

Strategy for a changing climate

A **climate change Action Plan** for Lewes District



CONSULTING DRAFT
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Lewes District Council
www.lewes.gov.uk

Foreword



Human-induced Climate Change is one of the most important challenges facing the world, it is real and it is happening now. The residents of Lewes District unfortunately had to deal with a consequence of Climate Change with the Lewes flood in 2000. The current prediction by experts is that incidents relating to Climate Change will become a more frequent occurrence in the future, as will water shortages and damaging storms.

We can no longer sit by and hope that everything will be all right, we have to act now and we have to monitor how we meet the challenge of climate change.

To this end over the coming years Lewes District Council, in partnership with other organisations and the community, will be evaluating our work on combating Climate Change through a series of published indicators. The aim of the indicators is to ensure that the policies we adopt are influencing the direction we need to take in order to help preserve a viable future for generations to come.

Councillor Julie Carr

Contents

- p 5** 1 Setting the Scene
- p 7** 2 Action in the Community
- p 21** 3 Action for Businesses and Organisations
- p 34** 4 Action by Lewes District Council

This publication is a working document for use as part of Lewes District Council's Climate Change Strategy ongoing consultation.

You are invited to feed back any comments to us about the content or format.

The Lewes Flood 2000



Setting the scene

This Climate Change Action Plan is designed to illustrate ways in which we can act to reduce the impacts of human-induced climate change. It is designed to be used in conjunction with the Climate Change Guide. Together they form Lewes District Council's Climate Change Strategy.

When we:

- switch on the lights
- turn on the heating
- travel to work, school or leisure
- buy our weekly shopping
- throw our rubbish away
- take a shower or bath

we use energy.

When we use energy we produce carbon dioxide – and when we produce carbon dioxide we contribute to climate change.

This Action Plan aims to give you the tools to make simple changes in the way you live that will reduce your energy consumption, produce less carbon dioxide and help reduce the impact of human induced climate change.





By adopting some of the simple steps in this action plan you have a chance to make a difference now and in the future. The plan is divided into three main sections, each covering a range of topics:

> **Action in the Community**

Transport, Energy, Waste, Food, Water, Consumption.

> **Action in Business and Organisations**

Transport, Buildings, Energy, Waste, Procurement, Water

> **Action by Lewes District Council**

Local Sustainability, EMAS, Community Strategy, Energy, Buildings, Planning, Waste, Water.

For further information about climate change issues and what Lewes District Council is doing please contact the Local Sustainability Team at Lewes District Council on 01273 486423 or visit www.localsustainability.org.uk

Other websites of general interest:

www.climatechallenge.gov.uk

www.ukcip.gov.uk

> Action in the Community

Within your community, measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions can be taken by individuals, groups, schools, businesses in partnership with local government, and support organisations such as The Carbon Trust and the Energy Centre for Sustainable Communities. For example:

- **Schools** like Ringmer Community College, Wallands and St Pancras have had renewable energy technologies installed.
- **Local food projects** have been set up, with a community orchard in Ringmer and various farmers' markets around the district. This cuts down on the 'food miles' associated with imported supermarket food.
- **Lewes Renewables** offers grants for a range of renewable technologies to householders.



We list simple ways of reducing emissions that will make a difference, but will not have an adverse effect on your quality of life. Where possible, we suggest useful websites that provide more information. Note that this is not an exhaustive list of relevant websites, but it will get you started.

Residents within Lewes District can find out about local initiatives through the council website www.lewes.gov.uk or www.localsustainability.org.uk

> Action in the Community: transport

"When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race." H.G. Wells



THE ISSUE

Transport is the fastest-growing source of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK. More journeys are being made over shorter distances, and while car engines are becoming more efficient, the increasing use of heavy fuel-guzzling vehicles such as 4x4s is offsetting these improvements. The growth in cheap short-haul flights is also having a significant effect.

There are many forms of action that we can take to counter the negative effects of transport on climate change.

There are a number of lift share schemes that are available either through work schemes or locally set up schemes such as the Lewes Car Share Scheme (01273 488525). The Council is investigating the possibility of a car club scheme with City Car Club.

The Council is looking at alternative fuels such as biodiesel and cold-pressed plant oil and recently co-hosted a seminar at Plumpton College on biofuels.

Short journeys of less than 5 miles are responsible for the majority of journeys made and alternatives to the car such as walking, cycling and public transport not only use less carbon but are more healthy.

Action

Support available

Air travel

- Take fewer flights if possible.
- Avoid short-haul flights where there are alternatives.
- If you must fly, there are a number of ways by which you can partially offset your carbon dioxide emissions.

www.climatecare.org
www.carbonneutral.com
www.planetrees.org.uk

Car travel

- Try to decrease the frequency of your journeys by planning. Ask your employers if they have a travel plan.
- If possible, try to limit journeys to times when there is less traffic on the road. This reduces fuel consumption.
- When buying a new car, check its fuel consumption figures.
- Share cars with work colleagues or other parents on the school run. Set up your own car-share club.
- Consider buying a hybrid-engined car that will use less fuel and emit less carbon dioxide.
- Biodiesel, bioethanol or cold-pressed plant oil are alternative fuels that do less harm to the environment than conventional diesel or petrol.

Council guide

Transport: energy

www.biofuels.fsnet.co.uk
 Powershift: www.est.org.uk/fleet or

www.energy-efficiency.org

Blooming futures
www.bloomingfutures.com

Travel alternatives

- Go by train. This is the most fuel-efficient form of public transport.
- Go by bus. Using the bus for local journeys also eliminates the need to find parking spaces.
- Use a bike. Cycling improves your health as well as being better for the environment. Ask your employer to provide showers and cycle racks.

www.rail.co.uk/ukrail/planner/planner
www.timetables.showbus.co.uk
www.sustrans.org.uk
www.rdhservices.co.uk
www.travelwise.org.uk

Energy worth £672 million is being lost annually through the walls of UK houses. If the 10 million homes that were suitable had their cavity walls insulated, it would save enough Carbon Dioxide to fill the Albert Hall nearly 50,000 times and enough money to pay the wages for over 47,000 new nurses. Source: Energy Saving Trust, 2005

> Action in the Community: energy use



THE ISSUE

Domestic housing accounts for over a quarter of UK carbon dioxide emissions. There are many ways in which you can cut down on the energy consumed in your home and the amount of carbon dioxide emitted in the process, as well as the money you spend on energy bills. With energy prices expected to increase even further, there has never been a better time to introduce energy-saving measures to your home. Any steps that you take to reduce energy consumption will have direct, positive impacts on the climate change problem.

Lewes District Council runs and partners a number of energy efficiency schemes, and has received recognition for promoting renewable energy through initiatives such as the 'Action in Renewables' programme. (2005 Green Apple and South East Renewables).



Energy efficiency measures are mostly low cost or no cost while renewable technologies are rapidly becoming accessible to everyone with the grants available and high fossil fuel costs making them a viable option.

Advice on energy saving and details of energy schemes are available in the Warmer Homes, Cooler Homes and Planet Repair leaflets produced by the Council.

Action

Support available

Insulation (roof/Cavity)

More heat is lost through poorly-insulated walls and roofs than through any other part of your home. Insulation is a relatively easy and cheap way of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and saving money on energy bills.

A number of insulation schemes are promoted by the Council and by energy companies. Some schemes offer 100% grants for insulation as well as grants for improving the efficiency of heating and lighting systems.

www.lewes.gov.uk

www.est.org.uk

Green Tariff

Switching to a green tariff which supplies energy from renewable sources is perhaps the easiest and most immediately effective way of reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Switching supplier can be as easy as making a phone call.

www.greenelectricity.org

www.simplyswitch.com

Renewable Technology

Solar hot water heating panels can provide at least 60% of your hot water needs throughout the year. Other renewables such as biomass boilers and Omini wind turbines may also become increasingly viable options, taking into account the rising price of fossil fuels.

Lewes District Council now offer grants for renewable technologies.

www.heatproject.co.uk

www.clearskies.org

www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/funding/lowcarbonbuildings/

Low-energy light bulbs

These last up to 12 times longer and use a fifth of the energy required by ordinary light bulbs.

Phone the Council or energy company for availability or check out special deals in electrical shops.

Buy energy-efficient appliances

Look for the energy efficiency logo. An 'A' rated appliance may be slightly more expensive, but you will usually recoup your costs in energy savings within a few years.

Always look for the energy efficiency logo. www.est.org.uk

> Action in the Community: waste and recycling



THE ISSUE

The majority of waste, or 'rubbish', produced in the UK is disposed of in landfill sites. In the operational year 2004/05, 17.72% (5,506 tonnes) of the household waste produced in Lewes District was recycled. A further 6% was diverted from landfill by activities such as home composting. The remaining 25,433 tonnes of household waste was buried in the ground. In the year 2000, buried waste in Lewes District produced 114,280 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Source: www.takingstock.org

The Council is engaged in the process of promoting the importance of the '3 Rs'— Reduce, Re-use, Recycle. The '3 Rs' is the accepted hierarchy for waste management, both nationally and internationally, and has been adopted as part of the government's Waste Strategy 2000 . However, if waste management is to be truly sustainable in the context of climate change, we cannot rely on recycling alone. We also need to consider new approaches to waste prevention such as 'sustainable consumption', 'smart shopping' and elements of the 'Zero Waste' policy, which the Council signed up to support in October 2003 . The Council's aspirational target is to reduce domestic waste by 5% per head of population by 2007/08.

Action

Support available

The three Rs

Reduce

- Avoid producing waste in the first place – try to do without packaging like plastic bags.

Reuse

- Get the most out of the things you have bought – mend and repair them if necessary, instead of throwing them away.

Recycle

- Where possible, buy things that are made of recycled material such as recycled paper.
- Take advantage of recycling facilities.
- Compost your garden and kitchen waste.

Check out your local authority web site and/or phone your local recycling officer

www.wastewatch.org.uk

www.wastesolutions.org

www.wastewatch.org.uk

www.nrwf.org.uk

Communications Strategy for Waste Reduction (contact Julia Black Tel. 01273 486619)

www.recoup.org

Henry Doubleday Research Association

www.gardenorganic.org.uk

The NFU found that only 26 per cent of the cost of a food shopping basket is accounted for by the actual food itself; the rest is packaging, processing, transport, store overheads, advertising and supermarket mark-up...sometimes as high as 45%. Source: Andrew Purvis, The Observer 25/01/04

> Action in the Community: food



THE ISSUE

- Locally sourced food means less damage to health and the environment, because transport and carbon dioxide emissions are reduced. The ingredients of an average Sunday roast bought at a supermarket may have travelled 24,000 'food miles'.
- Knowing where food has been grown increases confidence in its quality and enhances the well-being of communities.
- Local food sourcing encourages higher animal welfare standards in both production and transport.
- Local food is cheaper, fresher, and tastes better, especially if it is eaten in season.
- Food that is produced locally is more likely to be fairly or cooperatively traded between producers, processors, retailer and consumers.
- Food bought and produced locally helps local employment, and more money is put into the local economy. A recent study showed that £10 spent in a local organic box scheme generates around £25 for the local economy. By comparison, £10 spent in a typical supermarket generates roughly £14 for the local economy.

In Lewes District the carbon dioxide emissions from the food system were estimated at 355,280 tonnes in the year 2000, of which over 71,000 tonnes were from food that was thrown away!

www.takingstock.org

Action

Support available

Buy local produce

- Get your food from farmers' markets.
- Investigate an organic vegetable box scheme.

www.commoncause.org.uk
Sussex Food Finder

Grow your own

- Grow more food in the garden.
- If you do not have a suitable garden, consider renting an allotment.

www.allotments-uk.com

Buy seasonal food

- Make the most of what each season has to offer.
- Avoid expensive, imported foods that are out of season locally.
- Avoid processed food.

www.foodlinks.info/buying/seasonal
www.ukonlinewholesalers.com
– and look out for local schemes

Buy in bulk

- Buy the largest packs that you can manage to save on packaging.
- Bulk buying is also cheaper.
- Share bulk supplies with neighbours.

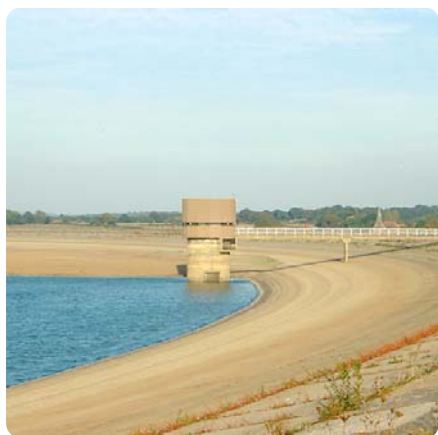
lisa.hinkinns@lewes.gov.uk

Buy fair trade products

- Try to buy foods such as bananas and coffee that have the fair trade label.
- These foods still have to travel long distances, but they involve fewer harmful impacts at point of origin, enabling the producers to improve the sustainability of their own methods.

www.fairtradefederation.com
See waste section for contacts

> Action in the Community: water



THE ISSUE

Water use per head of population in the South East is the highest in the country. Water will become an increasingly important resource as climate change leads to seasonal droughts, and reservoirs are no longer able to cope with demand. A severe lack of rain for the last two years has already had serious implications for water resources, with hosepipe bans being imposed in many parts of the South East, and more restrictive measures likely.

Yet the link with climate change does not stop there. In the home, the average person in the South East consumes about 60,000 litres of water per year – 40% to supply households, 40% for sewage/drainage and 20% lost through leaks. Supplying this water uses energy, and contributes to carbon dioxide emissions at a rate of 97kg per person per year, a figure that is set to rise nationally. In Lewes District, domestic consumers produce 8900 tonnes of carbon dioxide through water use alone.

Sources:

Water Centre Website: www.bre.co.uk.

Taking Stock: www.takingstock.org.

Action

Support available

Water reduction

Modify your cistern

- If you have a toilet cistern that holds five litres of water, place a saver flush bag or a brick in it to reduce the amount of water it uses.
- If you have a cistern that holds seven litres or more, then use a hippo water saver.

Environment Agency

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

www.environment-agency.gov.uk
and your local council website

Use the shower

- Take a shower rather than a bath; it uses a lot less water.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Recycle 'grey' water

- Save your washing-up water for the garden – it will not harm your plants!

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Save rainwater

- Water butts can be used to save rainwater that would normally flow through pipes to the drains. Garden plants prefer rainwater to tapwater.

East Sussex Council websites have information about a scheme for subsidised water butts. Also see the Environment Agency website.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Reduce water losses

- Use mulches of leaves, bark or even gravel in the garden to reduce losses through evaporation and conserve water in the soil, minimising the need to water plants.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

> Action in the Community: consumption



THE ISSUE

A common feature of our 21st-century lifestyles is the extent to which we shop. We are buying more and more consumer goods, and those goods use increasing amounts of packaging. The manufacture of these new goods and their packaging involves using a lot of energy and raw materials. For example, it takes 75kg of raw materials to make one mobile phone.

If you must buy packaged goods, check to see if the packaging can be recycled.

Lewes District Council will soon be publishing on its website a directory of local venues within the district where you can repair/hire or loan products rather than buy new ones.

Action

Support available

Energy labels

Look for labels that specify the energy-efficiency of appliances.

www.est.org.uk/myhome/efficientproducts/energylabel

Buy long-lasting products

Look for long guarantees, and check equipment reviews to find well-made products.

www.which.net

If it breaks...

Try to get it repaired. Ask your local authority for information about places where items can be repaired, or check your *Yellow Pages*.

www.lewes.gov.uk

Smart shop

Avoid packaging and throw-away products like disposable cameras. If you must buy packaged goods, check to see if the packaging can be recycled.

www.nrwf.org.uk

Borrow

Use your library. Hire equipment that you do not intend using frequently – it's cheaper!

www.nrwf.org.uk

Ethical consumerism

If you want to make the best choice ethically then check out the *Ethical Consumer Magazine* or *Green Consumer Guide*.

www.ethicalconsumer.org
www.greenconsumerguide.com

Case Study – Nuglas

Background: Nuglas is a window, door and conservatory manufacturer based in Newhaven, East Sussex. Nuglas attended training events and received an environmental review as part of the BETRE (business excellence through resource efficiency) project. Their environmental improvements have led to considerable cost savings.

Summary of Actions

- Installing a wood burner to heat the company's offices and hot water using waste wood. This reduces energy and waste costs.
- Replacing internal and external lamps with energy-efficient equivalents. This has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 2.5 tonnes per year
- Material segregation for recycling has led to a significant reduction in waste going to landfill, including 24 tonnes of waste cardboard per year. Recycling scrap metal generates approximately £1,780 per annum, instead of creating a cost for disposal.
- Sensors are being fitted to urinals so that they only flush when needed. This reduces water consumption by around 108m³ per year. Push taps have been installed in bathrooms, representing a saving of £105 per annum.
- All staff are actively involved in Nuglas' environmental commitment.
- This work has led to an estimated £25,831 of savings per year.

