

Aberdeenshire Council's commitment to Sustainability

'Something is sustainable if doing it now does not make it more difficult or impossible to do it in the future, the activity or action can continue in the long term. We will work to ensure all our actions are sustainable and meet the needs of the current generation of Aberdeenshire's people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'
(Sustainability Charter, Action Programme to 2007)

Our achievements to date

In addressing the actions for the new charter we will draw on the research work which has been carried out and look to take forward the recommended actions. The work which the previous charter (2004-2007) has enabled, includes the Local Authority Carbon Management programme, and North East of Scotland Global Footprint Reduction Report. The challenges ahead require the Council to build significantly on outcomes already achieved.

Where do we go from here?

The charter is designed to be a sign posting document which summarises the values which Aberdeenshire Council seeks to endorse in carrying out its day to day business. The detail of this work is listed in the following:

North East Scotland Global Footprint Reduction Report, the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACM), the Bigger Issue (Aberdeenshire Councils response to climate change) and the Scottish Climate Change Declaration (SCCD).

Due to the nature of the work, many of the projects outlined in these documents have considerable areas of overlap. (See work matrix) Work is progressing to refine these documents and to integrate these projects, where appropriate, and so expedite their delivery.

Many of the key actions for this charter follow on from the previous charter, as it is important to maintain continuity in our programme to allow effective monitoring of the progress we are making. The overarching theme of the charter continues to be the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Principles of sustainability

1. Responsible management of natural, built and community resources

We will minimise the use of non-renewable resources like fossil fuels, and use renewable energies within their limits through responsible energy management to reduce waste. All resources will be used as efficiently as possible.

2. The need to care for both present and future generations

We will ensure that long-term and global impacts like greenhouse gases and loss of species have a greater weighting than short-term, local effects. Where there is the potential threat to the environment or to communities, the precautionary principle will apply.

3. Achieving a Sustainable Aberdeenshire

The council will support policies to promote social cohesion and a sustainable economy, operating within environmental limits.

4. Evidence Based Decision Making

In accordance with the principles of good governance, we will use sound science to inform our actions. While our decision making process will be evidence based.

