

# Warwickshire **Climate Change Partnership**

11 February 2008

## Submission Form for Case Studies

Please Insert:

Name of Organisation: Hill Close Gardens

Name of Project

Strategic Category:

Chosen from:

1. Energy
2. Transport
3. Resource Efficiency
4. Adaptation
5. Communications and Education

Date: 02/01/2008

Please return to: Dr. Jacky Lawrence, Strategic Energy Manager, Environmental Management, E&E, WCC, PO Box 43, Warwick CV34 4SX.

Email : [climatechange@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@warwickshire.gov.uk), Web : [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechange)



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Please use as much space in the boxes as you need

### **1 What climate change means to our organisation**

#### **1.1 Challenges and CSR –our vision for tackling climate change, our targets**

An environmentally responsible organisation needs to have strategies, performance commitments and leadership on climate change at the business unit and site level. A corporate strategy or national policy alone is not enough to deliver the changes required, and the benefits those changes can bring.

A description of our corporate commitment to tackling climate change, elements of our strategy and our targets can be seen below.

Hill Close Gardens Trust is convinced that sustainability is an essential design requirement for a new building in a garden context

A description of our business unit / site level commitment to tackling climate change, elements of our strategy and our targets can be seen below.

NA

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### **1.2 Innovation – why our organisation is involved in climate change projects**

Tackling climate change, not just in our own business, but helping others to tackle climate change, reduces long term risk and makes all businesses safer in the medium to long term.

A description of how tackling climate change has driven innovation can be seen below.

Putting aside the benefits of cost savings from energy efficiency it was felt that in a natural garden setting sustainability should be a important design feature of the new centre.

### **1.3 Opportunities – how climate change projects have benefited our organisation**

There are opportunities to be had from taking responsibility to tackle climate change, but these opportunities may lie outside of what a company has traditionally considered its core areas of influence.

Below is a description of how tackling climate change has presented our organisation with opportunities.

whilst tackling climate change our Hill Close Gardens have been able to demonstrate energy efficient technologies and the use of renewable energies, this has opened up opportunities as an additional visitor attraction.

As well as the above increased insulation and the use of renewable energies has also had a financial benefit as the centre saves money.

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### **2 Project Concept - what our organisation did.**

Below is listed the name of and a description of our project. Why we did it (the main driver). What the aims and objectives were. How it was expected to work, what had to be done to make the project succeed and what the expected benefits of the scheme were.

The new build centre at Hill Close Gardens follows good sustainable practices. It was built to be thermally efficient, it is well insulated, with its green roof and hollow walls filled with shredded newspaper. The under floor heating system extracts its warmth from the ground outside. The ventilation system ensures that heat in the air leaving the building is captured and used to warm the incoming cold air. In January 2007 a wind turbine was installed and the Trust offered to take part in the Warwick wind trials

### **3 Project Partners – who was involved.**

The names of all the people, job titles and all other organisations that were involved in delivering this project are listed below.

Heritage Lottery Fund  
Advantage West Midlands  
Clear Skies  
Warwick District Council

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### **4 What our business / organisation learned from becoming involved in climate change projects**

A description of what we learned in carrying out this project can be seen below, i.e. what the easy successes were, the overall outcome and what the barriers were.

What worked?

The project so far has been a success but it is still moving forward with plans to make the centre even more sustainable by adding photovoltaics and rainwater harvesting.

How this project generated enthusiasm, won hearts and minds and drove cultural change

This project was initially driven by the Architects, Design Engine, and their engineers, Gifford. However as the project has moved forward staff have been able to see the benefits of the sustainability of their building

What the unexpected knock-on effects of this project were - both good and bad.

A unexpected knock on effects of this project is that the centre is now receiving more bookings as a venue to hold meetings. The venue can be used by a variety of groups, including Encraft.

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### **5 How emissions were reduced by doing this project – i.e. quantified fuel and energy savings**

We list here the fuel and/ or energy savings associated with this project. The amount of greenhouse gas emissions, especially the amount of carbon dioxide, that have been saved or will be saved because of doing this project are quantified below.

Comparable results recorded as centre is a new build

### **6 What we would you do differently if we did this project again**

Below is a description of what we would do differently in this project if we started again from scratch.

NA

### **7 Continuous Improvement**

Below is a description of what we intend to do next in tackling climate change within our organisation.

Hill Close Garden Trust hope to continually improve, using the building as an educational centre attracting schools to the gardens. In November 2007 a part time education officer was recruited to design garden trails from children and plan the education programme for 2008

The Trust is planning on installing a TV screen with displaying up to date information on the energy usage within the building demonstrating the efficiency of installed technologies.

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Below is a description of what we would do if we were given £10,000 to do a climate change project.

The trust plans to install photovoltaics and rainwater harvesting once funding has been secured.

## **8 Contact Details – where to go for further information on the above project**

Below is a list of all sources of information and relevant contact details for this project.

Hill Close Gardens  
Bread and Meat Close  
Warwick CV34 6HF

Tel: 01926 493339  
Email: [centremanager@hcgt.org.uk](mailto:centremanager@hcgt.org.uk)

## **9 Any other useful information?**

Sources of other useful information and links are given below.

[www.hillclosegardens.com](http://www.hillclosegardens.com)

