



Mansfield District Council

Creating a District where People can Succeed

Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

Mansfield District Council Public Statement

Since becoming a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration, Mansfield District Council has undertaken the following in response to the voluntary commitments we made to help tackle the causes and consequences of climate change.

In practical terms this has included developing an action plan to:

- Address both adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its effects.
- Covers the three Council roles of: estate manager, service provider and community leader.
- Include targets and responsibilities for implementing the action plan.

1. Getting our own house in order – progress to date

We have made changes to the Council's corporate plan to reflect climate change as one of our priorities and reducing Mansfield's carbon footprint is a key action in Mansfield's Sustainable Community Plan. We have worked with the Energy Saving Trust to develop a Climate Change Action Plan dealing with both corporate and district wide emissions.

We calculated our own carbon footprint which is 8086 tonnes of CO₂ (in 2008/09) and have demonstrated a 12% reduction in emissions and an 11% reduction in energy use in 2009/10.

We have undertaken the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme and have identified the opportunity to mitigate the effects of rising energy prices and deliver both carbon and financial savings. In real terms, this could mean avoiding rising energy costs which would be incurred if we do not take action, estimated to be £2.8 million by 2013/14.

Mansfield District Council has set a challenging target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 35% by 2013/14 from a 2008/09 baseline. £484,000 of funding has been allocated to allow energy reduction projects to be moved forwards across the authority.

In our properties

We have been surveying our most inefficient buildings to identify which affordable energy efficiency measure can be introduced.

Specific measures undertaken include:

- Installation of Ground Source Heat Pumps, a Biomass boiler and a new air handling unit at the new Rebecca Adlington Swimming Centre.
- Fine tuning of the Building Management System at the Civic Centre and replacement of the inefficient Car Park lighting which has lead to the lowest monthly electricity use being recorded in August 2010.
- Reducing the number of hours heating and air conditioning is used for, and turning off space heating in unmanned areas.
- Recycling of trade waste from Leisure Facilities has been introduced, with the scheme being rolled out to the Civic Centre in October 2010.

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- Installation of movement sensors and timers in building areas with limited uses.
- Installation of loft insulation at the Palace Theatre and cavity wall insulation at the Civic Centre has been undertaken to reduce heat losses.
- As part of the Decent Homes Programme, loft and cavity wall insulation has been provided to Council properties that did not have it and the installation of double glazed windows and more energy efficient boilers to over 2600 properties has been completed.

Next steps

As part of the Council's drive to provide value for money services, we are actively looking for ways to save energy and carbon emissions and are constantly identifying new projects through the Council's Carbon Management Plan.

A comprehensive energy efficiency campaign for all staff and Members to increase understanding about improving management of natural resources, climate change and adaptation is set to be rolled out in the autumn of 2010.

Increasing recycling services to all properties where it is feasible.

Inefficient lighting will be replaced at Council car parks.

Further fuel savings will be identified through fleet management and technological advances to reduce fuel usage within the Parks, Housing Repairs and Street Cleansing departments. Staff training on "eco-driving" techniques will take place within the Parks department.

Improvements will be made in the quality of the data we are working with, introducing quarterly meter readings across all sites for gas and electricity and by preparing quarterly comparisons of energy usage per site to show improvements made.

2. Making our services more climate friendly and resilient

We have begun to train staff to increase awareness. Building Management Efficiency Training has been undertaken for building managers which has lead to a number of new energy saving projects being identified.

We are currently researching the impacts of extreme weather on our services and the district over the past 10 years through a Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) study in 2010/11.

We have adopted a Sustainable Procurement Policy to ensure that all of our procurement meets set minimum environmental, social and economic criteria.

We have developed a Climate Change Action Plan in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust and we are developing an Adaptation Action Plan with the help of Nottinghamshire County Council, which will set out how to reduce the impacts of the highest risks. We are also considering climate change as part of the Council's Strategic Risk Register.

Future plans

Energy Efficiency training is planned for all staff.

Member and Senior Management training on Adapting to Climate Change has been planned for the autumn, in conjunction with the Environment Agency.

3. Providing civic leadership on climate change to the wider community

Within our Corporate Plan 2009/10 and 2010/11 to "Develop a high quality, clean, green and pleasant environment" is a key priority.



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Within our Local Strategic Partnership, we had made climate change one of our key priorities in our Local Area Agreement through NI 186 (Per capita carbon emissions within local authority area) and NI 188 (Planning to adapt to climate change).

We have established an Energy Saving Team officer working group that reports regularly on progress made across the Council to the Corporate Management Team.

Delegated reports must now take into consideration how mitigation and adaptation to climate change will be addressed.

Specific actions we have taken include:

Energy

We ran an Energy Awareness Week within Mansfield in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust and Severn Trent Water. Over 160 people asked about energy saving and received advice to at these events, and free television power down packs were distributed. Also, 33 people made a Climate Change pledge to save energy which will reduce emissions by 42 tonnes when they put their pledge into action.

Waste

Following the introduction of the alternate weekly refuse and recycling collection scheme, Mansfield's recycling rate increased from 4.94% (2002/03) to 38.75% (2009/10). Diversion of waste from landfill also increased from 642.36kg per household in 20007/08 to 599.49kg in 2009/10 also, thereby reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. We have introduced a free garden waste service in 2006 which is now available to 36,000 residents across the district. We have promoted sustainable waste management through events in the local area with community groups, young people and in partnership with other district councils and Nottinghamshire County Council and communications with residents and our schools, e.g. website updates, press releases, and leaflets.

Transport

We have supported the Sunday extension of the Robin Hood line train service. Working with Nottinghamshire County Council, we have helped to progress the development of a new transport interchange in Mansfield town centre (currently awaiting funding).

Housing

We provide financial assistance to vulnerable households to help bring their homes up to the decent homes standard, and are working with the Government's Warmfront scheme and providing top-up grants to ensure energy saving work is completed. We are also working with the Energy Saving Trust and Groundwork Mansfield and Ashfield to provide a discounted insulation scheme to all residents within Mansfield to reduce carbon emissions from homes across the district.

We are undertaking a Master planning exercise which aims to devise a scheme to improve the sustainability of the Bellamy Road Estate. This includes proposals to achieve a reduction of the average annual carbon footprint per household on the estate. At present 43 highly energy efficient houses are being constructed on the site that will achieve level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Development through the use of a mixture of ground source heat pumps, solar PV and solar hot water panels. A further new code level 4 property is also being built on Laurel Avenue and the Council has worked in partnership with Nottingham Community Housing Association (NCHA) to transfer the leasehold of land on Blake Street to allow 3 more properties to be built to code levels 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

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'MARS' (Multi Agency Rented Solutions), a scheme to provide good quality sustainable homes for vulnerable people in Mansfield, won a prestigious regional award. The scheme won the Delivering Chances Award for Integrated Service Delivery from the East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership in June 2010. CO2 savings of 8 tonnes were shown through improvements in insulation, draught-proofing and window glazing in 2010 alone.

The award recognised the exceptional achievements of this innovative project, which has brought empty homes back into use while also helping homeless people into quality rented accommodation.

Planning

We have produced a Sustainable Developer Guide for Nottinghamshire (July 2004), working with a county-wide partnership working group. Through the Nottingham Sustainable Planning Partnership a seminar on "Learning the Language of Low Carbon" was organised for planning and building control officers (2010)

We have also conducted a number of evidence-based studies in order to inform future policy for the Council's emerging Local Development Framework (the document planned to replace the existing Local Plan which was developed in 1998). The new framework will include:

- Towards a Sustainable Energy Policy for Nottinghamshire (2009): created to inform local development planning by providing evidence for the case for higher energy performance standards in new development across the county.
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (June 2008): prepared in conjunction with the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. In addition to providing an evidence base, it also sets out the procedures to be followed when assessing development proposals in areas at risk from flooding, and in helping to select appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage devices.
- Green Infrastructure Interim Planning Guidance (adopted April 2009): provides an important evidence base in order to ensure that Green Infrastructure within Mansfield district is taken account of in planning decisions including adaptation to climate change.

With voluntary and community organisations

We support voluntary and 'friends of' groups and encourage volunteering and engagement around the local environment. Many groups have a number of volunteers who work to provide a clean and greener environment on heath land, parks, and nature reserves. We have also funded various environmental and community garden projects. Climate change and energy efficiency is also being promoted through community meetings and area forums to try and ensure a wider public knowledge of these issues. We have also provided information and updates through local newsletters to support this community involvement.

Next steps

Measures the public can expect to see from the council include the creation of a Climate Change strategy for Mansfield, a year long series of events to encourage community action.

We are planning to hold a business event in 2011 to encourage local businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and will be working closely with our direct suppliers and contractors to reduce their emissions for work carried out on our behalf.

Plans are currently being finalised to trial domestic Ground and Air Source Heat pumps at Council housing properties to further reduce the Council's CO2 emissions by replacing the old coal fired district heating systems.

Our Planning department are constructing a feasibility study to investigate opportunities



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within the district and adjoining districts for developing and implementing sustainable, decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy generation in the District.

A review of the Residential Design Guide is planned to provide guidance for developers on a number of design related topics including renewable energy and water conservation.

4. Making it easier and cheaper for residents to do their bit for climate change

We have set up climate change pages on our own website with details of how residents can save money and energy at home and at work. www.mansfield.gov.uk/climatechange

We provide telephone Energy Advice Services through the Energy Saving Trust and the Energy Agency to allow residents to get information about energy efficiency and renewables.

We actively promote Warm Front grants to help people save money on their energy bills and reduce their own carbon footprint. We also promote low cost discounted loft and cavity wall insulation within the district through work with Crestra (Groundwork).

We have participated in the Energy Saving Trust's One to One Programme 09/10 and were the first council in the East Midlands to sign up to their Carbon Leaders Network for 10/11. Moreover, we will also work with them on an extensive programme of carbon reduction activities over the coming year.

Next steps

The creation of a joint Mansfield and Ashfield Energy Advice Pack for residents and a series of workshops in conjunction with West Notts College.

5. Working with others to make a bigger difference

We have worked with the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust and the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire LAEP (Local Authority Energy Partnership) to optimise our ability to influence changes within our area.

We are part of the Nottinghamshire Climate Change Partnership and have secured funding to engage partners and businesses in moving to a low carbon economy by offering support and advice and sharing good practise.

Next Steps

We will be working with Ashfield District Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council on moving the Sherwood Housing Strategy forwards, with a working group specifically focussed on climate change being created with volunteers from each authority.

For further details, see www.mansfield.gov.uk/climatechange

Signed by:

Executive Mayor

Managing Director

27.10.10

Date

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