



Climate Change Action Plan

2011 - 2015



Climate Change Action Plan

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Foreword

We are pleased to introduce the Council's new Climate Change Action Plan. This document sets out how we intend to move forward on the climate change agenda during the next four years.

As a Council we strive to maintain Aberdeenshire as the area with the best quality of life in Scotland. We aim to become a carbon neutral organisation in the short to medium term. As a signatory to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration we acknowledge the reality and importance of climate change and we are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Climate Change Action Plan 2001-2015 sets out how we are working towards the goal of carbon neutrality. The Plan has four themes within which our emission reduction projects and targets are grouped. The themes are: Energy, Travel, Waste and Behavioural Change.

We believe that by focussing on these themes we can meet our commitments to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

The Climate Change Action Plan provides the basis for monitoring our carbon footprint. It is designed to address the operations of Aberdeenshire Council and the influence of the Council on the wider community, including business and industry.



Anne Robertson, Leader



Colin Mackenzie, Chief Executive

Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council has committed to becoming Carbon Neutral in the short to medium term. This is one of the Council's strategic priorities which include reducing Aberdeenshire's global footprint, achieving sustainable development, protecting and promoting the historic environment, protect and promoting the natural environment, reducing dependence on finite resources and managing waste.
- 1.2 This Plan takes into account the public bodies' duties imposed under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The aim of this plan is to set out the structure, governance and projects that will help the Council to deliver its duties under the act and work towards achieving the Council's ambition.
- 1.3 The work to reduce carbon emissions will have to become an integral part of the Council's internal operations and its role in the wider community. The rewards of moving to a low-carbon and then a carbon neutral organisation and area will benefit not only the environment but the local economy and community. This plan and others such as the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership plan will enable the Council to fulfil its climate change commitments and be an exemplar and inspiration to other organisations and the wider community.
- 1.4 The Action Plan outlines some of the new projects and projects which will be carried over from the previous 2010/2011 plan which will assist in achieving the targets. The projects identified aim to deliver savings of approximately 3,500 tonnes of in CO2 2011/12 which is approximately a 3% reduction from the recorded Council CO2 emissions in 2009/10.

Climate Change and Sustainability

- 2.1 Climate change is part of the wider sustainability agenda. Aberdeenshire Council has been working for some time to integrate sustainability into its operations and is taking steps to raise the profile of sustainability in the wider community. In its Sustainability Charter, the Council seeks to ensure that resource use to provide for social, economic and environmental well-being in the short term does not preclude future generations from meeting their needs. Climate change has added extra impetus to this agenda.
- 2.2 Aberdeenshire Council acknowledges that climate change is happening. The Council recognises that it must take steps to adapt to likely changes and move to a low carbon future. The Council is committed to becoming a carbon neutral organisation in the short to medium term.
- 2.3 The commitment to become a carbon neutral organisation is important, both internally and externally. The Council is determined to deliver this, but if it is to make significant progress towards its commitment, this will require a step change in approach and working methods of all staff. More importantly, it will require strong leadership and commitment from elected members, senior management and all employees. Furthermore, it requires the allocation of financial resources to deliver this commitment.
- 2.4 In working towards carbon neutrality the Council carbon and finite resources reduction strategy is:
1. reduce the demand for energy;
 2. reduce actions which result in greenhouse gas emissions;
 3. increase the use of renewable energy; and
 4. use 'offsetting' as a last resort to match the net carbon emissions
- 2.5 The Climate Change Acts now specify legislative requirements which give additional focus to the work. These will need to be integrated into the Council's operations as details become available. The targets in the Act include 42% cumulative reduction against the 1990 baseline by 2020. This equates to a 3% reduction per year.
- 2.6 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 imposes duties on public bodies which came into force on 1 January 2011. These duties require that a public body must, in exercising its functions, act:
- in the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
 - in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme; and
 - in a way that it considers most sustainable.
- 2.7 The Council has been working to reduce carbon emissions for the past few years through actions across all Services. Whilst some progress has been made, over the past two years energy consumption for buildings (mainly attributed to colder temperatures) and street lighting have risen, as has fuel use in fleet vehicles, and business mileage remains almost static, with a small decrease over the past year.

- 2.8 The Council has sought advice from the Carbon Trust on Carbon Management, and this has informed this plan.
- 2.9 Aberdeenshire Council will continue to work within its own operations and with partnership organisations to address climate change mitigation and adaptation within the wider community. Particular progress has been made on improving energy efficiency in Council housing, and supporting such measures in other tenures.
- 2.10 The work to reduce carbon emissions will have to become an integral part of the Council's internal operations and its role in the wider community. Promoting and implementing behaviour change to reduce energy use, travel and waste will enable cost effective carbon reductions. However, if reductions are to be made in greenhouse gas emissions to meet longer term Council and national targets, major reduction projects will need to be identified and successfully delivered.
- 2.11 Any new project to bring about a significant reduction in emissions is likely to require proportional additional funding and lead time for feasibility studies. These projects will be identified and brought forward on a project by project basis in future revisions of this plan. It should be further noted that the Council will be required to buy Carbon Allowances through the Carbon

Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme. This is currently estimated at £12 per tonne CO₂ and a cost of around £500,000 to the Council to buy the Carbon Allowances.

2.12 Partnership Working

- 2.13 This Action Plan is designed to address the operations of Aberdeenshire Council and the influence of the Council with the wider community, including business and industry. In undertaking this work, the Council will continue to work with other organisations, both local and national. The Council already works in partnership with and within partnerships, including the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership, Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Future (ACSEF), North East Scotland Regional Transport Partnership (NESTRANS), Grampian Biomass Group, and the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership. Working in partnership will help the Council to achieve carbon reductions both internally within the Council and wider area emission reductions.

2.14 What are we measuring?

2.15 In order to be able to monitor and manage the targets and actions within this Climate Change Action Plan the Council has decided to measure carbon emissions from each of; buildings, municipal waste, fleet transport, street lighting, and business mileage. The waste data was based on the volume of municipal waste going to landfill, with the transport of the waste included in the figure for Council

transport. The programme excludes emissions from Council housing, other staff business travel, school bus travel and staff commuting (except through the Worksmart programme where commuting mileage is measured). Emissions from closed landfill sites were also excluded as these are reported separately to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.



Governance and Management

3.1 Governance:

Climate change is addressed as part of sustainability within Aberdeenshire Council. The Sustainability Sub-Committee of the Council's Policy and Resources (P&R) Committee is the principal members' group which monitors progress. However, reports may be considered directly at the full P&R Committee, Infrastructure Services Committee, Scrutiny and Audit Committee, Area Committees or the full Council, depending on the content of the report and the remit of the appropriate committee. The Sustainability Sub-Committee meets quarterly.

3.2 Management:

Management is through Heads of Service throughout the Council. Day-to-day responsibility for co-ordinating overall climate change work lies with the Sustainability Officer based within Infrastructure Services. However, key actions are co-ordinated by officers in all Services, for example, in property, waste, education, housing, economic development and transport.

A cross-service Sustainability Officers' Group includes representatives from all Services. It is chaired jointly by Heads of Service for Planning and Building Standards and Property and Facilities Management within Infrastructure Services.

3.3 Culture:

In order to embed sustainability into the Council's culture, responsibility for actions within this plan will need to be part of everyone's role within the Council and in particular, budget holders and line managers. A lot of the actions within this plan will help towards the efficiency savings needed as the Council moves forward with fewer resources.

3.4 Reporting:

Officers will report progress on targets and actions to the Sustainability Officers Group, who will review and monitor this information. Regular updates will be given to the Sustainability Sub-Committee along with any exception reports. Reporting for the Carbon Reduction Commitment, Energy Efficiency Scheme will also be carried out.

Carbon Footprint – Aberdeenshire wide data

4.1 The latest emissions data from Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) are given in Table 2. Further details are awaited as to why the emissions for land use, land use change and forestry have risen so much from 2007-8. As a comparison with the final column, the average per capita emissions for Scotland were 8.1, 8.2, 8.1 and 7.9 tCO₂ respectively for the four years, so Aberdeenshire has consistently higher than average emissions levels.

Table 1 CO₂ emission estimates for Aberdeenshire

Year	Industry & Commerce (ktCO ₂)	Domestic (ktCO ₂)	Road Transport (ktCO ₂)	Land use & forestry (ktCO ₂)	Total (ktCO ₂)	Population (000)	Per capita emissions (tCO ₂)
2005	818	705	672	220	2,415	233.4	10.3
2006	907	719	687	238	2,551	236.3	10.8
2007	909	711	693	272	2,584	239.2	10.8
2008	897	716	661	549	2,822	241.5	11.7

Source: DECC, September 2010

4.2 Aberdeenshire Council's Carbon Footprint

Table 2

Emissions source	2007-08 t CO ₂	2008-09 tCO ₂	Pa % change	2009-10 tCO ₂	Pa % change
Energy from buildings	59,294	59,000	-0.5	60,026	+1.7
Street lighting	8,218	8,651	+5.3	8,761	+1.3
Fleet transport	7,677	7,068	-7.9	8,778 ¹	+24.2 ¹
Business Mileage	3,546	3,569	+0.6	3,508	-1.7
Council premises waste disposal	1,862	1,880	+1.0	1,780	-5.3
TOTAL	80,597	80,168	-0.5	82,853	+3.3

¹ new data system in place so not directly comparable with previous years.

Themes

5.1 There are four main themes to this plan. Energy (including renewable energy), Waste, Travel and Behavioural Change. An overview of these themes and the actions from them are summarised below.

5.2 Energy

5.3 Energy is by far the largest contributor to the Council's carbon emissions footprint. Reducing our energy consumption will be a key part of the work to reduce our emissions.

5.4 In order to reduce energy within our operational buildings a number of measures will continue to be implemented, which include but is not limited to; Identifying Energy Efficiency projects that can be funded through the Central Energy Efficiency Fund, typically those with a 5 year payback on investment, such as insulation upgrades, removal of tungsten lighting. Targeting the refurbishment of buildings to improve energy efficiency through the Capitalised Maintenance programme, such as replacements boilers, controls, windows, roofs and electrical installations. The rationalisation and optimisation of building stock identified through the Asset Management Programme in conjunction with Worksmart; Adopting the recently approved Fuel Choice Strategy, will allow the maximisation of opportunities to upgrade heating systems with low carbon technology options, such as Biomass Boilers and or Ground/Air Source Heat Pumps.

5.5 The target for energy is to reduce emissions from energy consumption by Council properties by 3% per annum.

5.6 The Carbon Reduction Commitment, Energy Efficiency Scheme is a significant legislative driver affecting the Council today. Our Monitoring and Targeting systems are continually being updated and upgraded to keep up with the requirements in legislative reporting, as well as being the key source of management data and assisting budget holders in management of their energy usage, through online access.

5.7 Behavioural Change is an integral aspect to reducing energy in a large organisation such as the Councils and as such is covered in its own section within this Climate Change Action Plan; however the work of the Energy Management Team will continue to include raising awareness, promoting best practice behaviour and encouraging us all to take responsibility for the energy we each consume, individually and corporately.

5.8 Energy consumption for Aberdeenshire Council is usually split between energy consumed in operational buildings and street lighting.

5.9 The Street lighting team is currently working on a long term asset management plan to improve the energy efficiency of street lighting and should have good energy efficiency and carbon reduction savings by 2020. Further details on this will be included in revisions of this plan.

Table 3 – Energy Action Plan

Ref No	Action	Lead Officer	Emission Reduction pa/total t CO2	Timeline	Progress
1	Behavioural Change	Sustainability Officer	413	2011 onwards	Development stage
2	Renewable Energy	Energy Manager	500	2011 onwards	implementation
3	Energy Efficiency Measures	Principal Energy Management Engineer	257	2011 onwards	implementation
4	Property Rationalisation	Energy Manager	150	2011 onwards	implementation
5	Capitalised Maintenance	Energy Manager	600	2011 onwards	implementation
6	Capital Plan – Building Replacement	Energy Manager	150	2011 onwards	implementation
	Total		2070		

5.10 Renewable Energy (part of Energy theme)

5.11 There are targets on the amount of electricity to be produced from renewable sources. The UK commitment is for 15% to be generated from renewables by 2020. In September 2010 the Scottish Government raised its target for Scotland to generate 80% of its electricity from renewables by 2050 (from a previous target of 50%), with an interim target of 31% by 2011; and 20% of its total energy use to come from renewables by 2020.

5.12 The UK Government, through the Department for Energy and Climate Change, is changing the financial incentives for renewable energy schemes. Feed in tariffs (FITs), for schemes generating electricity, came into force in April 2010 and the Renewable Heat Incentive, for schemes providing heat, is due to come into force in 2011, subject to Parliamentary approval. These arrangements replace capital grants with longer term annual payments and

are aimed primarily at smaller scale installations. The legislation was changed in 2010 to allow local authorities to sell energy generated to the national grid.

5.13 Options for adopting renewable energy in the Council's most energy consuming buildings and properties are currently being assessed, through the delivery of a number of feasibility studies. Potential renewable energy installations will be identified and included in future revisions of this plan, including the identification of financial resource requirements. The current targets for renewable energy are to install at least one renewable energy source in a Council building each year and to facilitate at least one community renewable energy project each year

5.14 The Councils Fuel Choice Strategy ensures that heating in new buildings and upgrades in existing buildings, whole life costs and carbon emissions are considered in the choice of fuel.

- 5.15 A report on ‘Improving Energy Efficiency’ was published by Audit Scotland in December 2010. The recommendations that impact on public bodies are detailed below together with the current position of this Council.

Table 4 – Audit Scotland

Recommendation	Comments
Strengthen the contribution they make to reducing emissions and increase the pace of change.	In place
Work with the Scottish Government to implement the actions relevant to the public sector in the Energy Efficiency Action Plan, and report progress to senior management.	In place
Ensure they have systems in place to collect accurate data on transport use and resulting CO2 emissions.	To be developed
Build energy efficiency considerations into asset management and estate rationalisation decisions, involving energy officers or teams wherever possible.	In place
Build the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme into their internal audit arrangements, to provide assurance in addition to the five-yearly external audit by SEPA.	Ongoing discussion with Internal Audit

5.16 Transport

- 5.17 Transport is a large part of the Council’s work, whether it is in a Council vehicle or business mileage where staff claim back miles they have driven for work in their own vehicle. Work is ongoing through the Worksmart programme and through travel planning to reduce travel. This includes, reducing the need to travel by car, by working from home, working in a closer office or depot, video/tele-conferencing, car sharing, using public transport or walking and cycling. Targets for the transport theme include reducing business mileage by Aberdeenshire Council employees by 6% by 2012 (2006 baseline).
- 5.18 The vision of the Local Transport Strategy is: *“To develop an integrated transportation system for Aberdeenshire which contributes to the development of an inclusive and safe society, a sustainable economy and which reduces environmental damage caused by transport”.*
- 5.19 To deliver this, five objectives have been agreed based on a sustainable economy; social inclusion; accessibility; environmental stewardship; safety and security; and integration. The foremost element of the strategy is the adoption of best practice in relation to sustainable travel behaviour.
- 5.20 The transportation sector nationally faces many tough and uncomfortable realities, the biggest being the ever-increasing carbon dioxide emissions produced by the current modes of transport, particularly cars and their impact on global climate change.
- 5.21 Nationally, transport is the only sector where emissions continue to rise. Studies by the Department for Transport estimate that emissions from the sector will not fall before 2020. Aberdeenshire Council recognises that successfully reducing emissions from transport requires the input of all stakeholders.

Table 5 – Transport Action Plan

Ref No	Action	Lead Officer	Emission Reduction pa/ total t CO2	Timeline	Progress
7	Pilot pool car scheme	Travel Planning Officer	14	ongoing	implementation
8	Complete WebEx conferencing trial	Travel Planning Officer	1	ongoing	implementation
9	Install speed limiters in Council vehicles	Fleet Manager	393	ongoing	implementation
10	Continue to promote uptake of car sharing	Travel Planning Officer	67.8	ongoing	implementation
11	Remote download traffic data counters	Infrastructure Services	1.26	ongoing	implementation
	Total		477		

5.22 Waste

5.23 A Council-wide waste review in 2005/06, highlighted a need to improve waste management issues across all Council services from better compliance with legal requirements to reducing, reusing and recycling more. In response to this review and staff feedback, several initiatives have since been developed and implemented to improve the way waste is managed including the development of an on-line tool for the reuse of council equipment and the establishment of collection services for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment. Information relating to waste issues is now being provided to staff on an ongoing basis through various means including staff induction training, dedicated waste pages on Arcadia and informational material.

5.24 In terms of internal waste management, Aberdeenshire Council will lead by example and increase staff participation and adoption of correct waste management practices when at work, both now and in the future. Owing to the size and the wide range of services and associated waste issues within the Council, this will require both time and resources to communicate and deliver.

5.25 There has been extensive work in Aberdeenshire over the last 10 years to provide recycling facilities and services to householders and there is now a high level of understanding and willingness to participate in recycling by residents. In addition, a recent consultation issued by the Scottish Government suggests that legal requirements may be placed on trade customers (including the council) to separate waste for recycling in future. As a result of these factors, whilst work will continue to encourage and improve all aspects of waste management, the main focus of waste management within the council over the coming years will be to increase recycling facilities within council premises and raise awareness of these to encourage, increase and maintain staff participation as well as increase the amount of waste being recycled and reduce the waste sent to landfill.

Targets for the waste theme include: Increase Recycling and Reduce the amount of Council waste being collected for disposal from Council premises annually and reduce the amount of municipal waste going to

landfill to 5% by 2025 to meet Scottish Government Zero Waste Plan target.

Council premises are known to generate a wide range of waste types from road aggregate to office waste. Data relating to waste arising from Council premises and the undertaking of services is not available for all waste types at present and so, actions have not been set for all waste types. Data is available on waste

that is regularly generated by council premises and collected by trade waste services and contractors on behalf of trade waste services including; paper, cans, plastic bottles, cardboard, glass, cooking oil and fluorescent tubes and so, focus is being given to increasing the amount of these materials that are being recycled and reducing the amount of general waste being sent to landfill from council premises.

Table 6 – Waste Action Plan

Ref No	Action	Lead Officer	Emission Reduction pa/ total t CO2	Timeline	Progress
12	Recycling in all Council premises	Waste Management Officer	45	End 2012	implementation
13	Reduce and reuse initiatives in Council premises	Waste Management Officer	tbc	Ongoing	implementation
14	Trial of composting options in schools	Waste Management Officer with Aberdeen Forward	2	ongoing	implementation
	Total		49		

5.28 Behavioural Change

5.29 Behavioural change is vital to reducing all parts of the Council’s footprint but it is very difficult to measure its contribution. Behavioural change will include staff training for key staff personnel.

5.30 A communications strategy will be developed to engage, motivate and empower all staff. This is likely to use internal communication tools such as Arcadia, Arcadia Lite, core brief, pay slip inserts and the education GLOW online system to deliver key messages. It is likely that there would be a theme each month focussing on one message at a time. Examples include: switching off computer monitors, printing double sided, recycling more and using video conferencing facilities.

5.31 Promoting sustainability across all services internally will continue through the Sustainability Officers Group, the Education, Learning and Leisure Sustainable Development Forum and links to schools through the ECO Schools initiative. Externally, Officers will continue to forge links and support communities through the Community Planning Partnership.

5.32 The Worksmart programme will be a big part of the collective behavioural change of the Council. The aims of the Worksmart programme are to **improve customer focused services** so services are available when and where the public want to access them. **Increase productivity** by making the best use of staff resources and

reduces unnecessary travel time such as routine visits to offices to update records and collect files. **Improve employer profile**, by attracting and retaining staff and being an employer of choice with a range of work styles to match individual work preferences. **Asset management**, by improving council accommodation to provide quality access for the public and modern facilities for staff through a better utilisation of space with the potential over time to reduce the number of buildings and their associated costs and **Sustainability** by looking at the

impact of Council activities on the environment such as reducing travel to work mileage, reducing premises costs for lighting and heating.

5.33 Ultimately behavioural change will only happen if there is strong leadership within the Council both politically and from the senior management team. This leadership needs to be devolved down through line managers, team leaders and supervisors, to ensure that they are tasked with reducing the energy consumption, waste and travel within their own teams.

Table 7 – Behavioural Change Action Plan

Ref No	Action	Lead Officer	Emission Reduction p/ total t CO2	Timeline	Progress
15	Behavioural Change	Sustainability Officer	413	2011 onwards	Development Stage
16	Worksmart	Corporate Improvement and Performance Manager	300*	2011 onwards	Implementation
	Total		713		

*total estimated savings are 2,232 tonnes which has been pro-rated over the 3 years of the project but realistically most of the savings will come in year 3 once properties are disposed of or 'mothballed'

Key Contacts:

- 6.1 For further information on Energy please contact the Energy Management Team: Emma Donaldson, Principal Energy Management Engineer, isenergy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, 01224 664498
- 6.2 For further information on Waste please contact: Amanda Ingram, Waste Management Officer, amanda.ingram@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, 01467 628680
- 6.3 For further information on Travel please contact:

Andrew Stewart, Travel Planning Officer, andrew.stewart@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, 01224 664773
- 6.4 For further information on this report and sustainability please contact:

Kelly Wiltshire, Sustainability Officer, kelly.wiltshire@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, 01224 664221

References:

- 7.1 Fife Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan, September 2009 Climate Change Strategy Woking Borough Council 2008-2013 The Highland Council, Draft Carbon Management Plan 2009-2012 The Carbon Trust, Carbon Management Programme Revisited, Matrix

Further Information

- 8.1 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is also addressed in Aberdeenshire's Single Outcome Agreement and Community Plan, the Council Strategic Priorities, Sustainability Charter, Fuel Poverty Strategic Outcome Statement, Local Transport Strategy, Structure Plan (joint with Aberdeen City Council), and the Local Development Plan, These are available on the Council's web site: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk on the community planning, planning, housing, transportation, waste and green living pages.

APPENDIX 2

Climate Change Action Plan 2011/2015 - Summary

Action	Annual CO2 Reduction (% of Total)	Annual CO2 Reduction (% of Total)	Annual CO2 Reduction (% of Total)	Annual CO2 Reduction (% of Total)
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Energy				
Carbon Reduction - Renewable Energy	0.61%	0.61%	0.61%	1.21%
Energy Efficiency Measures	0.31%	0.31%	0.22%	0.22%
Property Rationalisation	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%	0.36%
Capitalised Maintenance	0.29%	0.29%	0.29%	0.29%
Capital Plan - Building Replacemen	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%	0.36%
Transport				
Pilot pool car scheme	0.02%			
Complete WebEx conferencing trial	0.00%			
Install speed limiters in Council vehicles	0.48%			
Continue to promote Aberdeenshire Carshare website	0.08%			
Remote download traffic data counters	0.00%			
Waste				
Recycling in all Council premises	0.00%			
Reduce and reuse initiatives to reuse furniture and equipment to reduce waste to landfill	0.00%			
Trial of composting options in schools	0.00%			
Behavioural Change				
Behavioural Change	0.50%	1.25%	0.25%	0.25%
Worksmart	0.36%	0.36%	1.98%	
TOTAL	3.07%	3.19%	3.71%	2.70%

