



TR42	The Authority's response to Climate Change	
<b>Service Area</b>	Policy & Community Services	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Liz Green	
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Portfolio Policy	
<b>Date Reviewed</b>	24-Aug-2012	
<b>Next Review Date</b>	28-Feb-2013	
<b>Description</b>	<p>The Council signed the Nottingham Declaration showing its commitment to reducing its own and the districts' carbon footprint. The awaited 'Nottingham II' has now been replaced with an initiative named 'Climate Local', offering a range of suggestions for working together to reduce activities and lifestyles which contribute to climate change, and asking that each Council commit to taking such action by signing a climate local declaration. Members will respond shortly to this request.</p> <p>However, the current economic climate means that significant changes will only be implemented when it can be shown that the investment will not only reduce emissions, but can also lead to financial savings i.e. reducing the use of energy.</p> <p>The risks to the Council's response to climate change are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Failing to respond to Climate Local principles</li> <li>- Failing to use more sustainable energy sources</li> <li>- Failing to reduce CO2 emissions and meeting relevant targets</li> </ul> <p>This would lead to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The reputation of the Council being negatively affected</li> <li>- Continued reliance on fossil fuels that will become increasingly expensive</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunity</b>	<p>Reducing the Council's impact on the environment, improve sustainability of energy and water sources, and reduce use and costs of non-renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Provide evidence of leadership for individuals or other organisations wishing to improve their green credentials, i.e. increased recycling rates, waste minimisation.</p> <p>Income for office recycles'.</p>	
<b>Nature of Risk</b>	<p>Strategic – Sustainability /Green Issues</p> <p>Operational – reviewing the way we deliver services to consider the impact on and by the environment</p>	
<b>Consequences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Council's carbon footprint does not reduce</li> <li>- Not fulfilling our commitment to the Nottingham Declaration and climate local should the authority commit to that - not delivering on our promise to the public</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waste is not minimised</li> <li>- Additional costs for providing front line services, e.g. provide more advice to the public, more frequent maintenance of council assets, sustained levels of waste to landfill (particularly food waste and resultant methane emissions)</li> <li>- Council services are unable to respond to demands</li> <li>- Inability to deliver against the Council's priority</li> <li>- Loss of reputation</li> </ul>
<b>Work Completed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cessation of the confidential destruction service from the council DCO, the majority of shredding conducted on site and shredded materials included within the office recycling project waste stream.</li> <li>•Installed computer system to monitor and control pool plant and building equipment in RLC, North Herts Leisure Centre (NHLC) and HSC.</li> <li>•Variable speed drives fitted at NHLC to the pool water pumps to enable the water flow to decrease when the pool is not in use.</li> <li>•Installed Kalwall panels to replace windows at the NHLC pool hall to reduce heat loss, therefore less energy required to heat pool environment.</li> <li>•From July 2012 member despatch will be reduced from twice weekly to Fridays only. Despatch involves delivering official papers to the 49 councillors in the district. CO2 emissions from this exercise should have been halved. The contractors who carry out this work combine this delivery route with a security round to further improve energy efficiencies for the district as a whole.</li> <li>•In July 2012 NHDC won a National Recycling Award, in the 'Waste Minimisation' category, for its campaign to encourage people in North Herts to reduce the amount of food they throw away. The awards are open to businesses, councils and other organisations and celebrate the very highest standards in recycling and waste management.</li> <li>•Royston railway underpass officially opened June 2012 linking the north of the town directly with the leisure centre and the main complex of schools. This enhancement allows pedestrians and cyclists to travel quickly and safely around this area and should reduce car use.</li> <li>•Refurbishment of Avenue Park, Baldock includes the order for a new splash pad water play feature to replace the [adding pool. This feature will recycle water once it has been through the play system. The used water will be stored in underground tanks and used to irrigate the nearby bowling green, cricket table as well as having a draw off tap to fill water bowsers. Work is scheduled to commence in Jan 2013 and be completed in March 2013.</li> <li>•Ongoing office recycling: still being well used, (results updated quarterly and placed in kitchen areas)</li> <li>•Monitoring of Cumberlow organic waste loads has taken place to ensure correct material is being placed in the brown bin. The presence of the wrong items the brown bin can mean: Employing people to pick out contaminating items, if small items still contaminate the waste after going through the picking process it will be sent to landfill, Landfilling = £150 per tonne. NHDC are now targeting communications to specific areas of the district where there are problems. This action should reduce incorrect material and improve quality to ensure that less waste is sent to landfill.</li> <li>•Road-shows focussing on food waste reduction and recycling and brown bin contamination continue during the summer e.g. Baldock Day, interactive cinema experience in Hitchin Town square</li> <li>•New display panels on 3 waste collection freighters reminding residents that all food waste can go into the brown bin</li> <li>•The first of two lifts has been refurbished at the Letchworth multi-storey car park. This new lift is 100% more energy efficient than the previous one.</li> </ul> <p>A full list of achievements to date can be seen in 'documents'</p>
<b>Ongoing Work</b>	<p>Corporate Climate Change Working Group continues to meet quarterly to drive the Strategy                  Work to prepare the NHDC Travel Plan continues</p>

Sub Action	Status Icon	Action Due Date	Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Completed
			Agree priority actions for climate change action plan.	31-Mar-2011	Yes
			Review climate change working group.	30-Sep-2011	Yes

**APPENDIX C**

Sub Action	Status Icon	Action Due Date	Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Completed
			Evaluate impact of activities carried out by service areas and revise strategy accordingly.	31-Dec-2011	Yes
			Report progress against plan	31-Dec-2011	Yes
			Report progress against plan	31-Mar-2012	Yes
			Refresh Climate Change Strategy	31-May-2012	No