

# Climate Change Strategy

for Basingstoke and Deane 2014 to 2020  
(2017 update)



Basingstoke  
and Deane

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## Introduction

Climate change is one of the most important challenges that we will face in the next 50 years. Measured warming is unprecedented and extremely likely to have been caused by human activity (IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment report).

It is important that we all act together to mitigate and hopefully reverse the impacts of climate change. This is not just an international issue which is remote from the lives of Basingstoke and Deane but rather a clear and real danger for both us and future generations.

There are expected to be variations in levels of rainfall and more extreme weather events, which can directly impact on borough residents and businesses, such as localised flooding, storms, periods of drought and heat waves. Through joint working, the borough can effectively address carbon emissions and mitigate against climate change impacts. In doing so, this can not only help to limit the changes to our climate, but also assist in creating a better place to live, work and visit.

All residents, businesses and organisations have a role to play in combating climate change. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council intends to take a leadership role, in its own operations, in the community and in encouraging others. It is doing this through a series of pledges (page 4) that will be delivered through this Climate Change Strategy.

## Background

This Climate Change Strategy replaces the strategy published in 2008, and has been updated to take into account the many changes that have been introduced since that time. Appendix Three details council activity directly resulting from this strategy up to 2016. The strategy has taken into account comments with key stakeholders during early 2017.

This strategy sets out clearly how the council will work towards the delivery of the council's vision and the Council Plan in respect of climate change. This is a guide for current and future actions for the council and partners, setting out relevant targets and demonstrating integration with other relevant council policy.

The Paris Agreement was ratified by the UK in November 2016. It recognises that local authorities have a role in addressing climate change and invites us to: reduce emissions; build resilience and promote cooperation.

The council aims to measure its own emissions and collect data borough wide which will contribute to national targets in the Climate Change Act 2008:

34% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020  
(from 1990 levels)

80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050  
(from 1990 levels)

15% of energy demand generated by  
renewable sources by 2020



## Council Plan 2016 to 2020

The Council Plan identifies 'Improving residents' quality of life' as a priority, part of which is the delivery of initiatives to reduce energy use and introduce renewable energy for council premises, other sites in the borough and to support householders to make energy efficiency improvements.

## Environment Portfolio

To support the delivery of the Council Plan, each portfolio holder has developed a plan to set out their key aims and actions for 2016 to 2020. The portfolio holder for Regulatory Services and the Environment has aims to reduce the carbon footprint of the borough by utilising the Green Investment Fund and seeks to achieve this as follows:

- Advocate and influence the use of low carbon energy schemes in new developments and monitor the benefits of these schemes across the borough
- Promote the low carbon loan scheme and other energy efficiency schemes to improve the standard of resident's homes

- Explore and develop further partnerships to implement a joined up approach to the maintenance of the streetscape and landscape in the borough
- Promote grants available to low income households to improve energy efficiency and minimise the risk of fuel poverty
- Reduce the council's costs and carbon footprint through energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in council-owned buildings



## Our Pledges

1. Lead by example in reducing carbon emissions year on year
2. Encourage and support residents, community groups and businesses to reduce their emissions across the borough
3. Prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change in its own services and with residents, community groups, businesses and partners



## Pledge one

*The council will lead by example in reducing its carbon emissions year on year*

### We will:

- Increase the energy efficiency of the council's buildings through continual investment in cost-effective projects. This comprises the Civic Offices and the council's commercial and community property portfolio, and requires effective data management, collection and analysis
- Explore the potential of and financial case for renewable energy installations on council property
- Increase staff and Councillor awareness of energy efficiency and low carbon actions in the workplace, through initiatives taken forward by the Environment Champions, widespread promotion via the Council's intranet system and on-going reminders on climate change issues
- Incorporate climate change objectives into Environment Champion officers' annual appraisals

Reduce carbon emissions from business travel and the council's fleet of vehicles, including reducing unnecessary travel, optimising the use of technology and other measures outlined in the Council Travel Plan.

- Integrate whole life costing decision making through the Procurement and Contract Management Strategy which includes environmental considerations

### Measuring success

- The Council is committed to a year on year reduction in carbon emissions. The scope includes heating, electricity use, business travel and water use from direct council activity. Our 2016 baseline indicator is 2994.8t CO<sub>2</sub>e. Progress is collated and reported annually. Activity contributing to emissions reduction pre 2016 is reported in Appendix One.

- The Council is committed to a year on year improvement in sustainable travel. Targets are to set out in the Council Travel Plan

### Contributing Partners

Whilst this pledge is specific to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, the council is reliant on a range of partners in service provision, and will continue to seek opportunities to work in the most effective manner to encourage the reduction of carbon emissions in its operation



## Pledge two

*The council will encourage and support residents, community groups and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions across the borough*

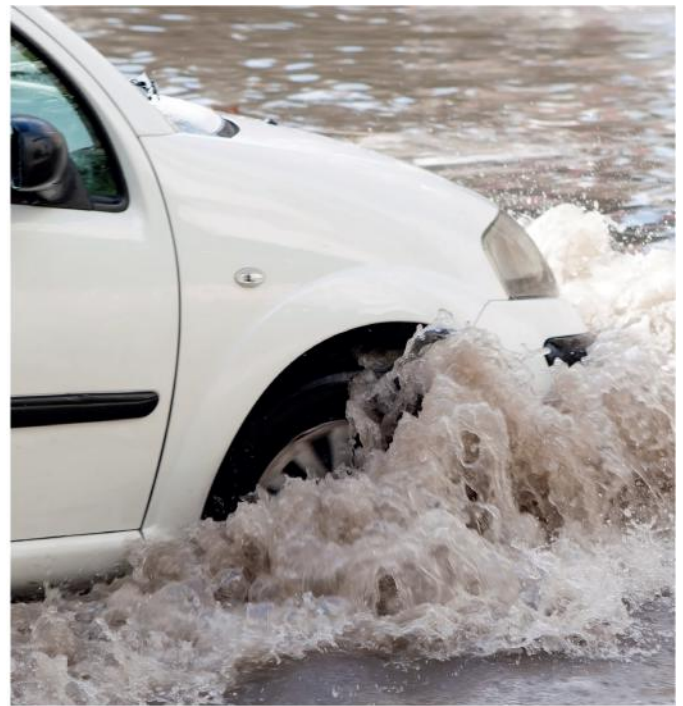
### We will:

- Consider renewable energy and local generation proposals positively, in line with national and local planning guidance in order to maximise the opportunities for alternative sources of energy
- Actively seek viable investment opportunities in low carbon energy generation in the borough
- Take advantage of external funding to engage in climate change related projects, particularly with the business sector and retrofitting of commercial buildings and business parks
- Ensure continual regeneration and improvement at Basing View meets high environmental standards to set an example for local business
- Encourage and support local businesses to adopt emission reduction practices through the Sustainable Business Network
- Encourage bodies seeking grant funding from the council to commit to actions to minimise climate change where relevant
- Work with and support community groups and parish councils to raise awareness and encourage local actions to tackle climate change
- Deliver the actions in the Home Energy Conservation Act report (HECA) to assist those in fuel poverty, such as targeting low income households and off-mains gas properties to access funding for improvements to their domestic heating arrangements
- Explore opportunities with investors for electric vehicle charging installations across the borough
- Promote use of existing public charge points for electric vehicles in the borough
- Publish and promote on the BDBC website information, advice and case studies on latest climate change and energy efficiency schemes and offers as they become available, such as Low Carbon Loans, Renewable Heat Incentive and Energy Company Obligation (ECO)
- Work with external organisations in providing opportunities for residents to improve their home energy efficiency
- Ensure that all new community buildings in the borough are specified with the highest appropriate energy efficiency
- Encourage and support management committees of existing buildings to improve energy efficiency and renewable generation where appropriate, particularly where buildings have an energy certificate of E or below
- Ensure that walking, cycling and the use of public transport are facilitated and encouraged through good design in all development proposals



## Measuring Success

- See an increase in renewable energy generation in the borough from a 2014 baseline of 150.31GWh pa, 3.44% of total consumption which was 4264.1GWh in 2014. This figure includes energy used in the form of electricity, heating and transport.
- Collect carbon emissions by local authority areas data from The Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy and use these figures to assess progress against national targets
- Publish a Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report as required and update on a biennial basis, to monitor actions and progress to date
- Commit to bringing all relevant community groups and residents together for an annual event to celebrate successes, exchange good practice and to collate and publish information on activities within the borough
- Assess and monitor grant applications and claims for compliance with climate change objectives for supported bodies
- See an increase in public electric vehicle charging points in the borough from a 2016 baseline of three charging points across two locations
- Establish and add to an archive of success stories of relevant completed projects on the council website



## Contributing partners

- External organisations offering home energy efficiency schemes to residents
- Community groups who may benefit from grant and funding initiatives as they arise
- Community groups, such as Overton Sustainability Forum and the Basingstoke Transition Network
- Hampshire County Council on transport projects to improve local accessibility and provide a choice of modes of transport
- Hampshire local authorities, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Chamber of Commerce and local businesses as projects arise



## PLEDGE 3

*The council will prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change in its own services and with residents, community groups, businesses and partners*

### **We will:**

- Work with Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency and other partners to minimise the risk of flooding and to take action during flooding incidents
- Provide advice and raise awareness on preparing for severe weather events through behaviour change and home improvements
- Deliver the identified actions in the Hampshire County Multi-Agency Flood Plan and give the appropriate advice in extreme weather conditions
- Work with other key service providers to raise awareness of appropriate preparation for climate change impacts, including the local housing associations, colleges and NHS
- Work with Hart and Rushmoor councils and The Chamber of Commerce to maintain the North Hampshire Sustainable Business Network (SBN) and the business sector to provide information on the importance of carbon management and good environmental performance as well as preparing for severe weather events
- Promote the importance and need to address climate change through the activities of the M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
- Ensure that all new development is built and designed to be resilient to climate change and incorporate features to minimize its impacts. This includes the use of Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), high standards of water efficiency and appropriate landscape planting
- Ensure that green infrastructure is protected and enhanced, to enable habitats and species to adapt to climate change and maximise other benefits, such as the management of surface water run-off

- Ensure the provision of appropriate open space, including allotments as a part of new development to provide opportunities for residents to grow their own produce
- Deliver objectives set out in the Shared Plan for Health and Wellbeing

### **Measuring success**

- The borough, including public services, residents and businesses, will be better prepared for and more resilient to severe weather events
- Resilience to climate change will be included in plans for all new large-scale developments in the borough
- The council will monitor progress towards targets set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy
- At least three business meetings will take place per year across the North Hampshire area, organised through the Sustainable Business Network
- The council will monitor progress towards targets set out in the Shared Plan for Health and Wellbeing

### **Contributing partners**

- The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Planning Officers Group – Sustainable Design Sub Group
- The Hampshire Climate Change Officers Group and Hampshire Public Sector Sustainable Development Group which includes the NHS, Colleges, Universities, MOD and Emergency Services
- Partners involved in the multi-agency flood plan
- The M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Chamber of Commerce, NHS, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Local Nature Partnership, Sustainable Business Network and Future South as specific projects arise



## Appendix One – Funding Opportunities

The Borough Council actively seeks funding and training opportunities to improve both understanding and awareness around climate change issues and measures to adapt to and reduce the impact of a changing climate. Funding can be available from a number of different streams, outlined below as applicable to each of the three pledges:

Pledge 1: There are government incentives to increase non-car modes of transport, including cycling to work. Projects that offer a return on investment along with emissions reduction will be explored.

Pledge 2: There are a range of grants and funding opportunities that become available to meet government priorities. Previously, funding has been sourced for the Hitting the Cold Spots campaign, Energy Company Obligation (ECO), Insulate Hampshire and the Heat Network Delivery Unit.

Pledge 3: The Borough Council will ensure that grant funding opportunities are promoted locally, to allow partners to take advantage of these as they arise. Where consistent with policy, the council will engage with partners in putting forward funding bids for adaptation projects.

## Appendix Two – Other relevant policies and strategies

The Borough Council has the following policies and strategies which complement and support the Climate Change Strategy. They are outlined below and can be found as public documents on the council website.

- The Borough Council Travel Plan 2013 – 2018: encourages staff to choose alternatives to travelling by car, makes a positive contribution to health and wellbeing, and encourages more sustainable ways of working to reduce carbon emissions
- The Procurement and Contract Management Strategy: Sets out how the council will secure goods and services in the most effective manner, taking into account the longer-term benefits in terms of social, economic and environmental costs, including environmentally preferable and sustainable products. This strategy applies to both on-going procurement and securing longer-term contracts
- The Adopted Local Plan 2011 - 2029 and Supplementary Planning Documents: Sets out the requirements for new development, including water quality and flood risk and the approach for considering proposals for renewable energy schemes. This ensures sustainability and climate change are taken into account in planning for new development
- The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995: Local authorities are required to report on improving home energy consumption and assisting those in fuel poverty to heat and power their homes in a more cost effective manner
- The Community Buildings Strategy: Sets out that new community buildings should be specified with the highest appropriate energy efficiency measures and management committees are encouraged to improve energy efficiency in existing buildings.
- Travel plans: Required for certain types of development to offer a choice of travel modes and encourage more sustainable modes of travel

- Emergency Response Plan: Emergency response and recovery framework which includes the council's responsibilities in the event of severe weather
- Multi-agency flood plan: Aims to reduce the consequences and impacts of significant flood events in Hampshire
- Hampshire Climate Change Adaptation Plan: A partnership to deliver plans to build the resilience of the Hampshire Public Sector
- The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment: Sets out the main risks and opportunities for the UK arising from climate change and enables comparison and prioritisation
- The Sustainability Policy: Supports the development of a more sustainable community through its own work and in partnership with others
- Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013 – 2029: Sets out how the council will seek to ensure a comprehensive and connected network of green spaces
- Shared Plan for Health and Wellbeing 2016 – 2020: Focuses on increasing personal and community resilience leading to enhanced wellbeing

## Appendix Three – Activity to 2016

| Activity  | Dates       | Pledge 1 | Pledge 2 | Pledge 3 |
|---|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Carbon Reduction<br>21% reduction between 2007 and 2012. Further 5% between 2012 and 2016. New baseline of 2016 now established due to metering upgrades          | Ongoing     | ✓        |          |          |
| Internal climate change champions<br>Raising awareness among council staff and councillors  | Ongoing     | ✓        |          |          |
| Solar PV installation<br>On parklands building at civic offices   | 2016        | ✓        |          |          |
| Council Policy<br>Influenced Tree Policy, Procurement and Contract Management Strategy and Community Buildings Strategy   | Ongoing     | ✓        | ✓        |          |
| Climate Local Commitment<br>Public commitment displayed at the council offices  | Ongoing     | ✓        | ✓        | ✓        |
| Insulate Hampshire<br>Delivered free insulated to 1,747 households  | 2011 – 2012 |          | ✓        |          |
| Local Business<br>EcoAdvantage provided carbon management training for just under 100 SMEs  | 2010 – 2012 |          | ✓        |          |
| Switch Hampshire<br>50 households switched suppliers saving an average of £61 pa on energy bills  | 2013 – 2014 |          | ✓        |          |
| Low Carbon Loans<br>Partnering with Parity Trust to provide loans for homeowners and community buildings and small grants to landlords for energy efficiency work | Ongoing     |          | ✓        |          |
| Home Energy Conservation Act<br>Steps the council are taking to address fuel poverty. Report published biennially   | Ongoing     |          | ✓        |          |



|  |             |  |   |   |
|--|-------------|--|---|---|
| British Gas Boiler Scheme<br>New boilers were installed free of charge in 27 homes   | 2016        |  | ✓ |   |
| Park Home Improvements<br>Air-to-air heat source pumps installed in 29 park homes  | 2016        |  | ✓ |   |
| Heat Mapping and Energy Masterplanning<br>Government funding to research potential for heat networks in high energy-use areas  | Ongoing     |  | ✓ |   |
| Basing View<br>Just under €400,000 awarded for retrofit surveys. The Florence building has been awarded BREEAM excellent       | 2014        |  | ✓ |   |
| BASP Climate Change Forum<br>Set up for collaborative working on low carbon energy projects                                    | 2016        |  | ✓ |   |
| Greening Campaigns<br>Successfully ran in Sherborne St John and Chineham   | 2009 - 2010 |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| Basingstoke Green Week<br>The council supports community groups holding events across the week                                 | Ongoing     |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| Sustainable Business Network<br>Free workshops for all local businesses on sustainability issues, happening three times a year | Ongoing     |  |   |   |
| Public Sector Sustainability Group partnership<br>Joint working across Hampshire on climate change adaptation                  | Ongoing     |  |   | ✓ |

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