 1			Annual
Replace civic vehicles with lower carbon emission models	Conduct a Green Fleet Review of all civic vehicles	SMT/Carbon Trust/Energy Saving Trust	Year 1		A place where we care for the environment	Annual
	Explore available funding for fleet improvements	Facilities/Estate Management/SMT	Year 1			
	Implement recommendations of Green Fleet Review	SMT	Year 2 ongoing	Review the long term replacement of vehicles		
Organise ongoing staff energy training introduction	Identify key staff who would benefit from energy and sustainability training	Heads of Service	Year 1		A place where we care for the environment	Annual
	Procure training	Energy Saving Trust	Ongoing			
	Pick up newly appointed staff/ensure energy awareness training as part of inductions	Service Heads/Human Resources	Ongoing			
	Establish 'train the trainer' events for those people who have already undergone the initial training	Energy Saving Trust	Year 1			
Establish a group of environmental champions across all service areas	Review current department representatives and reporting mechanisms	SMT/ Service Heads	Year 1		A place where we care for the environment	Annual

	Identify a member of staff from each corporate area to be an environmental champion	SMT/Service Heads	Year 1			
	Ensure adequate incentives and training are offered to potential environmental champions	Service Heads/Human Resources	Year 1			
	Ensure there is a representation of members within the environmental champions group.	Members/SMT/Corporate Affairs	Year 1			
Adopt targets and a private sector housing baseline	Establish a baseline of current private sector housing in Gedling with the Energy Saving Trust	HOPE	Year 1 and ongoing	Housing Team/Energy Saving Trust	Private Sector Housing/	Annual
	Based on the knowledge of the private sector housing within Gedling agree realistic targets for improvements taking into consideration financial, thermal comfort and carbon savings.	HOPE	Year 1 and ongoing	Housing Team/Energy Saving Trust	Private Sector Housing	
	Ensure yearly monitoring and reporting of progress to enable new targets to be set.	HOPE	Year 2 and ongoing	Housing Team/Policy Team	Private Sector Housing/ Housing Renewal Strategy	Annual

Engage with private sector landlords to increase the awareness and installation of energy efficient measures.	Identify who these landlords are and how to communicate with them.	HOPE	Year 2	Housing /Communications		
	Tie into any existing housing/landlord forums	HOPE	Year 2	Housing		
	Once a database of applicable landlords has been acquired/developed promote the benefits of sustainability and support on offer	HOPE	Year 2	Housing /Communications		
	Aim to include support for landlords through the administration of housing improvement grants or loans	HOPE	Year 2	Housing Team/Policy Unit		
Ensure planning committee is trained on sustainable energy and low carbon issues	Training sessions and information pack to be arranged to tie in with the release of the 2010 Building Regulations	HOPE	Year 1 with ongoing training as required	Housing /Planning /Planning Policy/Human Resources/Legal /Planning Committee	A place where we care for the environment	Annual
Ensure Gedling Borough Council has clear signposting to energy advice for householders	Develop a communication plan for residents	HOPE	Rolling Plan			Annual

	Develop the different ways in which the Council communicates with people within the Borough.	HOPE/ Communications	Rolling Plan			
Promote personal travel planning	Run a pilot amongst Gedling Borough Council staff	SMT	Year 1		A place where people can lead a healthy and active lifestyle	Annual
	Quantify the success of the personal travel planning pilot	SMT	Year 1			
	Roll out personal travel planning service to residents	SMT	Year 1			
	Ensure adequate promotion through a joined up communications strategy	SMT/Communications	Year 1			
Use the resources and tools available through the Green Communities programme	Identify key staff to sign up to the online Green Communities service and to act as administrators.	IT/SMT	Year 1			
	Promote the service on the staff intranet to encourage maximum participation from Council workers	IT/Communications	Year 1			
	Monitor to assess impact and report on measures installed/behaviour changes	IT/SMT	Year 1			

	Dependent upon the success of the Green Communities programme with staff consider hosting the online service on the Gedling Borough Council website for residents.	IT/SMT/Communications	Year 2			
Work with the Carbon Trust	Promote Gedling Borough Council's experience of working with the Carbon Trust to local businesses	Business/Communications	Year 1			
	Promote service at business breakfasts, traders forums, economic development events	Strategy/James Mann	Ongoing		Link to travel planning	
	Promote feed in tariffs to businesses through communications strategy, renewable events and green business events	Business/SMT/Communications	Year 1			
	Consider the opportunity to approach the new academies in the Borough	Neighbourhoods	Year 2			
Work with partners to assess current importance placed upon sustainability	Influence the weight partners place on sustainability	Members/SMT/Corporate Affairs	Year 1/2		A place where we care for the environment	Annual
	Establish a common ground	Members/HOPE	Year 1			
	Establish the advantages and disadvantages of a shared resource.	SMT	Year 2/3			

Promote Gedling Borough Council activity in its role as a confident community leader as part of an agreed communications strategy	Regular contacts/intranet/internet items	Communications Team	Year 1		A place where people can lead a healthy and active lifestyle	Annual
	Promote innovative projects to internal and external audiences	Communications /SMT	Ongoing			
	Ensure the foyer and the public facing parts of the Council display the work which Gedling Borough Council is both doing and aspiring to do	Communications/ Property	Year 1			
	Use the themes from the Sustainable Community Strategy to engage with the public and gain internal support	SMT			Link to SCS	

Actions check list

Strategic

Strategic approach
Resources for promoting energy efficiency across the area
Political/corporate support
Staff training and engagement
Staff transport and fleet

Services

Regeneration
Social Housing – other stock
Private sector housing – rented and owner occupied
Energy advice
Resources – leveraging in external funding
Signposting residents to external grant schemes
Planning policy
Building regulations enforcement

Community Leadership

Engagement/awareness raising with the wider community
Engagement with regional stakeholders
Transport in the community
Communication