



Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership

## Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy Review 2008

The Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy was launched in July 2006. The Strategy document was intended to be used as a framework document which needed to be updated and reviewed regularly due to the fast moving nature of the issues and changes in Government climate change policy. The first review is to begin now (April 2008) to see what, if anything, in it needs changing or adding to.

### **The overarching aim of the strategy is:**

“To reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Warwickshire to at least the level set out by Government policy, 15%-18% reduction by 2010 and a 60% reduction by 2050 (against 1990 levels). We will achieve this whilst maintaining and improving the quality of life of Warwickshire residents through the implementation of a policy of sustainable development.

By implementing the Strategy, the Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership will meet its 2010 target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15%-18% and have substituted low carbon technologies, where this is possible, in all sectors.”

### **Early Actions 2006**

The Strategy identified five key areas where actions locally can assist in both mitigating the impacts of climate change, in energy, transport and resource efficiency. It also addresses the steps needed to adapt to the climate change that is already happening and that which will happen whatever we do from now on. To encourage the people, businesses and other organisations in Warwickshire to play a part, a communications and education dimension is critical.

The early actions listed in the Strategy are given below. These complement those in the Warwickshire Climate Change Action Plan which appears on the web site:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/7E511CDA04990774802572E1004F3F09>



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### Strategic Early Actions

1. The Strategy commits Partners to adopting an Environmental Sustainability policy and encourages a commitment to obtain ISO14001 accreditation.
2. The Partnership will work closely with the Government and other public local sector bodies, businesses, community and voluntary groups.
3. The Partnership will work through the Warwickshire Strategic Partnership to implement the Strategy using delivery mechanisms such as Local Public Service Agreements and Local Area Agreements and well-being powers under the Local Government Act 2000 to maximise its effectiveness.
4. Local authority partners will use their regulatory powers, and those conferred through legislation, purchasing power and other financial resources and influence through their community leadership roles, to assist in Strategy delivery.
5. Partners will work the following three key delivery groups:
  - ❖ Policy makers and Opinion formers
  - ❖ Technical Specialists and Industry
  - ❖ Communities

to ensure that these groups understand what causes climate change and actively participate in environmentally acceptable solutions.

#### **Policy makers and Opinion formers**

- a. To show leadership, both personal and institutional, on the challenge of climate change.
- b. To integrate climate change into their policies and strategies.
- c. To identify and commit resources to enable climate change and strategies to be implemented in their areas of responsibility.
- d. To communicate to the public and stakeholders what they are doing and why.
- e. To influence others, at regional, national and international levels in the public, private, business and voluntary sectors to ensure their policies and actions support and enhance the Strategy.

#### **Technical Specialists and Industry**

- f. To resource innovation to support climate change policies.
- g. To ensure that their current activities and future plans take account of climate change.
- h. To seek out and maximise business opportunities arising from climate change.
- i. To identify data to monitor relevant changes and share it appropriately.



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### Communities

- j. To act at a neighbourhood level to support climate change policies.
  - k. To encouraging individuals to “do their bit”.
  - l. To lead from below – identifying areas for improvement and joining up issues and actions at the local level.
6. Identify statutory, financial, regulatory and policy instruments and opportunities that will assist in implementing the Strategy.
  7. Acquire relevant baseline data to ensure robust performance management of the strategies objectives (using proxies where necessary).
  8. Identify sources of external funding that can be used to assist in the delivery of the Strategy and submit bids as individual organisations or in partnership.

### Energy Early Actions

**Objective** - To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improving energy efficiency, minimising waste and increasing the use of renewable sources of energy.

9. Through the planning system promote on-site renewable energy generation of at least 10% in all new developments.
10. Through the planning system actively assist in the delivery of regional (Energy Strategy for the West Midlands) and national renewable energy generation targets.
11. Support the development of a thriving renewable energy sector by purchasing electricity produced from renewable resources wherever possible.
12. Commit to ensuring that all new public buildings achieve BREEAM ‘excellent’ rating by 2010.
13. Implement measures to tackle fuel poverty and halve the number of households in fuel poverty by 2010.

### Transport Early Actions

**Objective** - To reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transport (particularly road transport) both through effective consideration and promotion of the public transport, car sharing, home working and other interventions, as well as encouraging walking and cycling.

14. Give more prominence to climate change and carbon emission reduction policies in revisions of the Local Transport Plan, in line with the new local government performance framework.



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15. Work with the Energy Savings Trust and the Carbon Trust to implement reductions in emissions and improve fuel efficiency in public sector fleets and reduce staff business mileage.
16. Encourage all major Warwickshire employers to put in place mechanisms to reduce fair carbon emissions through the adoption of travel plans.
17. Work with Coventry Airport Management to minimise the impact of its expansion on local air quality and emissions from surface access.

### Resource Efficiency Early Actions

**Objective** - To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through better waste management, including waste minimisation and increased recycling, more efficient use of resources and more environmentally aware procurement (including infrastructure).

18. Warwickshire County Council to agree corporate targets for its waste minimisation strategy.
19. Warwickshire Waste Partnership members to agree a county wide waste minimisation strategy.
20. Create a business network to assist in the minimisation of commercial and industrial waste.
21. Identify and implement ways of improving energy efficiency in buildings and reducing fuel costs.
22. Put in place the investment necessary to achieve the 40%-45% composting and recycling targets for household waste by 2010.

### Adaptation Early Actions

**Objective** - To introduce climate change adaptation fully in all new and reviewed policies and related activities, and minimise future risk through appropriate adaptation measures.

23. Promote the WCC Sustainable Development Fund to County Council managers as a source of funding to address adaptation issues.
24. Develop policies for 'whole life' costing of projects to support sustainable construction practices and incorporate them into public sector asset management plans.
25. Develop more robust risk management strategies that give prominence to climate change issues.



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### Communications & Education Early Actions

**Objective** - For organisations to educate their employees and as a result, the wider communities of Warwickshire, on their responsibilities and actions required to limit the effects of climate change in our county.

26. Develop and agree a county wide Climate Change Communications Strategy, starting with the launch of the Strategy.
27. Seek funding from the Defra Climate Change Challenge Fund for an effective branded communications campaign.
28. Partners to identify means of communicating to stakeholders through existing mechanisms.
29. A partner workplace focus on communication and education is established to facilitate cross-departmental working, particularly in local authorities.
30. Develop a public engagement plan on climate change.
31. Raise the profile of climate change in the business community

### Reporting and Review

32. The Strategy will be reviewed and updated regularly. As more partners locally become engaged its remit and priorities may change.
33. The linked action plan will be updated annually with reports on progress against key targets and indicators to the Warwickshire Leaders' Group and the County Council's Cabinet.
34. The existing delivery group, the Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership, will play a leading role in driving forward the agenda and will act as a 'reality check' on the relevance of the strategy as we take it forward.
35. Performance against the targets in the action plan will be reviewed and updated regularly and reported to the relevant WCC Overview and Scrutiny Committees.