



# Ryedale District Council

---

**REPORT TO:** Community Services and Licensing Committee

**DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Nick Coakley  
Environment & Energy Conservation Officer

**SUBJECT:** Climate Change Action Plan Review.

---

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members regarding progress with actions identified within the climate change strategy, and to present a revised action plan for consideration.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That members support the adoption of the revised action plan.

## 3.0 REASONS SUPPORTING DECISION

Members will be aware that Ryedale District Council has adopted a target to achieve reductions in carbon dioxide emissions as a corporate objective, and additionally within the terms of the Local Area Agreement to which the Council subscribes.

Furthermore, the new performance indicators within the national performance framework include several new indicators relating to carbon dioxide emissions and climate change.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

The Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in 2006. A CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction target was subsequently adopted (Full Council 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006), and progress has continued within 2007 on the actions identified.

---

## **6.0 POLICY CONTEXT**

Adoption of the revised Climate Change Action Plan is in accordance with all of the Council's environmental policies, corporate objectives and values, and financial management policies.

## **7.0 REPORT**

### **7.1 Progress of the current strategy.**

Since the adoption of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, a number of related initiatives have been taken forward.

- A trial of biodiesel at 20% blend has been successfully introduced in Council vehicles.
- Energy efficiency measures have been implemented across the Council's building estate.
- Renewal of energy contracts has included a continuation of OFGEM certified low carbon energy tariffs.
- The private sector domestic energy efficiency grants programme has been successfully delivered, along with significant external funding achieved through partnership working.
- The Council has supported the establishment of the Biomass Development Service in partnership with the North York Moors National Park Authority and the Howardian Hills AONB

### **7.2 New and existing drivers for local authority action.**

The new performance framework for local government has been recently released for consultation and contains several new indicators relating to climate change and carbon dioxide emissions:

- NI 185: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from local authority operations
- NI 186: Per capita reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the LA area
- NI 188: Adapting to climate change

The Council is also part of the County-wide Local Area Agreement, within which there is a specific target for operational CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and the Council has resolved to adopt its own target of a 25% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2010 (Full Council 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006), which forms one of the Council's corporate objectives.

It is likely that the forthcoming Climate Change Bill will shortly be introduced to Parliament. This will contain new commitments and powers for Local Authorities to act to reduce emissions.

### **7.3 Focus of future action and key actions to be undertaken.**

Rather than adopting a list of generalised commitments, officers are of the opinion that effort should be focused on delivering key projects and actions that will achieve maximum benefit and link to existing strategic commitments. The revised Action Plan is therefore streamlined to reflect a focus on five priority actions:

- Continue with energy efficiency and sustainable energy improvements in Council buildings.
- Deliver grant schemes to local communities to reduce energy consumption, increase sustainable energy and reduce fuel bills.
- Expansion of biodiesel use where feasible.
- Delivery of sustainable procurement policies.
- Support sustainable economic development projects.

### **7.4 Barriers to delivery and achievement of targets.**

There are a number of technical barriers, as well as issues specific to rural areas that make achieving these aims more difficult. The rural nature of Ryedale means that the Council's operational emissions are highly skewed toward transport as a source. This makes it more difficult to achieve large reductions, since opportunities to reduce transport related emissions are more limited than buildings.

Emissions are Council wide and originate from all service areas, sometimes with a low level of possible influence. This means that without a level of corporate commitment that reflects the difficulty of tackling such a wide ranging problem, progress is difficult.

Emissions are calculated with reference to emission factors, which translate gas, electricity, and fuel usage into their respective CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These have recently changed for electricity as the national grid has become more carbon intensive. These national changes mean that emissions from one year to the next will increase even if electricity usage has remained constant.

### **8.0 OPTIONS**

- a. Support the proposed revised action plan
- b. Amend the proposed revised action plan

### **9.0 RESULT OF OPTION APPRAISAL**

The revised action plan presented is based upon the past year's experience delivering the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

---

However, members may wish to prioritise particular actions, amend the schedule of key actions or incorporate other actions.

#### **10.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Where capital or revenue expenditure is a necessary implication of the key actions presented, these budgets are already in place. The revised action plan has no new financial implications.

#### **11.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

The Council's Climate Change Strategy is an integral part of the Council's role in delivering sustainable development.

#### **12.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

N/A

#### **13.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

#### **14.0 CONCLUSION**

Tackling Climate Change is continuing to increase in importance alongside an increasing wealth of evidence demonstrating that a more coordinated and urgent approach is necessary. The revised action plan will allow the Council to maintain a focus on delivering tangible actions that contribute to strategic commitments in this area.

#### **OFFICER CONTACT:**

Please contact Nick Coakley, Environment & Energy Conservation Officer if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Ryedale House, 01653 600666 x292, or [nick.coakley@ryedale.gov.uk](mailto:nick.coakley@ryedale.gov.uk)

**CORPORATE POLICY APPRAISAL FORM** *(One for each Option)*

**Annex A**

Policy Context	Impact Assessment	Impact +ve -ve Neutral
Community Plan Themes <i>(Identify any/all that apply)</i>	Landscape and Environment	+ve
Corporate Objectives/Priorities <i>(Identify any/all that apply)</i>	Sustainable Environment CO2 reduction	+ve +ve
Service Priorities		
Financial	Investing to save, bringing in external funding	+ve
Legal Implications		
Procurement Policies	Complies with best value, sustainable procurement, etc	+ve
Asset Management Policies		+ve
LA21 & Environment Charter		+ve
Community Safety		
Equalities		
E-Government		
Risk Assessment		
Estimated Timescale for achievement	Ongoing work	