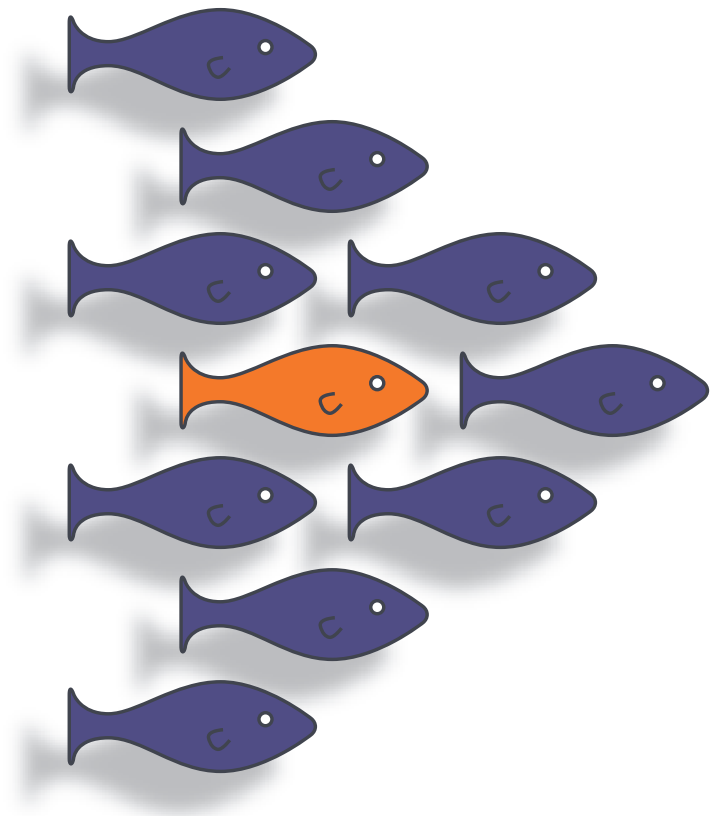


# Leadership academy

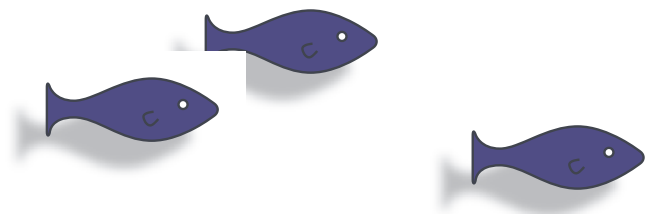
## **Climate change**

Key facts and the business case

Member workbook



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This is the first in a series of workbooks to be published by the IDeA on climate change. It sets out key facts about climate change and presents the argument for local government to address the issue.

This workbook has been designed as a development aid for elected members regardless of their experience or responsibilities. Its content is aimed at supporting both existing and newly elected members in their role as Council and Community representatives. It makes no judgment about whether you have been a member for some time or you are newly elected to the role.

This workbook will brief and update you on the key aspects and business case of climate change, in the context of the opportunities and challenges facing your council and your communities. It will help you identify how you can focus on the key facts you need to know to be able to support your council in combating climate change.

In practical terms the workbook will take you two to three hours to work through. You can dip and out of the work book working at a pace that suits you best.

To benefit fully you need to think about your own approach in influencing other people – how the material relates to work in your locality, the people you serve and the council you represent.

As you work through the book you will find a number of features designed to help you think about climate change leadership and the councillor's role:



**guidance** – this is used to indicate guidance, research, quotations, explanations and definitions that you may find helpful.



**challenges** – these are questions or queries raised in the text which ask you to reflect on your role or approach – in essence, they are designed to be thought-provokers.



**case studies** – these are 'pen pictures' of approaches used by councils elsewhere.



**hints and tips** – these represent a selection of good practices which you may find useful.



**useful links** – these are signposts to sources of further information, outside of the workbook, which may help with principles, processes, methods and approaches. A full list of useful additional information is also set out in Appendix A of the workbook.

# 1. Why are we talking about this?

Tackling climate change must be at the centre of a local authority's vision for its communities. Councils have a key role to play in the development and delivery of action to curb the threat of climate change, particularly through cutting emissions of carbon dioxide as well as adapting services and communities to the effects of unavoidable climate change. Many local authorities, through initiatives such as signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, have publicly committed to fulfilling it.

Community leadership on climate change is a moral imperative – to mitigate the most serious threat to our communities, for today's young people and their children, and the world's poorest countries – those that face the greatest risk from climate change. Local government needs to ensure that places and services continue to function in the face of a changing climate by protecting people who are currently most exposed to the risks of extreme weather events. The climate will continue to change for the next few decades even if global emissions start to fall.

The unique features of local government – its democratic mandate, its close proximity to citizens through the services it delivers, its regulatory and planning responsibilities and its strategic role working with public, private and voluntary sector partners, and regional bodies – mean that it is on the frontline in tackling climate change.

Each council's vision must incorporate both carbon reduction and adaptation and the challenges of contributing to the national targets of at least a 34 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 and an 80 per cent reduction by 2050; building a low-carbon local economy; protecting communities from extreme weather events and developing climate-resilient public services. There are some outstanding examples of local council leadership, but a more urgent and consistent authority-wide response is required by each and every local authority.



## What is the Nottingham Declaration?

Launched in October 2000 in Nottingham and updated in December 2005, the Declaration has now been signed by 320 English Councils. All Scottish and Welsh councils have signed their own versions.

By signing the Declaration councils pledge to systematically address the causes of climate change and to prepare their community for its impacts.

<http://www.nottinghamdeclaration.org.uk>



**Mitigation** – is action to address the causes of climate change such as reducing carbon dioxide emissions

**Adaptation** - is action to address the impacts of climate change such as protecting communities from water shortages and flooding as well as heatwave

Whilst local government action on climate change is gathering pace, there are as yet few local authorities who have systematically built carbon reduction and resilience into their organisational DNA. Every major decision should be a better decision than the last one – lowering carbon impact and improving resilience to climate change.

**Councils are facing a challenging financial climate with tough decisions to make about the way in which they allocate resources to meet growing pressures. But this cannot be a reason for inaction.**



Do you take climate change into account in your work and when you're making decisions?

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## 2. What is climate change?

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The Earth's climate is constantly changing. In the past changes have been attributed to natural causes. However, the term climate change is now generally used when referring to changes which have been identified since the early 1900s. These changes are thought to be mainly as a result of human behaviour rather than due to natural changes in the atmosphere. The greenhouse effect refers to the gases which keep the Earth warm. It is the extra greenhouse gases which humans have released through industrial activity and modern lifestyles, which it is argued have contributed to global warming and climate change.



### Do you know the difference between weather and climate?

**Weather** is the day to day condition of the atmosphere. This includes temperature, rainfall and wind.

**Climate** is the average weather conditions of a place, usually measured over one year. This includes temperature and rainfall.



Which recent weather changes have you either noticed or heard/read about that could perhaps be attributed to climate change?

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### 3. What is the global evidence?

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The year 2009 is likely to rank in the top 10 warmest on record since the beginning of instrumental climate records in 1850, according to data sources compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The current nominal ranking of 2009, which does not account for uncertainties in the annual averages, places it as the fifth-warmest year. The decade of the 2000s (2000–2009) was warmer than the decade spanning the 1990s (1990–1999), which in turn was warmer than the 1980s (1980–1989).

This year above-normal temperatures were recorded in most parts of the continents. Given the current figures, large parts of southern Asia and central Africa are likely to have the warmest year on record. Climate extremes, including devastating floods, severe droughts, snowstorms, heatwaves and cold waves, were recorded in many parts of the world. This year the extreme warm events were more frequent and intense in southern South America, Australia and southern Asia, in particular.

April in particular was extremely warm in central Europe. Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria reported temperature anomalies of more than +5°C, breaking the previous records for the month in several locations. The European summer was also warmer than the long-term average, particularly over the southern regions. Spain had the third-warmest summer, with hotter summers reported only in 2003 and 2005. Italy recorded a strong heatwave in July, with maximum temperatures above 40°C, and some local temperatures reaching 45°C. A heatwave at the beginning of July affected the United Kingdom, France, Belgium and Germany, and some stations in Norway experienced new maximum temperature records.

India had an extreme heatwave event during May, which caused 150 deaths. A heatwave hit northern China during June, with daily maximum temperatures above 40°C; historical maximum temperature records were broken for the summer in some locations.

#### **Severe droughts**

China suffered its worst drought in five decades. Water levels in parts of the Gan River and Xiangjiang River were the lowest in the past 50 years. In India the poor monsoon season caused severe drought impacts in 40 per cent of the districts. The north-western and north-eastern parts of the country were badly affected. It was reported to be one of the weakest monsoon seasons since 1972.

In East Africa the drought led to massive food shortages. In Kenya the drought was responsible for severe damage to livestock and a 40 percent decline in the maize harvest.

#### **Intense storm events and precipitation**

Intense rainfall caused devastating damage to infrastructure in several parts of northern Africa, including Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. In a similar pattern, the highest September rainfall recorded in 80 years produced severe flash floods in north-western Turkey. November brought severe flooding to northern areas of the United Kingdom, and a new 24-hour precipitation record was set for the country.

In western Africa, heavy and intense rainfall in September caused flooding that affected more than 100,000 people. The worst flooding was observed in Burkina Faso, where 263 mm of rain was recorded in less than 12 hours, breaking a record set 90 years ago. Coastal Queensland and New South Wales were the hardest hit by several heavy rain events, with daily rainfall totals in excess of 300 mm..

**Data drawn from the World Meteorological Organization website**

[http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press\\_releases/pr\\_869\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_869_en.html)

## 4. How the UK climate may change

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The United Kingdom Climate Projections were published in June 2009 and is the most comprehensive report of its kind ever produced. It shows that in the UK we face trends of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers, with more drought, more intense heat waves, flooding and sea level rise.

In future, rainfall could significantly decrease in the summer (particularly in the South East) and significantly increase in the winter (particularly in the North West). Heavier winter rainfall is expected to become more frequent, potentially causing more flooding.

The sea-level rise across the UK is projected to be between 20cm and 80cm by 2100.

The summer heat wave experienced in 2003 (which resulted in over 2,000 extra deaths in the UK and over 35,000 extra deaths across Europe) is likely to become a normal event by the 2040s or the 2050s. By the 2060s or 2070s, the intense temperatures of 2003 could become the average temperature experienced throughout much of Europe. Extreme weather events are expected to place increased pressure on emergency services and Government.

- Under a medium emissions scenario, the annual average temperature rise by the end of the century is very likely to be more than 2 °C and less than 5 °C. The central estimate is 3.5 °C.

- Temperatures are expected to rise across the UK with more warming in summer than in winter. The summer average temperature rise in the South East is very likely to be above 2 °C and below 6.4 °C. The central estimate is 4 °C.
- The urban heat island effect already warms central London by more than 10 °C on some nights. Increased urbanisation and release of waste heat would increase this still further – on top of the effects of global warming.
- As summers become warmer and drier droughts are more likely, particularly in the South East. There may also be more intense downpours of summer rainfall, which could lead to flash flooding.
- Heavier winter precipitation is expected to become more frequent, potentially causing more flooding.



For further reading, please see:

**UK Climate Projections: UKCP09 science report**

<http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/content/view/512/506/>



**To demonstrate:**

**The difference in average temperatures between temperatures now and the last ice age is just 6 °C**



Do you know what impact climate change will have on your area?

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## 5. Ten facts you should know about climate change

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### 1. People say the world isn't really getting warmer, some years are just hotter than others, and it varies/goes around in cycles.

a. The 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 1997. That's a fact, based on recorded temperatures since 1850. Over the last 100 years the Earth has warmed by about 0.75 degrees Celsius and the speed it is warming at is getting faster. These days the UK Spring arrives about 10 days earlier than it did in the 1970s. In 159 years of records.

b. Arctic sea ice is melting; the extent it reaches has shrunk by about 10 per cent every 10 years since the late 70s. The smallest amounts of Arctic summer ice on record were in the 3 years: 2007-2009. In a few decades, large parts of the Arctic Ocean are expected to have no late summer sea-ice at all.

### 2. People say we've nothing to do with it.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels in the atmosphere have gone up 38 per cent since 1750 – around the time that the industrial revolution started. Rising levels of greenhouse gases are directly linked to human activity like burning fossil fuels and clearing forests. There is a clear link between more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and global warming.

### 3. But not all scientists agree though, right?

The overwhelming majority of climate scientists agree that human induced climate change poses a huge threat to the world. The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** is not run by any government – 'intergovernmental' means it answers to all 192 governments signed up to it. Its reports are written by independent scientists. It is one of the most rigorous scientific bodies that exists. It brings together many thousands of scientists from countries all over the world to put together the best assessments of climate science available.

What about the leaked emails from the University of East Anglia? Don't they undermine the science? There is an independent review looking at this incident. But there is an overwhelming consensus, based on decades of climate science and the work of thousands of scientists around the world which says that climate change is real and a major threat.

### 4. It's too late, we just need to accept it.

The IPCC says we need to stop the world getting more than 2 degrees warmer if we want to avoid dangerous climate change. After that it becomes harder to produce food and competition for water, sea level rises and loss of species get much worse. We've got the technologies we need for a low-carbon world we just need to go for it now. It'll cost much less to go low carbon than it will to let climate change happen.



### **There is still time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, if we take strong action now**

The scientific evidence is now overwhelming: climate change is a serious global threat, and it demands an urgent global response.

Climate change will affect the basic elements of life for people around the world including access to water, food production, health, and the environment. Hundreds of millions of people could suffer hunger, water shortages and coastal flooding as the world warms.

**Stern review on the economics of climate change**  
– 31 January 2006

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sternreview\\_index.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sternreview_index.htm)

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### **5. A bit of melting ice and slightly hotter summers, what's the problem?**

Global sea levels have already risen by 10 centimetres in the last 50 years, thanks to melting ice and warming oceans. This is already threatening low-lying countries, such as islands and Bangladesh. Millions more people are expected to be flooded every year by 2080. Latest predictions suggest the sea could rise by 1 metre this century. In Europe alone this could affect over 20 million people. And it looks like the sea is rising more quickly now than in the 20th century.

### **6. Some countries have always had droughts, it's nothing new.**

Severe droughts are now twice as common as they were in 1970. More droughts are affecting which crops we can grow effectively. Global demand for food is expected to nearly double by 2050. But by 2025, lack of water could mean we produce a third less of the volume of cereals we currently eat – that's the same as losing the entire grain crops of India and the US combined.

### **7. Global warming is just to do with natural changes in the sun.**

Scientists are clear that there is strong evidence that changes in solar radiation could not have caused the rapid warming we have seen over the past fifty years. The Met Office has stated that since the Industrial Revolution, additional greenhouse gases have had about ten times the effect on the climate as changes in the sun's output.

### **8. We've all got a lot on our plate – let's worry about it later.**

Even if all greenhouse gas emissions stopped tomorrow, we are already locked into a global temperature rise of at least 1.4 Degrees C (since 1750) because of the delayed impact between emissions and temperature. It is already happening, and we need to act now to stop it getting much worse.

### **9. It won't happen to us though.**

Developed countries suffer impacts too. The 2003 heatwave in Western Europe, which caused 35,000 deaths (2,000 in the UK), is already twice as likely to happen again next year. By the 2040s Europe will consider such a summer normal. By 2060s they will consider it cool.

### **10. Surely it's only the odd polar bear, who cares?**

Species are already being forced to migrate or adapt. Scientists think that around 20 per cent of species will become extinct with 2 degrees of warming – and it will be a real challenge, even if we act right now, to keep to that limit.

French heat toll almost 15,000

**France's summer heatwave killed a total of 14,800 people, according to official figures released on Thursday.**

The figure covers 1-30 August, including a fortnight of record-breaking heat. The number is almost 4,000 more than previous Health Ministry estimates. The heat saw temperatures consistently above 40C in parts of Europe.

ESTIMATED DEAD

- France - 14,800
- Italy - 4,200
- Netherlands - 1,400
- Portugal - 1,300
- UK - 900
- Spain - 100

France was particularly badly hit by the weather, with the unusually high number of deaths putting a heavy strain on mortuaries.

The latest report - by the National Institute for Health and Medical Research - covers a longer period than previous reports, including the week when temperature began to fall.

Women worst hit

It says the death rate was on average 60 per cent higher than usual for the time of year. In some parts of France, notably central France and the Paris area, it was significantly more than 60 per cent. And the surge in the death rate was greater among women than among men - 70 per cent higher compared with 40 per cent.

Most of the deaths were among the elderly. The report said it was difficult to determine whether there was an increase in mortality among under-45s. Correspondents say the report will intensify scrutiny of the government's handling of the heatwave, which was seen as tardy and inept. Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin has promised a thorough review of the health service following the crisis. A report earlier in September concluded that poor communication and the absence of doctors who were on August leave were contributing factors to the deaths.

**Story from BBC NEWS**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3139694.stm>

Published: 2003/09/25 15:18:54 GMT

## 6. Climate change myths and misconceptions

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### 1. It's already too late to stop climate change

The evidence is that global emissions need to peak in the next decade and then decline to well below current levels to avoid dangerous climate change. This is possible, and can be achieved with technologies that are available now. Putting off action will make it more difficult and expensive to reduce emissions in the future, as well as creating higher risks of severe climate change.



“District councils have a general ‘well-being’ power via the Local Government Act 2000. They also have the best possible opportunity to ‘act locally’ - being very near to those that they serve. So over the past few years Chesterfield has set about doing just that - acting at a local level, using our well-being power, to do our bit to reduce global warming.

Councils are in an excellent position to set a clearly visible example. Most have a wide range of buildings - many of them in very prominent positions and also widely used by the general public. Chesterfield has also been very fortunate in being able to construct new buildings over recent years - such as innovation centres and a new coach station. So there are great opportunities to introduce energy saving measures into existing buildings and incorporate them into the design of any new build - and there's a very high chance that what has been done will be seen by a lot of people and hopefully put questions into their minds about what they can do along similar lines.”

**CLlr Ray Russell**  
Leader - Chesterfield Borough Council

*October 2009*

### 2. I can't possibly make a difference

Over 40 per cent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the UK come directly from what individuals do – for example, using electricity in the home and driving cars. That means we can all make a difference. If every home can install 270mm loft insulation, it would save 3.8 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> – the same as the annual emissions of around 650,000 homes.

The UK has challenging targets for reducing emissions by 2050, and it will only meet those targets if everybody – individuals, Government and businesses – take action together. Councils can play a significant role in the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. They are the biggest employers and encouraging employees and communities to act on CO<sub>2</sub> will make a difference.



### **Winchester City Council makes tackling Climate Change a priority for the district**

Tackling climate change is at the heart of Winchester City Council's work after Cabinet approved the Climate Change Plan on behalf of the whole district.

The plan contains a framework for change including the four important outcomes: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing renewable energy generation, adaptation planning, and community involvement. It also sets an ambitious target to reduce by 30 per cent, the district's carbon emissions between now and 2015.

The plan is just the beginning of the work that needs to be done, and the City Council welcomes the increasing number of groups and individuals playing their part. The establishment of the group Winchester Action on Climate Change has been endorsed by Cabinet's three year commitment to contributing funding towards their important work.

CLlr George Beckett, Leader of the Council said “We are pleased to support the work of WinACC as it so closely aligns to our objectives on Climate Change. The Council are leading the way in reflecting the need to change and adapt and we expect that with WinACC's help we can encourage others, on both a small and large scale, to do the same, helping Winchester succeed in tackling this serious issue”.

The Climate Change Plan is available to view on the City Council's [website \(http://www.winchester.gov.uk/climatechange\)](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/climatechange). The Plan will grow and develop so if you have further actions that you or your organisation would like to add to the plan please let us know. These contributions are vital as they will add up to make the difference we need to succeed.

Date published: 10/03/2008

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### **3. What is the point of the UK acting if other countries don't?**

Every reduction in emissions makes a difference by not adding to the risk. Countries like the UK are in a position to be a positive example to the rest of the world – if the UK can rise to the challenge successfully, others will follow. The UK is working hard with other countries to come to an international agreement on cutting emissions because we need to act now.

Moreover, there are good economic reasons to act now. The Stern Review, the Treasury's comprehensive analysis of the economics of climate change, estimates that not taking action could cost from five to 20 per cent of global GDP every year, now and in the future. In comparison, reducing emissions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change could cost around one per cent of global GDP each year.

### **4. I don't want to change my entire lifestyle**

The great thing about reducing your carbon footprint is that simple changes make big reductions to carbon emissions. Turning off the lights when you leave the room, switching appliances off at the mains or turning your thermostat down one degree are all actions you won't notice doing until you get your lower fuel bill. Profound change to your carbon footprint will necessitate more stretching actions and, potentially, greater changes to your lifestyle. But for many people, acting on CO<sub>2</sub> won't mean significant change in the short term. Councils can act as leaders and role models in this field by introducing these simple changes for council buildings. In turn this will encourage changes in employees' behaviour which will overflow to the communities.

### **5. I haven't got the money to make changes**

Cutting your carbon footprint doesn't have to cost you a penny – on the contrary, it can save you money. Save money by cutting CO<sub>2</sub>. You can do that through walking and cycling instead of driving short distances, turn your thermostat down by 1° and save on fuel bills and boil just as much water as you need. Most of these behaviour changes can be introduced by councils e.g. establishing car sharing schemes across the area, supporting the Cycling to Work scheme whereby employees are encouraged to buy bicycles and use it to cycle to work, ensuring that all council buildings save gas and electricity on their fuel bills (make them more energy efficient) and introduce some energy saving tips in all council kitchens.

### **6. It all takes too much time and it's too much hassle**

Many of the ways you can reduce your carbon footprint take seconds and are so easy; you'll wonder why you didn't do them earlier. Clicking the dial on your washing machine to 30 degrees: one second. Closing the curtains at dusk: five seconds. Only boiling as much water as you need: minus 10 seconds (you won't spend so long filling the kettle to the brim).

### **7. I want to cut my carbon footprint but don't want to compromise on quality**

In the past, green products were sometimes of lower quality. However, today's eco-friendly products are of the same or even superior quality. They are often high quality, durable and reliable, with longer operating lives. They're often easier to repair and upgrade too.

### **8. Changes to how we get and use energy will cost billions and throw millions out of work**

There are costs to any change, but study after study shows the net effect of conservation, efficiency and less-polluting energy will be more local jobs, cheaper power, and savings in health and local pollution control. The costs of severe climate change effects, like coastal erosion, are far greater than working to reduce them.

### **9. Technology will solve the problem for us**

Significant 'fixes', like removing CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, are very unlikely because they are not available now and are not an alternative to reducing emissions, whereas many reductions in emissions, which we can all make now, will. Councils should encourage changes in behaviours to decrease the demand for fossil fuels.



## 8. Against this background, what do the public think?

The evidence seems to show that people care about the environment and the threat of climate change:

- The Energy Saving Trust's Green Barometer research shows that 76 per cent of people in the UK agree that climate change will affect them (July 2007);
- IpsosMORI research for the LGA shows that 73 per cent of people agree that local government should make tackling climate change a priority (2007);
- Strikingly, 67 per cent agree that the government should make efforts to tackle climate change regardless of the economic consequences

However, a recent Populus climate change poll in November 2009 found that there has been a swing away from those that believe global warming is taking place of 9 percent. And of those that believe global warming is taking place, the number that believe it is largely man-made has dropped from half to a third (34 per cent).

Local government enjoys higher levels of public trust than national government, energy retailers and many other organisations. 75 per cent of people rate local government as trustworthy or partly trustworthy when providing advice on energy saving – compared to 66 per cent who trust or partly trust national government.



### London's climate change vision

A city that becomes a world leader in improving the environment locally and globally, taking the lead in tackling climate change, reducing pollution, developing a low carbon economy and consuming fewer resources and using them more effectively

Read more at: [London's response to climate change](#)

<http://www.winacc.org.uk/files/winacc/climatechangechapterinlondon-plan.pdf>



How do we promote greater understanding amongst communities and other sectors on the nature of climate risks?

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Name two actions that your council has already taken to make services better adapted to the impact of climate change?

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**Hampshire County Council** recognises that there is much they can do to improve their sustainability performance, but they are also proud of many areas that are showing how things can be done. These include:

**Ashburton Court Refurbishment** (<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/sustainability/environment-sustainability-whatishantsdoing/environment-sustainability-abc refurb.htm>) - The refurbishment has efficiency and sustainability at its core, and will deliver energy reductions and, through increased utilisation, reduce the number of offices the County Council occupies in its Winchester HQ.

**Aggregate Waste Recycling** (<http://www.ukcip.org.uk>) – Increased recovery of aggregate from construction and general waste.

**Everest Community College** (<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/sustainability/environment-sustainability-whatishantsdoing/environment-sustainability-everest.htm>) - The inspirational Everest Community College and Youth Service Buildings providing community facilities in Basingstoke were completed in July 2007.

**Futures Group Schools Competition** (<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/sustainability/environment-sustainability-whatishantsdoing/environment-sustainability-futures.htm>) - Hampshire secondary schools were invited to come up with a sustainable idea to improve their school for the Futures Group Schools Competition.

**Green IT** (<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/sustainability/environment-sustainability-whatishantsdoing/environment-sustainability-greenit.htm>) - IT Services is endeavouring to be at the leading edge of local authorities in offering a sustainable IT service.

**Hampshire Fare** (<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/sustainability/environment-sustainability-whatishantsdoing/environment-sustainability-hantsfare.htm>) - provides a professional support service to businesses involved in producing, growing, rearing or selling Hampshire food, drink and craft.

Read more at:

**What is Hampshire County Council doing?**

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/sustainability/environment-sustainability-whatishantsdoing.htm>

Climate change is not yet a doorstep issue for many local councillors. But there are strong links to other issues that do concern citizens – for example, flooding, road safety, care for the elderly and fuel poverty.

Local government is uniquely placed to tackle climate change – it has a democratic mandate for action, enjoys close proximity to citizens through the services it delivers and has a strategic role convening and leading other public, private and voluntary sector partners, and working with regional bodies.

Local government has a frontline role in leading communities towards low carbon lifestyles and can make a significant difference through sustainable procurement, investment in infrastructure and new buildings, waste management and recycling, use of renewable energy, tackling fuel poverty and raising the energy efficiency of our homes, planning for sustainable development, exploiting the economic opportunities of moving to a low-carbon economy, promoting walking, cycling and the use of public transport, and effective emergency planning.

As a local government councillor, it is now the time to make a difference for your town, borough, parish council or city and ultimately for your community.

## Sources of further information

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### Printed publications

*What do the latest climate projections mean for you – be aware, be prepared, take action II*, Local Government Association (LGA)

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*Adapting to Climate Change Guidance notes for NI188 Version 1.6 (19 December 2008)*, Local Government Association (LGA); Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)

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*A Climate of Change – summary version of the LGA Climate Change Commission report*, Local Government Association (LGA)

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*Leading the way: how local authorities can meet the challenge of climate change, Fact Sheet 4: SOLACE Environment Panel*, Local Government Association (LGA)

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*Climate change support for local authorities - a directory of the national and regional support available to support the work of local authorities in responding to climate change*, Improvement and Development Agency (June 2009)

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*Putting people first – it's time for you to cool it (March 2008)*, Local Government Association (LGA)

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### Websites

[www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

An invaluable source of help and advice for local government.

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[www.nottinghamdeclaration.org](http://www.nottinghamdeclaration.org)

Detailed advice and guidance on adaptation and mitigation of climate change

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[www.ukcip.org.uk](http://www.ukcip.org.uk)

UK Climate Impacts Programme

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[www.brighterfuturestogether.co.uk/index.php](http://www.brighterfuturestogether.co.uk/index.php)

It has lots of information and ideas about activities in the North East region that can help you improve your local community. It covers issues, like health, youth, climate change, green space and safety.

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[www.wmo.int/pages/index\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/index_en.html)

It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere

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[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

Energy efficiency and energy conservation to combat climate change

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[www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

All the latest news and information about English local government from the LGA.

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**UK Climate Projections 2009** <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

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**The Stern review** [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sternreview\\_index.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sternreview_index.htm)

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**Hampshire County Council** <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/sustainability/environment-sustainability-whatishantsdoing.htm>

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**Local Government Association**

The Local Government Association is the national voice for more than 400 local authorities in England and Wales. The LGA group comprises the LGA and five partner organisations which work together to support, promote and improve local government.

