

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>28 JUNE 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON REDUCTION</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; STRATEGIC HOUSING</b>

CLASSIFICATION: Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To update the committee on progress with plans to reduce carbon emissions.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision.

### **Recommendation**

**THAT Committee:**

- (a) **Note the reports and plans**
- (b) **Supports the Council's involvement on the Carbon Trust Local Authority Management Programme**
- (c) **Requests updates on progress on this Programme from appropriate officers throughout the Programme.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- The organisation in its Corporate Plan for 2010 – 13 states that :-  
The Council and NHS Herefordshire, working together to deliver efficient, excellent services and improved outcomes for the people of Herefordshire, will take action to tackle 7 major challenges for the county, including:-  
**“Doing all we can to combat climate change locally and deal with its impact.”**
- Herefordshire Partnership is committed to achieving the Local Area Agreement NI 186 carbon dioxide (CO2) reduction target to reduce carbon emissions in the Local Authority area by 13.1% per capita in the 3 years from 2008/11. 8.2% of this reduction relates to national measures (for which the Partnership is not accountable) and 4.9% to national measures with local authority influence.

### **Alternative Options**

- 1 Fail to meet our self set internal and external targets.

## Introduction and Background

2. The Committee has received a series of reports on carbon management. At the meeting in March 2010 the Committee requested further information on the plans to reduce carbon emissions within the Council and wider county.

## Key Considerations

3. The Council has been selected to take part in the Carbon Trust Local Authority Management Programme from May 2010 to March 2011. This highly structured programme will enable the carbon reduction target for the next 5 years to be reset in the light of carbon reduction opportunities identified during the programme by an officer working group, backed up by a high level Board. The programme will result in a costed plan, both in terms of cost and expected carbon reductions. The Programme will have the opportunity to incorporate initiatives such as School Travel initiatives set out in a separate report on this agenda.
4. The Council's involvement in this Programme is a major initiative. The Council will benefit from the services and expertise of the Carbon Trust (CT). The CT is a not-for-profit company with the mission to accelerate the move to a low carbon economy. It provides specialist support to help businesses and the public sector cut carbon emissions, save energy and commercialise low carbon techniques. The CT's work focuses on two main areas – cutting carbon emissions now, and cutting future carbon emissions.
5. Key parts of the Programme involve:
  - (a) benefitting from the advice of experienced programme managers employed by the CT.
  - (b) the ability to have access to the knowledge and experience of other local authorities that have already embarked on the Programme.
  - (c) The opportunity to work in regional groupings throughout the year to share experience, and to benefit from mutual support.
6. The CT has a strong track record of helping public sector organisations both generally, and through this Programme in particular. Two case studies, summarised below, set out the potential of the programme.

### *Coventry City Council*

In 2008 Coventry City Council embarked on the Local Authority Management service. It has since set a target to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 30% over five years.

Gathering ideas from workshops and a unique carbon hotline for employees, the council identified 53 energy saving projects. Those already underway include training 'energy wardens' to help raise awareness, replacing street lighting and trialling electric vehicles. Together they should reduce emissions by 6,270 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and save the council £964,000.

### *Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust*

The Carbon Trust worked with Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust to embed a new Carbon Management strategy within their ongoing operations. This strategy identified opportunities to cut carbon emissions by 20% by 2012/13, against a 2004/5 baseline

of 17,107 tonnes of CO2. Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust is set to achieve payback on initial capital investment through energy efficiency savings of £380,000 across the five year implementation period.

7. In addition to this new initiative considerable work has gone into updating the wider Herefordshire carbon reduction delivery plan and associated action plan. The action plan now includes actions from several Herefordshire Partnership Policy & Delivery groups and some partners. Herefordshire Environment Partnership leads on the plan.
8. The Herefordshire action plan is now grouped under 6 themes: Business/Industry, Community, Domestic, Land use and food, Partnership/Crosscutting and Transport.
9. Further information is available at the New Leaf website, <http://herefordshirenewleaf.org.uk> . The strapline is 'Living Lightly in a Sustainable Herefordshire and cutting carbon'.

## **Community Impact**

10. Herefordshire Partnership is committed to meeting its Local Area Agreement target to reduce carbon emissions across the county. Many community groups are actively involved in forwarding this agenda.

## **Financial Implications**

11. Measures to reduce carbon emissions are generally associated with cost savings.

## **Legal Implications**

12. None

## **Risk Management**

13. Failing to implement the programmes is a risk to the reputation of the Council.

## **Consultees**

14. Managers with actions included in the NI185 plan.

## **Appendices**

Delivery Plan for NI186, Herefordshire Carbon emissions, and associated action plan

Report on approach to reducing council carbon emissions and associated action plan.

## **Background Papers**

- None identified.



**Herefordshire Partnership**

**NI 186 Delivery Plan  
May 2010**

**Rising to the Local Challenge of CO2 Reduction**

## 1 **Executive Summary**

This Delivery Plan sets out the measures that are being undertaken, and plans for further action across Herefordshire in order to:-

- Achieve the Local Area Agreement NI 186 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) reduction target to reduce carbon emissions in the Local Authority area by 13.1% per capita in the 3 years from 2008/11. 8.2% of this reduction relates to national measures (for which the Partnership is not accountable) and 4.9% to national measures with local authority influence.
- Demonstrate that the county's plans and actions are gathering momentum and extend beyond compliance with statutory requirements
- Lay the foundations for a leading edge, long term programme of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction within the wider ambition of revitalising Herefordshire as a truly sustainable county
- Feed into the Partnership's self assessment for carbon emissions, one of eight areas of focus for this year's Audit Commission programme, due by the end of June.

A step change in thinking, planning, collaboration and implementation is needed to achieve the considerable reductions in carbon emissions from businesses, transport, housing and land use required to meet the LAA target (shown at appendix E). The scale of the challenge is significant. To put this into context, Herefordshire has the 5<sup>th</sup> most challenging reduction target out of 100 localities who have included NI186 in their delivery plan. This document sets out how this challenge is being addressed.

Reducing carbon also helps achieve efficiency savings and supports achievement of many partnership priorities: see section 6 for more information on this.

Accountability within the Council for this delivery plan sits with the Director for Sustainable Communities. However, to reflect our approach to partnership working and the need for cross cutting collaboration on this issue, the task of day to day leadership has been assumed by Herefordshire Environment Partnership (HEP). The Environment Partnership has used the resources available from the Area Based Grant to set up a delivery arm under the title New Leaf. This comprises a small team, including a co-ordinator, reporting to the Chair of HEP.

The Sustainable Communities Director and the Chair of HEP are now working together and have commenced the considerable tasks of:-

- securing engagement and ownership across all council directorates and all organizations and Policy & Delivery groups within Herefordshire Partnership
- ensuring that the policies and practices of partnership organisations are "carbon proofed"
- creating a positive dialogue with businesses to ensure that the "bottom line" benefits of carbon reduction activities are recognised
- establishing mechanisms to establish a clear baseline of carbon emissions in the county and track progress on an ongoing basis
- working with the third sector to engage communities of interest across the county
- working directly with local communities to implement practical carbon reduction activities

- publicising the need for carbon reduction – and how individuals can contribute towards this - to engage the wider population of the County
- researching best practice on carbon reduction worldwide to inform our future policies
- mapping current carbon reduction activities in Herefordshire; supporting and cross fertilizing good practice
- ensuring that the full benefits of the climate change agenda, such as employment, energy security, skills and community cohesion are fully recognised.

This Delivery Plan makes reference to commitments already made and builds on the many positive actions that the Council and its Partners have already taken, notably:

- improvements in the energy performance of the area's housing stock;
- the New Leaf programme
- the many activities and actions taken by third sector and community groups
- the excellent work taking place in many schools
- the changes to transport policies which have been implanted including encouragement of cycling; the Twoshare initiative; school travel and travel to work plans etc

At this stage, it is not possible to assess definitively whether the effect of past and proposed actions will enable the Partnership to achieve its NI 186 target for a number of reasons:

- i) The data for NI 186 is reported 2 years in arrears – and therefore, at May 2010, the most recent data available is for 2007 (before the LAA period).
- ii) Most Directorates and partner organizations have been unable as yet to provide data about the actual or predicted CO2 savings for many of their initiatives.
- iii) The CO2 reductions associated with some initiatives or strategies are impossible to quantify with any accuracy.

The data that is available shows that the CO2 emissions across Herefordshire have been reducing in the two years between the baseline year 2005 and the last available data in 2007, and that the Council and its partners are delivering some measures that are contributing to a reduction in carbon emissions. That said, the rate of reduction is insufficient to meet the NI 186 targets and the Chair of HEP has openly expressed his concern that unless further resources are made available and a greater level of cross partnership commitment is evident, there is a great deal of doubt that NI 186 will be achieved. If the Council does not meet this challenge then it will not receive the Reward Grant for NI 186.

The Delivery Plan acknowledges the risks faced by the Council and its partners in not achieving the Plan's outcomes. It builds on what has been achieved to-date and itemises the future actions. This document also outlines the methodology for capturing the benefits which arise from future initiatives and for monitoring their progress. The Delivery Plan also makes clear the nature of the difficulties to be overcome and how this may be done.

This next year is clearly important and the plan includes short term measures to:

- Communicate clearly to internal and external stakeholders the importance of understanding the implications of climate change for their work and moving to active involvement in this agenda
- Work with major partners across the Partnership to implement carbon reduction plans for the individual organizations and for the county as a whole
- Take full advantage of any national or regional assistance to supplement skill sets and overcome resourcing difficulties
- Ensure that the council is consistent in considering carbon implications in all of its decisions and operations
- Collect information on work already done to help passport good practice
- Maximise the 'Free at point of use' resources available from 'Solution providers'.

This document does not set out to address related areas (listed below), which will be covered elsewhere:-

- Adaptation to climate change (NI188)- response to predicted increased frequency of extreme weather
- Reduction of carbon emissions from Council services and operations (NI185)

## **2 Policy context**

Tackling climate change is a key policy driver at both local and national government level. The ten hottest years on record have all been since 1990, and government spending on flood protection has more than doubled since 1997.

David Cameron's recent announcement that the Government is signing up to the 10:10 campaign pledging to reduce carbon by 10% in a single year (see video clip at <<http://aos.dh.bytemark.co.uk/phplist/lt.php?id=YEkNXA4HCExdBUkAVVAEAg%3D%3D>>) suggest that vigorous action on this agenda is likely.

### **Climate Change Act 2008**

The Climate Change Act 2008 made Britain the first country in the world to introduce a long-term legally binding framework to tackle climate change with targets in legislation and five year carbon budgets. The Act requires the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 34% below 1990 levels by 2020 and by at least 80% by 2050.

### **UK Low Carbon Transition Plan**

The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, published in July 2009, sets out how the Government would reduce emissions to meet the carbon budgets outlined in the Climate Change Act. The Plan describes how, in order to deliver the necessary level of emissions reductions, government departments are given a share of the UK carbon budget which they would have responsibility for. This allocation is based on emissions from both their own estate and operations and sectors over which they have influence, such as local authorities.

### **Local Carbon Frameworks**

The Government is working with nine local councils (Manchester, Leeds City region, Bristol, Oxford, Northumberland, Haringey, Nottingham, Plymouth and Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Multi Area Agreement) to pilot new local carbon frameworks, over the next 12 months.



Under a local carbon framework approach, authorities would:

- set out a clear set of medium and long term targets for action on carbon.
- go beyond 'business as usual', taking account of all other relevant targets and the national goals for cutting carbon
- develop a clear strategy for how carbon reductions can be achieved. This will need to be robust and strongly evidence based; and crucially, must articulate how they will secure community buy in and involvement; and
- develop a delivery plan involving all its partners, including those outside the formal strategic partnership.

It is not yet known whether seen whether the incoming government will accelerate these plans but the original intention was for a decision on the possible roll out of Low Carbon Frameworks nationally to be made in Spring 2011.

### **National Indicator 186**

This National Indicator is in place to help with the UK Government legally binding carbon dioxide emissions reductions targets of 34% in 2020 (from a 1990 baseline).

It is a wide-ranging indicator, which has been made possible by the provision for the first time of statistics for emissions by local authority area. These are published annually by Government and can be found on the relevant government website, together with a summary of the methodology used:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalatmos/galocalghg.htm>

The target is measured against data for Herefordshire, (currently gathered by DEFRA but likely to transfer responsibility to DECC in the near future). The indicator measures the percentage reduction in per capita CO2 emissions per capita.

## **3 Commitments from the Herefordshire Partnership**

Herefordshire Partnership commissioned and adopted the Climate Change Strategy for Herefordshire in 2006, pledging deep commitment to this issue. Climate change is also referenced in the 2006 Herefordshire Plan under both the environment and the community themes. See Appendix A for details.

The **Local Area Agreement target** is to: Reduce carbon emissions in the Local Authority area by 13.1% per capita from 2008/2011.

8.2% of this reduction relates to national measures (for which the Partnership is not accountable) and 4.9% to national measures with local authority influence.

In November 2009 carbon reduction became a cross cutting priority in and all six Policy & Delivery groups are expected to feed into the county carbon reduction programme.

3b Commitments from the Joint Corporate Plan 2010 – 2013 for Herefordshire Council and NHS Herefordshire

### **Vision**

Herefordshire will be a place where people, organisations and businesses, working together within an outstanding natural environment, will bring about sustainable prosperity and well-being for all

The Council and NHS Herefordshire, working together to deliver efficient, excellent

services and improved outcomes for the people of Herefordshire, will take action to tackle 7 major challenges for the county, including

**“Doing all we can to combat climate change locally and deal with its impact.”**

Strategic objective 6: The protection and enhancement of Herefordshire’s distinctive environment, and tackling climate change.

Long term outcome 6.2: Reduced CO2 emissions and successful adaptation to unavoidable impacts of climate change

#### **4 Herefordshire’s Carbon Reduction Programme**

This plan seeks to build on the platform that has already been achieved. It is intended as a living, working document to be revised and updated as the scale of the challenges faced becomes clearer and the Partnership looks to put in place plans that will serve to also meet climate change goals over the longer term.

A major challenge for Herefordshire Council and other lead parties is to ensure that key opportunities to affect change are not missed. Certain strategic activities in which the Council participates may be the only opportunities to make changes that will then be fixed for many years - for example, procurement contracts, redevelopment proposals and the Local Development Framework. Once agreed, these initiatives can produce effects that may last for a generation and beyond, with little opportunity to affect change in the future. The agreement to assess the impact of the LDF on carbon emissions as part of our overall approach to carbon management is a great example of this.

For this reason it is essential that the Delivery Plan is supported by more specific action plans, which emphasise the specific measures that partners, directorates within the Council and individuals can take to reduce carbon. This helps to ensure that no major opportunities, in policies, strategies or activities, to include climate change imperatives are overlooked.

The production of an enhanced NI186 Delivery Plan is an important step in meeting the Council’s challenge as part of the national, regional and local climate change agenda. However, the preparation of this Delivery Plan (and the Action Plans that underpin it) has highlighted the need for a focus on six main areas, which are recommended for immediate attention:

- High level commitment and leadership – an unequivocal and enduring commitment to this agenda “from the top” and a robust vision of a sustainable future for Herefordshire with a clear understanding of the implications of this
- The direct translation of the aims of this plan into the day-to-day targets, business plans and operating processes of all Council directorates and partnership organisations and the encouragement of cross divisional and inter organisational working on climate change issues
- The development of a capability plan to ensure the appropriate levels of resource and skills to achieve the plans and where skills exist, to ensure knowledge sharing between partnership organisations and Council directorates.
- Adequate resources – the input required to focus on this complex issue, and meet Government requirements for National Indicators (and other legislation such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment) should not be underestimated. As stated above, the Authority has set itself a very high target and without sufficient resource to address these issues, it is unlikely to be met. Furthermore the future cost and operational implications for the county are likely to be considerable.
- A clear communication and engagement strategy

- The evaluation and monitoring of completed and proposed activities to judge whether they will be sufficient to meet NI 186 and future plans

Progress on all of these issues is being made as evidenced by

- The presentations made in recent months by the Chair of HEP to the management group and partnership board of Herefordshire Partnership
- The Partnership's climate change workshop, attended by over 20 senior delegates on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010
- The Chief Executive's recent letter to the Chief Officers of partnership organisations to secure their senior representation on a working party to address these issues
- The agreement of the Energy Saving Trust to deliver its 5 step process to partnership organisations (see Appendix D)
- The success of the Partnership in securing the services of Richard Davies, Director of Marches Energy Agency, as our Local Improvement Advisor to bring additional expertise and experience into the county (at no cost to us)
- The success of the New Leaf team since their inception in January 2010 in
  - publicising carbon reduction messages across the county
  - liaising effectively with third sector groups
  - piloting 3 community energy reduction plans
  - commissioning a best practice review of local climate change mitigation activities across the world
  - mapping carbon reduction activities across the county
- The council's recent commitment to invest in two best-practice monitoring and scenario planning tools "TrACE" and "Vantage Point", which will significantly improve the collection of baseline data, future trending and the measurable ongoing monitoring of carbon reduction activities

## **5 Key Elements of Enhanced Action Plan**

The full proposed plan is attached as Appendix B.

The twelve main elements of this action plan are as follows:

<b>Heading</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Housing	A range of measures to upgrade existing housing stock and minimize the carbon impact of new housing
Transport	The implementation of Local Transport Plans (LTP) 2 and 3 with specific carbon reduction targets and measures
LSP Partners	Each major LSP partner organisation to confirm a CO2 reduction programme with measurable target savings and to integrate this into their day-to-day activities/ business plans. A county-wide CO2 reduction programme championed by Herefordshire Partnership
Local Development Framework	Review the carbon implications of the LDF using the scenario planning tool, Vantage Point and integrate these into the overall County target
Businesses	Encourage businesses of all sizes and types to implement CO2

	reduction programmes, stressing the “bottom line” benefits
Communities	Encourage and support individual communities in preparing and implementing local energy descent plans
Third Sector	Collaborate with the voluntary sector to tackle fuel poverty; promote volunteering and maximise the social benefits of an integrated CO2 reduction programme
Land use/ Food	Launch a Herefordshire Sustainable Food strategy containing CO2 reduction measures. Encourage sustainable land use and farming methods.
Renewable Energy	Implement the county’s wood fuel strategy and one or more large scale renewable energy projects
Ensuring measurement	Through New Leaf, capture the CO2 implications of all significant initiatives in the county and monitor the net savings, using a best practice measurement tool (TrACE)
Publicity/ communications	Implement a powerful publicity and awareness raising campaign to ensure that organizations, communities and individuals throughout the county are mindful of the importance of carbon reduction and how they can contribute
Attracting Funding	Continue to seek out and bring in resources (funding, expertise, training etc) to assist this programme

See Appendix F for the full list of categories used in the Action Plan.

## **6 How carbon reduction programmes benefit the wider work of Herefordshire Partnership**

Work on carbon reduction contributes to overall efficiency and helps meet Partnership targets in other priority areas.

### **6a Stronger, safer and more resilient communities**

The 3 pilot programmes that New Leaf commissioned earlier this year in partnership with Community First have already started to demonstrate the benefits of empowering communities to address this agenda. The Climate Change Local Area Support Programme for the North West makes the following claim:

“Empowering communities to tackle issues affecting them in ways that work locally, raises satisfaction levels and the sense that people can affect decisions in their locality.

*Community based energy saving projects are particularly effective at addressing the needs of marginalised groups. Working in partnership with other service providers and community groups can enable communities to access a whole range of improvements to their area. Community involvement in projects develops skills that lead to wider skills development and contribute to other ventures beyond energy-based work. Community projects often lead to making people happier which has positive impacts on education, community cohesion, health and economy.”*

Working with communities to tackle carbon emissions can lead to the following social benefits:

- Reduction of fuel poverty through energy efficiency, insulation, smart meters and information for behaviour change
- Increase in neighbourhood interaction by the use public transport, cycling and walking
- Enhanced relationship between the local authority and citizens
- Promotion of the use of allotments and community gardens, fostering increased levels of social exchange and improvements in health (see also 6c)
- Enhanced family cohesion as children learn about climate change in school and families work together to take practical action
- Increased focus on the use of the natural settings (such as Belmont Pools) to enhance community spirit
- Higher participation in volunteering on carbon reducing projects
- Stronger vitality of the third sector through its involvement on this agenda

Also, a reduction in fossil fuelled road traffic – possibly combined with reductions in speed limits - would help reduce traffic accidents.

## **6b Economic development – creating and safeguarding jobs**

### **Seizing Opportunities:**

Herefordshire is well placed to benefit from a low carbon economy, the continued growth in the environmental technologies sector and the development of new skills for these expanding sectors.

The county is also well served by a large number of independent, high quality food and drink companies who will benefit from a focus on local food – a crucial part of a low carbon economy. This also stands to benefit tourism and increase food security.

The promotion of renewable energies, such as wood fuel, also promises a boost to the local economy. There are also opportunities for local recycling businesses and social enterprises

The Local Economic Assessment which local authorities now have to carry out must address the impact of local economic development on the environment, and how the local economy will be affected by the transition to a low-carbon economy. This is a good opportunity to build a low carbon future into economic development strategies. It is also a good time to make the point that climate change policies and legislation will benefit the Energy & Environmental Technologies Sector (EETS) and there is potential for interventions in a range of sectors that will create or safeguard jobs over the next five years.

### **Overcoming Risks:**

The risks to companies of climate change include: direct and indirect costs of carbon, increasing cost of energy, energy security, peak oil and unstable oil prices, legislation in the form of the Climate Change Bill, the impacts of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) and EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).

These will all potentially affect carbon intensive businesses in Herefordshire. Part of our action plan is to work with businesses to offset these risks.

On a national and global level it is argued that the economic benefits of tackling climate change outweigh the costs of doing so (Stern Report, 2006, amongst others). The

benefits to the Herefordshire Strategic Partnership of actions that mitigate climate change include the more obvious savings in energy use etc and the less tangible cost of decreased risk and increased resilience in relation to severe weather events.

### **6c Health & Wellbeing**

Recent guidance (2009) from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) draws together the evidence that supports how the built and natural environments can help to improve health. Sport England's Active Design report and Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) Building Health also provide support for planners to build in priority for active travel (transport promoting physical activity), encourage access to public spaces, linking workplaces and residential areas with walking and cycling networks, advocating the design and use of staircases and promoting active playgrounds in schools.

A reduction in fossil fuel travel also has important benefits in improving air quality and reducing pollution –estimated to cost the NHS £20 billion per year.

UK public health organisations (including Herefordshire NHS Trust) are encouraging Active Travel. Nationally there is a call for walking and for cycling policies to combat health problems such as obesity and depression - and at least 10% of transport funding to be spent on walking and cycling immediately and an ongoing increase to reflect ambitious targets.

An important aspect of a low carbon future is an enhanced connection of people with the growing of food. The emerging increase of interest in allotments and community gardens has a concomitant benefit on public health.

Also there is a growing body of evidence supporting the therapeutic benefits of access to nature to promote mental health and overall wellbeing.

## **7 Current performance against the target**

Figures available to date (2005-7) show modest reductions in CO2 emitted, though not yet at the rate required to meet the target.

A series of briefing sheets on this data are available on the New Leaf website, [www.herefordshirenewleaf.org.uk](http://www.herefordshirenewleaf.org.uk)

It has only been possible to quantify the benefits from a small number of the actions that have been undertaken or are proposed so far. For this reason, it has been agreed that a CO2 reduction spreadsheet will be created with actual data, the outcome of which will feed into Energy Savings Trust TrACE tool (Tracking action on Carbon Emissions).

This will enable previous estimates of CO2 reductions to be revised and monitored as further information becomes available.

Achievement of quantitative reductions is not the only measure of performance, especially as the figures are generated nearly 2 years in arrears. NI186 plans for many areas across the country are using proxy indicators. So the current absence of quantified information on reductions does not mean that our performance will necessarily be judged adversely. Both the Audit Commission and GOWM have stressed repeatedly that providing **community leadership** will also be important in the evaluation of performance against the carbon reduction target.

A stock take of activity in the LAA period is programmed. This will draw together and document the considerable good practice known to exist in the county.

Assessment	Evidence/summary
DECC <sup>1</sup> will be looking for the following when assessing good performance:	
The local reduction target (4.9%) amounts to a reduction of 80 kilotonnes in total, working out at 0.5 tonnes per person from a 2005 baseline of 9.3 tonnes per person	Quantitative evidence that emissions are reducing (as stated above reductions have been achieved in the years preceding the NI 186 reference period). This will be enhanced through the coming year. A gap analysis and use of VantagePoint will help to ensure that the plan becomes more quantified over time.
Qualitative evidence of effective action by local authority and partners	The Council are currently revising and extending their carbon reduction plan, working with the Carbon Trust. All P&D groups have been asked to feed actions into the county carbon reduction plan. So far Herefordshire Council and the PCT have set reduction targets: further contributions from partners are sought. Information on actions to date will be gathered into TrACE
Evidence of a credible emission reduction plan with evidence of monitoring and delivery	VantagePoint will be used to check whether the current plan will achieve the reductions required over the next 10 years
Evidence of community engagement, such as working with LSP partners	There is considerable community and voluntary sector interest and activity around this topic: New Leaf is working closely with these groups.

See Appendix C for details of **Delivery, monitoring & reporting arrangements**.

### Recommendations

- Partnership agree reduction targets and plans for next 3 years in 2011.
- Env Scrutiny note the report and take a follow up report in April/June 2011

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### Appendix A: Herefordshire Partnership's commitments to climate change:

1. Herefordshire Partnership adopted a stand alone Climate Change Strategy in 2006. [http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/PARTNERSHIP\\_CLIMATE\\_STRATEGY\\_NC.pdf](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/PARTNERSHIP_CLIMATE_STRATEGY_NC.pdf)

This was signed by many key partners and states:

“We, the Board of the Herefordshire Partnership, are deeply committed to taking up the challenges presented by this global environmental issue. We want to develop local initiatives which have win-win scenarios for the people of Herefordshire and those who work and visit the county and be prepared for the inevitable changes that will start to occur in the near future. We wish to raise the profile of the role employers can play and showing the benefits of tackling climate change to individual and businesses alike. It is

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Energy and Climate Change

up to us to ensure that we hand on Herefordshire and all its assets to the next generation in as good, if not better, condition than we find it today. This strategy is a means to an end, to help to secure our quality of life for the long term.

We are determined to work together to achieve the vision and aims set out in this document for the benefit of the whole community.”

2. Herefordshire’s Community Strategy (2006) also refers to climate change.

**Theme: Protect and improve Herefordshire’s distinctive environment**

Herefordshire has a rich and diverse environment, with many unique features. This resource must be conserved and enhanced through raising awareness and education so that communities and future generations can continue to enjoy and benefit from the distinctive environment. This includes ... protecting our biodiversity and tackling climate change through waste minimisation and energy efficiency measures.

**Theme: Developing stronger, more inclusive communities and creating a safer and greener place to live, work and visit.**

Another key component of this theme is the environment. Priorities identified for Herefordshire in this area are biodiversity and climate change... A climate change strategy for the County will be published in 2006 and there is an increasing interest in alternative energy sources such as solar power and biofuels

**Appendix B: Action plan for county carbon reduction target 2010-13** (see Excel attachment)

**Appendix C: Delivery, monitoring & reporting arrangements**

**Within Herefordshire Partnership**

Herefordshire Partnership Board: exception reporting on progress every 6 months  
Herefordshire Partnership Management Group: bimonthly updates on progress with LAA targets

Lead Policy & Delivery Group: Herefordshire Environment Partnership (chair Rob Garner) co-ordinate the carbon reduction programme for the Partnership, working through New Leaf

Lead Partner for the target: Herefordshire Council, Director of Sustainable Communities

**Within the Council**

Lead Director	Director of Sustainable Communities, Geoff Hughes
Lead Cabinet Member	Strategic Housing & Environment, Cllr John Jarvis
Scrutiny	Environment Scrutiny committee
Key services/teams	Include: - Forward and Transportation planners, Housing (energy), Integrated Transport, Economic Regeneration

**Performance monitoring - Targets:**

Targets in Performance Plus are linked to **NI186: ! E&C.6.3.2 Manage county carbon emissions** and are monitored monthly. Lead officers supply information to DMTs and on to JMT and council committees.



Some key services are not yet currently active users of this system.

Some key services with major emissions have not yet set reduction programmes.

*Recommendation: Key services ensure that key projects in their reduction programmes are entered on Performance Plus to enable tracking of progress*

### **Performance monitoring - Data**

NI186: Annual data is produced nationally by calendar year around 20 months in arrears (current most recent data is for 2007).

*Recommendation: Use TrACE to record actions taken locally.* Note: these actions can only cover a small subset of this massive dataset.

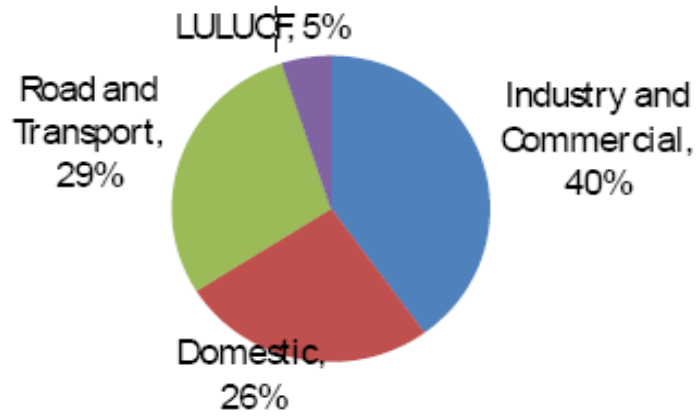
### **Appendix D: Work on carbon reduction action plan with the Energy Saving Trust**

Members of the Partnership will be working with the Energy Saving Trust to undertake their 5 step programme from May 2010 to March 2011. This will feed into an upgraded 3 year carbon reduction action plan for the county. The following table sets out the process that will be undertaken by a working group comprising senior representatives of the major organizations of the Herefordshire Partnership.

<b>EST Steps</b>	<b>Key tasks and outputs</b>
0: Initiate programme	Launch programme with partners Detailed planning with New Leaf and council
1: Benchmarking	Develop carbon footprint for county Identify key partners Invite partners to submit data Report partner and county wide emissions
2: Future vision & targets	Procure & install VantagePoint (VP), train users Gather input data on future scenarios and enter into VP Invite partners to set targets Report on reduction plans and options
3: Common monitoring process	Run TrACE workshop on recording of actions Invite partners to share their monitoring processes Determine and report on process for overall programme
4: Establish action plans	Set up short term plan with VP Consult on plan Agree and publish plan
5: Verify performance and refresh plan	Capture carbon saving activity (TrACE) Verify achievements to date in LAA period (2008 -11) & publish report Refresh action plan 2010-13

**Appendix E: Herefordshire's NI186 emissions by category**

**Herefordshire CO2 Emissions (2007)**



**Appendix F: Herefordshire Carbon Reduction Plan (NI186) - Categories**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b>BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY</b>	B/1
Big /carbon intensive businesses  ( 80/20 rule)	B/1-1
Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSB</li> <li>• MET-NET</li> <li>• Business Link</li> <li>• Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Re-Think Energy</li> </ul>	B/1-2  B/1-21 B/1-22 B/1-23 B/1-24 B/1-25 B/1-26
Economic Area Assessment	B/1-3
<b>COMMUNITY / THIRD SECTOR</b>	C
Low Carbon Communities	C/1
Network of community groups	C/2
H: Energy Week	C/3
We-Save  ACT NOW	C/4-1
Eco-Schools	C/5
<b>DOMESTIC</b>	D
Advice Target	D/1
Installation Target	D/2
Housing Association Dialogue	D/3

<b>Category</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Thermal Management Programme	D/4
Utility company offer	D/5
Publicising exemplars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PASSIV HAUS</li> <li>• “Old Home Supa Home”</li> </ul>	D6 D/6-1 D/6-2
<b>LAND USE AND FOOD</b>	LU
Wood Fuel Strategy	LU/1
CALM – Rural Hub	LU/2
Food Strategy	LU/3
<b>Cross-Cutting / Partners/ Horizon Scanning</b>	P/X
Evidence / Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VantagePoint</li> <li>• TRACE</li> <li>• Research – Carbon Mapping</li> </ul>	P/X 3 P/X-31 P/X-32 P/X-33
Local Development Framework (LDF)	P/X-1
Partners	P/X-2
Awareness / Knowledge	P/X-4
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change Skills Fund</li> <li>• Leader bid</li> </ul>	P/X-6 P/X-61
Renewables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDF Experience Base</li> <li>• Wood Fuel</li> <li>• Share Energy</li> </ul>	P/X-51 P/X-52

Category	Reference
	P/X-53
<b>TRANSPORT</b> Behavioural change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eco-Driving</li> <li>• TwoShare</li> </ul>	T/LTP-1 T/LTP-11 T/LTP-12
Local Transport Plan 2	T/LTP-2
Local Transport Plan 3	T/LTP-3
Travel Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Place Travel Plans</li> <li>• School Travel Plans</li> </ul>	T/LTP-4 T/LTP-41 T/LTP-42