

Appendix 2

Resources Policy, Development & Scrutiny Panel, 18 March 2013

Bath & North East Somerset Carbon Reduction Activity and Successes 2012-13

Community Projects & Service Delivery

- 1. Environmental Sustainability Partnership:** The Environmental Sustainability Partnership (ESP) is part of the new Public Services Board partnership seeking to ensure a joined up approach across the public sector in Bath and North East Somerset.
 - The ESP's [Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2012-15](#) was adopted by Cabinet in 2012. The Partnership now oversees active work streams across nine areas: local sustainable energy; home energy efficiency; transport; low carbon economy; carbon management; waste; food; natural environment and climate adaptation.
 - The ESP collaborates with the Health & Well Being Board's strategy development to maximise health and environmental co-benefits.
 - The ESP Network – the online community – now has almost 400 members, 14 active topic groups and becoming a focal point for community information sharing, events and ideas.
- 2. B&NES Home Energy Community Partnership:** The Council has been developing its approach to home energy efficiency retrofitting (including mechanisms such as the Green Deal), with key partners such as Curo and Bath Preservation Trust.
 - A Council-backed 'community partnership' approach has been approved and will be developed to ensure key objectives are met: to reduce fuel poverty (currently 17% of B&NES households) and protect against energy price rises (30-50% increase expected by 2020); to maximise local economic benefit (this market could be worth £10-20 million/year, including £4 million/year grant funding) and reduce carbon emissions.
 - New advice for local householders has been created on the Council's website and local pilot projects are underway, with a view to creating a range of local schemes, including the Green Deal, from autumn 2013.
 - A stakeholder forum is being set up during 2103 to draw in a wide range of local people and organisations, with an interest in or a role to play in home energy efficiency retrofitting.
- 3. Bath Green Homes:** This is a partnership project between the Council, Bath Preservation Trust and Transition Bath. After the success of the first 'open homes' weekend in 2012 (over 600 visits made to 12 open homes), Open Homes event 13th - 14th April 2013 will showcase low cost to high tech energy

saving measures in a variety of homes, from heritage to new build. Nineteen homes will be opening over the weekend. There will be eight weeks of events during March and April on home energy efficiency including the Green Living Fair on 24th March in Green Park Station.

4. **Local Energy Champions Scheme:** Offers support to not-for-profit groups who want to run activities in their community that will help to reduce carbon emissions. Groups can apply for the quarterly LEC Award of £400. The first successful round has been awarded to Energy Efficient Widcombe to convert the lighting in St Mark's Community Centre to energy efficient LEDs.
5. **Core Strategy & Retrofitting SPD:** Tackling climate change and pursuing a low carbon future is a key objective of the B&NES draft Core Strategy.
 - The Core Strategy contains Core Policies on: Retrofitting in existing buildings; Sustainable Construction; Renewable Energy; District Heating.
 - The recently approved Sustainable Construction and Retrofitting SPD provides residents with information about what energy efficiency measures are suitable for their house type, what permissions are required, and advice on renewable energy, new builds and extensions. Later this year further guidance will be published on energy efficiency in listed buildings.
6. **West of England Low Carbon Economy:** The Council has led a Total Place funded research project on behalf of the West of England authorities on how to achieve a successful transition to a low carbon economy to protect the area's prosperity and enable businesses, residents, public sector and community organisations to become low carbon and sustainable. This work has been taken up by the LEP Low Carbon Sector Group who have gained funding from the LEP Board to develop a West of England Low Carbon Strategy and Action Plan. Discussions are now underway on what governance structures are needed to support both the LEP and the City Deal Programme on low carbon.
7. **Waste Services:** Government figures released in November 2012 confirmed that Bath and North East Somerset jumped from 100th to 50th out of 351 local authorities in the country. This coincides with residents recycling or composting more than they send to landfill for the first time ever. The amount of waste recycled, composted or reused was 52%, with the amount going to landfill nearly 40% and the average amount of waste per household disposed of during 2011/12 being 467kg. In February 2013, small electrical items were added to the green box collections, increasing the range of waste that residents can recycle on their doorstep.

Operational Carbon Management

8. **Schools programme:** A dedicated School Energy Efficiency officer is in post and a School Carbon Reduction Strategy and action plan is being developed in collaboration with Children's Services and Property Services. In depth energy surveys are being undertaken in all schools to inform project development including: building fabric improvements; energy management; staff and pupil behaviour and curriculum integration. Financing options are in place for 2013-14; £500K for loans and £290K for grants.
9. **Street lighting:** By the end of March 2013, 4000 lights on the main highways will have been replaced with energy efficient LEDs and smart controls. The £2million capital investment is predicted to deliver 783 tonnes of CO2 saving annually – representing a 2.9% reduction on the Council's total carbon emissions and a £135k annual saving in energy costs (based on existing energy unit prices). The footprint report for 2012/13 will show the impact of this project. There is potential to extend this project to change a further 12,000 side road lights to efficient LEDs (subject to funding being made available). This could save an additional 3-4% of the Council's total carbon emissions.
10. **Workplaces Programme:** The first offices' carbon reduction impact from the Workplaces Programme is expected in the 2012/13 carbon footprint report. The next major impact should be visible beyond the end of this Carbon Management Plan, in 2014/15, when Riverside is vacated and the new low carbon office in Keynsham is occupied.
11. **Travel Plan:** The Corporate Travel Plan is underway, with incentives and alternatives for sustainable travel being promoted, including pool bikes (electric & pedal) and cars (electric and low emission) and supported by monthly LSTF Travel Road shows. In April 2013 business mileage rates are being brought in-line with HMRC rates and Essential Car Users allowance to be removed, saving the authority around £500K. The system of allocating staff car park permits will be reviewed to ensure alignment with changes resulting from the Workplaces Programme and the Keynsham office redevelopment. Outsourced transport contracts now require SAFED training, which reduces fuel consumption and carbon emissions.
12. **Aquaterra:** Aquaterra has achieved ISO14001 - a recognised standard for the environmental management of businesses. Carbon emissions have not reduced yet, however achieving ISO 14001 means that systems are in place that should lead to a reduction in the future.
13. **Biomass Feasibility:** Work is underway to develop a biomass strategy for the Council and it is hoped that the first projects will be implemented over the next two years. The main work streams being examined are: 1) installing biomass boilers in Council sites and potentially offering a heat supply contract to schools, 2) developing a local supply chain, including using the Council's own wood waste arisings.