



**Ryedale District Council
Climate Change Strategy and
Action Plan**

2005 - 2010

Review and Revision

November 2007

Ryedale District Council

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

2005-10

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EVIDENCE BASE

The physics of the 'greenhouse effect' was postulated and developed academically during the nineteenth century. It is now a matter of scientific fact. By 1890, it was already recognised that the burning of fossil fuels could lead to global warming. During the twentieth century, numerous varied and detailed worldwide studies confirmed the general warming trend alongside direct measurements of atmospheric CO₂ concentrations.

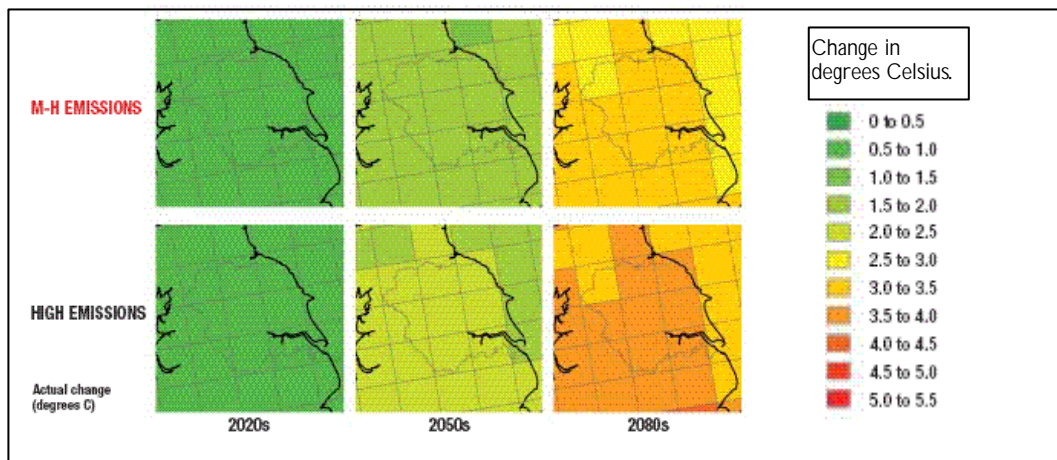
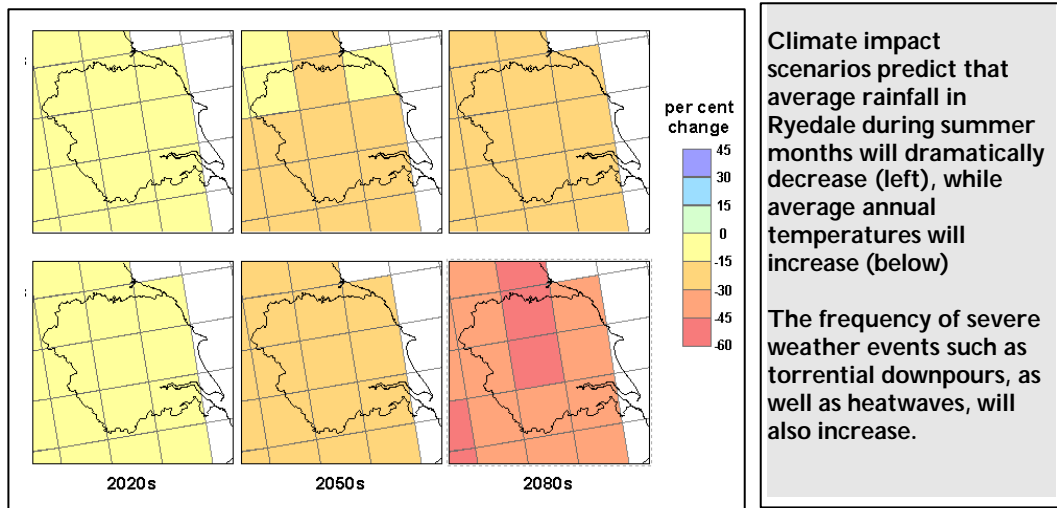
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was established by the United Nations in 1988. Requiring international consensus for its reporting, it has always been a naturally conservative body. Many scientists are of the opinion that this reporting approach has left it vulnerable to undue political influence which has in turn resulted in an alarming level of obfuscation. Nevertheless, its most recent predictions are at best, dire, and have shifted the focus of debate from preventing global warming towards limiting dangerous, runaway global warming, and adapting to the degree of warming already set in motion.

Since Ryedale District Council adopted the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in 2005, a surge of research into climate change and energy policy has created an even stronger imperative for action, yet it is still not forthcoming from any national government. As a consequence the rational approach in the face of such inaction is to adopt and implement those policies and measures that deliver simultaneous benefits alongside reductions in carbon emissions, cost effectively. This is the approach adopted within the revised action plan.

IMPACTS

The three warmest years on record have all occurred since 1998; 19 of the warmest 20 since 1980. Studies of the thermal inertia of the oceans suggest that there is much more warming to come, and while there are growing fears that positive feedback mechanisms will greatly exacerbate this trend, the WHO estimates that climate change is already causing over 150,000 deaths every year.

Within Ryedale, the risk of increased flooding events remains the short term impact of major concern. While agriculture is presented with a possible opportunity in the form of a substantially longer growing season, this must be balanced with the problem of decreased summer rainfall (see below). Other impacts will not follow a predictable pattern of change over short timescales and will vary with annual weather patterns, such as vermin and pests, and food poisoning events.



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Awareness of the bigger picture of impacts, mitigation measures and wider inaction has an important implication for localised action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The scale of the problem is so vast that any localised action must be seen as relatively trivial. Where global cooperation does not exist to tackle this problem, and is not likely to deliver real action in the near future, the strategically sensible option and the rational choice for Local Authorities is to act on the evidence and reduce emissions in a way that will still deliver many fringe benefits to local communities and to the Authority.

Actions should therefore focus on local sustainable economic development, exploitation of the local multiplier effect, and improvements in housing standards. These ideas form the basis of the revised action plan and will also deliver improvements in relation to the Local Government Performance Framework.

Policy concerning new building developments are dealt with within a specific policy of Ryedale's Local Development Framework, and to a large extent are limited by the national approach to building regulations and planning policy.

LEGISLATION, NATIONAL AND LOCAL DRIVERS

The government will shortly be introducing the Climate Change Bill to Parliament, which will act as a stimulus to action from all sectors. Key provisions of the bill are as follows:

Targets

- The Bill puts into statute the UK's targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through domestic and international action by at least 60 per cent by 2050 and 26-32 per cent by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.
- This target will be reviewed, based on a report from the new independent Committee on Climate Change on whether it should be even stronger still, and the implications of including other greenhouse gases and emissions from international aviation and shipping, in the target.
- Five-year carbon budgets, which will set binding limits on carbon dioxide emissions ensuring every year's emissions count. Three successive carbon budgets (representing 15 years) will always be in law.
- Emission reductions purchased overseas may be counted towards the UK's targets, consistent with the UK's international obligations.

Committee on Climate Change

- A Committee on Climate Change will be set up as an independent, expert body to advise the Government on the pathway to the 2050 target and to advise specifically on: the level of carbon budgets; reduction effort needed by sectors of the economy covered by trading schemes, and other sectors; and on the optimum balance between domestic action and international trading in carbon allowances.
- It will take into account a range of factors including environmental, technological, economic, fiscal, social and international factors, as well as energy policy, when giving its advice.

Enabling Powers

- The Bill contains enabling powers to introduce new trading schemes through secondary legislation. This increases the policy options which Government could use to stay within budgets and meet emissions targets.

Reporting requirements

- The Committee on Climate Change will have a specific role in reporting annually to Parliament on the UK's progress towards achieving its targets and budgets. The Government will be required to lay before Parliament a response to this annual progress report.
- Every five years, the Committee's report will contain an explicit review of the UK's performance over the last budget period, and the implications of this for keeping on track to meet future targets and budgets.

Adaptation to the impact of climate change

- The Bill will require the Government, on a regular basis, to assess the risks to the UK from the impact of Climate Change and report to Parliament on how these risks will be addressed.

Other measures to reduce emissions

- The Bill will provide a power to pilot local authority incentive schemes for household waste minimisation and recycling and will enhance the operation of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO), which is expected to deliver significant carbon savings from the road transport sector by increasing the use of biofuels.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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: CO₂ emissions from local authority operations
- NI 186: Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the LA area
- NI 188: Adapting to climate change

Draft details of these performance indicators are included as an appendix to this document.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Ryedale District Council is part of a wider partnership committed to a Local Area Agreement with the Government. Part of this agreement concerns CO₂ emissions from Local Authority buildings, with a target year of 2010.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE

The Council has adopted a local target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 25% on 2004 levels by 2010. The revised action plan presented below is the main strategic document that will coordinate work towards achieving this target.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Action	Target date	Achievements
Include proactive, positive policies for renewable energy generation within the forthcoming Local Development Framework.	2005/6	The LDF core strategy contains a specific policy on climate change and energy. Further details of sustainable building practices to be developed at a later stage of the LDF.
Incorporate sustainable design, energy efficiency, and on-site renewables into any new Council buildings.	Ongoing	Policy adopted 2 nd August 2007 (Policy & Resources)
Publicly declare Council support for community renewable energy schemes.	2006	The Council has supported the Renewable Heritage Trust in its development of the Howsham Mill site.
Upon contract renewals, electricity supplies for council properties will be sourced from renewable tariffs, not entailing excessive cost.	Ongoing, Progress by end 2006	Contracts have continued on OFGEM certified tariffs at renewal
Initiate a programme of energy conservation and energy efficiency within Council buildings	Early 2006	Projects totalling c£40K have been completed on Council buildings, and are continuing.
Investigate options for renewable technologies on existing Council buildings.	Throughout 2006	Feasibility study for biomass boilers completed. Key priority for revised action plan.
Expand the promotion of energy related issues and grants to the local community. Increase the uptake of Warm Front grants in Ryedale.	Ongoing	Local and national grant schemes have been promoted and delivered in partnership with EAGA, the local Energy Advice Centre, and the North York Moors National Park.
Investigate and report on the feasibility of using more sustainable transport fuels.	Summer 2006	Report presented August 2006, biodiesel trial started April 2007
Provide support to, and promote woodland creation initiatives across the district.	Ongoing	The Council has supported the establishment of the Biomass Development service, part of which brings neglected woodland back into management.
Work with local groups to identify species vulnerable to climate change.	Ongoing	Continuing as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan implementation.

REVISED ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES

The revised action plan to be taken forward in 2008 is streamlined to reflect local priorities and the most effective avenues for action, that will deliver benefit for local communities.

- **Continue with energy efficiency and sustainable energy improvements.**

This will focus on energy efficient alterations to lighting and heating in Council buildings.

- **Deliver grant schemes to local communities to reduce energy consumption, increase sustainable energy and reduce fuel bills.**

Budgets for private sector housing improvements are already in place and will continue to attract significant external match funding. The priority will be to ensure ongoing advantage for recipients by funding the most sustainable improvements possible.

- **Expansion of biodiesel use where feasible.**

Biodiesel made from recycled vegetable oils has been trialled in a number of Council vehicles over the past six months at a 20% blend. The emphasis will be on expanding the use of biodiesel to more vehicles over the next year.

- **Delivery of sustainable procurement policies.**

The Council's Procurement Strategy contains a number of challenging policy commitments aimed at increasing the sustainability of Council operations. The focus will be on delivering the most cost effective options first.

- **Support sustainable economic development projects.**

Ryedale District Council is continuing to support the Ryedale, North York Moors and Howardian Hills Biomass Development Service, to expand the promotion of supply chains and markets across all sectors.

APPENDIX:

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

NI 185: CO₂ reduction from local authority operations			
Is data provided by the LA or a local partner?	Y	Is this an existing indicator?	N
Rationale:	<p>Action by local authorities is likely to be critical to the achievement of Government's climate change objectives. The public sector is in a key position to lead on carbon emissions reduction by setting a behavioural and strategic example to the private sector and the communities they serve. Through activities such as management of their own operations and local procurement they can achieve CO₂ emissions reductions.</p> <p>The aim of this indicator is to measure the progress of local authorities to reduce emissions from their own operations which are directly under their control and to encourage them to demonstrate leadership on tackling climate change.</p> <p>Measurement against this indicator will require each LA to calculate their carbon emissions from analysis of energy/fuel bills and outsourced services. The Carbon Trust currently provides support to LAs to guide them through the process of calculating carbon footprints and to help them develop carbon reduction plans.</p>		
Definition:	<p>Percentage CO₂ reduction from LA operations:</p> <p>The indicator being assessed will comprise of an annually measured reduction of emissions against a set baseline (2008-2009)</p> <p>Carbon emissions: is the total amount of direct and indirect CO₂ emitted as a result of LA operations.</p> <p>LA Operations: These activities involved in the daily functions of a Local Authority which result (either directly or indirectly) in the emissions of CO₂ into the atmosphere.</p>		
Formula:	<p>The indicator is proportion of CO₂ reduction measured against a 2008-09 baseline, calculated as follows:</p> $\left(\frac{x_{t+1} - x_t}{x_t} \right) * 100$ <p>where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> x_{t+1} = amount of CO₂ emission in year t+1 x_t = amount of CO₂ emission in year t <p>Return a percentage reduction figure (to 2 decimal places) for the last reported year compared to the previous year.</p>		

NI 185: CO₂ reduction from local authority operations (continued)

Worked example	Take April 2008-March 2009 calculated emissions baseline of 52 tonnes CO ₂ . April 2009-March 2010 emissions totalled 50 tonnes CO ₂ . Therefore the percentage of CO ₂ reduction from LA operations to be reported in April 2010 = $\left(\frac{52-50}{50}\right) \times 100 = 4.00\%$	Good performance	High % reduction against 2008-09 baseline
Collection interval	Annual	Data Source	Data to be provided by Local Authority using spreadsheet tool (published on the Defra website)
Return Format	Annual CO ₂ reduction figure as calculated using agreed spreadsheet methodology	Decimal Places	Two
Reporting organisation	Local authority		
Spatial level	Single tier, district and county council		
Further Guidance	Carbon Trust offers advice to Local Authorities on managing their own operations. http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/default.ct . The analysis to support this indicator, the proposed spreadsheet tool and an FAQ can be found at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/publicsector/localauth/index.htm		

MI T56: Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the LA area

Is data provided by the LA or a local partner?	N	Is this an existing indicator?	N
Rationale:	<p>Action by local authorities is likely to be critical to the achievement of Government's climate change objectives. Local authorities are uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to local communities by raising awareness and to influence behaviours. In addition, through their powers and responsibilities (housing, planning, local transport and powers to promote well-being) and by working with their Local Strategic Partnership they can have significant influence over emissions in their local areas.</p> <p>In the Climate Change Programme 2005, the Government stated its commitment to ensure the local Government framework will include an appropriate focus on action on climate change, sufficient to incentivise local authorities to reach the levels of the best. The Government also committed to give greater flexibility to deliver operational priorities in the most cost effective way for their locality.</p> <p>The proposed indicator will rely on centrally produced statistics to measure end user CO₂ emissions in the Local Authority area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and Public Sector • Domestic Housing • Road transport <p>The data is already captured and analysed to produce area by area carbon emissions per capita. Analysis carried out by AEA Energy and Environment has confirmed that the data available for the construction of the Community Climate Change Indicator are sufficiently robust with relatively low levels of uncertainty.</p> <p>The percentage reduction in CO₂ per capita in each LA will then be reported annually. It is proposed that 2005 data (to be published in November 2007) will be used as the baseline.</p> <p>UK Government statistics currently classify the data as experimental statistics. However, Defra's developing work programme to obtain classification of the data as a full National Statistic from November 2008. The National Statistics published in 2008 will comprise of the 2005 data will be compared to the 2005 baseline year.</p>		
Definition:	<p>Percentage reduction of the per capita CO₂ emissions in the local authority area. The indicator being assessed will comprise of an annual reduction in CO₂ emissions across an agreed set of sectors (housing, road transport and business) measured as a percentage reduction of the per capita CO₂ emissions from the 2005 base line year.</p> <p>End user calculations locate emissions from fuel producers to fuel users. The end user calculation therefore allows estimates to be made of emissions for a consumer of fuel which also include the emissions from producing the fuel the consumer has used.</p> <p>Domestic Housing: All housing in the local authority area, including Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO), privately owned and leased housing</p> <p>Business, Industry and commercial emissions, including public sector, but not those included in the EU Emissions trading scheme</p> <p>Road Traffic: All road traffic (but not motorways)</p>		

PI 185: Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the LA area (continued)

Formula:

The indicator measures the percentage reduction in per capita CO₂ emissions, as follows:

$$\left(\frac{\left(\frac{h_t + b_t + r_t}{pop_t} \right) - \left(\frac{h_{2005} + b_{2005} + r_{2005}}{pop_{2005}} \right)}{\left(\frac{h_t + b_t + r_t}{pop_t} \right)} \right) * 100$$

where:

h = tonnes CO₂ from domestic heating, calculated from DTB electricity and gas consumption data;

b = tonnes CO₂ from business and industry, calculated from DTB electricity and gas consumption data and the ce fuel usage statistics reported by larger organisations;

r = tonnes CO₂ from road transport calculated using detailed specific transport census data (annual average daily flows) published by DfT;

pop = LA population (thousands) calculated using ONS population statistics;

t = baseline year (2005);

t+n = target year (2010)

MI 186: Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the LA area (continued)

<p>Worked example:</p>	<p>2005 emissions for Low Carbon City: Business = 90 Housing = 91 Transport = 124 LA Population = 31 Total emissions per capita = 9.3</p> <p>2006 emissions for Low Carbon City: Business = 89 Housing = 88 Transport = 115 Population = 32 Total emissions per capita = 9</p> $\left(\frac{89 + 88 + 115}{32} \right) \div \left(\frac{90 + 91 + 124}{31} \right) \times 100 = 97$ <p>= 3% reduction of the per capita CO₂ emissions in the Local Authority Area in 2006</p>	<p>Good performance:</p>	<p>Good performance is typified by high CO₂ emission percentage per capita.</p> <p>Analysis by AEA Technology has shown that many LA's could expect to achieve between 11% and 13% reduction compared to 2004 by 2010.</p>
<p>Collection Interval:</p>	<p>Statistics are produced annually by DEFRA</p>	<p>Data Source:</p>	<p>Defra publication of local CO₂ emissions every Autumn. http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/spacialchg.htm</p>
<p>Returns Format:</p>	<p>Spreadsheets produced to include total emission CO₂ emission per Local Authority presented by sector with the reduction percentage of CO₂ per capita compared with 2005 baseline</p>	<p>Decimal Places:</p>	<p>None (although this could be changed if necessary)</p>
<p>Reporting organisation:</p>	<p>DEFRA</p>		

MI 186: Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the LA area (continued)

<p>Spatial level:</p>	<p>Single tier, district and county council</p>
<p>Further Guidance:</p>	<p>The 2004 data is available on the Defra website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/spacialchg.htm</p> <p>The 2005 baseline data will be published in November 2007.</p> <p>The analysis to support this indicator and an FAQ can be found at http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/outpublic/eco%20locality/index.htm</p>

NI 188: Adapting to climate change			
Is data provided by the LA or a local partner?	Y	Is this an existing indicator?	N
Rationale:	<p>To ensure local authority prepare themselves to manage risks to health, work, homes and businesses from a changing climate, and to make the most of new opportunities.</p> <p>The indicator measures progress on assessing and managing climate risks and opportunities, and incorporating appropriate action into local authority strategic planning. The risks and opportunities might include: flooding; heat waves; changing patterns of disease; impact on local ecosystems; and changing demand for and scope to grow new crops; reduction in heating bills and increased tourism.</p>		
Definition:	<p>Authorities should report the level they have reached as follows:</p> <p>Level 0: The authority has not assessed and managed climate risks and opportunities, or incorporated appropriate action into local authority strategic planning.</p> <p>Level 1: The authority has undertaken a comprehensive, local risk-based assessment of current vulnerabilities to weather and climate, both now and in the future. It has developed possible adaptation responses explicitly related to other relevant council strategies, plans, partnerships and operations (such as planning, flood management, economic development, social care, services for children, transport, etc).</p> <p>Level 2: The authority has identified the most effective adaptation response to address the risks and opportunities, explicitly related to other council strategies, plans and operations. This will yield a set of locally specific, preferred options.</p> <p>Level 3: The authority has developed an adaptation action plan to deliver necessary steps to achieve the existing objectives set out in council strategies, plans, investment decisions and partnership arrangements in light of projected climate change.</p> <p>Level 4: The authority has implemented an adaptation action plan, and a process for monitoring and review to ensure progress with each measure.</p>		
Formula:	N/A		
Worked example:	LA rates performance against the 4 levels of performance	Good performance	To have achieved all the stages on time and to quality standards
Collection Interval:	Annual	Data Source:	Local authority
Return format:	Number (0-4)	Decimal Places:	N/A.
NI 188: Adapting to climate change (continued)			
Reporting organisation:	Local authority		
Spatial level:	Single tier and district council		
Further Guidance:	<p>General guidance on how to undertake the tasks in levels 1-4 is available to councils in the Nottingham Declaration Action Pack: www.ecf.org.uk/inclusion/buildinglocalauthoritiesnottinghamdeclarationonline_action_pack/</p> <p>The UK Climate Impact Programme www.ukcip.org.uk provides a range of tools and resources in relation to the level 1-4 tasks.</p>		

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