

**CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN
(Report by Head of Environmental Management)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, the Council is committed to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from its own estate, as monitored by National Indicator 185.
- 1.2 Since May 2008 the Council in partnership with Fenland District Council has been participating in The Local Authority Carbon Management Programme run by the Carbon Trust. The programme has provided free technical support to the Council, to assist in auditing its use of resources, taking into account energy use in buildings, vehicle fleet emissions and employee business travel.
- 1.3 From this the Council has identified an aspirational target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 30% over the next 5 years. In order to achieve this we have quantified a series of projects with short payback periods that will enable the council to make energy and efficiency savings.
- 1.4 Accompanying this report is the final draft of the 5 year Carbon Management Plan for the Council (appendix A), for consideration and approval prior to adoption by the Council and final submission to the Carbon Trust.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At a time of economic uncertainty, the need to reduce energy consumption has never been so pressing. Fluctuating energy and fuel prices are causing great concern for local authorities, so too are uncertain fuel supplies and the need to deliver efficiency savings. In aiming to use public funds wisely, whilst making cost savings; low carbon operations are becoming increasingly important.
- 2.2 The Plan sets out the Council's baseline carbon dioxide emissions for 2007 and identifies opportunities to reduce emissions. In the baseline year, 5915 tonnes of carbon dioxide were emitted from Council operations. To achieve a 30% reduction in emissions, projects must be identified which will deliver carbon dioxide savings of 1774 tonnes over the next five years
- 2.3 The draft plan identifies 39 carbon reduction projects falling into the following categories:
 - existing projects with approved funding (e.g. printer rationalisation/multi-functional devices)

- low cost or nil cost measures to encourage behavioural change (e.g. Corporate Travel Plan and Green Champions Project)
- significant 'invest to save' initiatives (e.g. combined heat and power systems at Council Leisure Centres)

3. FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Carbon Management Plan recommends that the Council reduce its carbon emissions by 30% between now and 2012 and in doing so reverse the trend of increasing energy use by the Council and save £2.2 million in energy costs over the five life of the Plan.
- 3.2 Of the projects identified within the plan some have received funding through the Council's Medium Term Plan (MTP) process, whilst others require funding and will be subject to the usual budgetary process. There is also the opportunity to attract significant external funding for implementing energy efficiency and renewable technology projects, which will reduce reliance on the Council's own resources.
- 3.3 Funding sources that are being pursued include the Governments Low Carbon Buildings Programme which has already yielded £71k towards a renewable energy project included within the plan and also the Salix Invest to Save Fund which could potentially yield an additional £75k which is not repayable providing the money is reinvested in projects at least three times over a 15 year period.
- 3.4 The carbon reduction opportunities identified to date will deliver just over two thirds of the savings required to reduce Council emissions by 30%. It will be necessary to identify a significant number of additional carbon saving opportunities during the course of the next five years, if the overall target is to be achieved.
- 3.5 Successful delivery of the Carbon Management Plan will require continued support and commitment from the Council's Environmental Management Division. It is anticipated that the equivalent of 2 days per week will be required within the Council's Environment Team to coordinate implementation, monitor and record progress, secure funding and manage an invest to save budget. This level of commitment will be required throughout the five year programme.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The draft Carbon Management Plan presents a compelling case for action on both environmental and financial grounds. Failing to act will result in an additional 2000 tonnes of carbon dioxide being produced from Council operations by 2012 and an increased financial cost to the Council of almost £800,000 per annum.
- 4.2 It is important that the capital projects included within the Carbon Management Plan are accompanied by behavioural change. The Green Force employee awareness initiative will be the means to achieve this and it is important that the campaign is endorsed by Members and corporate management.
- 4.3 As a leader in the community the lessons learnt in implementing the Carbon Management Plan will be widely disseminated to businesses

and partners through the Environment Forum of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership and through the Councils Business Environmental Pledge Scheme.

- 4.4 Resource levels within the Council's Environment Team will need to be reviewed as the programme develops to ensure that the Council is able to deliver the plan and also meet the statutory requirement to monitor the environmental suite of related National Indicators 185, 186,187,188, 193.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Cabinet are recommended to endorse the Carbon Management Plan prior to submission to Council for final approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

See Appendix 1: Carbon Management Plan

Contact Officer: Chris Jablonski (Environment Team Leader)
 Ext. 8368