

Appendix 1: Climate Change Strategy



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	Sustainability Manager	Cabinet Member for Environment and Chair of Climate Change Programme Board
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1. Foreword

Climate change is emerging as one of the major challenges facing the world in the 21st Century. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames recognises this. In 2006 we pledged to take action by signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and in early 2008 we first adopted a Climate Change Strategy to outline our commitment and response, setting out a range of measures which aim to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and raise awareness of the need to do so. It provides the basis for a strategic and joined-up approach to the challenge of climate change based on a thorough understanding of energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and likely impacts of climate change in the borough. Over the last year we have made significant progress and these changes are reflected in this updated version. Our vision is to make Richmond upon Thames the greenest borough in London and we are committed to working in partnership with the local community to achieve this.

(To be signed)

Cllr Serge Lourie
Leader of the Council

2. Introduction

The need to address climate change is urgent. There is now a strong consensus amongst scientists that anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, which absorb and trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, is causing the climate to change at an unprecedented scale and speed. The observed warming of the atmosphere and ocean over the last 50 years has taken the global temperature outside the range of natural variability as simulated by climate models. The latest predictions suggest that globally temperatures could rise between 1.1°C and 6.4°C and sea levels between 18cm and 59cm by 2100¹. Regional variations can be even greater. The UK will experience progressively warmer and drier summers, wetter and milder winters and more frequent extreme weather, particularly heavy rainfall and heat waves. Whilst all areas of the UK will experience significant climate change, the greatest changes in weather will be in the south and east of the country. London, in particular, will be very vulnerable due to the significant proportion of development on the floodplain of the river Thames and the urban heat island effect.

There is no doubt that humans are causing the climate to change – the only uncertainty that remains is the extent of future change. This evidence is accepted by the political administration of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. It believes that the Council and other local authorities have an important role to play in tackling climate change – both in terms of reducing their own impact and also by engaging, enabling and encouraging communities to take action. In addition to the moral imperative and legislative framework, action on mitigating climate change will also benefit the council and its communities through lower energy bills, increased energy security, improvements in air quality, enhanced living and working conditions (including reduced levels of fuel poverty) and new low carbon economic opportunities. Adaptation measures will help minimise the risks while others will help businesses and communities take advantage of the opportunities presented by a changing climate.

3. Vision

Richmond Council is committed to leading by example and has developed a carbon management implementation plan to achieve high standards for energy efficiency and roll out of low carbon technologies across its estate. Projects will be prioritised according to carbon savings, financial pay back and the ability to influence behavioural change. The Council's carbon footprint, however, is less than 2% of the borough's carbon footprint. To have any meaningful impact on reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, Richmond Council must therefore support others to take action. In doing so, it will focus on the following four areas:

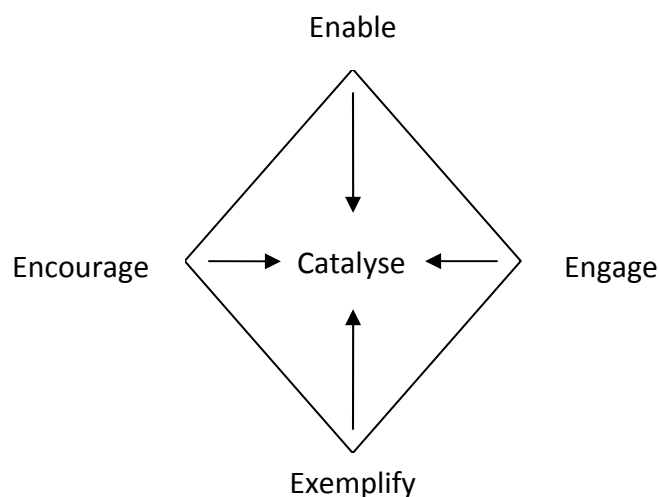
- Energy efficiency: Improve the fabric of the existing housing and building stock and uptake of energy efficient boilers, controls and appliances to reduce energy demand and fuel poverty.
- Energy supply: Accelerate the installation of low-carbon micro-generation technologies to ... and reduce the distance between sources of energy production and consumption.
- Transport: Promote car free mobility, choice of travel modes and new models of car ownership, and explore use of greener fuels to reduce the CO₂ emissions from transport.
- Risks and opportunities: Adapt to climate change and reduce the impact of extreme weather events by identifying risks, developing appropriate management plans and realising opportunities.

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2007) Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis:
http://ipcc-wg1.ucar.edu/wg1/Report/AR4WG1_Print_SPM.pdf

Underpinning this is the need for a comprehensive education campaign to generate a sense of purpose, raise awareness and develop the capacity to act. This will take place through a range of methods, with a particular focus on children and young people.

4. Priorities for Action

The actions in this strategy are structured around Defra's behaviour change model for sustainable development² and focuses on the ability of Richmond Council and its partners to: **Encourage, enable** and **engage** individuals and organisations in the local business, housing, transport, public, voluntary and community sectors in designing a low carbon and well adapted borough, and **Exemplify** good practice.



5. Monitoring and Delivery

A core aspect of this strategy is the need for accurate data on energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. Robust baseline data underpins the setting of realistic and challenging objectives as well as specific targets and is necessary for monitoring the effectiveness of carbon reduction measures. The targets and indicators shown below are provisional and will be developed further when more complete data sets become available.

INDICATOR	BASELINE	ACTIVITY	TARGETS
CO ₂ reduction from Local Authority operations (NI185)	To be determined by July 2009.	Total CO ₂ from buildings, street lighting, and fleet/business travel.	To be determined by July 2009
Per capita CO ₂ emissions in the Local Authority area (NI186)	6.01tCO ₂ per capita (2006)	Includes CO ₂ emissions from households, transport and industry.	5.35tCO ₂ per capita by 2010
CO ₂ savings from Richmond Council promoted home energy efficiency measures	To be determined by July 2009.	Uptake of schemes promoted by Richmond Council.	To be determined by July 2009.
People receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating (NI187)	To be determined – Awaiting clarification from Defra.	Improved energy efficiency of households.	To be determined
Adapting to climate change (NI188)	Level 0	Progress based on a five-step climate risk assessment process.	Level 3 by March 2011
Energy generated from renewable sources (kWh p.a.)	To be determined by July 2009.	Total energy generated from known low and zero carbon sources.	To be determined by July 2009.
Awareness of initiatives put in place by Richmond Council to tackle climate change	46% (2008)	% of residents surveyed in Richmond Residents' Survey.	To be determined

² Adapted from Defra (2005) Securing the Future – UK Sustainable Development Strategy

6. Tackling climate change

	Action	Lead	Progress
	ENCOURAGE		
1.	Work with retailers, installers, energy utilities, Greater London Authority and others to make available and promote energy efficiency and micro-generation schemes to households.	Sustainability Manager	London Warm Zone insulation scheme set up in September 2008 to provide free / discounted loft and cavity wall insulation to residents: www.londonwarmzone.co.uk . Over 100 installations completed to date.
2.	Reduce fuel poverty through targeting grant funding and ensuring that those eligible are aware of relevant grants.	Sustainability Manager	The number of Coldbuster and Warm Front grants awarded has increased from 176 in 2005/06 to 245 in 2006/07 and 306 in 2007/08. Over 400 home energy visits have been completed during the last three years.
3.	Promote sustainable travel through the Local (Transport) Implementation Plan and other local policies.	Head of Highways & Transport	In 2007 CO2 related parking charges were introduced in CPZ areas. This was expanded to include parking meters in 2009.
4.	Develop planning policies in the Local Development Framework to encourage sustainable buildings and travel, use of renewable energy and climate proofing.	Head of Policy and Design	LDF Core Strategy was adopted in April 2009 and includes policies requiring appropriate standards to ensure low carbon design and resilience to climate change.
	ENABLE		
1.	Deliver effective and accessible communications to raise awareness of support available.	Sustainability Manager	Go Green portal launched in June 2008 to provide information to residents, businesses and schools: www.richmond.gov.uk/gogreen Recently updated to include Green Maps feature.
2.	Develop and maintain an evidence base of measures implemented using completed home energy surveys and home energy checks and uptake of energy saving schemes.	Sustainability Manager	In progress
3.	Develop a local indicator to measure the borough's carbon footprint.	Sustainability Manager	In progress
4.	Deliver free support to local businesses on energy use, water use, travel, waste and supply chain.	Green Business Co-ordinator	Go Green Richmond upon Thames – www.richmond.gov.uk/gogreen - launched in June 2008. Provided support to over 100 businesses.
5.	Promote car free mobility through best practice in personal and workplace travel planning and raising awareness of travel choices.	Programme Manager - Smarter Travel Richmond	Smarter Travel Richmond – www.smartertravelrichmond – launched in March 2009.
6.	Promote the use of car club vehicles to reduce rates of vehicle occupancy and car mileage.	Transport Policy Manager	74 parking spaces have been designated for car clubs as part of a six-month experimental operating period.
7.	Provide support to schools with energy monitoring, surveying, project implementation and financing.	Sustainability Manager	Display Energy Certificates produced for all schools and access provided to online energy bureau service.
8.	Work with all schools to develop an approved travel plan to increase in the number of pupils walking, cycling or taking public transport to school	Programme Manager - Smarter Travel Richmond	Majority of schools have an active school travel plan.

ENGAGE			
1.	Support the Richmond Local Strategic Partnership (RLSP) to deliver the priorities and targets of the Community Plan and Local Area Agreement on climate change.	Director of Environment	The Greener Richmond Partnership – thematic subgroup of the RLSP – was launched in February 2008 and counts 12 members. Currently calculating combined carbon footprint RLSP partners.
2.	Work with partners in the voluntary and community sector to develop capacity and consult with residents and community groups.	Voluntary Sector Partnership Manager	Richmond Council provides funding for Richmond Environment Network to support local groups with environmental projects. Joint events held on a regular basis.
3.	Provide a forum for pupils, teachers and others leading on environmental issues in schools to network and develop a better understanding of what other schools are doing and what external support is available.	Richmond Environment Network	Schools Environment Forum organised since 2006. In 2009, an additional two conferences were organised by Hampton Hill Junior School for sustainability coordinators and pupils. More information: www.richmond.gov.uk/gogreen/gg_school/g_school_events.htm .
EXEMPLIFY			
1.	Implement energy efficiency and low carbon measures across corporate estate, including best practice demonstration projects to showcase new technologies. This will be achieved through surveying all council properties, identifying priority measures and using the climate change fund to provide the necessary investment.	Sustainability Manager	Carbon management plan and corporate energy policy adopted. Invest-to-save fund set up to provide financing. Display Energy Certificates produced for all affected buildings: www.richmond.gov.uk/gogreen/gg_home/gg_what_is_richmond_council_doing/display_energy_certificates.htm . Solar panels installed on the roof of the Civic Centre. Feasibility study ongoing for biomass boiler at Twickenham Campus.
2.	Incorporate sustainable design and construction into new buildings and refurbishment programmes, and enable flexible / home working.	Heads of Construction and Facilities Management	Civic Centre refurbished to high energy efficiency standards: Rio/home/our_organisation/richmond_works.htm . Accommodation strategy achieving higher occupation densities.
3.	Implement a Green Travel Plan to reduce emissions from business travel and encourage staff to travel to work by means other than the private vehicle.	Director of Environment	Green Travel Plan adopted and to make walking, cycling, using public transport and pool cars easier and more attractive while reducing the level of support to staff to drive to work and to use their cars at work
4.	Run the council's vehicle fleet on biodiesel from used cooking oil.	Transport Services Manager	Successful trial. Awaiting tender.
5.	Undertake climate risk assessment of the council estate and develop adaptation plan	Sustainability Manager	Local Climate Impacts Profile developed. Currently identifying critical thresholds, generating future climate change maps and completing risk assessments.
6.	Oppose expansion of Heathrow Airport and minimise the adverse impact of Heathrow Airport on the borough.	Leader of the Council	The Council is a leading member of the 2M Group and has vowed to do everything it can to prevent any further expansion: www.richmond.gov.uk/heathrow_expansion .

7. Further information

For further information please visit www.richmond.gov.uk/sustainability or contact the Council's Sustainability Unit by emailing sustainability@richmond.gov.uk or phoning 020 8891 7302.