

CARBON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Officers within the County Council have been working with the Carbon Trust over the past year to establish the details of the Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions produced by WCC activities within a defined scope including business mileage, building energy use, streetlighting and highway depot fuel use. Annual CO₂ emissions were found to be 29,567 Tonnes.

A Strategy and Implementation Plan has been produced. The Plan briefly summarises the Council's position with regard to carbon management, provides an inventory of carbon emissions, outlines the work that has been undertaken to date to reduce emissions and sets out further action that the authority will take over a specified time period.

Opportunities for carbon savings have been identified and actions developed to reduce the organisation's impact on the environment. These include reducing emissions from business mileage, cutting emissions from County buildings through improved energy management and policy, purchasing increasing levels of biodiesel for highway vehicles, working with the County Council's major highway contractors to encourage reduction in highway vehicle mileage and including energy efficiency as a key consideration in procurement projects, particularly for new buildings.

The Strategy and Implementation Plan will be regularly monitored and reviewed, and further actions recommended. Targets set within the Action Plan aim to reduce CO₂ emissions by a total of 5,176 tonnes by 2010.

Energy costs to the organisation are predicted to rise due to the global increases in fossil fuel prices. The report estimates that energy costs within the scope of the report will rise from £5.9 million per year to £10.9 million per year by 2010. Actions identified within the report are estimated to save the organisation a total of £1.2 million over the period to 2010. The major risk for failure of the project is limited resources to support necessary staffing and infrastructure investments. Making predictions on energy use and future costs carries an inherent risk.

The report proposes the following targets:

A reduction in carbon emissions from existing building stock (non-schools) by 10% by 2010. This will be achieved through a number of actions including:

- Property Carbon Footprint project (including Energy Policy Review)
- Improved energy management information, storage and interpretation
- Improved management of the Energy Conservation Fund
- Property Strategy - Co-location of existing property

A reduction in carbon emission from County Highway depot fuel by 15% by 2010. This will be achieved through a number of actions including:

- Purchase biodiesel for highways vehicles
- Use fuel saving tyres on fleet vehicles
- Working with Fleet and WCC managers to reduce fuel usage
- Reducing travel in highways management

A reduction in carbon emissions from staff business travel by 10% by 2010

- Corporate business travel project ("New Ways of Working")

These reductions will be measured against the business as usual projections to 2010. and will be reviewed and updated as necessary on an annual basis.

Actions will be put in place to ensure that forthcoming projects e.g. PFI streetlighting, new-build primary and secondary schools will include carbon management in design and contract considerations. Energy/environmental policy/guidelines will be developed for major projects and procurement.