



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.westoxon.gov.uk

Low Carbon & Environmental Plan

*Looking after our natural
resources, greening our footprint*



Foreword & Contents

At West Oxfordshire District Council, we are proud that our district is such a beautiful place to live in, work in and visit. We know how important the environment is to our residents and have emphasised this by making one of our corporate aims to 'protect and enhance the environment of West Oxfordshire and maintain the district as a clean, beautiful place with low levels of crime and nuisance.' As part of this corporate aim, we have acknowledged the challenge of climate change to our surroundings and the need to respond to this.

We are very aware that flooding is an important issue to our residents and we have undertaken a broad programme of work on flood risk management, flood alleviation and emergency planning. We have also produced Local Climate Impact Profiles to raise awareness and increase resilience to potential weather events in a changing climate.

Like all councils, we have a vital role to play in cutting energy consumption, tackling fuel poverty and

reducing the reliance on fossil fuels. Energy efficiency and renewable energy are important issues for West Oxfordshire residents and we intend to play a strong role in addressing these issues.

We are a signatory to Climate Local Oxfordshire to publicly show our commitment to reducing carbon emissions and managing climate impacts. Since 2008, we have taken significant steps to reduce our carbon emissions from both our own estate and operations.

Our Low Carbon and Environmental Plan shows how we can work with residents, businesses and community groups to influence energy reduction. It also sets out how we intend to continue reducing our own carbon emissions as part of a wider programme to enhance and protect our local environment.

CLlr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment

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1.1 Why we need a plan

Globally we are living beyond our planetary means, consuming natural resources at a faster rate than they can be replenished.

The use of fossil fuels, such as coal, gas and oil, has increased dramatically in the last few decades (see figure 1) and the resultant increases in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions have contributed towards an increased rate of climatic change.

It is essential that we, individually as well as collaboratively, all work to reduce our consumption of unsustainable resources in order to reduce our impact on the environment.

We know how important the environment is to our residents and have emphasised this by making one of our corporate aims to:

'Protect and enhance the environment of West Oxfordshire and maintain the District as a clean, beautiful place with low levels of crime and nuisance'.

As part of this, we have acknowledged the challenge of climate change to our surroundings and the need to respond to it.

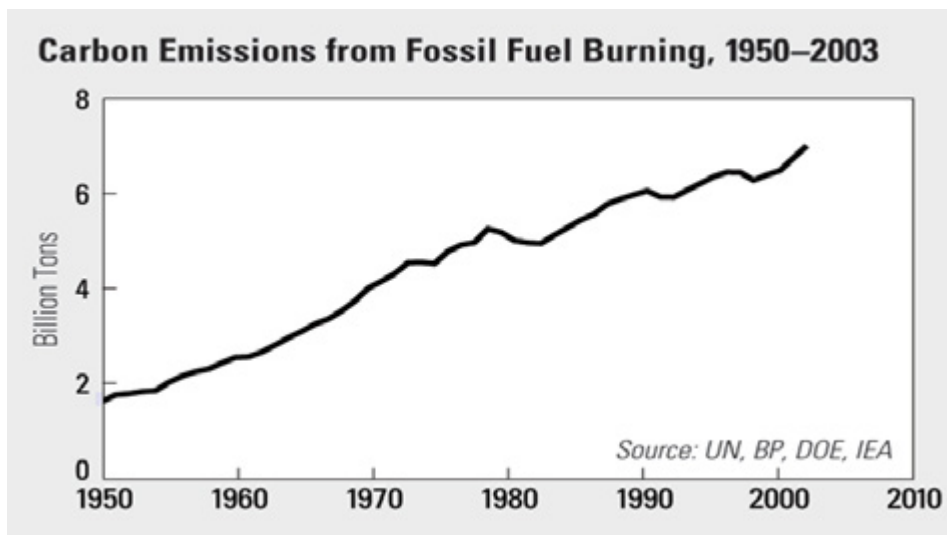
This document sets out how we plan to reduce CO₂ emissions from our own estate and operations. It also outlines key aims and actions we have identified to help reduce CO₂ emissions from homes, businesses, waste and transport within the District.

Although this plan focuses on our efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions, there are also other local benefits to be gained, such as lower energy bills and a reduction in fuel poverty.

Implementing the key actions set out in this document has the potential to:

- Generate economic growth and create new jobs
- Deliver substantial social and environmental benefits.

Figure 1. Global carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning, 1950 - 2003





1.2 What's unique about West Oxfordshire?

Rural districts like West Oxfordshire typically have higher CO₂ emissions than urban districts. Reasons for this include:

- Reduced availability of public transport - which results in greater reliance on cars.
- Reduced access to the gas network to heat homes.
- A high number of hard to treat properties - making it difficult to install energy efficiency measures.
- A rapidly growing and ageing population
- High levels of fuel poverty in parts of the district.

1.3 How we developed this plan

This plan was developed with assistance from the National Energy Foundation (NEF).

A number of meetings and workshops were held with the Cabinet Member for the Environment, council employees and councillors. The Climate Change Board and the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee were also consulted.

This helped us to identify key priorities within the District and to share learning around how we could best measure and tackle our carbon emissions.

1.4 Scope of the plan

West Oxfordshire District Council is well placed to drive and influence CO₂ emission reductions in our communities and businesses through:

- The services we deliver.
- Our role as a trusted community leader and major employer.
- Our regulatory and strategic functions.

We will play a crucial role in reducing emissions to meet local, regional and national carbon targets:

- Buildings, surface transport, and waste account for 40% of UK greenhouse gas emissions¹. We are contributing to the UK's carbon reduction target by reducing carbon emissions from our own buildings and operations.
- We are supporting the Government's Green Deal initiative by encouraging energy efficiency improvements in residential buildings. There are also significant opportunities to reduce emissions from non-domestic buildings including our own estate, and through the promotion of sustainable transport and better waste management.
- Our planning role supports sustainable building standards and renewable energy generation where appropriate.
- By reducing our own estate and fleet emissions we can set an example to others in the District.

This plan sets out our future ambitions against the following themes:

- Our own estate and operations
- Households, businesses and communities
- Waste
- Transport

The UK is committed, under the Climate Change Act, to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, relative to 1990 levels. This stretching target has resulted in Government setting out a series of policies, obligations and incentives that will help to move the UK towards a low carbon future.

2.1 Government policies

The UK Climate Change Act 2008 established a long-term framework to tackle climate change by encouraging a transition to a low-carbon economy through legally binding emission reduction targets. This means a reduction of at least 34% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050, against a 1990 baseline.

These targets are broken down into carbon budgets, each covering a five year period. By setting out the trajectory to our 2020 and 2050 targets through carbon budgets, the Government aims to:

- Provide a clear, credible, long-term framework for the move to a low-carbon UK economy.
- Give businesses and individuals the direction and certainty they need to play their part.

The Energy Act 2011 heralds a step change in the provision of energy efficiency measures to homes and businesses through the Green Deal and a new Energy Company Obligation (ECO).

In 2011/12 over 24,000 excess winter deaths in the UK were attributed to cold homes where, we know that for many, adequate warmth wasn't achieved. The latest official fuel poverty figures show that 3.2 million households in England were classed as being in fuel poverty

The Act also includes measures on energy security, low carbon technologies and fair competition in the energy markets.

2.2 Green Deal

Green Deal, launched in January 2013, gives householders and businesses the chance to make energy-efficiency improvements to their properties and pay the cost back through savings achieved on their electricity bills, rather than incurring an up-front cost.

The 'Green Deal Golden Rule' - the key to whether a measure, or package of measures, is actually financed through the Green Deal - is that the expected financial savings must be equal to or greater than the cost of repayment over the term of the Green Deal Plan.

2.3 Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

ECO is a new obligation imposed upon the larger energy suppliers. It requires those suppliers to make around £1.3 billion available per annum to sit alongside the Green Deal, providing a subsidy towards energy efficiency improvements for householders such as insulation and efficient heating.



Photograph courtesy of ESI

2.4 Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA)

With the advent of the Green Deal, the UK Government has signalled a return of obligations for local authorities under HECA.

HECA requires all local authorities in England to prepare a 'Further Report' setting out the energy conservation measures that they consider practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area.

These reports will be required every two years, up to and including, 31 March 2027.

2.5 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

In March 2011, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, and the Vice-Chair of the Local Government Association (LGA), signed a memorandum of understanding. This MoU acknowledges the pivotal role councils have in tackling climate change by:

- Reducing carbon emissions from their own estate and operations.
- Encouraging and enabling their residents, businesses and visitors to reduce their CO₂ emissions.
- Promoting national priorities such as the Green Deal and renewable energy deployment in a locally appropriate way.

2.6 Climate Local

Further to the MoU, the LGA developed Climate Local, an initiative which provides a framework for local authorities to reflect local priorities and opportunities to reduce CO₂ emissions.

Climate Local is designed to help councils to capture opportunities and benefits of action in a changing climate, through:

- Saving on their energy bills.
- Generating income from renewable energy.
- Attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries such as energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable living projects.

Work in these key areas will help minimise our impact on the local environment and therefore manage the impacts of flooding and extreme weather events.



Photograph courtesy of Green Deal Together

Since 2008, we have taken significant steps to reduce carbon emissions from both our own estate and operations, and through our services and support to businesses and households.

Whilst this plan sets out our future commitments from 2013, the following sets out some of our key successes over the past 4 years.

3.1 Our strategic commitments

We have committed to a number of targets and initiatives that are focused on reducing carbon emissions across the District.

The West Oxfordshire Council Plan 2012 - 2015 sets out our vision to:

'Maintain and enhance West Oxfordshire as one of the best places to live, work and visit in Great Britain.'

The vision is underpinned by a commitment to protect and enhance the environment by:

- Reducing the Council's own impact on climate change.
- Supporting local residents, businesses and groups in reducing their impact and adapting to climate change.
- Reducing the amount of residual waste sent to landfill.
- Increasing the levels of recycled and composted household and commercial waste.

We are a signatory to Climate Local Oxfordshire which commits all local authorities in Oxfordshire to reduce carbon emissions and manage climate impacts, including:

- Targeting a 3% annual reduction in CO₂ emissions from local authority estate and operations (against a 2010/11 baseline) until 2015.
- Working with community groups, including the Low Carbon Hub and Community Action Groups (CAG), to support the roll out of Green Deal.
- Setting up the OxFutures Fund (Green Bank) to attract private sector funding to support community energy efficiency projects in the county.

We are a member of the Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership which brings together organisations from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors across the county.

The Partnership works to:

- Reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling.
- Minimise the environmental impacts of waste (including emissions of harmful greenhouse gases).
- Reduce Oxfordshire's CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2030.
- Improve water and energy efficiency by public sector organisations, thereby setting an example for businesses and communities.

Changes in the climate and weather are likely to have a major impact on Council services, residents and our surroundings. The 2007 floods are a poignant reminder of this fact.

We have studied the weather events that occurred in West Oxfordshire from 2001 - 2008 resulting in our Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) which examines the impact of these events on our services.

3.2 Our energy and environmental performance

West Oxfordshire's Carbon 'Footprint'

From 2008 to 2011 West Oxfordshire's CO₂ emissions fell by 12% to 6.9 tonnes per person per year, the same as the average emissions for the UK as a whole.²

Improving our own estate and operations

We recognise that our own buildings and operations contribute to global CO₂ emissions.

Since 2008, we have measured our emissions across four areas that we as a Council have direct control over. These include:

- Corporate buildings including our offices in Witney and Chipping Norton, council depots and public toilets.
- Our own fleet including mowing equipment and vehicles run by Kier, our current waste collection contractor.
- Windrush (Witney), Chipping Norton, Carterton and Bartholomew (Eynsham) Leisure Centres, and Woodstock open air pool.
- Staff business mileage.

Between 2008 and 2012, we saw a 16% reduction in the CO₂ emissions associated with our own estate and operations.

Total CO₂ emissions in 2012 from all operations and services under our direct control were 3,468tCO₂, or 0.5% of total District emissions.

Sources of our greenhouse gas emissions in 2012/13

- 52% Leisure centres
- 27% Waste collection fleet
- 15% Council's operational buildings
- 10% Woodgreen & Elmfield offices
- 1% Business travel by car

Figure 2. Breakdown of West Oxfordshire's CO₂ emissions in 2011

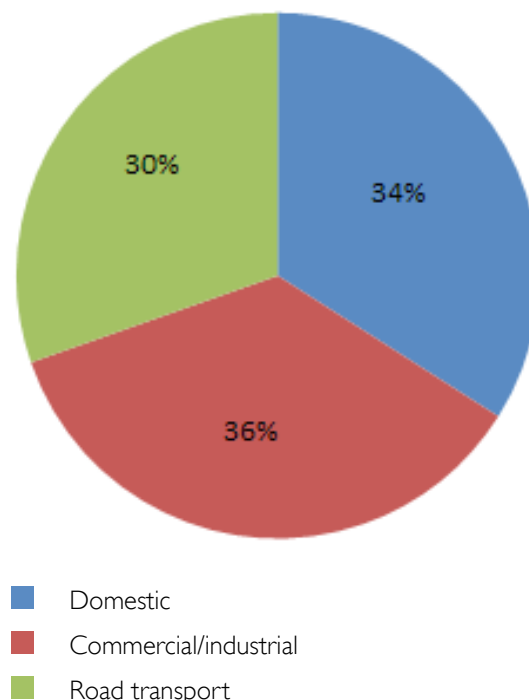
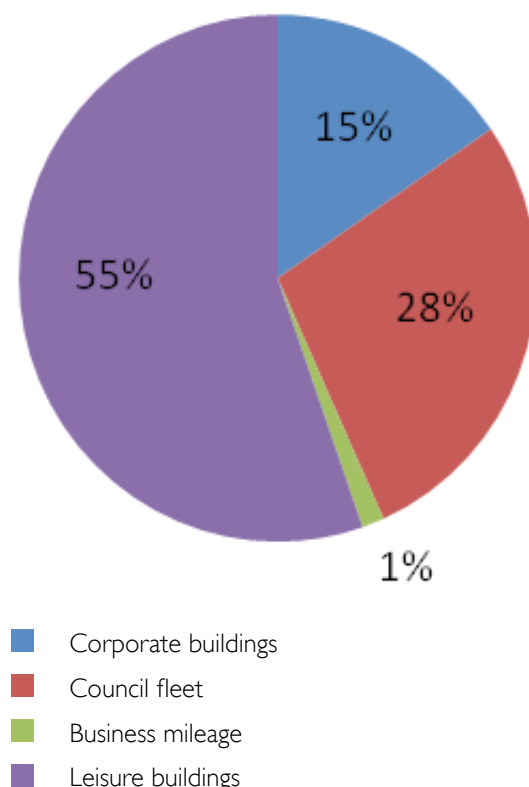
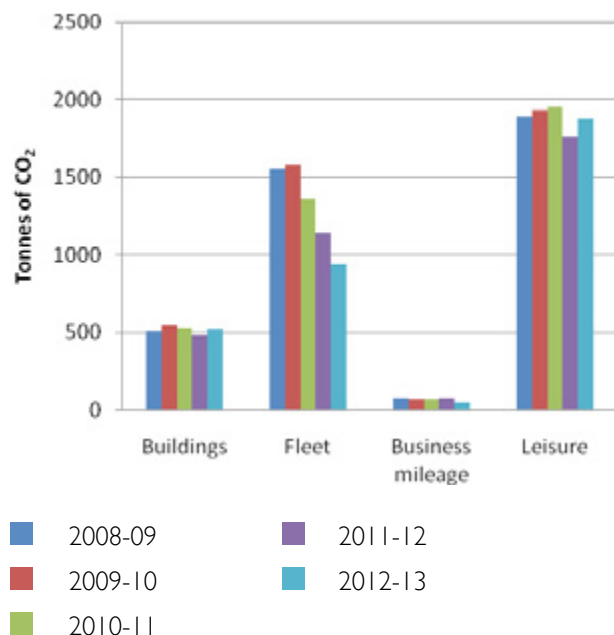


Figure 3. Breakdown of WODC carbon emissions for 2012



² In 2008, West Oxfordshire's CO₂ emissions were 828,000 tonnes of CO₂. Despite a population increase of just over 6%, CO₂ emissions fell to 726,000 tonnes of CO₂ in 2011.

Figure 4. Comparison of total CO₂ emission contribution by source



We produce a year end emissions analysis report which is used to identify carbon reduction initiatives. To reduce our carbon footprint, we recently commissioned energy audits of our offices and leisure centres and are working to further reduce our emissions. Our Elmfield office in Witney includes sustainable energy generation, low impact materials and high levels of thermal insulation to minimise carbon emissions.

We have adopted an energy code of practice which outlines what is expected of our staff in order to save energy and work in a more environmentally friendly manner.

We have a Green Travel Plan in place to encourage staff to use more sustainable forms of transport and are actively looking at ways to reduce emissions from our vehicle fleet. The case study overleaf gives an example of how we have reduced CO₂ emissions from our own vehicles.

In addition, our leisure centres have taken steps to reduce their energy consumption by installing pool covers and new air handling systems.

West Oxfordshire's homes and businesses

As highlighted in our HECA Further Report 2013, two-thirds of CO₂ emitted across the District is from gas, oil and electricity that are used to power our homes and businesses.

Between them, homes and businesses emitted just under 500,000 tonnes of CO₂ in 2011 - 70% of all emissions in the district.

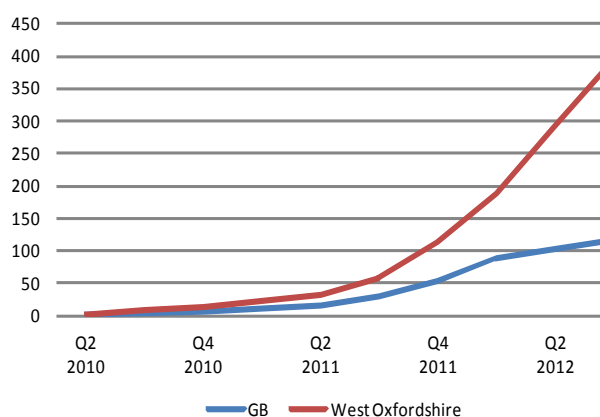
We are actively working to help households and businesses to save energy, install lower carbon forms of heating and install renewable energy systems where appropriate, through a number of initiatives e.g. the 'Warm Homes, Healthy People' project funded practical refurbishment measures including insulation and boiler replacements³.

Planning policies and guidance

We have adopted a range of policies and guidance which provides advice on maximising energy efficiency and sustainable building standards for new housing and commercial buildings in the District.

The draft Local Plan encourages developers to build to increasingly higher sustainability standards, including pushing for greater use of renewable or low carbon energy,⁴ (see Figure 5).

Figure 5. Renewable installations per 10,000 homes in West Oxfordshire⁵



Case studies



Reducing CO₂ emissions from council vehicles

As winner of the Fleet Hero award in 2011, we have sought to capitalise on this achievement by closely monitoring our year on year CO₂ emissions.

Having found that our fleet was responsible for 43% of the Council's carbon footprint, we adopted a number of practices to reduce our emissions and those of our contractors:

- Smarter driver training was rolled out to all fleet vehicle drivers resulting in efficiency improvements of up to 38%.
- We use the Merridale fuel system to monitor both driver and vehicle fuel efficiency. (It is used in conjunction with the Quartix telematics technology, which allows us to efficiently plan the routes of our service vehicles).
- Fleet replacement is now focused on more fuel-efficient vehicles with the most recent additions to the fleet having an increased fuel efficiency of 2.1 miles per gallon (mpg).

Improving our own buildings - Elmfield Council Offices, Witney

When we commissioned the new Elmfield Offices in 2003, the building was already designed to demonstrate various sustainable technologies such as sheep's wool insulation, natural ventilation mechanisms, solar thermal water heating and rainwater recycling.

However, whilst the project was underway the government announced a competition to fund various field trials around the UK on solar PV systems. Together with the local energy agency and the Environmental Change Institute at Oxford University, we put in, and won a bid - one of only 20 projects that were awarded funding - and photovoltaic tiles were installed.

Once the building was occupied we closely monitored the energy use during working hours and when the building was empty to identify energy saving opportunities.

The project helped us reduce our overall energy consumption and create awareness with staff, local residents and businesses of the possibilities of sustainable technologies.

Despite this innovative work, we are still looking at ways to reduce the energy consumption of this building.



The increased uptake of renewable energy installations across the district can also be attributed to the introduction of the Government's 'feed-in tariff' which provides a financial incentive for electricity generating renewable technologies.

Recently, we have seen an increase in planning applications for electricity generating plants such as solar photovoltaic farms.

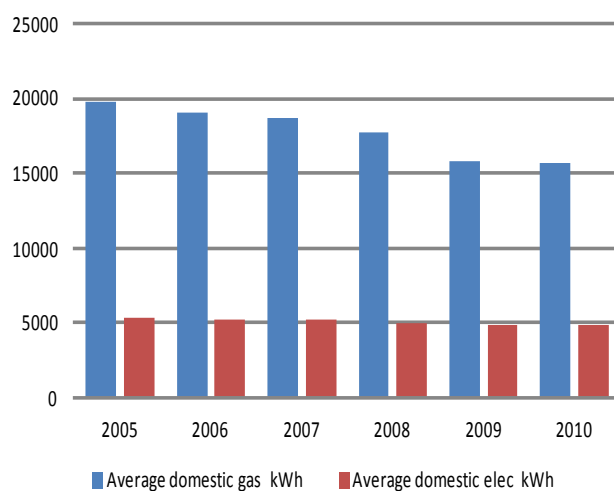
Whilst we support and welcome these applications, our planning processes ensure there is a balance between mitigating potential impacts of such a development and the carbon reduction benefits that these systems provide.

Affordable Warmth Network

For the last two years we have been an integral member of the Affordable Warmth Network, a group of local authority and community partners who have come together to deliver a county wide coordinated response to fuel poverty.

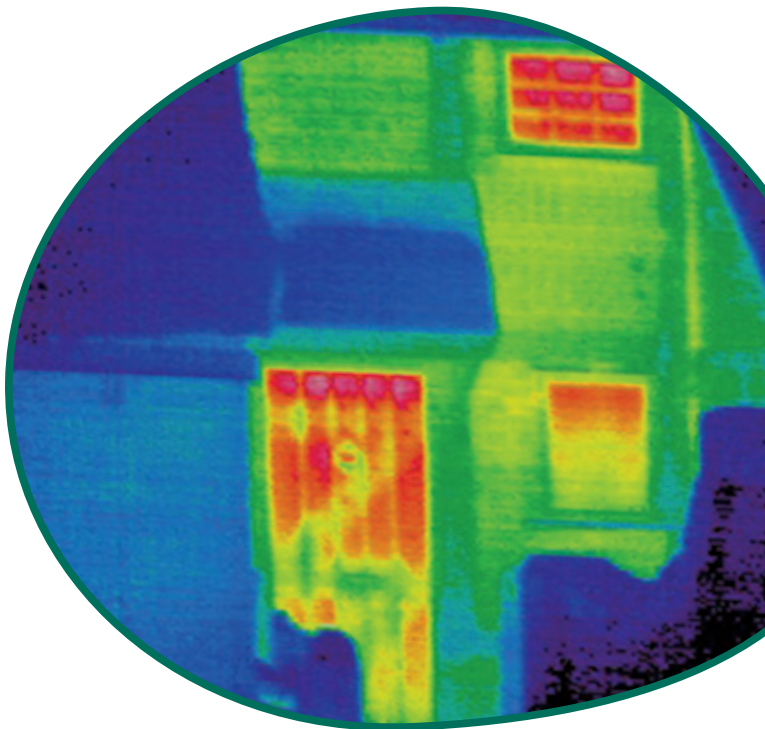
This has helped, in part, to reduce average gas consumption of our homes by just over 30% (see Figure 6). Whilst levels of fuel poverty in the district are currently at 11% (based on 2013 data), the district still has lower than average levels compared to the national average of 16%.

Figure 6. Average domestic energy consumption in West Oxfordshire since 2005⁶



Thermal imaging

We have implemented a scheme which allows community groups to carry out thermal imaging surveys of homes in their areas to promote energy efficiency to residents.



Green Deal Together

We were the lead partner in the formation of Green Deal Together, a community interest company set up to deliver Green Deal services to local residents and businesses.

We want to promote and help deliver the scheme in West Oxfordshire. This will ensure that local residents are able to take advantage of a network of credible and trusted installing companies offering a wide range of energy efficiency measures.

Case studies



Thermal imaging loan scheme

Over the past two years we have lent community groups in West Oxfordshire a thermal imaging camera to survey local homes in their area.

The free service, available during the winter months (October - March), gives householders a thermal image of their home so they can see where heat is escaping. A heat loss report is also provided along with advice on how to make improvements and save money on energy bills.

Improvement measures recommended to householders range from simple DIY draught proofing and insulation foil behind radiators through to more significant works such as cavity wall and solid wall insulation.

Over 300 homes were surveyed in the winter of 2012/13.

Six community groups are now involved in the project:

- Sustainable Witney
- Charlbury Green Hub
- Sustainable Stonesfield
- Hailey PACT
- Eynsham Green Tea
- Transition Chipping Norton

See www.westoxon.gov.uk/homeenergy

Green Deal Together (GDT)

The Government's new flagship scheme, Green Deal, gives householders and businesses the opportunity to install energy saving measures at no up-front cost.

The savings that result from the energy saving measures are used to pay for a long term loan, so that the building occupier benefits from a more energy efficient building with reduced running costs.

Green Deal has the potential to provide residents and business owners with warmer healthier homes and businesses, saving them money off their fuel bills and creating work for the local installers.

The Council has recognised the potential benefits that Green Deal can offer and is one of the founding partners of 'Green Deal Together', a community interest company.

Green Deal Together (GDT) is owned by 15 local authorities and is a Green Deal Provider. On request it will help householders through the whole Green Deal process including having an energy assessment, obtaining quotes for the work, selecting builders and arranging the finance needed to pay for the work.



Reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill

Some 44,335 tonnes of waste was collected in the district in 2011/12. Over 58% of this was recycled and the remaining 18,347 tonnes were sent to landfill, resulting in emissions of over 42,977 tonnes of CO₂.

Working with households and businesses to promote the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' message, we have already met our 2020 recycling targets. However, we can always do more and have set even higher targets for 2014/15.

Promoting sustainable transport

The remaining third of emissions come from travel on West Oxfordshire's roads. This is high because personal car usage is typically much more in rural areas where a dispersed population has limited access to public transport.

Although we recognise that individuals have to make their own decisions about how they travel, we are trying to actively promote the use of more sustainable forms of transport including car sharing, buses, trains, cycling and walking.

Initiatives include the Green Travel Map, which provides details of traffic free walking and cycling routes in West Oxfordshire, and the Witney Bicycle User Group (BUG).

Adapting to climate change

The UK Government recently published The National Adaptation Programme, a report which outlines what the UK Government is doing to increase resilience of a changing climate.

Flooding is of particular interest to West Oxfordshire and the government has committed "to work with individuals, communities and organisations to reduce the threat of flooding and coastal erosion, including that resulting from climate change, by understanding the risks of flooding and

coastal erosion, working together to put in place long-term plans to manage these risks and making sure that other plans take account of them".

Our Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) examines the impact of weather events that occurred in West Oxfordshire from 2001 - 2008.

We can use this information to increase awareness of, and understand, our vulnerability to weather events.

The LCLIP highlights how adapting to potential significant events now can help to mitigate any future risks of climate change including flooding.

Green spaces

Here in West Oxfordshire we are privileged to be surrounded by beautiful countryside, rich in biodiversity. We must take action to conserve and enhance these assets or we shall suffer a loss in our quality of life and economy.

We are responsible for 140 hectares of public open space, 35 hectares of woodland and over 12,000 individual trees.

We recognise the value of this open space and woodland as a resource that has the capacity to help mitigate the impacts of climate change, by absorbing CO₂ and providing cooling through natural shading.

We have a long history of carefully maintaining our open spaces. Details of our vision can be found in the Strategy for District Council Public Open Space in West Oxfordshire 2011 – 2015.

Our West Oxfordshire Design Guide sets out the biodiversity and landscape character of the district. It advises how to protect biodiversity when developing a site, in line with targets set out in Biodiversity Action Plans.

Case studies



Improving recycling rates in communal properties

We have improved facilities for over 1,560 communal properties across the district by providing an easy and effective recycling scheme for residents.

Communal bin stores have been supplemented with recycling and food waste bins with new clear signage. This has helped to reduce waste sent to landfill by up to 40%.

Our recycling advisor spoke directly to local residents to explain the improvements and they were given:

- A reusable bag to collect and store dry recycling in.
- Information leaflets about recycling.
- A food waste kitchen caddy and free roll of compostable liners.

Satisfaction surveys issued via housing associations and management companies showed that 81% of residents were 'encouraged to recycle more' since the new scheme had been introduced.

Tonnage for dry recycling has increased with over 10 tonnes per year of waste now diverted away from landfill.

Green Travel Map

We are keen to promote healthy lifestyle choices and encourage residents to take care of their local environment.

West Oxfordshire has a wealth of alternative travel options for both the commute and leisure time to help people leave their cars at home.

We have been working with local organisations to encourage people to discover the benefits of green travel, and as part of the West Oxfordshire Sustainable Transport Forum, we aim to make it easier for more people to use greener transport, such as walking, cycling, car sharing and public transport.

The Forum has recently published a map detailing West Oxfordshire's green travel options - including cycle routes. These are available at local leisure centres, libraries and council offices or can be downloaded at: www.westoxon.gov.uk/greentravel



Flooding

During July 2007 West Oxfordshire suffered its worst floods for years. Rainfall levels were the highest since records began and a total of 126.2mm of rain was recorded at RAF Brize Norton's weather station on 20 July that year.

Over 1630 homes and 70 businesses were flooded across West Oxfordshire. During 5 days we issued approximately 30,000 sandbags, and dealt with 632 emergency phone calls.

The Government later announced a fund to help flood-hit residents get back on their feet. We distributed Flood Relief Funding to the owners of flooded properties as follows:

- 1,137 grants at £250 - £284,250.
- 301 hardship grants totalling £155,050.
- We also administered the Red Cross grants for Oxfordshire, a total of £141,000.

Following these events the Government commissioned an independent review of the flooding emergency. The review made a number of recommendations, including the greater involvement of local authorities in flood risk management, and subsequently the Flood and Water Management Act was introduced.



Photograph courtesy of Barry Clark

4.1 Our high level ambitions at national and county levels

Our Low Carbon & Environmental Plan needs to be placed within the context of carbon dioxide emissions targets at both national and regional (county) levels.

The following sets out key national and county level carbon emissions targets;

National targets:

- By 2050: reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% relative to 1990 levels (Climate Change Act 2008).

County targets:

- By 2030: Oxfordshire will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50% compared to 2008 levels (Oxfordshire 2030, Oxfordshire Partnership).

The following section provides a district level action plan across our four key themes:

- 1 Our own estate and operations
- 2 Buildings and communities
- 3 Waste
- 4 Transport

4.2 How we plan to help reduce the District's emissions

I Our own estates and operations

| Target | Measures |
|---|--|
| <p>3% annual reduction (year on year) in local authority CO₂ emissions until 2015 (compared to 2010/11 baseline).</p> <p>Current position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010/11 total CO₂ emissions = 3,670tCO₂ • 2011/12 total CO₂ emissions = 3,626tCO₂ • 2012/13 total CO₂ emissions = 3,468tCO₂ <p>Annual reductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010/11 to 11/12 = 1.2% • 2011/12 to 12/13 = 4.35% <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012/13 to 13/14 - 3% reduction in total CO₂ emissions = 3,364tCO₂ • 2013/14 to 14/15 - 3% reduction in total CO₂ emissions = 3,263tCO₂ | <p>Carbon management and annual CO₂ and GHG emissions (DECC) reports.</p> |

Key action

Develop an internal environmental and carbon management plan.

2 Helping households, businesses and communities (including planning)

Key action

- Support Green Deal Together to reach their internal targets and will work with them to promote/ signpost Green Deal to homes and businesses.
- Use the Private Sector Housing Policy 2011 where we can to secure energy and heating improvements in privately owned homes.
- Promote greater energy efficiency and use of renewable or low carbon energy in developments through the Draft Local Plan.
- Use the outcome of the private sector house conditions survey and stock modelling exercise to assist in the targeting of homes for energy and heating improvements.

3 Helping to reduce waste and maximise reuse and recycling

Key action

Develop a detailed action plan building on Oxfordshire's Waste Prevention Strategy.

4 Promoting sustainable transport options

Key action

Support Oxfordshire County Council in the aims and objectives set out in the Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2030 document.

Community Action Groups (CAG)

Community-led groups who raise awareness and understanding of waste reduction, reuse and recycling in Oxfordshire. There are over 50 groups across the county and they run some 365 events per year, attended by over 60,000 local residents.

Carbon footprint/carbon emissions

The total carbon dioxide emissions of a population, system or activity. This can include emissions from buildings, transport and waste.

Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT)

An obligation placed by Government on gas and electricity suppliers to deliver a reduction in household carbon savings across England, Scotland and Wales (The scheme ended December 2012).

Climate change

The long term change in the earth's climate, especially a change due to an increase in the average atmospheric temperature.

Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP)

Targets households in areas of low income to improve energy efficiency standards, and reduce fuel bills. The programme was delivered through community-based partnerships between local authorities, community groups and energy companies, via a house-by-house, street-by-street approach (The scheme ended December 2012).

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

A gas which is released when fossil fuels are burnt. Man-made release of CO₂ has been linked to an increase in the earth's temperature

Display Energy Certificate (DEC)

Shows the actual energy usage of a building. Must be produced every year for public buildings larger than 1,000m².

Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

Subsidy provided by the big six energy suppliers to help certain types of properties and householders become more energy efficient (replaces CERT and CESP).

Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)

Gives information on how to make a property more energy efficient and reduce energy costs. All homes and commercial buildings bought, sold or rented require an EPC.

Feed-in Tariffs (FiT)

Support scheme for renewable electricity generators giving a long-term guaranteed price for the electricity fed into the national grid.

Fuel poverty

A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate level of warmth.

Green Deal

A new Government initiative, started in 2013, that lets residents and businesses pay for energy saving improvements, like insulation, through savings on their electricity bill, therefore reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the UK.

Greenhouse gas

Any atmospheric gas which absorbs thermal radiation emitted by the Earth's surface. This traps heat in the atmosphere and keeps the surface at a warmer temperature than normal.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Identify local priorities for biodiversity conservation and work to deliver agreed actions and targets for priority habitats, species and locally important wildlife and sites.

Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP)

Highlights a locality's vulnerability to severe weather events and how these events affect local communities as well as local authority assets, infrastructure and capacity to deliver services.

Low Carbon Hub

A social enterprise working to lower carbon emissions across Oxfordshire by developing renewable energy and energy reduction projects for the benefit of local communities.

Oxfordshire Partnership (OP)

A group of public, private, voluntary and community organisations focusing on those issues that are important to people who live in, work in and visit Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

Working with businesses, academia and the public sector LEP are championing and developing economic development across the county.

Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

Implemented in 2011, the RHI provides financial assistance to producers (householders and businesses) of renewable heat.

Renewables

Energy resources derived from natural processes that are replenished constantly such as geothermal, solar, wind, tide, wave, hydropower, biomass and biofuels.

References

- Oxfordshire Climate Local commitments and actions (Priority objective 3: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions).
- Climate Change action plan (1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013) update Nov 2012.
- Oxfordshire 2030.
- HECA further report (March 2013).
- West Oxfordshire Council Plan 2012 - 2015.
- Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
- Oxfordshire Waste Prevention Strategy 2010-2020.
- Energy Act 2011.
- Environmental Management Strategy 2004 - 2010.
- Sustainable Procurement Guide 2010 update.
- West Oxfordshire Climate Change Policy 2008 - 2012.
- Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2030 (April 2011).
- The National Adaptation Programme.
- West Oxfordshire Local Plan.
- West Oxfordshire Design Guide.
- Greener Historic Buildings.



Report prepared by:
National Energy Foundation
Visit: www.nef.org.uk

On behalf of:
West Oxfordshire District Council
Woodgreen
Witney OX28 1NB
Call: 01993 861000
Visit: www.westoxon.gov.uk