

Climate Local

Background

Climate Local is an overarching declaration to deliver on local plans. It succeeds the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and offers a framework that can reflect local priorities and opportunities for action. It supports councils' efforts both to reduce carbon emissions and to improve their resilience to the anticipated changes in the climate.

Climate Local has been designed to help the councils across the country to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on a changing climate, through saving on their energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, reducing flood risks and managing the impacts of extreme weather.

It can be used as tool to enable us to share our successes and learn from other LA's. As Watford Borough Council is a proactive council in terms of sustainability it would not be required to do more than it has already committed to do. WBC would be one of the leading districts in Herts by signing the declaration, as Broxbourne have already signed up and other Herts districts are also considering signing up.

Plan for progression

Sign up is simple, it can be done by sending the signed declaration (wording below) to LGA and then following the steps below.

Step 1: Sign-up to the Climate Local commitment

An example declaration is as follows:

Climate Local [insert council(s) name]: Our commitment to taking action in a changing climate

We recognise that our council has an important role to help our residents and businesses to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on climate change. These include saving money on energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, supporting new sources of energy, managing local flood-risk and water scarcity and protecting our natural environment.

We will progressively address the risks and pursue the opportunities presented by a changing climate, in line with local priorities, through our role as:

- Community leader – helping local people and businesses to be smarter about their energy use and to prepare for climate impacts; -
- Service provider – delivering services that are resource efficient, less carbon intensive, resilient and that protect those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts;
- Estate manager – ensuring that our own buildings and operations are resource efficient, use clean energy, and are well prepared for the impacts of a changing climate.

In signing this commitment, **we will:**

- **Set locally-owned and determined commitments** and actions to reduce carbon emissions and to manage climate impacts. These will be specific, measurable and challenging;
- **Publish our commitments, actions and progress**, enabling local communities to hold us to account;
- **Share the learning from our experiences and achievements** with other councils; and
- **Regularly refresh our commitments and actions** to ensure they are current and continue to reflect local priorities.

Step 2: Declare commitments and actions within six months of signing up

Once we have signed-up, we will be asked to set out the commitments and actions we intend to undertake locally. We will be asked to do this within six months of signing-up. Whilst it is up to councils to determine their own local commitments and actions, all councils should be able to put forward a number of commitments and actions across the mitigation and adaptation agendas. However, care needs to be taken to ensure that the commitments are realistic and deliverable.

Step 3: Sharing learning and experiences through Climate Local networks

As a Climate Local council we will be actively encouraged to share our learning and experiences with other councils.

The Climate Local network on the LGA Knowledge Hub provides an interactive space for councils to share case studies and materials and to swap advice.

The LGA will also facilitate opportunities for face-to-face learning for Climate Local councils. We will also be able to publish our commitments and actions so that we can demonstrate how we are taking a lead.

Step 4: Sharing progress and refresh our targets annually.

To celebrate our achievements and to let our communities and stakeholders know how we are getting on, we will be asked to share progress on our commitments and actions once a year. Every year, we will need to refresh our commitments and actions to ensure that they remain current and relevant to local priorities.

Suggested WBC Climate Local Action Plan

A suggested WBC Climate Local Action Plan has been included below to give an idea of the commitments WBC could be making under Climate Local.

Commitment: We will refresh our Climate Change Action plan to ensure its targets are relevant and realistic targets are set for adaptation and mitigation.		
Justification: A new action plan will provide an opportunity for the council to reiterate and reinvigorate its commitment to tackling climate change.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Develop a new 5 year Action Plan which embed sustainability throughout the council	Hold workshops to develop a realistic council wide action plan	By April 2014

Commitment: We will work to reduce the council's Carbon emissions by 30% by 2015/16 from the base year 2009/10		
Justification: In accordance to our Carbon Management plan		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Refresh the Carbon Management plan	Scope new projects that could develop	April 2014
Continue to report on our green house gas emissions as a basis for measurement	Build a robust system for GHG readings	July 2014
Build a network of Carbon Champions to encourage behaviour change amongst all staff	Procure a specialist carbon Champions team to produce a campaign with measurable outcomes	April 2014

Commitment: We will work to reduce carbon emissions in the borough's housing sector by 10% by 2017 (target to be confirmed)		
Justification: 40% of the borough's emissions come from the domestic sector.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Promote and deliver Green Deal to residents	Deliver Green Deal through Green Deal together (A consortium of council's joined as a Community Interest Company to become a Green Deal Provider)	By April 2014
Use ECO to subsidise energy efficiency measures where possible	Target residents to ensure those eligible for ECO are able to access it.	Ongoing
Awareness – local and county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness of Climate Change issues (i.e. energy efficiency, cold weather, heatwaves etc) through About Watford, website and posters - Partake in HSF's countywide awareness campaigns 	Ongoing
Use GIS and EPC data to target households with likely to benefit from Green Deal	Enter EPC data onto GIS system	By April 2014

Commitment: We will work to reduce the households in fuel poverty by 20% by 2018 (target to be confirmed)		
Justification: In accordance to our Home Energy Conservation Act Action plan		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Use GIS and EPC data to target households with likely to be in fuel poverty	Enter EPC data onto GIS system	By April 2014
Use ECO to subsidise energy efficiency measures where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target residents to ensure those eligible for ECO are able to access it. - Seek out partnerships with local social housing providers and other partners to utilise ECO (and other) funding to target area based improvements. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Develop a fuel poverty action plan	Develop a specific fuel poverty action plan (in addition to the Private Sector Renewal Policy) that delivers WBC priorities and addresses the changes in the way fuel poverty is addressed (i.e. Green Deal and ECO)	April 2014

Commitment: Help businesses and organisations to reduce their Carbon Emissions as well as benefit from the opportunities Climate Change presents.		
Justification:		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Facilitate businesses in exploiting opportunities from Climate Change	Help to build a local Green Deal installer network for Green Deal together, providing work to Local	Sep 2014

	businesses.	
Increase awareness of Green Deal to Businesses and Organisations to help to reduce energy costs.	Newsletters and marketing through the Green Business Pledge, Chamber of Commerce and other relevant bodies.	Ongoing

Commitment: Increase the environmental sustainability of new builds

Justification: To help meet the national target of carbon emissions being close to zero by 2050

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Ensure new builds are being built sustainably	Our Local Planning policies will be updated to reflect all new homes built from 2016 will be Carbon Zero. In case of any changes to National Policy, Watford Borough Council will require level 5 for Code for Sustainable Homes as a minimum	2016

Appendix A: Councils already signed up to Climate Local

Climate Local signatories – 29th October 2013

1. Ashford Borough Council
2. Bath & North East Somerset Council
3. Bedford Borough Council
4. Blaby District Council
5. Bolton Council
6. Bracknell Forest Borough Council
7. Broxbourne Borough Council
8. Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
9. Cambridge City Council
10. Camden Council
11. Canterbury City Council
12. Cheltenham Borough Council
13. Cherwell District Council
14. Cheshire West and Chester Council
15. Craven District Council
16. Dartford Borough Council
17. Daventry District Council
18. Dover District Council
19. Durham County Council
20. East Sussex County Council
21. Eastbourne Borough Council
22. Eastleigh Borough Council
23. Erewash Borough Council
24. Gedling Borough Council
25. Gloucestershire County Council
26. Gravesham Borough Council
27. Hampshire County Council
28. Haringey Council
29. Hastings Borough Council
30. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
31. Hull City Council
32. Islington Council
33. Kent County Council
34. Kirklees Metropolitan Council
35. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
36. Leicestershire County Council
37. Lewisham London Borough Council
38. Lincoln City Council
39. Lincolnshire County Council
40. Liverpool City Council
41. Maidstone Borough Council
42. Manchester City Council
43. Mansfield District Council
44. Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council
45. North Kesteven District Council
46. North Somerset Council
47. Nottingham City Council
48. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
49. Oxford City Council
50. Oxfordshire County Council
51. Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
52. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

53. Salford City Council
54. Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
55. Sevenoaks District Council
56. Shepway District Council
57. South Gloucestershire Council
58. South Oxfordshire District Council
59. Staffordshire County Council
60. Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
61. Sutton London Borough Council
62. Swale Borough Council
63. Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
64. Test Valley Borough Council
65. Thanet District Council
66. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
67. Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
68. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
69. Vale of White Horse District Council
70. Waltham Forest London Borough Council
71. Warrington Council
72. West Lancashire Borough Council
73. West Oxfordshire District Council
74. West Sussex County Council
75. Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
76. Woking Borough Council
77. Wolverhampton City Council
78. Wychavon District Council
79. Lake District National Park