

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration Annual Report for 2010 Aberdeenshire Council

Section 1

Governance, Leadership and Management

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

Leadership: Aberdeenshire Council signed the SCCD in January 2007, with a re-signing in August 2008. In 2009, the Council became a signatory to the EU climate change initiative, the Covenant of Mayors (<http://www.eumayors.eu/>). The Council's response to climate change is led by the Director of Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I), with support from the Director of Planning & Environmental Services (P&ES).

Governance: As reported in Aberdeenshire Council's previous annual reports on the SCCD, climate change is addressed as part of the sustainability agenda. The Sustainability Sub-Committee of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee is the principal members' group which monitors progress. However, reports may be considered directly at the full P&R Committee, Infrastructure Services Committee, Scrutiny and Audit Committee or the full Council, depending on the content of the report and the remit of the appropriate committee. The Sustainability Sub-Committee meets quarterly.

Management: Management is through Heads of Service throughout the Council. Day-to-day responsibility for co-ordinating overall climate change responses lies with the Sustainability Officers (within P&ES). However, key actions are co-ordinated by officers in all Services, for example, in property, waste, education, housing, economic development and transport. A cross-service Sustainability Officers' Group includes representatives from all Services. It is chaired jointly by Heads of Service from T&I and P&ES.

Strategies & plans: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is specifically addressed in Aberdeenshire's Single Outcome Agreement, the Council Strategic Priorities, Sustainability Charter, Climate Change Action Plan, Fuel Poverty Strategy, Local Transport Strategy, the Structure Plan (with Aberdeen City Council), the Local Development Plan, and the new draft LD Plan. These are available on the Council's web site: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk on the community planning, planning, housing, transport, waste and green living pages.

Section 1 Priorities for the year ahead

As stated in previous reports, the priority is still to make progress on embedding greenhouse gas emission reduction into Council policies, decision-making and operations, with appropriate governance and accountability at all levels.

The Council will continue to work to address the issues through its partnership agreements, such as the Single Outcome Agreement and Fuel Poverty Strategy.

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 following table gives the summary data on emissions for the Council's operations and the

percentage change for each of the past two years. These figures are not comparable with the data provided in previous SCCD annual reports as conversion rates and baseline information is different in some items. The waste data has been changed to cover Council buildings rather than total municipal waste. With the exception of the fleet data, the emissions data in the table are on a comparable basis. In a change from previous annual reports, fleet data are now derived from fuel use; full implementation of the new fleet management system in 2009/10 means that this year's data is not directly comparable with that from the previous two years. The large rise in the past year is partly attributed to this change.

If the fleet transport data are excluded from the totals, the overall change in the past year is a rise in emissions of 1.3%

Emissions source	2007-08 t CO2	2008-09 tCO2	Pa % change	2009-10 tCO2	Pa % change
Energy from buildings	59,294	59,000	-0.5	60,026	+1.7
Street lighting	8,218	8,651	+5.3	8,761	+1.3
Fleet transport	7,677	7,068	-7.9	8,778 ¹	+24.2 ¹
Business Mileage	3,546	3,569	+0.6	3,508	-1.7
Council premises waste disposal	1,862	1,880	+1.0	1,780	-5.3
TOTAL	80,597	80,168	-0.5	82,853	+3.3

Note: ¹ New management system fully implemented

Targets:

In 2007 Aberdeenshire Council made a commitment to become a carbon neutral organisation in the short to medium term. The Council is awaiting the final version of Scottish Government guidance on public sector duties and targets, so that these can be incorporated into Council targets. Firm targets will be set at this stage but in the meantime, the Council is working to a target of 3% reduction per annum.

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

The Council is seeking to reduce its emissions each year by a variety of direct and indirect actions. The main actions are set out in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), which was first approved in 2008. A revised CCAP 2010-11 was agreed in November 2010. There are actions covering energy, transport and waste.

The Education, Leisure and Learning Service has its own Sustainable Development Focus Group to co-ordinate and progress actions in the Service. The additional support has resulted in savings and also highlighted areas where action is needed.

At the annual review of the CCAP in 2009, it was agreed that additional actions should be identified to achieve emissions reductions. The Council then worked with the Carbon Trust on its Carbon Management Revisited Programme. The findings of this have been incorporated into the revision of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. The CCAP 2010-11 was agreed by the Sustainability Sub-committee in November 2010. If successfully implemented, the actions are expected to achieve a 3% reduction in emissions in the next year, but additional projects will need to be identified and implemented if similar progress is to be made beyond 2011. A new CCAP is to be prepared for the period from 2011-15.

Actions include: energy efficiency measures using the Central Energy Efficiency Fund, energy audits of high use premises, improved monitoring programmes, property upgrades; promotion of sustainable travel options; introduction of recycling containers to all premises. The Council's new flexible work programme, 'Worksmart', is expected to realise carbon reductions from reduced travel and the requirement for less office space. Raising awareness and encouraging 'behaviour change' at all levels will be part of the process of embedding emissions reduction actions into the Council operations.

Section 2 Priorities for the year ahead

Implement the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2010-11 and report regularly on progress.

Prepare a new Climate Change Action Plan for 2011-15.

Complete preparation and participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. Part of this will be seeking to attain the Carbon Trust Standard.

Promote the 'Worksmart' programme for more Council teams.

Energy audits of the top 10 Council premises by energy consumption, and implement savings measures.

Assess the potential for renewable energy projects on Council properties.

In addition to the funded projects identified in the CCAP, priority will be given to the 'behaviour change' aspect, which may enable reductions without significant financial support.

Work will be required to identify additional projects, and to seek funding from a variety of sources, including the Council's 'invest to save' fund, Scottish Government funding and the EU.

Approve and implement a Fuel Choice Strategy for Council premises.

Finalise, approve and implement the Responsible Procurement Policy (with Aberdeen City Council).

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.

National Indicator 186 emissions data for Aberdeenshire

	Industry ktCO2	Domestic ktCO2	Transport ktCO2	Total ktCO2	Population 000	tCO2 Per capita	Scotland tCO2pc
2005	804	705	672	2,181	233.4	9.3	7.8
2006	749	719	687	2,155	236.3	9.1	7.8
2007	753	711	693	2,156	239.2	9.0	7.7
2008	756	716	661	2,133	241.5	8.8	7.6

Source DECC 16 September 2010

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

The Council, as the lead organisation in the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership (NESCCP), is working to promote both measurement and reduction of emissions in the region. The NESCCP is assisting on a Scottish Enterprise funded project on the carbon footprint of the Strategic Planning area. This is an example of partnership working – additional projects are referred to in Section 5.

The Council has a Community Halls Initiative. Over 70 halls have had energy audits carried out to help improve their energy efficiency and investigate opportunities for incorporating renewable energy heating solutions. Further workshops are planned.

The Council has supported a number of local community events on renewable energy to increase awareness and provide information. It also organised a seminar on community wind turbines.

The Council's Strategic and Local Development Plan documents address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Transport planning: the Council works to promote sustainable travel in schools, business and the community.

The Council provides funding for partner organisations giving advice on energy efficiency & renewable energy.

The Council supported 'Earth Hour' for the second year, encouraging staff and communities to join the initiative.

Section 3 Priorities for the year ahead

Continue Council and Partnership working to raise awareness and encourage action.

Monitor Structure Plan policies on climate change. Complete a Climate Change Study as part of the preparation of the Main Issues Report for the new Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan.

Finalise new Local Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance.

Participate in Scottish Enterprise funded carbon footprint project.

Progress the Community Halls Initiative.

Continue to support local events on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

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?

Aberdeenshire Council has taken part in the Scottish Climate Change Impact Partnership's Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) phase 2 project.

Aberdeenshire Council is a member of the North East Scotland Flood Liaison and Advisory Group. This Group is preparing a Shoreline Management Plan.

Adaptation measures are addressed in the strategic and local development plans.

Section 4 Priorities for the year ahead

Complete report on LCLIP.

Participate in the adaptation study as part of the Climate Change Report for the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Main Issues Report.

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.

The Council is an active partner in NESTRANS and has supported many of the events through the 'GetAbout' initiative on sustainable travel.

The council is a member of the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership, and until August provided both the chair and administrative support. Partnership activities in the last year include: participating in the local visit of the Royal Society of Edinburgh inquiry team for its study, 'Facing up to Climate Change'; support for a carbon footprint workshop as part of a Scottish Enterprise funded study in the strategic planning area.

Other partnership working includes:

- Energy monitor project with Macaulay Institute.
- Grampian Biomass Group
- Fuel Poverty group
- Community Planning Partnership

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

Information available on web site, including annual reports on Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, via committee reports and Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). The CCAP contains examples of recent actions and identifies current and future actions for both the Council operations and within the wider community.

The Council supported the 'Earth Hour' initiative for the second year. Some floodlighting on council buildings was turned off and staff and communities encouraged to participate by articles on the intranet and web site and in local papers.

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

Transport: In addition to the GetAbout work, Aberdeenshire Council is delivering a series of seminars to businesses on the benefits of Travel Planning. The Council's School Travel Planning initiative provides information and incentives and facilities for schools developing a travel plan.

Aberdeenshire Council part-funds two posts in SCARF (Save Cash and Reduce Fuel), which works with the local Energy Saving Scotland advice centre to provide information and advice on energy efficiency measures and renewable energy installations. The Council also provides funding support for a regional biomass development officer employed by Forestry Commission Scotland.

Section 5 Priorities for the year ahead

Participate with Community Planning Partners in a low carbon vehicle procurement project.

Continue to be an active participant in the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership.

The Council is participating in a domestic electricity monitor project with Macaulay Institute to assess the effectiveness of increased awareness of energy use in the home.

Fuel poverty work: The Council successfully bid for Scottish Government funding to have a Home Insulation Scheme (HIS) covering all the houses in the Marr area. The scheme, being run by the local Energy Saving Scotland centre, started in September. The Council has recently received confirmation of a further HIS project in Peterhead to take place in 2011. This street-by-street approach is viewed as a successful way to help heat energy requirements and combat fuel poverty.

Council officers are providing advice to Climate Challenge Fund projects in several local communities.

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.

- Launch of the Council's 'Worksmart' flexible working programme.
- The work of the Education, Leisure and Learning Service Sustainable Development Focus Group, which helped deliver savings, raise awareness and identify areas for improvement.
- Successful bids for Home Insulation Schemes.
- Launch of Council's Walking and Cycling Action Plan.
- 'No Excuse Zone' cycle maps launched in Westhill and Peterhead.
- Some 90 sustainable travel events delivered as part of the GetAbout Partnership
- NESTRANS launched the Travel Plan Builder which is available to all businesses in the North East to assist in the development of travel plans.
- The North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership participated in the Royal Society of Edinburgh's inquiry on 'Facing up to Climate Change'.
- Community Halls Initiative has helped 70 halls take steps to improve energy

efficiency and reduce operating costs.

- Extension of schemes to increase recycling and composting in both the Council and the community
- Aberdeenshire Council's 'Waste Aware Bus' has attended numerous local events to promote reducing, reusing and recycling waste.
- A number of events took place in Aberdeenshire to support Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Visit Scotland Green Business Awards for Caravan Sites: Bronze - Haughton and Stonehaven caravan parks; Silver - Aden, Banff and Ballater caravan parks; the silver level awarded parks had solar thermal water heating and lighting sensors installed in the shower blocks.
- Took part in the Carbon Trust Carbon Management Revisited Programme as part of work revising the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.