



## **Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change**

Since becoming a signatory to the [Nottingham Declaration](#) in 2006 Gedling Borough Council has introduced a range of initiatives, activities and policies in response to the voluntary commitments we made to help tackle the causes and consequences of climate change.

The council's buildings, staff travel and operations emitted over 5,000 tonnes of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in 2007/08. Most of these emissions came from the products that it buys. Rising costs of energy mean that the council, local business and residents of Gedling will face increased bills for electricity, travel, food and other goods and services. Reducing energy costs, emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and preparing for future changes in the climate will help make the council, businesses and households stronger for the future.

The council is committed to tackling the causes of climate change, by reducing its emissions of greenhouse gases through energy use, and addressing the impacts and effects of current and future climate change, by preparing to adapt.

In March this year the council launched an Energy Care Homes Scheme, which aims to help residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The council is working in partnership with Green Energy Doctor to install loft and / or cavity wall insulation to private homeowners at reduced prices, or even for free. There are no hidden catches; the scheme is available to everyone. Since the launch of the Energy Care Homes, over 600 loft and cavity walls have been insulated, which gives an energy bill saving of £126,650 through this scheme.

Also during March Gedling Borough Council led a deal with all seven district councils, Notts County Council and Nottingham City Council, to jointly buy new council vehicles, parts and training, saving around £1.75 million over the next three years.

Since signing up to the declaration, the council has also looked to reduce the impact its own buildings are having on the environment. The civic centre uses rain water to flush the building's toilet facilities. Recycling facilities are placed in all offices and composting caddies are available in kitchen areas. Lighting in the civic centre offices is currently being upgraded to low energy lighting – saving the council £4,000, equating to approximately 35,000 kwh of electricity. An employee group, called the Environmental Steering Group, hold regular energy awareness events such as car free days, water awareness, food packing awareness etc. The group also actively encourage their colleagues to be more energy aware and carry out audits of their departments to ensure staff turn off electrical equipment when it's not needed.

Over the last two years, the council has been working with the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust to establish its carbon footprint and develop plans to reduce it. This has involved assessing the impact of the councils own buildings and fleet, and auditing its role as a provider of strategy, services and community leadership. The latest event was an

officer and member workshop which reviewed the results of this and prioritised areas for future action. The results of this workshop are being developed into an Energy Policy and Action Plan. The emphasis is now upon using energy sensibly, focusing on how the council and others can save money by reducing energy use, reducing their carbon footprint at the same time.

The council has also led Nottinghamshire Partnership's sustainability theme, working closely with a variety of partners, including districts, city and county councils and voluntary organisations.

Signed by:

Cllr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ly'.

Leader of the Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. M. W. Ock'.

Chief Executive

Date