

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 20 APRIL 2011

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & SCOTTISH CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet a progress report as required by the Sustainable Development Strategy: Action Plan Theme 4: Performance Management & Evaluation and to advise Cabinet on the progress being made by the Council in achieving its obligations in terms of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In January 2009, Cabinet formally adopted the Council's first Sustainable Development Strategy. The development of the Strategy was subject to the reporting and public consultation requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 2.2 The Sustainable Development Strategy is the mechanism through which the sustainability agenda and the Council's response to the challenges presented by Climate Change are addressed.
- 2.3 As part of the continuous review of the Council's response to the sustainability agenda, a Sustainability Roadmap has been prepared which aims to clarify the meaning of sustainability in a way which is relevant to the current business of the Council. This document is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.4 As a critical component in the response to achieving sustainability, each of Scotland's 32 local authorities signed up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in April 2007. In signing the Declaration, Scottish local authorities have come together to acknowledge the reality and potential impact of climate change, and to demonstrate local leadership and commitment to take action on the issue.
- 2.5 Signatories to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration are committed to mitigating their impact on climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2.6 The Declaration recognises that Scottish local authorities play a key role in the collective response to the challenge of climate change, and publicly demonstrates a commitment to pro-actively address climate change.

- 2.7 In agreeing a commitment to action, East Ayrshire Council has pledged both to mitigate its impact on climate change and to adapt to predicted climate change impacts. 'Mitigation' means reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide) that cause climate change. 'Adaptation' is taking action to prepare for the impacts that a changing climate will bring, such as the increased risk of severe weather events.
- 2.8 East Ayrshire Council has also agreed to issue a statement, detailing the progress of its climate change response. In June 2009, the Scottish Sustainable Network presented a reporting template to the CoSLA Climate Task Group for approval and endorsement. The CoSLA Climate Task Group has subsequently invited all councils to use this reporting template for future reports and East Ayrshire Council's Year 3 report is set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 East Ayrshire Council has identified three key strategic priorities. These are:
- Improving educational attainment;
 - Regenerating our town centres; and
 - Building new local authority housing.
- 3.2 Each of these priorities contributes to the long-term sustainability of East Ayrshire communities. In targeting **educational attainment**, the Council aims to secure positive outcomes for young people; to help them realise the resources they need to build sustainable futures for themselves. By **regenerating town centres**, it is intended that these places become more attractive for their own communities as well as encouraging inward investment that will help East Ayrshire reduce unemployment and achieve an economic sustainability for the long term. Enhancing the **housing stock** with new build properties marks a commitment to the social sustainability of communities; by providing good quality homes and investing in communities it also aims to increase employment in the local construction industry.
- 3.3 Three core strategic areas of work exist where outputs require to be addressed in order that sustainability across both economic and social performance can be achieved as well as the more obvious environmental benefits:
- Increasing the sustainability of our procurement practices;
 - Increase our energy efficiency, and consequently reduce our carbon emissions;
 - Subject each of our strategic documents to a rigorous process of Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 3.4 The Sustainability Roadmap, attached at Appendix 1 addresses each of these areas for development and provides a way forward which is achievable within the context of the Council's challenging budgetary circumstances.

- 3.5 In terms of the response to climate change, East Ayrshire Council is committed to support the increasing challenge of reducing greenhouse gases. Participation in the Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme enables the Council to quantify its carbon emissions and develop an appropriate response.
- 3.6 The Council's first Carbon Management Programme was completed in March 2010 and was subject to an independent review by the Carbon Trust. This confirmed that the Council achieved greater savings than originally targeted in the Programme.
- 3.7 The original savings targets established a 10% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions over the period between 2005 and 2010; actual savings were calculated to be a decrease of 11.8% in emissions.
- 3.8 Since the end of the last Carbon Management Programme, a period of review has taken place. An Energy Strategy which encompasses the next Carbon Management Programme is currently in preparation by the Council's Asset Management section. This will continue to target carbon emissions arising across the Council's activities including those from property, transport, street lighting and waste management.
- 3.9 The Council has implemented a range of measures to further reduce carbon emissions. For example, In addition to the installation of energy efficiency measures within public buildings and offices, the Council is undertaking a further programme of site specific measures including the replacement of inefficient heating plant; the replacement of oil boilers with gas systems; and, the installation of renewable technologies where possible such as the deployment of air source heat pumps at 2 changing pavilions at Netherthird and Knockentiber.
- 3.10 This work complements the 100% green energy contract for Council buildings negotiated as part of the Procurement Scotland contract which commenced in April 2010.
- 3.11 In addition to technical measures, the need to change behavioural patterns of building users has been recognised. Buildings and property account for the greatest proportion of the Council's carbon dioxide emissions, and a concerted and targeted effort to save carbon in Council premises is necessary. The Council has trained two staff to undertake energy audits of its properties; the audits will scrutinise energy efficiency measures, and specifically address the use of the buildings by the occupants. The provision of advice and support to building users will be a key component of the audits.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council's commitment to address the sustainability agenda including climate change is consistent with the East Ayrshire Community Plan theme of Delivering Community Regeneration.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

8. CONCLUSIONS

8.1 In order to address the priorities of the Council and achieve sustainability across the wide range of services provided, a Sustainability Roadmap has been prepared. This document provides a contemporary definition of sustainability which is relevant to the Council's business and identifies the key actions required to secure sustainability.

8.2 East Ayrshire Council has made a commitment, as signatories to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration, to reduce the carbon emissions arising from areas such as property, transport, street lighting and waste management.

8.3 A wide range of measures have been implemented to assist the Council reduce its carbon emissions. The need to encourage property users to become more energy efficient in their behaviour has also been identified and is being actioned.

8.4 A further commitment has been made to report on the Council's progress in addressing climate change; and, the Council's Year 3 Climate Change Declaration report is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Cabinet is invited to:

- (i) note the progress being made in terms of sustainable development;
- (ii) approve for continued implementation the Sustainability Roadmap as set out in Appendix 1 to this report;
- (iii) approve the terms of the draft year 3 report on the Council's response to Climate Change as set out in Appendix 2; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1 April 2011

EM/CMcA/MT

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
SUSTAINABILITY ROADMAP

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this sustainability roadmap is to:
- i. Define sustainability in a way which is relevant and meaningful to the business that we do as a Council;
 - ii. Identify the priorities we have as a Council and our commitment to achieving these in the most sustainable way possible;
 - iii. Find the core methods we can use to deliver sustainability in all that we do;
 - iv. Outline the measures we can use to report on progress in achieving our sustainability objectives.

2. DEFINING SUSTAINABILITY

- 2.1 Many definitions of sustainability have evolved which address the global implications of local actions. However, it is now essential for the Council to prioritise the local consequences of our own actions. It is no longer sufficient to emphasise the environmental impacts of our actions; it is essential to fully consider the economic and social aspects of all that we do. With this comes a contemporary definition of sustainability which is relevant to how we operate today:

“Sustainability involves maintaining and enhancing our quality of life, for current and future generations by balancing our economic capabilities with environmental regeneration and the well-being of our communities.

For the Council, this means working collaboratively with our Community Planning partners and with our communities to ensure that each of our decisions take full account of their social and environmental consequences. Importantly, the decisions which are made must be deliverable now and in the future as our declining budgets challenge the services we deliver and how we deliver them”.

3. OUR COMMITMENT

- 3.1 Our valued services make up a complex business landscape which we need to de-clutter if we are to continue to provide our communities with the core services they need to thrive now and in the future. Our challenging financial environment demands that the decisions we make need to be more sustainable now than ever before to ensure we are able to demonstrate continuous improvement with diminishing resources.
- 3.2 East Ayrshire Council identified three key strategic priorities which have been considered within the context of our budgetary processes:

- Improving educational attainment;
- Regenerating our town centres; and
- Building new local authority housing.

3.3 These three priorities make a commitment to the long-term sustainability of our communities. In targeting **educational attainment**, the Council want to secure positive outcomes for our young people; to help them realise the resources they need to build sustainable futures for themselves. By **regenerating our town centres**, we want to ensure that they become attractive for our communities as well as encouraging inward investment that will help East Ayrshire reduce unemployment and achieve an economic sustainability for the long term. Enhancing our **housing stock** with new build properties marks our commitment to the social sustainability of our communities; by providing good quality homes and investing in our communities we also help to increase employment in the local construction industry.

3.4 In addition to the commitment we wish to make directly to our own communities, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 was passed by the Scottish Parliament in June 2009 and has wide ranging implications for local government. One of the key components of the Act is the Public Sector Duty on Climate Change. This requires the Council to act in a way best calculated to contribute to the targets set out in the Act for reducing carbon emissions and in a way which delivers appropriate climate change adaptation measures. In other words, we are obliged to find ways to deliver our services which can cope with the demands of a changing climate such as arising through increased flooding and other extremes of weather.

3.5 These commitments confront the challenges the Council faces in the current economic decline; they emphasise the need to find solutions to deliver our valued services in the most sustainable ways possible.

4. DELIVERING OUR COMMITMENTS

4.1 East Ayrshire Council has made a commitment to achieving sustainability in a number of priority areas identified above. In order to do so, there are three core strategic areas of work where our outputs must be improved in order that sustainability across both economic and social performance can be achieved as well as the more obvious environmental benefits:

- Increasing the sustainability of our procurement practices;
- Increase our energy efficiency, and consequently reduce our carbon emissions;
- Subject our strategic documents to a rigorous process of Strategic Environmental Assessment.

4.2 Ensure the development and delivery of a fully sustainable procurement framework which takes into account whole life costs of purchasing decisions as well as appropriate environmental and social factors such as recyclable content and the benefits of using local suppliers.

4.2.1 In October 2009, the Scottish Government published the Scottish Sustainable Procurement Action Plan to assist the public sector to build sustainable procurement into their corporate culture, take proper account of sustainability in procurement activity and to be able to demonstrate how this is being achieved.

4.2.2 The Scottish Government has defined sustainable procurement as:
"A process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis and generates benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society, the economy and the environment."

4.2.3 East Ayrshire Council has prepared a draft Corporate Procurement Strategy for 2011 to 2013 which establishes the Council's vision for procurement by setting out a structure from which all procurement activities, including those with sustainability implications, can be managed and developed.

4.2.4 It is important to note that sustainable procurement does not relate solely to environmental issues but also includes social issues, for example equalities and fair and ethical trading as well as economic issues such as opportunities for Small and Medium sized Enterprises and Third Sector organisations to successfully compete for public contracts.

4.2.5 The Council fully recognise the importance of SME organisations and actively encourages participation in all tendering opportunities, where possible, whilst identifying and managing associated procurement risk.

4.2.6 East Ayrshire Council is committed to ensuring that all goods and services are sourced within environmental guidelines. All Service units within the Council are required to comply with the recommendations Scottish Government's Scottish Sustainable Procurement Action Plan.

4.2.7 Procurement will include, within the Standard Terms and Conditions, reference to sustainable terms and conditions and methods of selection in order to encourage those tendering for contracts to review and develop their own policies in respect of their sustainability ethos. The Council will work with existing suppliers to improve their environmental processes and supply chain

4.2.8 The corporate Procurement Team will develop an appropriate Sustainability Procurement Framework to ensure ongoing development and compliance with the principles of sustainability.

4.3 Deliver a Carbon Management Programme (CMP) Strategy and Implementation Plan which can ensure the collation of appropriate baseline data as well as the delivery of the reduction in emissions arising from all Council service areas including our property resources, transport fleet, street lighting and waste management activities.

4.3.1 In June 2006, the Council entered into an agreement with the Carbon Trust to participate in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme which resulted in the development of a Carbon Management Programme Strategy and Implementation Plan. The plan highlighted four key areas where action to reduce carbon emissions was required: energy consumption; vehicle fleet; waste; and, street lighting.

4.3.2 Although this Plan expired in 2010, these issues remain current priorities for reducing the Council's carbon emissions and increasing our energy efficiency. In addition, the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme is the UK's first mandatory carbon trading scheme and is compulsory for organisations who consume over 6000 MWh of electricity each year. The Council are included within this scheme and required to report accurate carbon data as part of the Scheme.

4.3.3 In order to achieve the reductions in our emissions and monitor our energy usage accurately, it is necessary for the Council to once again commit to the development and implementation of a Carbon Management Programme Strategy and Implementation Plan as a delivery tool. Responsibility for reducing energy usage and carbon emissions across the Council's property assets, transport fleet, street lighting and waste management activities will remain within the appropriate Services and these will each participate in the reduction and monitoring activities required by the CMP.

4.3.4 The Carbon Management Programme Strategy and Implementation Plan will be developed and co-ordinated by the Asset Management Team who have demonstrated expertise in this area. Each Service with responsibility for reducing and monitoring energy usage and carbon emissions will provide the Asset Management Team with the data required to manage the CMP and who will subsequently collate this data for sustainability reporting purposes as discussed in Section 5 of this Sustainability Roadmap.

4.4 Implement a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment of all the Council's plans, programmes and strategies as legislatively required.

4.4.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legislative requirement which is implemented in law through the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The Council has a statutory and legal requirement to undertake environmental assessments for any plan, programme, strategy or other document that is prepared or adopted by the Council which is likely to have a significant impact on the environment, whether positively or negatively.

- 4.4.2 SEA can contribute to achieving sustainability across all that the Council does by ensuring that environmental considerations are taken into account at an early stage in the preparation of a plan, programme or strategy.
- 4.4.3 While SEA places a statutory obligation on local authorities to scrutinise the sustainability of plans, programmes and strategies, there remains a capacity for the Council to increase our understanding of the requirement and criteria for undertaking SEA as well as the full range of assessment responsibilities required by the regulations.
- 4.4.4 An SEA should be undertaken by the individual service units responsible for the development of each individual plan, programme or strategy in question.
- 4.4.5 The central collation within the Council of baseline environmental data is required to expedite the assessment of the environmental consequences of individual PPS. Further, the availability of advice from an experienced practitioner is necessary to ensure SEA can be conducted appropriately.
- 4.4.6 Strategic Environmental Assessment is not a discrete process and an obligation remains to ensure that PPS are monitored throughout their period of operation and monitoring reports submitted to the SEA Gateway of the Scottish Government. Therefore, there is a requirement for SEAs undertaken within the Council to be collated centrally and monitored for compliance.
- 4.4.7 Expertise exists within the Planning and Economic Development Service of Neighbourhood Services Department and it is appropriate that responsibility for ensuring corporate compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 rests there.

5. REPORTING SUSTAINABILITY

- 5.1 Reporting on our sustainability achievements can capture the elements of our Council's activities which add value but which are not necessarily captured through our financial and other performance reporting.
- 5.2 Sustainability reporting can also help to ensure that our decision making and community planning is informed by both financial and non financial factors and is driven by a need to understand and improve our economic performance and efficiency. It can also be referred to as triple bottom line reporting. The range and content of sustainability reporting can vary considerably although aspects of environment, social and economic impacts are all often included.
- 5.3 Indicators which can be used to report on sustainability are already included as Community Plan indicators across each of the Community Plan Action Plans and also form part of our Single Outcome Agreement. Therefore, it is not necessary to develop a wider range of indicators to monitor sustainability. More usefully, a core selection of key measures which can indicate success on sustainability performance is appropriate. These are contained in Appendix 1 to this Roadmap.

- 5.4 The responsibility for reporting on each of these key measures will remain with the services responsible for co-ordinating the action. For example, the Asset Management Service is responsible for the development of the Carbon Management Programme and will report on the indicators relating to energy efficiency and carbon dioxide emissions. Similarly, the Procurement Service will report on progress against the steps contained in the Scottish Sustainable Procurement Action Plan.
- 5.5 Each of the sustainability key performance measures will be collated into the Council's Annual Performance Report which is published in June of each year.
- 5.6 This report is in addition to the report required as signatories to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration (SCCD); however, the Council will also submit the SCCD report annually to the Sustainable Scotland Network in September of each year.

SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE – KEY MEASURES

Aspect	Objective	Measurement	Baseline	Target 12/13
Procurement	Increase the sustainability of our procurement activities	Implementation of the Scottish Sustainability Procurement Action Plan	Cabinet approval of the Corporate Procurement Strategy 2011 - 2013	Implementation of a Corporate Sustainable Procurement Framework
Energy Efficiency	Reduce the amount of energy consumed by Council buildings	Percentage reduction on energy use	To be established in the Council's Carbon Management Programme Strategy & Implementation Plan	10% reduction on baseline
Carbon Management	Reduce the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from activities directly controlled by the Council	Reduction of carbon dioxide emissions	To be established in the Council's Carbon Management Programme Strategy & Implementation Plan	10% reduction on baseline
Climate Change	Reduce the vulnerability of the Council's infrastructure to the effects of climate change	Development of a Climate Change Impact Profile for East Ayrshire	Not currently in place	Map of climate vulnerable communities in East Ayrshire and identified risks
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Increase the number of plans, programmes or strategies (PPS) undergoing SEA	Number of approved PPS undergoing SEA	8 to date (3 on-going)	Capture 100% of all relevant PPS

**SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION
EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL YEAR 3 REPORT**

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration

Revised Reporting Template

2010 (FINAL VERSION)

Each of Scotland's 32 local authorities signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in early 2007. The Declaration is a public statement wherein local authorities acknowledge the reality and implications of climate change and their responsibility to respond effectively. The Declaration also welcomes the actions of the UK and Scottish governments and the opportunities for local authorities to work in partnership with others in responding to climate change.

As signatories to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, each Scottish local authority is committed to taking action across a range of key areas. These can be summarised as:

1. Providing effective **leadership, governance and management** on climate change.
2. Reducing the local authority's **own 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions** from their estate, services and functions.
3. Taking action to reduce **emissions from the local authority area**
4. Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to **adapt to the impacts of climate change**.
5. Developing effective **partnership working and climate change communications**, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

This Reporting Template focuses on these five key areas.

The principles of effective Declaration reporting include:

- Providing clear, consistent and comparable information.
- Linking climate change reporting with existing reporting requirements and the council's own performance improvement agenda.
- Showing clearly how climate change is being integrated into council and Community Planning agendas, especially through Single Outcome Agreements.
- Highlighting key achievements and initiatives
- Communicating with the community, making the report easy to understand and available to the public.

Local authorities are encouraged to provide information in a transparent and easy to understand format:

- In relation to 'corporate' and 'area-wide' emissions, quantifiable data will be vital, and this is best communicated graphically.
- On adaptation, examples of adaptation action or process initiatives would help illustrate what is being done.
- On governance, leadership and management, and on partnership working, communications and capacity building, diagrams, process maps and examples of materials and events would be extremely useful.

In order to make reporting on the Declaration as effective and efficient as possible, local authorities are encouraged to use this reporting template to report top-level information and to use web-link references to more detailed information.

Local authorities are also encouraged to make reference to their previous Declaration reports, especially making reference to the year-ahead priorities listed in those reports. This will help in showing continuity and year-on-year progress.

In reporting on the Declaration, local authorities are encouraged to recognise the importance of the UK Climate Change Act, Climate Change (Scotland) Act, national targets for emissions reduction and the evolving Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Also of use is the internationally recognised 'Greenhouse Gas Protocol' for consistent reporting of 'corporate emissions' and the

evolving suite of climate change National Indicators used by local authorities in England (NI185, NI186 and NI188).

Section 1

Governance, Leadership and Management

Please describe and illustrate the leadership, governance and management of climate change by your local authority.

As a community leader and service provider, East Ayrshire Council is committed to act, lead by example and support the increasing challenge of reducing greenhouse gases. Participation in the Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme has enabled the Council to quantify its carbon emissions and develop a clear plan of action.

The Council developed its own Carbon Management Programme Strategy and Implementation Plan in November 2007.

The Council's first Carbon Management Programme (CMP) was completed in March 2010 and was then subject to an independent review on behalf of the Carbon Trust. The review confirmed that the Council achieved more savings than had been originally targeted in the project. Original savings targets were 10% CO₂ over the period 2005-2010; actual savings were in the region of 11.8% of CO₂ (2,959 tonnes).

The review also suggested projects that would offer up the best CO₂ savings; and these will form part of the next Carbon Management Programme to be undertaken by the Council.

The Council's next Carbon Management Programme, which is to be part of the Council's Energy Strategy, will form an integral part of East Ayrshire Council's commitment to tackling climate change and to mitigate the Council's impact on the environment.

Furthermore, this Programme links to the 'Delivering Community Regeneration' Action Plan, one of the 4 thematic Action Plans which underpins the East Ayrshire Community Plan, as well as the Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement.

Revision to the East Ayrshire Community Plan has been undertaken and now includes a workstream with associated actions which aims to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change which is now considered inevitable.

Section 1 Priorities for the year ahead

Establishment of an Energy Strategy, encompassing a new Carbon Management Plan to be put in place in 2011 with a report on progress scheduled during 2011/12.

Ensure full compliance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, with cognisance to the Public Body Duty Guidance.

Section 2

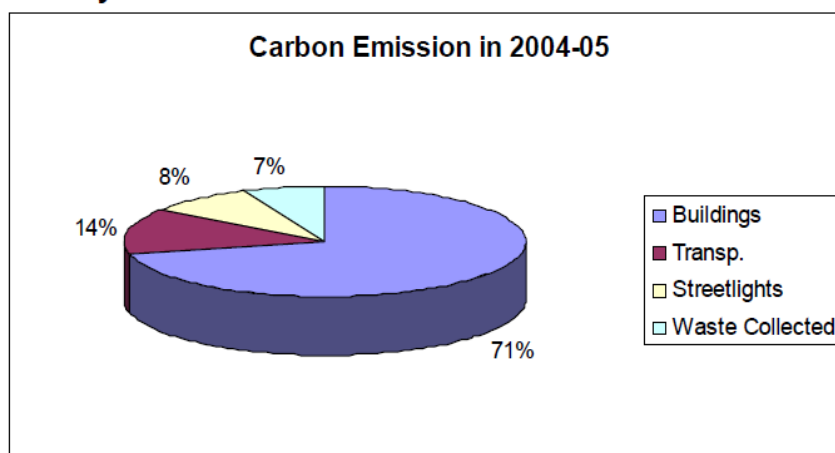
Reducing the local authority's own 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions from its estate, services and functions.

What are your local authority's baseline emissions, actual emissions and emission reduction targets for its direct 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions? Please make it clear what emission sources are included, and where data has been sourced.

The baseline position in 2004/05 has been used for the calculation of the Council's carbon emissions. Baseline carbon emissions were calculated from the council position in 2004-05, using values for energy consumption in council buildings, street lighting, waste management and transport. This baseline position will be reviewed in line with the preparation of the revised Carbon Management Programme.

The baseline position had been calculated as 19,119 tonnes of CO₂, including an allowance for 50% of the Council's electricity supply being from renewable resources, however AEAT consultants recalculated the baseline as 24,995 tonnes. It was estimated that the Council's energy related carbon emissions could increase by 21.6% between 2004-05 and 2009-10. However the Council's target was to reduce its combined energy and waste carbon emission by 10% by 2010, this target was exceeded as stated above. New targets will be set as part of the next Carbon Management Plan and in line with Government objectives.

East Ayrshire Council 2004/05 Baseline Carbon Emissions



What is your local authority doing to achieve its reduction targets?

The Council's first Carbon Management Programme included an implementation plan, which contained a number of ambitious targets. These targets encompassed strategic measures, such as continuing life cost analyses across departments and using newer, more efficient technology or green energy where applicable, to specific targets within the focal areas of energy management in buildings, waste, street lighting and transport.

As reported in 2009, East Ayrshire Council has completed a two year programme of mass installation of basic energy efficiency measures within its public buildings and offices and the Council is undertaking a further programme of site specific measures including the replacement of inefficient heating plant; replacement of oil boilers with gas ones; the installation of renewable technologies where possible e.g. air source heat pumps have been deployed at 2 changing pavilions at Netherthird and Knockentiber and a planned new sports facility will incorporate a sedum roof and solar thermal cells for hot water.

This work complements the 100% green energy contract for Council buildings at half hourly sites that has been negotiated as part of the new Procurement Scotland contract. This commenced in April 2010.

Furthermore, there have been continued improvements in street lighting technology and the upgrading of council vehicles to Euro 5 standards. Recycling of household waste is well above Government targets and this momentum is being maintained and applied to all council non-domestic properties.

As well as the above measures, the Council recognises the need to change behavioural patterns of building users. With our buildings making up the bulk of the Council's carbon dioxide emissions, a concerted and targeted effort to save carbon in Council premises is essential. To ensure this happens, the Council has trained two staff to undertake energy audits of its properties. The audits look at the physical aspects of the properties with regard to energy efficiency measures, and specifically deal with the use of the buildings by the occupants. The provision of advice and support to building users is a key output from the audits. To date, six of the Council's largest properties have been audited.

Accurate data will be important in measuring the Council's performance. As most operators in the energy industry are aware, reliable consumption data is notoriously difficult to obtain. To address this specific issue and to allow the Council to prepare for the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme, the Council is installing Automated Meter Reader capabilities across its entire non-domestic stock. This outlines the Council's commitment to managing its energy use.

New procurement processes, including the use of e-tendering, are paper-free. The majority of tenders are now electronic, resulting in significant savings in terms of paperwork, printing and post.

In terms of street lighting, East Ayrshire now uses white light, which allows the lowering of lighting levels by one lighting class (from CEN S3 to S4) in residential areas. This will reduce lighting levels in a typical residential estate by about 25% to 30% without affecting pedestrian and road safety, and with corresponding reductions in energy usage.

Section 2 Priorities for the year ahead

The Council will:-

- prepare a follow up to, and learn the lessons from, the original Carbon Management Programme, and establish it in a way which complements the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme;
- introduce further targets to meet Scottish Government objectives and report on performance against those targets;
- install automated meter readers into all non-domestic buildings;
- ensure that an energy representative is a member of design teams for major new build projects and refurbishments to ensure energy efficiency measures are an integral part of all future developments;
- implement the Energy Audit Programme and target the highest consuming sites first;
- assume a proactive role in mitigation and adaptation measures through the workings of the Sustainable Development Working Group;
- continue awareness raising activities in our schools in respect of environmental activities, including greenhouse gas emissions;
- conduct an audit of printing (including desktop printers). It is expected that this will result in an overall reduction in the number of printers across the Council.
- adopt the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan as recommended by the Scottish Government. Currently, our Procurement Strategy is being reviewed, and it is the Council's intention to incorporate this Plan into the Strategy;
- further expand our waste initiatives, including the introduction of a food waste and plastics

collection trial scheme, the enhancement of recycling centres and points, and the further development of the commercial waste service which will include the acceptance of commercial recyclates at our recycling centres;

- commence a trial of new street lighting (ceramic metal halide lamps in existing high pressure sodium lanterns). If this is successful, it will result in a reduction in energy costs of between 20-25%. The Council also plans to trial new LED lighting in Dalmellington, which gives a 50% reduction in energy. Use of this technology will be most effective in remote areas such as Dalmellington, where maintenance costs are higher;
- continue to look at ways to reduce fuel costs across our vehicle fleet. The Council's vehicle fleet conforms to the highest standards in terms of emission control and fuel efficiency. Regular maintenance of these vehicles ensures that the vehicles are continuously operating at these high emission standards, helping the Council to meet carbon reduction targets. Vehicle fleet numbers have shown a reduction of 6.4% from baseline 2008/2009 to 2009/10 and a 12.4% reduction between 2008/09 and 2010/2011 overall. Additionally, dual-fuel options are being pursued across the Council's fleet with 7 vehicles currently on order as a result of an award from the Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Support Scheme.

Section 3

Taking action to reduce the emissions from the local authority area

What are your local authority area-wide emissions? Please make it clear where data has been sourced.

Expressed as the CO₂ generated from within the Council's boundaries by all consumers, the latest available figure was 674 kilo tonnes in 2008 (in per capita terms, 5.6 tonnes of CO₂). (*Source: Department for Energy and Climate Change*).

What is your local authority doing to measure and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from your local authority area/communities?

The Council's first Carbon Management Programme included an implementation plan, which contained a number of ambitious targets. These targets encompassed strategic measures, such as continuing life cost analyses across departments and using newer, more efficient technology or green energy where applicable, to specific targets within the focal areas of energy management in buildings, waste, street lighting and transport. The CMP which is to be encompassed in the Council's Energy Strategy will aim to take forward these and develop these original targets.

Section 3 Priorities for the year ahead

The Council will:-

- demonstrate to its communities that it is committed to delivering sustainable public assets that use energy efficiently. The inclusion of renewable energy alternatives will be considered at the options appraisal stage for major capital works such as new builds, refurbishments and renewal of components e.g. new roof.
- participate in community initiatives such as the Scottish Government supported Home Insulation Scheme (HIS) and Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHIS). The Council has already secured funding for a HIS for over 10,000 homes of all tenures and has a bid in for a UHIS for over 7000 homes. These schemes will be delivered in partnership with the Energy Savings Trust.
- work in partnership with many local & national organisations to raise awareness of energy

efficiency and income maximisation, grants, grant sources, local and national initiatives and behavioural changes to reduce energy costs and emissions.

- engage in cross departmental initiatives to reduce energy consumption and raise awareness through group discussions, talks to teams/offices, energy advice surgeries in local offices and housing offices, eco school involvement.
- promote the use of low carbon technologies by encouraging the installation of renewable energy generation whilst ensuring energy efficiency is maximised.
- seek to increase community involvement through community engagement and partnership working with localised initiatives.
- work with schools in raising awareness of environmental issues, including climate change. Joint continuous professional development (CPD) is planned with North Ayrshire Council on 'Sustaining our World' and in-service training for teachers is also being offered on measuring the school's 'global footprint'. A model policy on Sustainable Development is being issued to schools to maintain focus on this issue, and already a number of schools have included this in their annual improvement plan.

In terms of Waste Management, the Council intends to:

- Optimise and extend kerbside recycling and 'bring site' recycling to further increase waste diversion from landfill, including the removal of biodegradable wastes from the residual waste stream.
- Review and update the Council's own internal Waste Prevention Action Plan to reflect newly adopted national legislation and guidance.
- Continue the joint working arrangements between North and South Ayrshire Councils in order to identify and implement the best long term waste treatment solution for Ayrshire.

Section 4

Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

What is your local authority doing to adapt to climate change?

The 'Delivering Community Regeneration' Action Plan of the East Ayrshire Community Plan sets out, as one of its key aims, to '*mitigate against and adapt to the negative effects of climate change*'. Under this heading, there are three outcome indicators and nine actions.

This Action Plan can be found at the following web address:-

http://www.eastayrshirecommunityplan.org/portal.asp?P_ID=1&URL=/cats/Community%20Planning/Community%20Planning%20Documentation/Delivering%20Community%20Regeneration%20Action%20Plan.pdf

The Council's Sustainable Development Strategy places significant emphasis on the need to address the Council's carbon emissions and to develop means for adapting to the impacts of climate change. Actions are contained within the strategy which aims to ensure the work on the Carbon Management Programme continues. The strategy also emphasises the importance of Strategic Environmental Assessment as a tool, as well as a statutory obligation, in assessing the environmental effect of any of the Council's plans, programmes or strategies.

Section 4 Priorities for the year ahead

The Council aims to strengthen its relationship with the Scottish Climate Change Impact Partnership to develop a climate impact profile for East Ayrshire and to engage their assistance in our drive to adapt to the changes of climate which will have an impact on our communities.

Section 5

Developing effective partnership working and climate change communications, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

Please describe and illustrate your local authority's partnership working on climate change.

Knockroon

The Prince's Charities and East Ayrshire Council, along with a range of partners, are creating a new community and neighbourhood at Knockroon, in Cumnock. The community will reflect the distinct local identity and character of East Ayrshire.

The Knockroon Sustainability Focus Group has been formed, and represents the coming together of all the project partners, with a mission to ensure that Knockroon is delivered to the highest possible level of environmental sustainability.

As well as the Council, the following organisations are represented on the Group: Ecofirst Consult, Historic Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Strathclyde University, Scottish Water and Scottish Power.

Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan

The Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and the current Local Plans seek to mitigate the effects of climate change through their spatial policies by focusing development on transport corridors. Their policies on renewable energy will also make a positive contribution.

The Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Biannual Monitoring Report has a section on climate change covering reducing CO2 emissions; conserving natural resources; facilitating renewable energy; and reducing waste streams and encouraging recycling.

Please describe what your local authority has done on climate change communications.

The Council recognises that effective communications with our key stakeholders will be fundamental to securing approval and endorsement of our plan and to ensure that carbon management becomes part of the day-to-day business of the Council.

Community Planning Core Partners are committed to carrying out joint community consultation and engagement in the future, where possible, to ensure that people know what is happening and are enabled to play an active part in achieving the shared vision for East Ayrshire.

A communications plan accompanies the Council's Carbon Management Programme Strategy. The communications plan encompasses the following areas:

- Annual reporting on performance to the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet.
- Regular meetings with department or section heads through the Energy Task Force Group along with the development of a Sustainability Working Group.
- Local Authority Carbon Management Implementation Group to progress and review the Carbon Management programme.
- Meetings and talks on energy conservation have been given to forums such as Head Teachers (Primary & Secondary), Janitorial and cleaning staff. Requests for talks and visits have been made a priority. A more systematic approach to spread the message to all staff should be developed.

All householders within East Ayrshire regularly receive communication regarding waste

minimisation and recycling opportunities through the use of local advertising, council publications and the Council website.

At a strategic level, the Carbon Management Programme links to the 'Delivering Community Regeneration' Action Plan, one of the 4 thematic Action Plans which underpins the East Ayrshire Community Plan, as well as the Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement.

Please describe what your local authority has done to build capacity on climate change – internally, with partners and/or with the community.

Parents and local communities have been actively involved in the Eco-School programme. The East Ayrshire Ranger service and Outdoor Learning as well as national organisations, have supported schools and nurseries in developing projects.

Assisted by the Waste & Resources Action Programme (Scotland), the Council delivers a waste minimisation, recycling & composting awareness programme to schools & community groups across East Ayrshire.

Section 5 Priorities for the year ahead

In terms of waste management, improvements will be made to the collection infrastructure in 2010/11. These will include the trialled introduction of a kerbside food and mixed plastics collection to around 9,000 households.

Zero Waste Scotland are putting in place a Zero Waste Plan for Scotland which replaces the National Waste Plan 2003 and will put in place actions designed to meet Scottish Government targets.

Climate Change Progress Highlights of the Past Year

Please use the following section to highlight the local authority's main climate change achievements in the past year. This can include processes, plans, projects, partnerships, events, investments, and actions.

Energy Advice

The Council's dedicated Energy Advice Team provides expert guidance on energy matters to local residents and businesses via a network of surgeries and home visits. As well as raising awareness of energy conservation, the team also aims to tackle fuel poverty. Activities throughout East Ayrshire have resulted in the government target of 30% reduction in CO₂ emissions, over the ten year period from 1997-2007, being achieved. This work continues with the Council committing a substantial level of investment and support for local residents.

It is recognised that face to face contact either via community surgeries or home visits is the most effective way to provide energy advice. The team undertook 50 energy advice surgeries and community talks, providing advice to over 900 individuals. The dedicated telephone helpline dealt with in excess of 600 enquiries where residents were provided with support relevant to their individual needs. In all cases residents are offered a home visit to assess their energy usage as well as providing tailored advice to achieve a reduction in their carbon footprint.

The team also works with partners including the Wise Group to implement energy efficiency measures in the homes of Council residents. This group also helps people back to work so has multiple benefits.

The team also works with partners including the Wise Group who provide the installation of energy efficiency measures, energy advice and income maximisation to the residents of council houses ensuring the risk of fuel poverty is minimised. The Wise Group operates an Intermediate Labour Market Scheme (ILM). ILM provides training for long-term unemployed people and supports them to find either permanent employment or further education.

Waste Management

Over the last year, East Ayrshire has further increased its waste recycling rate to 43.0%, exceeding European and national landfill diversion and recycling obligations. The Council is well placed to meet the national target of 50% by 2013, and improvements will continue to be made to the collection infrastructure in 2010/11. These will include the trialled introduction of a kerbside food and mixed plastics collection to around 9,000 households.

Facilities Management

The Council has replaced bottled water coolers in all its buildings with plumbed-in water coolers (an overall reduction from 274 to 88 coolers). It is estimated that this will result in a saving of around £90,000 over the next four years. As well as financial savings, it is expected that the move will save almost 300,000 kWhs of electricity, and will reduce transportation by some 181,000 miles each year.

Fleet Management

The Council now has access to management information which allows us to better control the use of fuel. Fuel savings targets are now in place, and are monitored on a monthly basis. In 2009/10, the saving was 4.5%, compared to the previous year with this saving increasing to 6.75% between 2009/10 and 2010/2011.

The Council's Transport section continues to work with all council departments, providing guidance, information and training in line with Energy Saving Trust and Freight Best Practice recommendations.

Our vehicle fleet conforms to the highest standards in terms of emission control and fuel efficiency. Regular maintenance of these vehicles ensures that the vehicles are continuously operating at these high emission standards, helping the Council to meet carbon reduction targets.

School Meals

The Council has developed its own sustainable food strategy for schools. Food and education is placed at the heart of sustainable development in social, economic and environmental terms. In over 40 primary schools, 30% of the food used is organic, at least 70% is sourced locally and over 90% of the food used is fresh and unprocessed.

In addition to creating a local food market East Ayrshire's school meals service is contributing to environmental sustainability; switching to local suppliers has reduced the average distance food travels by at least a third.

In terms of the environment, independent research for SEPA shows that, for one school alone, the local food sourcing policy has generated an annual saving of 37.7 Tonnes of CO₂ emissions and a carbon saving of 10.3 Tonnes is being achieved for one school alone.