

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells

Foreword

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council first stated its commitment to taking local action on climate change when it signed the Nottingham Declaration in February 2007. Significant progress has been made since then in key areas such as energy efficiency in housing and carbon management for our buildings and operations.

Carbon emissions from homes in the borough have fallen by more than 14 per cent since 2007¹, with thousands of households benefiting from insulation measures. In 2010, the council introduced its first Carbon Management Plan to identify opportunities to deliver emissions and energy costs savings across its estate and operations. Key projects have also been implemented to help those communities that are vulnerable to climate change impacts such as flooding.

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells is an opportunity to restate our commitment to action on climate change and realise the benefits that can come about from local activity. Through the commitments and actions we have set out, we aim to build on the progress made to date to reduce carbon emissions in the local area and improve resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Our Climate Local actions are focused on local priorities, which align with the council's longer term ambitions to develop a green and prosperous borough. The council refreshes its strategic priorities year on year, with particular attention placed on improving energy efficiency and supporting residents to reduce consumption during 2014-15. The activities identified within Climate Local Tunbridge Wells seek to deliver wider benefits for the local economy and our communities.

Councillor Paul Barrington-King

Portfolio Holder for Sustainability

¹ Emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities for 2005-2011 (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2013)

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells:

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.

6 February 2014

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council



Councillor David Jukes, Leader of the Council

Delivering the Green Theme

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells Our commitments and actions

Tunbridge Wells Council signed the Climate Local Commitment on 6 February 2014 in recognition of the important role that local authorities have in tackling climate change.

In signing the Commitment we pledge to set locally-owned and determined targets and actions on both mitigation and adaptation. These actions will focus on opportunities to improve resource efficiency and deliver cost savings alongside carbon reductions.

The table below sets out our priorities, showing our commitments and the actions we will undertake to deliver them. It also shows how we will contribute to the delivery of the Kent-wide commitments in Climate Local Kent.

We have identified actions within the following Climate Local themes which span our role as an estate manager, service provider and community leader.

- Energy
- Waste
- Local economic growth
- Transport
- Water and the natural environment
- Climate resilience

Where existing strategies and plans are in place the actions contained within them are not replicated here and detailed action plans can be found within the relevant documents referenced in the table below.

In presenting our commitments we have purposefully focussed on actions which are achievable and can be delivered in the short term to demonstrate progress over time. We will monitor our performance against these actions and report regularly on our progress. We will also regularly refresh this list of actions to ensure they are up-to-date and reflect local priorities.

ENERGY

Commitment:

Climate Local Kent

We will work towards a cut in emissions of 2.6% annually in Kent by 2020 which will see an overall reduction of 34% in our emissions.

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells

We will work to reduce emissions, contributing to national carbon reduction targets by focusing on our areas of influence in the local area and on our own estate.

Justification:

Carbon emissions from housing account for approximately 40 per cent of local area emissions. The council has a role to play in improving the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area and to ensure that our residents benefit from the funding available. Improving energy efficiency in council buildings and operations is also important to protect against rising energy costs.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale / Milestone
Deliver an ECO funded housing retrofit project with the Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership.	200 households are targeted to receive retrofit measures.	First phase complete by March 2014.
Implement the council's Carbon Management Plan and ensure its continuation beyond 2015.	25 per cent reduction in carbon emissions across the council's own estate and operations against 2009/10 baseline.	March 2015
Ensure all services commissioned by the council are playing their role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	The council's major contracts include a target for emissions reductions. Work with existing contractors and suppliers to identify and implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the council's carbon reduction target.	As the council's major contracts are renewed. March 2015

	Energy use is given consideration as part of the most economically advantageous evaluation model referred to in the Corporate Procurement Guide.	On going
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Commitment:

Climate Local Kent
We will encourage renewable energy installations and we want to see Kent increase its energy from renewable sources by 10 per cent by 2020.

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells
We will promote the use of renewable and low carbon energy on council properties and in the local area in line with the latest planning guidance.

Justification:
Residents and businesses can benefit from renewable energy sources which reduce carbon dioxide emissions, protect against rising energy costs and provide a source of income.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale / Milestone
Promote awareness of the financial incentives available for renewable energy generation.	Number of installations claiming FITS/RHI across council area.	March 2015
Improve the quality of Sustainable Design and Construction and increase the use of renewable energy technology in new developments through the planning system, in order to contribute to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.	In support of Core Policy 5 Sustainable Design and Construction, continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> apply the Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document, which requires a 10 per cent carbon dioxide reduction by on-site renewable 	On going (policy may need review following the Government's Housing Standards Review, October 2013)

	<p>energy in new developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply standard planning conditions to new developments for renewable energy and the conservation of energy and water. • require that all major planning applications provide a Sustainable Design and Construction Assessment. <p>Adopt Development Management guidance for Sustainable Design and Construction, in particular to support the introduction of the Zero Carbon Homes standard, which comes into force in 2016.</p>	<p>(conditions may need review following the Government's Housing Standards Review, October 2013)</p> <p>(conditions may need review following the Government's Housing Standards Review, October 2013)</p> <p>by 2016</p>
Invest in renewable energy technologies on the council's own estate.	Number of council sites incorporating renewable energy.	March 2015

WASTE

Commitment:

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells

We will reduce household waste arising by at least 10 per cent (based on 2010/11 levels) and recycle/compost at least 50 per cent by 2020/21.

Justification:

Managing waste sustainably is an important way of reducing the borough's greenhouse gas emissions, protecting the quality of the local environment and retaining valuable resources.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale / Milestone
Explore the introduction of a kerbside glass recycling collection service.	Feasibility study produced.	March 2014
Investigate recycling take up on a crew by crew basis and implement appropriate measures.	Review of take up to identify target areas completed.	March 2015
Work with our contractors to recycle green waste from council managed parks.	100 per cent uncontaminated green waste recycling in parks.	March 2015
Increase recycling on the council's own estate.	Introduce plastic bottles and cans recycling at the council's main sites.	March 2015

LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Commitment:

Climate Local Kent

We will work with at least 500 local companies by 2015 to help them cut their energy, waste and water bills. We will give them guidance on how climate change could affect their company and how they can plan for it.

We will work to support an increase in jobs within the Low Carbon sector by 10 per cent by 2020.

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells

We will work with local businesses to help them cut their energy, waste and water bills and support them to find opportunities in the green economy.

Justification:

Efficient resource use can benefit local businesses and is important to the delivery of sustainable economic growth. The Low Carbon/Green sector is an important area of growth in Kent with the introduction of the Green Deal.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale / Milestone
We will work with our west Kent partners to support local businesses to become more energy and resource efficient.	We will implement a program to provide resource efficiency advice and grants to small and medium sized businesses.	Oct 2013 – May 2015
We will work with the Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership to provide opportunities through Green Deal for local businesses and local job creation.	Referral of SME businesses to the Kent business portal.	On going

TRANSPORT

Commitment:

[Climate Local Tunbridge Wells](#)

We will encourage sustainable travel choices for all, by foot, bike and public transport.

Justification:

Vehicle emissions make up 27 per cent of carbon emissions in the local area and the Borough also suffers from congestion and poor air quality on particular road corridors.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale / Milestone
We will undertake VISUM modelling in order to identify modal shift targets for the Borough.	VISUM modelling complete.	April 2014
The Borough's Transport Strategy and separate Cycling Strategy will identify specific initiatives to encourage use of sustainable modes of transport including public transport, cycling and walking in order to achieve the identified modal shift targets.	Borough Transport and Cycling Strategy adopted.	September 2014
We will continue to work with public transport operators through the Quality Bus Partnership and Public Transport Forum to improve and promote travel by public transport.	Facilitate quarterly partnership and forum meetings.	On going

WATER AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Commitment:

Climate Local Kent

We will support activity to reduce water consumption in Kent from 160 litres to 140 litres per person per day by 2016.

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells

We will support activity to reduce water consumption in Kent from 160 litres to 140 litres per person per day by 2016.

Justification:

Pressures on the water environment and water supplies are particularly notable in Kent as it is one of the driest parts of the country, coupled with high population density and household water use. Over the next few decades, there will be increasing pressures from the rising population and associated development, coupled with the effects of climate change.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale / Milestone
Investigate water harvesting measures from park buildings and the use of underground water reserves.	Reduction in the use of mains water in parks operations.	March 2015
	Explore opportunities for sustainable water use in parks and allotments.	March 2016
Support the delivery of the Our Rivers project to improve the ecological status of the River Teise catchment.	Action plan for River Teise catchment to be approved.	March 2014
	Support implementation of management plan.	2014 to 2020
Enable the Kent High Weald Partnership to continue a programme of activities that promote greener lifestyles within the borough.	Agree work program for 2014/15.	March 2014

Commitment

Climate Local Kent

We will ensure that 60 per cent of our local wildlife sites are being positively managed.

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells

We will promote biodiversity, green space and green infrastructure that helps the area adapt to climate change.

Justification: Green infrastructure promotes the resilience of natural systems; it can improve micro-climates, allow species migration and help to reduce flood risk, alongside wider social and economic benefits.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale / Milestone
Ensure all Local Wildlife Sites under the control or influence of the Council are in positive conservation management.	At least 60 per cent of sites within the borough are in positive management.	On going
Local Nature Reserves (LNR) management plans are reviewed and updated.	Up to date management plans in place for all council managed LNRs.	On going
Support delivery of climate change objective (G3) within High Weald AONB Management Plan 2014-2019.	High Weald AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 adopted by Council.	March 2014
Develop management plans to enhance and conserve the biodiversity of the town's green spaces.	Management plans in place for the 5 main parks.	Plans in place for all areas by 2015
Produce a parks strategy that enhances biodiversity and increases access to the natural environment.	Parks strategy developed and adopted.	2017

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Commitment:

Climate Local Kent

We will assess all our services for risks and opportunities and build resilience to climate change into our work.

Climate Local Kent

We will support local communities in preparing for climate change through the development of 15 community plans for those most at risk or with greatest opportunities.

Climate Local Tunbridge Wells

We will assess all our services for risks and opportunities and build resilience to climate change into our work.

Justification

The Council has an essential role in planning ahead and taking adaptation action to ensure communities and services are resilient to climate change.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale / Milestone
Establish an evidence base of the impacts of climate change by contributing to the Severe Weather Impacts Monitoring System (SWIMS).	All key service areas contributing to SWIMS. 100% of SWIMS events responded to.	March 2015
Adapt traditional planting schemes and provide adequate shaded areas to ensure parks and open spaces are resilient to the changing climate.	All current and future planting schemes reviewed, with actions plans in place.	Schemes reviewed for all areas by 2016