

Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership Review 2008
Building the Basis for the Future

Background

The consultation process for developing a climate change strategy for Warwickshire began in June 2005 following production of the first county specific energy and emissions statistics (for 2003). The first consultation event was at BMW Hams Hall plant on 1st June 2005.

Following this event the Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership was established to:

'Guide the County on a pathway from where it is now to where it needs to get to in order to reduce carbon dioxide (and other greenhouse gases) emissions in all sectors, including transport, whilst acknowledging that there are competing pressures for commitment and resources.'

Emerging Priorities

The full list of the 'Emerging Priorities and Actions 2005' recorded in the six workshop sessions at this event (Leadership, Education & Awareness, Construction, Travel, Generation, Business & Employment, and Living) are available on the Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership website:

[http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/Corporate/pages.nsf/Links/7E511CDA04990774802572E1004F3F09/\\$file/Emerging+Priorities+and+Actions.pdf](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/Corporate/pages.nsf/Links/7E511CDA04990774802572E1004F3F09/$file/Emerging+Priorities+and+Actions.pdf)

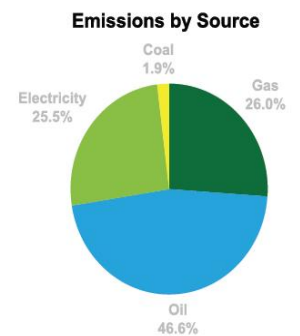
Here is a summary of the main cross cutting priorities that were identified at that point:

1. Warwickshire specific energy statistics on which to set targets and measure progress.
2. An active strategy that is not just a piece of paper that sits on a shelf.
3. Leadership, action, monitoring and reporting.
4. Winning 'hearts and minds' – a well-funded campaign with a consistent message of the implications of climate change in Warwickshire.
5. Partnership - working together to share knowledge and resources.
6. Mapping of resources.

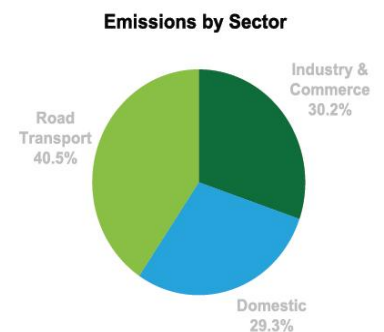
The Steering Group

The Steering Group was formed from a group of people who volunteered at the first event. The inaugural meeting on 18th July 2005 recorded the various aims of the initial Partners these included:

- ❖ Reaching a local target of at least a 60% CO₂ reduction by 2050.
- ❖ Warwickshire becoming the regional leader over the next five years.
- ❖ Ensuring a sustainable and secure supply of energy through eliminating fuel



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- poverty, improving energy & resource efficiency and increasing the consumption and generation of renewable energy.
- ❖ Powerful leadership, building momentum, getting everyone engaged and delivering more actions.
 - ❖ Smarter use of existing resources and identifying new money.
 - ❖ Capturing learning and dissemination. Showing that it is possible by producing case studies.
 - ❖ Coming up with 'big ideas' and taking risks.
 - ❖ Promoting competitive energy markets and maximising the uptake of business and employment opportunities.

The ultimate 2050 aim of the Steering Group was to be able to say:

"We created a dynamic action-based Partnership, we did it through a host of organisations and all citizens, we joined it up and we delivered!"

At this first meeting the Steering Group identified what its role should and should not be. It decided not to go any further without defining its vision and setting up Terms of Reference.

The Mission Statement of the Partnership became:

"Through working together we will build a Partnership to create a low carbon future for Warwickshire for the economic, social and environmental well being of its residents and businesses. This will be accomplished through a programme of education and awareness raising and the integration of actions to: minimise energy & material consumption and waste production, promote efficient and effective use of energy & materials and increase the use of renewable, ambient and residual energy sources".



The Terms of Reference of the 2005 Steering Group were agreed as:

1. Oversee the development of the Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy in the context of local, regional and national policies and initiatives.
2. Agree, prioritise, coordinate and monitor an action plan on how to deliver or exceed a 60% reduction of carbon dioxide (and other greenhouse gases) in Warwickshire by 2050 and move towards zero waste to landfill.
3. Secure funding for the implementation of core Steering Group activities.
4. Encourage and support organisations in Warwickshire to implement actions in line with the strategy.
5. Identify and support specific priority cross-cutting initiatives.
6. Identify delivery mechanisms for implementing innovative solutions.
7. Set up, oversee and facilitate the workload of task groups in line with priorities in the action plan.
8. Facilitate wider stakeholder engagement.
9. Ensure the actions of the Steering Group and any Task Groups are transparent and available to all.



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The Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy and Partnership was officially launched by Jonathan Porritt on the morning of July 3rd 2006. This event was followed by a Business Leaders event in the evening at Partner National Grid's Head Quarters in Warwick. The Action Plan (containing 37 projects) was published in August 2006. It is estimated that during the first year of action more than £134,000 worth of contributions were secured from external Partners in the delivery of these projects.



The Partnership website was launched at the beginning of July 2007 and received over 8,000 hits during that month (8,767), a level of interest which was sustained in August (8,176). The web pages now get around 4,000 web hits per month. There is a monthly news and events email, which goes out to over 200 interested parties. A community climate change newsletter is also sent to around 70 people.

The first anniversary of the Strategy was celebrated in July 2007 with the publication of an Annual Review which included 33 case studies and the launch of a unique carbon compensation scheme with Rugby based charity Practical Action. This scheme helps to support climate change adaptation projects for communities devastated by flooding in Bangladesh and Nepal.

