

Serving Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea the very best of Scotland

Climate Change Declaration Annual Report 2011

Each of Scotland's 32 local authorities signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in early 2007. The Declaration is a public statement wherein local authorities acknowledge the reality and implications of climate change and their responsibility to respond effectively. The Declaration also welcomes the actions of the UK and Scottish governments and the opportunities for local authorities to work in partnership with others in responding to climate change.

As signatories to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, each Scottish local authority is committed to taking action across a range of key areas. These can be summarised as:

1. Providing effective **leadership, governance and management** on climate change.
2. Reducing the local authority's **own 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions** from their estate, services and functions.
3. Taking action to reduce **emissions from the local authority area**
4. Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to **adapt to the impacts of climate change**.
5. Developing effective **partnership working and climate change communications**, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

This Reporting Template focuses on these five key areas.

The principles of effective Declaration reporting include:

- Providing clear, consistent and comparable information.
- Linking climate change reporting with existing reporting requirements and the council's own performance improvement agenda.
- Showing clearly how climate change is being integrated into council and Community Planning agendas, especially through Single Outcome Agreements.
- Highlighting key achievements and initiatives
- Communicating with the community, making the report easy to understand and available to the public.

Local authorities are encouraged to provide information in a transparent and easy to understand format:

- In relation to 'corporate' and 'area-wide' emissions, quantifiable data will be vital, and this is best communicated graphically.

- On adaptation, examples of adaptation action or process initiatives would help illustrate what is being done.
- On governance, leadership and management, and on partnership working, communications and capacity building, diagrams, process maps and examples of materials and events would be extremely useful.

In order to make reporting on the Declaration as effective and efficient as possible, local authorities are encouraged to use this reporting template to report top-level information and to use web-link references to more detailed information.

Local authorities are also encouraged to make reference to their previous Declaration reports, especially making reference to the year-ahead priorities listed in those reports. This will help in showing continuity and year-on-year progress.

In reporting on the Declaration, local authorities are encouraged to recognise the importance of the UK Climate Change Act, Climate Change (Scotland) Act, national targets for emissions reduction, the Climate Change Public Bodies Duties Guidance (published 2011), The Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting the Emissions Reduction Targets 2010-2022 Report on Proposals and Policies, the Low Carbon Scotland Public Engagement Strategy, the evolving Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the Adaptation Scotland Scotland Climate Change Adaptation Workbook . Also of use is the internationally recognised 'Greenhouse Gas Protocol' for consistent reporting of 'corporate emissions' and the evolving suite of Local Authority climate change datasets and indicators published by DECC.

Section 1

Governance, Leadership and Management

Please describe and illustrate the leadership, governance and management of climate change by your local authority.

Leadership: Aberdeenshire Council signed the Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in January 2007, with a re-signing in August 2008. In 2009, the Council became a signatory to the EU climate change initiative, the Covenant of Mayors (<http://www.eumayors.eu/>). The Council's response to climate change is led by the Director of Infrastructure Services.

Governance: As reported in Aberdeenshire Council's previous annual reports on the Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, climate change is addressed as part of the sustainability agenda and is a strategic priority of the Council. The Sustainability Sub-Committee of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee is the principal members' group which monitors progress. However, reports may be considered directly at the full Policy and Resources Committee, Infrastructure Services Committee, Scrutiny and Audit Committee or the full Council, depending on the content of the report and the remit of the appropriate committee.

The Sustainability Sub-Committee meets quarterly.

Management: Management is through Heads of Service throughout the Council. Day-to-day responsibility for co-ordinating overall climate change responses lies with the Sustainability Officer 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 from Property and Facilities Management and Economic Development. The Head of Service for Resources

with Education Learning and Leisure and Head of Service for Planning and Building Standards are also members of the group.

Strategies & plans: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is specifically addressed in Aberdeenshire's Single Outcome Agreement, the Council Strategic Priorities, Sustainability Charter, Climate Change Action Plan, Fuel Poverty Outcome Statement, Local Transport Strategy, the Structure Plan (with Aberdeen City Council), the Local Development Plan, and the new draft Local Development Plan. These are available on the Council's web site: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk on the community planning, planning, housing, transport, waste and green living pages.

Section 1 Priorities for the year ahead

The current Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2015 was approved by Policy and Resources Committee in April 2011. The plan has four themes within which the Council's emissions reduction projects and targets are grouped. The themes are: Energy, Travel, Waste and Behavioural Change. Overall, the projects identified in the plan aim to deliver savings of approximately a 3% reduction in each year of the plan from a baseline recorded Council emissions in 2009/10.

Section 2

Reducing the local authority's own 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions from its estate, services and functions.

Overall results show that there has been an increase of approximately 0.7% in carbon emissions in 2010/11 compared to 2009/10.

Energy consumption has increased. This is due to the particularly cold winter last year. When reporting Climate Change targets the Council uses absolute consumption which excludes the weather factor corrections. This raw data indicates an increase in consumption (kWh) from energy from buildings of 3.5% from 2009/10 to 2010/11. However, when corrected for weather it indicates a 4.9% decrease. Similarly, raw emissions (tCO₂) indicate an increase of 1.2% but when corrected for weather they show a 4.7% decrease.

Business travel is continuing to decrease and decreased by 6% in 2010/11 compared to 2009/10. The amount of litres of fuel used by fleet services has reduced compared to 2009/10. Data is also now more accurate so we can now split fleet consumption between diesel and unleaded fuels. Eco driver training has been made available for staff and a pool car trial has begun at Viewmount and Woodhill House.

Recycling from Council premises is increasing. We anticipate this will continue with the continued roll out of more recycling containers within Council properties. The Waste Management Team has recently won a Green Apple Award for their Waste Minimisation in Council Premises project.

Table 1: Consumption, cost and emissions data for Aberdeenshire Council for 3 year period to March 2011.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Energy in buildings			
Consumption (kWh) ¹	179,737,780	180,048,503	186,370,198
Cost (£)	10,429,691	9,667,635	9,219,844
CO2 emissions (t)	58,634	58,369	59,051
Street lighting etc			
Consumption (kWh)	15,304,926	15,711,407	16,287,870
Cost (£)	1,777,430	2,121,079	1,583,506
CO2 emissions (t)	8,218	8,437	8,746
Council Fleet vehicles²			
Consumption (litres)	2,654,641	3,295,686	3,240,335.72
Cost (£)	3,215,315	3,103,610	3,442,046.91
Diesel (litres)	n/a	n/a	3,189,068.36
Unleaded (litres)	n/a	n/a	51267.36
Diesel CO2 emissions (t)	n/a	n/a	8521
Unleaded CO2 emissions (t)	n/a	n/a	119
Business mileage³			
Miles		10,630,024	9,955,830
CO2 emissions (t)		3,502	3,285
Booked travel			
Cost (£)	266,372	282,348	251,748
Waste			
Municipal solid landfilled(t)	101,746	98,262	103,771
MSW recycled (t) (% of total)	48,625 (34%)	50,236 (33%)	49,966 (32.4%)
MSW landfill CO2 emissions (t)	45,480	43,923	46,386

Council premises: Collected for disposal			
a) amount (t)	4206	3,982	3844
b) cost (£)	506,317	541,558	576,899
c) CO2 emissions (t)	1880	1780	1718
Council premises: collected for recycling ⁵ (t) (% of total) ⁴	2593 (38%)	2821 (41%)	2842 (43%)

Notes:

1 Absolute consumption: excludes weather factor correction. This raw data indicates an increase in consumption (kWh) of 3.5% from 2009/10 to 2010/11. However, when corrected for weather it indicates a 4.9% decrease. Similarly, raw emissions (tCO₂) indicate an increase of 1.2% but when corrected for weather they show a 4.7% decrease.

2 Diesel and unleaded, combined in previous years, separated in 2010/11 to have more accurate CO₂ emission data. Carbon conversion should not be compared as different conversion factors have been used compared to previous years.

3 Non-taxable miles, not including any other allowances. Conversion factor used, 0.33 (Carbon Trust); more detailed vehicle data not available.

4 Excluding garden waste

Table 2: Breakdown by fuel type for energy in buildings in 2010/11:

Please note percentages have been rounded up or down to give whole numbers, so may not add up to exactly 100%.

Fuel 2010/11	Consumption (kWh)	%	Cost (£)	%	CO2 emissions (tCO ₂)	%
Electricity	63,579,682	35	5,392,466	58	34,397	58
Gas	79,383,524	43	1,711,897	19	14,607	25
Kerosene	15,408,953	8	704,526	8	3,791	6
Oil	22,867,350	12	1,208,687	13	5,763	10
LPG	2,313,228	1	138,689	2	495	1
Biomass	2,817,461	2	63,579	1	0	0
Total	186,370,198		9,219,844		59,051	

Breakdown of business mileage by Service in 2010/11

Please note percentages have been rounded up or down, so may not add up to exactly 100%.

Service	2010/11	2010/11	% of total miles
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	£	miles	%
Chief Executive	21,727.9	54,829	0.5
Housing & Social Work	2,105,374	5,289,464	53
EL&L	826,907	2,108,289	21
Corporate Services	230,521	576,260	6
Infrastructure Services	662,416	1,662,829	17
Total staff*	3,846,945.9	9,691,671	97
Councillors	105,851.25	264,159	3
TOTAL	3,952,797.15	9,955,830	

*excluding NESTRANS

Summary of Council emissions CO2 tonnes

	2009-10 tCO2	2010-11 tCO2	% change
Energy from buildings	58,369	59,051	1.2
Street lighting	8,437	8,746	3.7
Fleet transport*	8,778	8,640	-1.6
Business Mileage	3,502	3,285	-6
Council premises waste disposal	1,780	1,718	-3
TOTAL	80,866	81,440	0.7

*tCO2 for fleet transport should not be compared from 2009/10 to 2010/11 due to different conversion factors being used as diesel and unleaded were separated in 2010/11 and this data was unavailable in 2009/10.

Transport

A low carbon approach has been adopted towards the development of the Council's new Local Transport Strategy, with meetings kept to a minimum, and held via video/web-conferencing when appropriate. The consultation approach was also been undertaken electronically as far as possible.

In terms of the Local Transport Strategy going forward, this also adopts a low carbon approach with actions promoted in the soon to be published plan grouped according to the themes of 'travel less', 'travel actively' and 'travel effectively'.

Events and campaigns promoting sustainable and active travel are delivered as a partner in the Getabout partnership. These include events promoting National Bike Week, Walk to Work Week, National Liftshare Week, In Town Without My Car Day etc. Particular campaigns have promoted Park and Ride, Rail Services, cycle tourism and car sharing. www.get-about.com

Promotions within the Council's premises have been delivered through our Travel Planning and School Travel Planning initiatives. This has ranged from investment in walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure to the promotion of the health benefits of active travel. Over 90% of our 171 schools are involved in the School Travel Planning process.

Significant investment has been made in our largest town, Peterhead. It has been chosen as our Cycle Demonstration Town and has seen cycling events, poster campaigns and lots of engagement with residents, including a film being made with local people.

Pool cars have been introduced and are being rolled out as part of our drive to make business travel more efficient and reduce emissions.

Through government funding the Council has purchased electric vehicles to deliver mail between partners.

Eco-driving sessions were provided free to two hundred employees. Eco driving advice will now be placed in each Council vehicle when at Fleet for servicing.

Solar powered, remote download traffic counters have significantly reduced the need to travel compared to traditional counters.

A review of school transport routes has resulted in a reduction in empty seats on vehicles and in the associated emissions.

Promoting Road Safety is seen as an important element in encouraging behaviour change towards alternatives to the private car. Examples have included our successful campaign to reduce fatal motorcycle collisions, Operation Zenith, which has been recognised at national awards.

Section 2 Priorities for the year ahead

- Continue to implement the Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2015.
- Revise and implement the Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the Covenant of Mayors.
- Revise and implement the Council's Sustainability Charter 2008-2012.
- Implement the Sustainability Communications Strategy.
- Continue to take part in awareness raising events such as Earth Hour and Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Continue to work with Aberdeen City Council on the responsible procurement strategy.
- Continue to implement the Local Transport Strategy

Section 3

Taking action to reduce the emissions from the local authority area

Aberdeenshire wide Co2 emissions in tonnes per capita

Published by Department of Energy and Climate Change Sept 2011.

Year	Industry and Commercial	Domestic	Road Transport	Total
2005	2.9	3.3	2.8	8.9
2006	2.8	3.3	2.9	9.0
2007	2.8	3.2	2.9	8.9
2008	2.8	3.2	2.7	8.7
2009	2.6	2.9	2.6	8.1

Aberdeenshire Council as a landlord has installed replacement external doors to 160 Council homes, replacement heating systems to 339 Council homes and replacement windows to 45 Council homes this year as part of the capital programme which should help improve the energy efficiency of the properties and reduce the fuel bills of the tenants.

Universal Home Insulation Scheme (Phase 1)

Aberdeenshire Council submitted an application for funding through the Scottish Government's UHIS for Fraserburgh and Peterhead. The Scottish Government announced on 6th October 2010 that £650k had been awarded. All households were contacted and following an initial assessment and technical survey, residents were offered free loft and/or cavity wall insulation. The following number of measures were installed free of charge:

MEASURE	Number
UHIS cavity wall insulation installations	68
UHIS full loft insulation installations	255
UHIS loft insulation top-up installations	1,078
Total UHIS installations	1,401

The installation of these measures resulted in the following outcomes:

Outcome	Target
Fuel bill savings – i. annual	£87,575
ii. over lifetime of the measures	£3,503,000
CO2 emissions savings i. annual	450,610 kg

ii. over lifetime of the measures

18,024 tonnes

Universal Home Insulation Scheme (Phase 2)

An application for funding was submitted on 05 August 2011 to the Scottish Government to allow residents in Aberdeenshire to improve energy efficiency of housing. Aberdeenshire Council has been awarded 620k for the UHIS in 2011/2012. Over 20,000 households will be contacted in Buchan and Banff & Buchan to offer free loft and/or cavity wall insulation.

It is anticipated that there will be the following measures installed:

MEASURE	Number
UHIS cavity wall insulation installations	963
UHIS full loft insulation installations	302
UHIS loft insulation top-up installations	1,258
Total UHIS installations	2,523

846 of the cavity wall insulations will be in mixed tenure blocks so both council tenants and the private sector will benefit. This is especially useful where private owners have prevented cavity wall insulation from being installed in mixed tenure blocks in the past as they have been unable / unwilling to pay their contribution.

The installation of these measures will result in the following outcomes:

Outcome	Target
Fuel bill savings – i. annual	£200,040
ii. over lifetime of the measures	£8,001,600
CO2 emissions savings i. annual	1,023,920 kg
ii. over lifetime of the measures	40,956 tonnes

Home Insulation Scheme (HIS)

Aberdeenshire Council submitted an application to participate in the Scottish Government's Home Insulation Scheme for all homeowners and private tenants in Marr. This scheme offered residents a mixture of free and discounted measures. HIS was managed by the Energy Saving Trust (EST), whereas UHIS is managed by the Council. HIS will not be operating in future years. Referrals were taken up until the end of July 2011.

The table below shows the number of installs that have taken place up to the end of July 2011. These are the most up-to-date figures available from the EST. It is anticipated that these figures will increase slightly.

AREA	Marr
HIS cavity wall insulation installations	47
HIS full loft insulation installations	103
HIS loft insulation top-up installations	1,109
Total HIS installations	1,158

The installation of these measures resulted in the following outcomes:

Outcome	Target
Fuel bill savings – i. annual	£64,465
ii. over lifetime of the measures	£2,578,600
CO2 emissions savings i. annual	335,120 kg
ii. over lifetime of the measures	13,404 tonnes

During 2011 the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan and the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Main issues Report went out to public consultation. These plans have incorporated sustainability and climate change and will effect the sustainable development of the North East of Scotland in the future.

In regard to reducing waste the Council has been working to decrease the amount of waste sent to landfill and increase recycling by enforcing a one bin per household rule across Aberdeenshire.

Section 3 Priorities for the year ahead

Continue to work with Community Planning Partners, the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership, North East Scotland Flooding Advisory Group, NESTRANS and local community groups in order to help reduce our area emissions. This will be done through the plans such as the Local Development Plan, Local Community Plans and working with partners such as Scarf to help increase the energy efficiency of homes and reduce fuel poverty in Aberdeenshire.

The Council will continue to work with our partners such as Scottish Enterprise on projects such as Energetica. <http://www.energetica.uk.com/>

We will continue to work with partners and stakeholders to promote the use of renewable energy and woodfuel with organisations such as the Forestry Commission <http://www.usewoodfuel.co.uk/> and AREG. <http://www.aberdeenrenewables.com/>

Section 4

Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

What is your local authority doing to adapt to climate change?

Aberdeenshire Council is part of NESFLAG (North East Scotland Flooding Advisory Group) and this group and its partners work together to improve resilience against flooding and flood risk as well as looking at landslips, river basin management and coastal erosion work.

The Council also works with North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership and the East Grampian Coastal Partnership.

The Council is working to improve the resilience of the Council and the communities it serves to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Examples include setting up Flood Wardens in Stonehaven, where there has been flooding in recent years and additional training for Council staff was undertaken to be prepared to set up and manage emergency rest centre's if required during an emergency event as part of the Council risk management work.

Section 4 Priorities for the year ahead

Continue to work with NESFLAG in order to become more resilient and adapt to climate change.

Work includes publishing draft Local Flood Risk Management Plans for public consultation by end of 2014 which set out the Councils position on managing flood risk in those areas identified as priorities in the National Flood Risk Assessment.

Publish Local Flood Risk Management Plans for Aberdeenshire by end of 2015 which set out the Councils position on managing flood risk in those areas identified as priorities in the National Flood Risk Assessment. This will include a programme of actions to be undertaken by the Council and its partners.

Promote resilience against future flood risk by supporting local flood warden schemes (for example in Stonehaven, Huntly, Fettercairn) and making personal flood protection products available at reduced cost to the public.
Ensure that future development is promoted in areas that are not at risk of flooding and erosion at present or in the future.
With respect to the shoreline, produce a long term asset management plan which identifies those areas where continued protection against flooding and erosion is a sustainable / strategic priority and those areas where natural erosion should be allowed to progress to the benefit of the shoreline as a whole by 2015.

Climate change risk register to be completed.

Section 5

Developing effective partnership working and climate change communications, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

Please describe and illustrate your local authority's partnership working on climate change.

Aberdeenshire Council is working in partnership with my organisations. For example the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership, NESFLAG and NESTRANS amongst many others.

Please describe what your local authority has done on climate change communications.

Aberdeenshire Council has developed a communications strategy for sustainability raising awareness internally. This is being implemented in 2012. Externally the Council working with partners promotes initiatives such as encouraging residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes through programmes such as the Universal Home Insulation Scheme. Regular reduce, reuse and recycle messages are promoted to households. In regard to travel the Council promotes the Get About campaign with NESTRANS as well as many other events such as WWF's Earth Hour.

Please describe what your local authority has done to build capacity on climate change – internally, with partners and/or with the community.

Internally the Council continues to Work with schools on travel plans and the Eco schools initiative; engage with staff and stakeholders through sustainability awareness raising.

Section 5 Priorities for the year ahead

Implement Sustainability Awareness Raising Communications Strategy.

Climate Change Progress Highlights of the Past Year

Please use the following section to highlight the local authority's main climate change achievements in the past year. This can include processes, plans, projects, partnerships, events, investments, and actions.

The Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2015 was approved by Policy and Resources Committee in April 2011. The plan has four themes within which the Council's emissions reduction projects and targets are grouped. The themes are: Energy, Travel, Waste and Behavioural Change. Overall, the projects identified in the plan aim to deliver savings of approximately a 3% reduction in each year of the plan from a baseline recorded Council emissions in 2009/10.

Behavioural Change work is continuing. Officers are currently developing an internal staff engagement plan. A staff survey is about to be undertaken to try and understand the Council's employees' views on sustainability and climate change and how they can contribute to reducing our green house gas emissions and costs.

Measures to reduce energy consumption, emissions and costs in buildings continue to be identified and implemented. This includes raising awareness, energy efficiency measures, property improvement, rationalisation and disposal of buildings and the use of renewable energy. Energy efficiency measures being carried out include roof space insulation, pipe insulation, swimming pool covers, draught-proofing and improvement to lighting and heating systems. Planning permission has been obtained for the installation of a biomass boiler in Peterhead Academy and the project is being developed.

Council programmes such as Worksmart appear to be contributing greatly to reducing our business mileage and the new workSpace programme should also help to reduce our energy consumption by improving some of our existing buildings and reducing the number of buildings the Council operates from.

Universal Home Insulation Scheme in Peterhead and Fraserburgh and now being extended across the Buchan and Banff and Buchan area.

Energetica for the corridor between Aberdeen and Peterhead produced a design guide.

Due to various ongoing initiatives, the recycling rate internally within the Council increased from 41% in 2010 to 43% in 2011. Over this year, 137 tonnes of waste were diverted from landfill through the promotion of reduce, reuse and recycling options in council premises, saving approx. 61 tonnes of Carbon according the Carbon Management Programme conversion rate.

Give and Take events were held in November 2011 to promote the concept of waste reduction and reuse to staff during the European Week for Waste

Reduction.

The waste minimisation in council premises project won a Gold Award at the Green Apple Environment Awards ceremony in November 2011 in recognition of ongoing waste minimisation work in council premises and the positive efforts of Aberdeenshire Council staff.

Council attended and had stands at 'All Energy' at the AECC in Aberdeen and the 'Natural Energy Show' at Thainstone.

The Council has made the bronze pledge to the WWF What Wood You Choose Campaign and has developed a Sustainable Timber Procurement Policy.