

MEETING:	ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	22 MARCH 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	CARBON MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ENVIRONMENT & STRATEGIC HOUSING

CLASSIFICATION: Open –

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To provide the Committee with an overview of carbon management performance and the Council's intended action to achieve its carbon reduction targets.

Recommendation

THAT Environment Scrutiny note the report

Key Points Summary

- The Council's target for reduction of carbon emissions from its own operations is currently 20% by 2020, or 1.25% a year – some 400 tonnes of carbon.
- NI185, the national indicator for council carbon emissions which came in for 2008/09, is different from the previous baseline as it includes contractors and does not include other greenhouse gases.
- The Council is in the process of raising awareness of the need to put effective measures in place that will deliver the in-house target for carbon emission reductions. Projects and operations are increasingly considering carbon reduction as an integral part of their work. However, the carbon reporting framework is not currently effective at drawing this information together.
- In order to meet its target reduction the Council will need to:-
 - actively manage major contracts to contribute to the reductions needed
 - work in a co-ordinated way across Directorates in a strategic way to plan for the next decade.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Trish Marsh, Sustainability Manager (01432) 261930

- The Council is the Lead partner for the Herefordshire Partnership Local Area Agreement target to reduce carbon reductions from the county by 13.1% in the 3 years to March 2011 – a total of over 215 kilotonnes. NI186 covers emissions from industry commerce (c 40%), transport (c 30%), Housing (c 25%) and Land use (c 5%). The current trend shows, reductions will only be achieved to meet the target if concerted action across all sectors is taken.
- 4.9% of the LAA county target is due to be achieved by local measures. Achieving this reduction, amounting 80 kilotonnes overall or 0.5 tonnes per person, will require considerable effort.
- NI186 performance includes both the actual emissions and the leadership shown by the Partnership and Council in addressing climate change in the county.
- The county carbon reduction plan is still to be quantified. Work to upgrade the action plan is currently underway and is due for completion by the end of March.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The report is on the agenda at the request of the committee and following discussions at previous meetings.
- 2 Scrutiny has taken a sustained interest in carbon emissions; the last report was in September 2009.

Key Considerations

- 3 Carbon reductions are strongly linked to reductions in running costs. Work on climate change will help reduce council exposure to energy price rises and improve energy security.
- 4 Carbon reductions require close joint working across the Council as many different services and contractors are involved. Our major contractors such as Halo and Amey, have already set out aims to reduce carbon by 10% in 2010 and quantified planned reductions.
- 5 This overview is supplemented by more detailed reports highlighting key aspects of action in relation to carbon reductions. They are:-
 - Display Energy Certificates (DECs) – report on the efficiency of Council and School buildings including building profiles
 - Environmental effect of staff travel & Member travel to work arrangements
- 6 A separate report on Fleet Management will be considered by the Committee at its next meeting.
- 7 The tables below set out the key services, derived from figures supplied for the councils' NI185 return in 2008/09.

Property type	Total CO2 (kts)	Ranking
Schools (secondary)	Over 3,000 kilotonnes	1
Schools (primary)	Over 3,000 kilotonnes	2

Council offices	Over 2,000 kilotonnes	3
Street lighting	Over 2,000 kilotonnes	5
Leisure Centres (large pool)	Over 1,000 kilotonnes	6
Leisure Centres (no pool)	Over 1,000 kilotonnes	8
Libraries	Over 100 kilotonnes	13
Town Halls	Over 100 kilotonnes	14
Day Centres	Over 50 kilotonnes	15

Transport Group	Total CO2 (kts)	Ranking
School Travel	Over 2,000 kilotonnes	4
Refuse Disposal	Over 1,000 kilotonnes	7
Refuse Collection	Over 500 kilotonnes	9
Highways Maintenance	Over 500 kilotonnes	10
Business Mileage	Over 500 kilotonnes	11
EHTS	Over 100 kilotonnes	12
Highways	Over 50 kilotonnes	16
Social Care	Over 10 kilotonnes	17
Libraries	Over 10 kilotonnes	18
Leisure Centre	Over 10 kilotonnes	19
Rail	Over 5 kilotonnes	20

- 8 A list of planned carbon reduction actions is presented at Appendix 1. Work to quantify the impact of these actions will be undertaken in developing a three year plan for carbon reduction.
- 9 Asset Management and Property Services (AMPS) has identified that carbon emissions from the estate are likely to rise in the immediate future before falling. It is likely that the Council's buildings CO² profile will increase in the interim period (3-5 years), while we build a new HQ and roll out further organisational changes, such as:-
- a. The new climatic controls and additional space needs for the Archive service
 - b. Additional space requirements from expanded services in the Council and NHS Herefordshire
 - c. Connexions and Learning Skills Council staff to Children and Young Peoples Directorate.
 - d. Additional Customer Services provision - Info by Phone
 - e. Additional space requirements for the joint organizations. NHS Herefordshire will be occupying Council property. Currently we are not responsible for the NHS output.
- 10 Herefordshire Partnership is now actively managing the county carbon target and is working with all partners and each policy and delivery group to identify concrete actions they will take to contribute to meeting it. It is expected that the Energy Saving Trust will be shortly starting a

10 month programme to support major users in first setting baselines and targets and then ensuring that these are met. These initiatives will assist the development of the Council's overall action plan to reduce carbon.

Community Impact

- 11 The Council is charged by central government with setting a lead to the wider community to help meet the ambitious and legally binding UK targets to reduce carbon emission by 34% by 2020 to reduce the risk of dangerous climate change (Climate Change Act 2008).
- 12 Reducing carbon emissions is one of Herefordshire Partnership's top 35 priorities and a cross cutting issues for all its partners and policy and delivery groups.
- 13 There is lively community interest in climate change locally. Over 25 groups are now linked into the Herefordshire in Transition grouping.

Financial Implications

- 14 None as a result of this report. However, there is a strong link between carbon emissions and expenditure. The Council spent £3.2million on fuel and utilities in 2008/09. Initiatives to reduce carbon output also have the potential to reduce these costs.

Legal Implications

- 15 None identified

Risk Management

- 16 Climate change is predicted with a high degree of probability and a high impact in the longer term. Carbon reduction targets are contained within the Council's Corporate Plan and failing to achieve these will have implications for further funding. An action plan for these targets is being developed and quantified. As part of this process risks to delivery will be identified.

Consultees

- 17 None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Carbon Reduction Initiatives

Background Papers

Environment Scrutiny report September 2009