

Report to Safer Cleaner Greener Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 7 July 2011

**Subject: Green and Carbon Reduction Measures
- Updating Report**



Officer contact for further information: Sarah Creitzman

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Panel note the work of the Environmental Co-ordinator on the matters set out in the report.

Report:

Climate Change Strategy

1. Work is currently ongoing to calculate and publish the Council's carbon emissions data and achieved reductions, as per the Government's request for councils to measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions from their own estate and operations, in order to continue the work carried out under NI 185. Please see the attached letter from the Department of Energy and Climate Change for clarification.

2. In order to achieve this as accurately as possible, the Environmental Co-ordinator is manually collating data from the last 3 years' records from the following sources:

| Data | Source |
|--|---|
| Casual and Essential car mileage | HR mileage claim records |
| Lease car mileage | HR mileage claim records |
| Litres of fuel purchased from fuel cards for fleet vehicles and machinery. | Paper invoices for fuel-card payments showing litres and type of fuel purchased. |
| Electricity and gas use in Council Operational Buildings | Facilities Management energy data spreadsheets. Data is from the 5 largest Council-owned buildings showing use in kilowatt hours (KWh). The spreadsheets are collated from bills, mainly estimated. |

3. Data are then fed into a calculator tool provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change to obtain carbon emissions in Kg. Once the emissions for the Council's baseline year (2008-2009) have been calculated and compared with emissions from the following years, a much more accurate pattern of carbon emissions will be known than is currently available. The data will also provide a firm basis from which to make informed and realistic decisions about future CO₂ reduction targets from the Council's operations. These targets can then be written into the Carbon Management Strategy, which will replace the Climate Change Strategy.

4. By the 2012 reporting deadline for this exercise, it is hoped that data from electricity and gas use in the Council's Housing Stock will also be included. When further data are added, the baseline year will need to be recalculated, but for 2011 it is important to publish the information that is available at present.

5. During collection of data, it has also been noted that there remain many smaller satellite buildings for which energy data are not collected, because these buildings do not require Display Energy Certificates. A list of all buildings which the Council owns, but does not monitor energy use for is currently being compiled by Mike Hobbs, Facilities Manager. It is suggested that in future, as part of its commitment to the Nottingham Declaration, the Council should aim to extend its monitoring of energy use to smaller properties, through the Environmental Co-ordinator. This would help to build a clearer, more accurate picture of the Council's resource use.

Nottingham Declaration

6. The ongoing work to calculate the Council's carbon emissions is significantly contributing to the following pledge the Council signed up to in the Nottingham Declaration:

"Publicly declare, within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own authority's operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services."

7. Also in relation to this pledge the Environmental Co-ordinator, through research alongside The Environment Agency and negotiation through the Green Corporate Working Party, has instigated a review of the Council's commercial waste disposal arrangements to ensure that Civic Offices commercial waste is being recycled. Investigation into possible options for the future is taking place.

8. Further work contributing to the pledges in the Nottingham Declaration includes:

- Offering education and advice to the public, through an upcoming event organised by Country care
- Continuation of Smarter Driving Training for Council Staff
- Development of an iTrain course to promote staff environmental awareness
- An energy awareness page in the Council's annual Environmental Booklet, which is sent to all households within the District.

Reason for decision:

Options considered and rejected:

Consultation undertaken:

Resource implications:

Budget provision:

Personnel:

Land:

Community Plan/BVPP reference:

Relevant statutory powers:

Background papers:

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:

Key Decision reference: (if required)