GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WALES CAN CUT CARBON, CREATE JOBS AND SAVE CASH

Friends of the Earth

www.getseriousaboutCO2.com
Local government can, and must, take a lead in reducing carbon emissions in their local area. This report sets out how they can. It also demonstrates that local governments that take action on climate change now will bring significant economic and social benefits to their local communities. Three quarters of the public think that councils have a key role in tackling climate change. Promising initiatives on energy, housing and transport are becoming more widespread, and they show that action is possible. But too few local governments are taking action, and none are doing enough. Climate change poses a very real threat to lives and livelihoods; business as usual is no longer possible. We will all benefit from taking action on climate change now.

Andy Atkins, Executive Director, Friends of the Earth

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Friends of the Earth’s Get Serious About CO2 campaign is working with local councils and local people to deliver a low-carbon economy. The threat of climate change can be turned into real opportunities to provide sustainable jobs and to tackle issues such as fuel poverty.

Local government has a crucial role to play in tackling climate change. The action local authorities take now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their area can also boost their local economy, create jobs and slash fuel bills for their communities.

Local action on climate change can help tackle social injustice: insulating homes will lift people out of fuel poverty and reduce health problems caused by living in cold, damp homes; improving public transport will benefit poorer communities because they own fewer cars.

Authorities that build relationships with local businesses and suppliers, and adopt public procurement policies that reduce carbon dioxide emissions, will strengthen their local economies.

In summary, this report sets out:

The need to address organisational and political culture
There is consensus for action on climate change at national level but not at local level. The urgency and scale of action required is still misunderstood. Changes are needed to put climate change at the heart of local authority decision-making, and consistently at the top of the council’s agenda.

The need for high-level corporate climate change action plans
Successful action plans are based on robust data about emissions from housing, energy and transport. They also take an approach to developing policy that includes testing policy measures, analysis of these measures against social, economic and environmental impacts, communication and delivery of actions that are effectively monitored and reviewed.

Measures must be implemented simultaneously across housing, energy and transport
Leading authorities in the UK are demonstrating best practice in some areas, while some authorities are doing very little. But all authorities must implement best practice in the three key areas of housing, energy and transport to bring about real cuts in emissions.

Funding opportunities are available
Funding is available through Government programmes and initiatives such as CERT1 (energy supplier obligation). These funds can be augmented in a number of ways by local authorities.

THE SCIENCE IS CLEAR...

...climate-changing emissions must be reduced urgently. If we don’t take action now, climate change will make a billion of the poorest people in the world homeless – and flooding, rising food prices and economic instability will affect the lives of people here in our own communities.

UK and Welsh government policy and programmes are starting to address the challenge of climate change. Local government can and must do more to achieve cuts in carbon dioxide emissions of at least 40 per cent by 2020 in the local authority area – the target supported by the latest science.
INTRODUCTION: WHY TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

“Climate change is not some academic concept, but a real threat to Wales and the world. As the latest predictions released just last week show, Wales faces drier, hotter summers and warmer, wetter winters. There is no silver bullet or easy answer, but we must take action now if we are to have any chance of limiting the damage that could be caused. The latest, cutting edge science says we need to act now. Climate change requires all of us to change our behaviour, change the way we live and work to reduce the emissions which are affecting our climate”.

Jane Davidson, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, June 2009

The UK has to take urgent decisions to tackle the global threat of climate change and to build a low-carbon economy. There is now overwhelming scientific evidence about the causes of climate change. Unchecked carbon dioxide emissions will have a devastating impact on our planet; climate change is already affecting vulnerable people and will affect millions more unless we act now.

Climate change can seem remote for communities with other pressing social and financial issues. But its impacts are increasingly being felt in the UK – often most severely by the most vulnerable among us. Flooding, coastal erosion and high urban temperatures are all signs of the urgent need to act.

Saving money, creating jobs
Evidence presented in the Stern Review\(^2\) and the Committee on Climate Change in its first report\(^3\) makes clear that taking strong action on climate change now will not only cost far less than the costs of weak or delayed action, but also offers significant economic benefits.

Local authorities are well placed to secure those benefits including:

- creating jobs
- boosting investment and innovation in growing sectors of the economy
- reduced energy bills for households, businesses and the authority
- greater resilience to fluctuating energy prices
- avoiding making high-carbon investments that will be a growing financial burden.

For example, programmes to retrofit energy-saving measures in homes create employment, cut fuel bills, help tackle fuel poverty, and increase resilience to energy price rises.

HOME TRUTHS

If every household became low carbon by 2050, permanent energy savings from UK homes worth £12.3 billion a year could be achieved. At today’s prices, the average household energy bill would be cut by at least 66 per cent – down from £725 per year in 2008 to £250 per year in 2050. www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/home_truths.pdf

CUTTING ENERGY, SAVING MONEY

The EU has forecast that even a 20 per cent cut in energy consumption by 2020 would bring Euro 60 billion per year in savings and create 1 million jobs across the European Union.\(^4\)

CLIMATE IMPACTS

The UK Climate Impacts programme is a source of information on the impacts of climate change, available online at www.ukcip.org.uk
Investment in renewable energy can take a lead in creating manufacturing and construction jobs in a sector with rapidly expanding international markets. This sector is likely to remain attractive to investors even in the wake of the financial downturn because of the UK and Welsh Governments ambitious expansion plans for renewables, and because returns on investment have been high.

The greater the energy efficiency achieved in a local authority area and the greater the uptake of renewables by households and businesses, the greater the energy bill savings. This in turn leads to greater spending on other goods and services and a more resilient economy.

A green, efficient and affordable transport system is essential for a productive workforce – cutting traffic could save the UK economy billions every year. Local authorities can reap these benefits for themselves and their communities.

The six exemplar actions presented later in this report show how these benefits can be achieved.

**UK and Welsh support for action**

The UK Government’s agenda on climate change will be driven by the Climate Change Act and the recommendations from the Climate Change Committee. The Welsh Assembly Government has set targets of 3% annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission cuts from 2011, and a Climate Change Commission was set up to achieve this.

It is widely acknowledged that local government must play a key role in emissions’ reduction – through community leadership and through its own activities. The UK Environmental Audit Committee’s report on local and regional government, and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) strongly support action on climate change by local government. A ‘Welsh Declaration on Climate Change’ has been signed by all local authorities, committing them to take action on climate change. [www.wlga.gov.uk/english/archive-of-reports9/welsh-declaration-on-climate-change-1/](http://www.wlga.gov.uk/english/archive-of-reports9/welsh-declaration-on-climate-change-1/)

There is no debate about the need to make climate change the biggest priority for all tiers of government. The question is how to drive change on an unprecedented scale, while ensuring social and environmental justice.

**A MINI STERN REPORT FOR MANCHESTER**

The “Mini-Stern for Manchester” was commissioned by the city’s economic development agency Manchester Enterprises. It calls for the city to introduce new legislation and policies to help move to a low-carbon economy. The report claims doing nothing to combat the problems of climate change would cost the city £21 billion over the next decade, with the cost to the whole North West region totalling up to £70 billion.

UK Minister of State for the Environment, Phil Woolas, said the report was “globally groundbreaking”: “The report emphasises that if businesses make changes in response to the Government’s drive for more renewable energies and take advantage of the opportunities to improve their energy infrastructures they could become more competitive.”

A senior economist at Deloitte’s consulting practice, Rashid Bashir, said:

“...The report identifies the need for strong leadership and the careful use of public policy intervention tools to assist and promote economic growth in the context of an emerging new low-carbon economy. The support of the business community will be vital and a consistent policy approach that reduces market uncertainty is essential.”

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For more information about Friends of the Earth’s work on climate change, visit [www.getseriousaboutCO2.com](http://www.getseriousaboutCO2.com) or call 020 7490 1555.
1. MAKING IT HAPPEN: A NEW POLITICAL CULTURE

Over the past five years the notion of a vibrant low-carbon economy has moved from visionary ideal to a vital necessity.

Although there is a range of proven policies and technologies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, effective action rests on strong political and professional commitment. Some local authorities have made rapid progress in prioritising action on climate change, but in many others progress has been slow. It is vital that there is acknowledgement and understanding of the barriers to action.

The UK Environmental Audit Committee in November 2008 in its eighth report identified a number of barriers including:

- internal management culture
- political resistance
- shortage of money
- a lack of skills.

These are linked problems and some, such as a shortage of funding, require national as well as local action. Friends of the Earth is campaigning for greater national support for local authorities. This could include reforming the CERT (Carbon emissions reduction target – energy supplier obligation) into a council-led programme as recommended by the Local Government Association.

This report demonstrates that there is a range of viable funding options for many of the actions necessary to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Here are some key approaches authorities should consider in order to overcome political and cultural barriers to action on climate change.

Putting the right target in place
The first and most tangible action for local authorities is to adopt a target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020 in the local authority area, and a Climate Change Action Plan to deliver the cuts.

Authorities should also appoint a senior officer for climate policy with clear and extensive responsibilities, and ensure resources are directed towards action on climate change.

Political support
Political resistance is still a major barrier preventing some local authorities taking action on climate change. Where there is political leadership and consensus, action has tended to be faster. The success of the German town of Freiburg, a European leader on carbon-reduction initiatives, has been founded on consensus between the city’s politicians and public over the need for radical action. To overcome political resistance to concerted action the council should ensure that the leader or deputy leader has direct responsibility for tackling climate change.

PEOPLE SEE IT AS THE COUNCIL’S ROLE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

A ComRes opinion poll commissioned by the Local Government Association showed that 82 per cent of MPs and 76 per cent of the public agree or agree strongly that councils have a key role in tackling climate change. Of those respondents, 97 per cent of MPs and 77 per cent of the public saw local council’s role as “helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their area”.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Saving carbon emissions through greener public procurement also has a role to play in reducing emissions. A report for the European Union on the results of the Green Public Procurement in the Green-7 (includes the UK) on public sector organisations demonstrates that carbon emissions savings are estimated at around 39 per cent (PwC, Ecofys and Significant, 2008).


EXCELLENCE WALES

‘Excellence Wales’, the good practice scheme for local government in Wales, recognises ground-breaking projects that improve services and sustainability. It has been running for 4 years and one of three themes for 2008/09 was ‘Our Future - Responding to climate change’. Projects in, amongst others, Carmarthenshire, Powys and Conwy Councils were recognised and commended. http://www.wlga.gov.uk/english/excellence-wales/
Involving people
Local authorities have a unique leadership role in their communities. They should use this to communicate the challenge of climate change, and to provide a coherent vision that can help people take action.

Harnessing the enthusiasm and expertise of communities through real and effective participation in decision making will deliver better crafted and better understood policy.

One way of getting community participation is to provide good advice. A one-stop shop for information on energy efficiency, micro renewables, public transport, walking, cycling and safe routes to schools can help inform and empower communities. The London Borough of Islington, for example, provides a one-stop advice shop on the high street.

Leading the way
Strong community leadership can inspire other major local players such as the National Health Service (NHS) or the police service to reduce emissions. The Local Service Board (LSB) is a key forum for this work but informal networks are also increasingly important to action on climate change.

Community initiatives such as the Transition Town movement, the Low Carbon Communities Network, and the increasing number of non-aligned community groups all have a strong interest in promoting climate change solutions. The threat of climate change requires new attitudes by all partners in seeking to work together in the wider public interest.

THE CHICAGO GREEN RIBBON COMMITTEE
The City of Chicago has led the way on action on climate change in the United States. To keep up the momentum that work on the Chicago Climate Action Plan has generated, a committee of business and community leaders has been formed to review performance against the plans, goals and to recommend improvements. This Green Ribbon Committee will publish an annual report and convene an annual summit to showcase progress to date, energise the community and highlight the importance of effective action.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
In making judgments about the best pathway to a local low-carbon economy it is important to bear in mind the guiding principles of sustainable development.

The principles contained in the Welsh Assembly Government Sustainable Development Scheme ‘One Wales: One Planet (2009), the ‘Wales Spatial Plan: People, Places, Futures’ which sets out the spatial vision for the future of a sustainable Wales and a range of other guidance such as Planning Policy Wales, highlight the importance of social justice and sustainable resource use. These principles, enshrined in the Government of Wales Act 2006 as a statutory duty16, should be applied to all climate-mitigation actions:

• Living within environmental limits.
• Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society.
• Achieving a sustainable economy.
• Promoting good governance.
• Using sound science responsibly.

MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION
The balance between adapting to the impacts of climate change and preventing its impacts (adaptation and mitigation) is a crucial issue. Both are vital for our communities but the priority is to start reducing emissions across the local authority area, while putting in place measures – in the local development plan, for example – to ensure that adaptation is also a driving factor, particularly in new development.
2. WHY A 40 PER CENT TARGET FOR CUTTING CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS?

The UK Government has, through the Climate Change Act, enshrined a target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050.

The Climate Change Act sets a target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (the leading body in its field in the UK) stresses that intermediate milestones on the way to that 80 per cent target are just as important as the target itself.17

The UK Committee on Climate Change, which was established under the Climate Change Act, proposed targets for the UK economy as a whole in the range of 34-42 per cent by 2020. The lower figure does not meet the requirements of the science but has been set by the Government as an interim target, until an international agreement is reached. The Tyndall Centre has calculated that the UK economy as a whole must make at least a 42 per cent cut by 2020.

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has committed to 3% annual GHG emission reductions from 2011, and the Climate Change Commission has been discussing how to achieve this, and also explore scenarios for cuts of 6% and 9%.18 Following a Climate Change Strategy consultation, a final programme of action is being prepared by the WAG and Climate Change Commission.

In November 2009, the National Assembly went further by agreeing to reduce emissions in Wales by 40% by 2020, and encourage other governments to do the same. Climate targets should be driven by sound science rather than political expediency, and the UK should aim to achieve its fair share of cuts through domestic action rather than reliance on trading or offsetting mechanisms.

Recent developments in climate science19 suggest even greater urgency is required to keep carbon dioxide below dangerous levels, hence a 40 per cent cut in emissions should be regarded as a floor, not a ceiling. This target is scientifically credible, challenging but achievable.

Some local authorities have already set challenging carbon reduction targets:

- Cardiff Council, carbon cuts of 60% in its internal services by 2018.
- Denbighshire County Council has made a commitment through the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) scheme to reduce CO2 emissions 33% by 2020 and will pay £12 for every tonne of carbon they emit each year.
- Bristol, Durham County, Haringey, Harrogate and Manchester have all adopted targets of at least 40% by 2020 across their local authority areas.

Local authorities recognise that achieving such targets is partly dependent on actions outside their control (for example, a proportion of transport emissions reductions is likely to be achieved through tighter regulation at EU level).

**Measuring and influencing emissions**

Local government has both direct and indirect influence over emissions. Currently there is no strategic performance measure to encourage Local Authorities in Wales to measure and reduce their carbon emissions, and the only performance indicator relates to energy efficiency in the housing stock.20

Local government should adopt the 40 per cent target and, working with the community, drive practical action to achieve it.

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**NOTE ON BASELINES**

International agreements (Kyoto and successors) take 1990 as the baseline year for cuts in climate-changing emissions, but the monitoring regime on carbon dioxide emissions in England takes 2005 as the base year. UK emissions declined after 1990 and then rose again, so the choice of baseline in practice makes little difference to the outcome. Given that there are uncertainties in measurement, especially at district level, Friends of the Earth considers a 2005 baseline acceptable.
## 3 SIX STEPS TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Experience from authorities such as Liverpool, Cardiff and Denbighshire shows the importance of putting climate change policy at the highest possible managerial and corporate level to ensure the necessary administrative, political and financial resources. Meeting the 40 per cent target will require a corporate climate change strategy. The preparation of climate change policy should proceed through a logical sequence of stages that reflects the need for a strong evidence base and deliverable outcomes.

### POLICY DEVELOPMENT

1. **Establish robust baseline data on CO2 emissions (integrate with work on the Local Development Plan)**
   - Establish transparent CO2 reduction targets.
   - Develop an understanding of other important and related data on fuel poverty, mapping of energy/heat demand, and renewable energy resource.
   - Audit existing carbon reduction activities.

2. **Generating policy options**
   - Identify policy options within sectors of housing, energy and transport.

3. **Detailed analysis of new policy options against social and economic impacts.**
   - Prioritisation of policy measures.

4. **Publication of Climate Change Action Plan with prioritised measures, targets and clearly identified delivery partners.**

5. **Implementation of measures and projects**

6. **Effective monitoring and review**

### POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- **Identifying skills**
  - Cross-departmental co-operation.
  - Establishing climate change delivery team to oversee collection of data.
  - Appointment of lead member for climate change on the Council.

- **Supporting information**
  DEFRA/AEA baseline per capita (www.defra.gov.uk).
  Case study: Newcastle has established its own baseline estimates: www.ceg.ncl.ac.uk/

- **Supporting tools (Generating policy options)**
  - Resources and Energy Analysis Programme (REAP) www.resource-accounting.org.uk
  - Carbon Descent Vantage Point available through Carbon Descent and for authorities on the Energy Saving Trust one-to-one support programme www.est.org.uk

- **Identifying implementation partners and funding streams:**
  Local Service Boards and Local Service Agreements.
  Identifying internal ways of working.
  Community consultation on draft policy options.

- **Preparation and implementation of communications strategy.**
  Internal and external communication of plan activities.

- **Measures embedded in:**
  - Regional Transport Plans
  - Local Development Plans.
  - Housing Strategy.
  - Outcome Agreements.
  - Local Service Boards.
  Key delivery phase of individual projects.

- **Annual report on the Climate Change Action Plan.**
  Linked to other annual reviews that reflect on policy outcomes.

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Experience from authorities such as Liverpool, Cardiff and Denbighshire shows the importance of putting climate change policy at the highest possible managerial and corporate level to ensure the necessary administrative, political and financial resources. Meeting the 40 per cent target will require a corporate climate change strategy. The preparation of climate change policy should proceed through a logical sequence of stages that reflects the need for a strong evidence base and deliverable outcomes.

The table below provides an outline of key stages in this process. The policy development process will have be integrated within the local authority’s normal business planning processes and dependent on that structure.
Establishing baseline data and target setting

A clear carbon dioxide reduction target lies at the heart of an effective climate change action plan. Key policies and other targets on energy or transport all flow from this. There are two routes to establishing baseline carbon dioxide emissions.

a) The methodology established by DEFRA on per capita carbon dioxide emissions reductions. This is a comprehensive framework based on energy use data from utilities and on Department for Transport (DfT) figures for transport movement, using a 2005 baseline.

b) The second pathway is to create a database of carbon dioxide emissions from more detailed local research. Leicester City Council has pioneered this approach: it provides a fuller understanding of the carbon profile of a locality (www.oneleicester.com). This in turn can allow the more cost-effective targeting of resources. Advice on carbon management is available from the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACM) provided by the Carbon Trust.

The setting of carbon dioxide reduction targets should be integrated with other relevant target regimes such as those for renewable energy and fuel poverty.

Generating policy options

There is no shortage of effective carbon-cutting policies available to local authorities. The next section of this report identifies in detail six potential policy options on housing, energy and transport. The best policy mix will reflect local circumstances. For example, rural areas might find it more challenging to implement public transport solutions, yet have more potential to develop renewable energy.

Assessing policy options

Local authorities will need to test how effective a policy package might be not only at cutting carbon dioxide emissions (the priority aim) but also at generating jobs and economic benefits.

There are a number of models available as a starting point. The Carbon Descent Vantage Point software (available through the Energy Savings Trust one to one programme) has been applied in Camden, Herefordshire, and Huntingdonshire among others. REAP is provided by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). SEI has developed a number of software tools to help local authorities calculate footprints at different levels.

CARBON DESCENT VANTAGE POINT

The system already contains emissions data for many local authorities in England. The outline steps are:

- Input baseline data (number of homes, number without loft insulation, office, commercial and industrial floor space, traffic flows, renewable energy capacity and potential).
- Set targets and dates (e.g. 40 per cent by 2020, 80 per cent by 2050, and linear or front-loaded descent curves).
- Select the technology mixes and behavioural change regarding, for example, homes and transport.
- Set different scenarios – for example renewable-led, or home insulation-led.

The programme calculates the options mixes with net present value (capital costs less fuel-bill savings if any) for each. It will tell you if the target is met, and if any methodological rules have been broken (such as using more biomass than is available).
4 Communicating the Action Plan
Publication of the action plan requires an effective communication strategy that makes the most of online technology and involves other organisations such as schools, colleges, hospitals and so on.

The effective participation of the wider community is central to achieving widespread take-up of schemes and driving change. Local community volunteer centres should be involved. Gathering local knowledge and identifying community organisations that can help with delivery will add to the robustness of strategy and help in communicating it well. Working with existing participative structures in the local authority and with organisations that are closely involved in the community is cost effective and will help ensure that these organisations are also delivering action on climate change.

5 Implementation
Knowledge of funding options and dialogue with partners is a key part of this phase. Funding must be secured in order to start rolling out programmes.

Creating the right internal framework is essential. A lead member for climate change must be located at Cabinet level and must be backed by a senior officer dedicated to implementation, and have an adequate budget. External frameworks such as Local Service Boards are vital, but there may also need to be new bodies like the Climate Change Commission established by Manchester City Council or local level versions of the Wales Climate Change Commission. The economic benefits should be highlighted: Manchester City Council’s report on economic costs and benefits is an important tool in showing how a low-carbon economy can revitalise the local economy.

6 Effective monitoring and review
The action plan should specify an annual report on progress.

The strategy should be reviewed at three- to five-year intervals in order to ensure that sufficient and effective action is being taken, and to revise targets if necessary based on sound science.

RESOURCES AND ENERGY ANALYSIS PROGRAMME
This programme enables a policy maker to look at how policies will develop into different scenarios. It particularly looks at how these policies will affect changes to consumption in the local area over time www.resource-accounting.org.uk
Reducing carbon dioxide emissions requires action in a wide range of areas from procurement to the planning system. Each local authority must find the package of measures that best delivers in its communities. But the range of choices should not get in the way of acting now on the most obvious issues.

The measures set out below illustrate what can be done now. They cover housing, energy and transport – the three biggest contributors of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK. They are proven options with a clear delivery route, funding options and best-practice examples.

**i HOUSING:** free loft and cavity-wall insulation

**Description**
Providing free loft and cavity-wall insulation won’t just reduce emissions – it will create local jobs, slash people’s fuel bills, lift people out of fuel poverty, and reduce the health problems associated with living in cold, damp homes.

When developing this measure, the local authority should identify the number of households that will benefit, and project savings in emissions and costs from the reduction in energy use for heating.

The local authority should contact households street by street and offer the free service. Households in fuel poverty can be prioritised by identifying areas most in need and starting the scheme there. The local authority must designate accredited installers, and recruit a team to contact and assess each household. Awareness raising and integration with existing schemes are essential to the success of this measure.

**Delivery and best practice**
A strategy to deliver free loft and cavity-wall insulation should identify what services and activities exist and bring together a partnership including the WAG, utilities and social organisations, GPs and the NHS.

Proper financing is essential. A simple assessment and referral process should enable partners and participants in the scheme to understand clearly what the scheme delivers and how.

The Welsh Assembly Government has introduced a £12m low carbon zone in the Heads of the Valleys. 40,000 homes will be fitted with Microgeneration and energy efficiency measures, manufactured and installed by local businesses. Expansion to private households in the area will be examined.

**Funding options**
CERT is the main funding programme. For more information see the Energy Saving Trust’s briefings on CERT.

Utilities (Scottish Power, National Grid, Scottish Power, British Gas, E.ON, EDF, SWALEC)

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) www.heeswales.co.uk (helpline offers a Benefit Entitlement Check).

WAG is funding the Energy Efficiency In Wales website with information on HEES grants and fuel poverty areas www.energyefficiencyinwales.org.uk

**Key partners**
Energy Saving Trust
National Health Service Trusts
Citizens Advice Bureau
Credit Unions
Housing Associations
Tenants Associations
Service departments within the council (social services etc)
Local voluntary organisations
National non-governmental organisations

**Powers**
The measure does not require the use of any powers, but where necessary for funding purposes the Local Government Act 2003 could be used to raise finance. The Housing Health and Safety Rating System under the 2004 Housing Act can be used to oblige landlords to address poorly-insulated rented properties.

**Description**
As with loft and cavity-wall insulation, retrofitting housing for renewable energy systems will create local jobs and slash people’s fuel bills as well as significantly reducing carbon dioxide emissions from homes. This is consistent with the WAG Green Jobs Strategy ‘Capturing the potential’ published in July 2009.
This policy measure sets up zero-interest loans for super insulation and renewable energy systems for everyone. These loans are paid back only when the property is sold. They should supplement grants provided by the UK government, such as the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. The technologies covered by the measure should include solar electric, solar hot water, small-scale wind turbines, ground and air source heat pumps, automated wood pellet stoves, and wood-fuelled boiler systems.

Development of this measure should identify the number of households that will benefit, and projected emissions saved by the reduction in both electricity use and energy use for heating. A local authority should start by identifying its area’s indigenous renewable energy resources and other potential for low and zero-carbon energy provision. In urban areas it may well be more cost effective and less disruptive to retrofit homes with community-scale renewable energy systems linked by heat grids and CHP schemes. Indeed, it may be the only practical way to extract the greatest renewable energy resource. So loans for renewable energy schemes on individual dwellings may best be targeted at suburban and rural homes if community-scale energy schemes are assessed to be the way forward in urban areas (see next measure).

**Delivery and best practice**

Having assessed both energy demand and resource potential, authorities should establish a strategic approach to the development of sustainable energy in its urban, suburban and rural areas. Where individual retrofits are deemed appropriate the local authority should systematically contact households and offer the loan (ideally combined with the insulation programme), and a free assessment to identify the most appropriate solution for the household.

Partnerships with technology suppliers and the building industry are essential. The local authority must designate accredited installers, and maintain a service agreement (that includes maintenance). It must also recruit a team to contact and assess each household. Integration with insulation schemes can reduce costs of scaffolding and other inputs.

**Funding options**

Low Carbon Buildings Programme is the main source of funding for renewable energy and microgeneration measures in the UK. Provided by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), it offers grants for homeowners (until June 2010). The Feed-in Tariff for small-scale renewable electricity which is fed into the grid is expected Spring 2010. The WAG’s Wales Fuel Poverty and Renewable Energy Project will seek to implement a whole house approach (including microgeneration) in communities in Wales where fuel poverty is prevalent. It has been clarified that European funding is allowed to be used for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in low-income homes. The Wales European Funding Office (WEFO) is negotiating the details with the European Commission.

**Key partners**

Building associations
Suppliers and installers (local)
Builders’ merchants
Installers
Housing associations
Local energy advice centres
Citizens Advice Bureau
Training and vocational colleges
Surveyors
Chambers of commerce

**Powers**

The measure does not require the use of any powers, but where necessary for funding purposes the Local Government Act 2003 could be used to raise finance.

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**JOBS FROM THE SUN: GERMANY’S SOLAR INDUSTRY**

The solar industry, a new sector in Germany, has seen enormous growth in recent years thanks to state support through the EEG (the so-called feed-in tariff). German solar technology turnover has risen within the past six years from around Euros 450 million to around Euros 4.9 billion. Companies in the industry have been investing Euros 500 million annually in the construction, expansion and modernisation of their factories to increase their capacity to produce solar modules, cells and inverters. The number of people employed directly and indirectly in the industry was around 50,000 in 2006. Source: German Federal Association of the Solar Industry, BSW, as of April 2007.

iii ENERGY: energy services companies

**Description**

This measure creates a fiscal structure for delivering low-carbon energy, particularly heat grids in urban areas. Local authorities are large purchasers of both energy and energy services and can act as an important catalyst for low- and zero-carbon energy projects. The local authority should identify the potential for low- and zero-carbon energy provision to all the housing stock in its area. This includes community and district scale heat grids linked to combined heat and power (CHP) and community-scale renewable energy schemes in urban areas. Any potential sites or areas should be clearly set out and consulted on, and integrated properly into the Local Development Plan. This should include assessment of renewable energy resource on local authority estate, and how its portfolio of buildings can become anchors or ‘initiator’ sites for adjacent community energy projects, particularly district heating networks with long-term supply contracts.

Local authorities should lead by example in implementing sustainable energy projects. They should look to use their property portfolio (council housing stock and new developments as well as public buildings such as schools, swimming pools, hospitals and education facilities) to initiate heat grid schemes. CHP schemes should not be based on waste incineration as greater net emissions reductions are attainable from maximising re-use and recycling.

Low- or zero-carbon energy and energy efficiency is often best facilitated through some form of energy service company or contract (ESCO). Energy infrastructure often involves high capital cost and risk. Given the caveats on the cost and viability of energy planning requirements set out in national planning policies, a local authority’s position can be strengthened if it has an ESCO partner, reducing risk and helping secure additional finance.

**Delivery and best practice**

Energy service companies (ESCOs) are independent entities responsible for delivering emissions savings. They can be fully independent or established with local authority support and board representation, with external partners. ESCOs take a number of different forms, and the nature of the ESCO will depend on additional objectives such as fuel poverty alleviation, the scale of the project, and local authority in-house expertise and attitude to risk.

ESCOs have been successful in delivering a number of sustainable energy schemes by local authorities around the UK including Southampton, Birmingham and Aberdeen. District heating and CHP schemes have been foremost, but in future ESCOs could deliver other technologies such as wind farms and hydro-electric projects, which might become more financially attractive with the forthcoming introduction of feed-in tariffs.

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**SOUTHAMPTON ENERGY**

Southampton City council entered into partnership with energy management company Utilicom to create Southampton Geothermal Heating Company, to finance, construct and operate a district heating scheme. Geothermal power was later supplemented by CHP to supply electricity, district heating and cooling to public buildings and private developments. The scheme now saves more than 11,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually and generates a yearly income for the council of £10,000-15,000.

www.southampton.gov.uk/environment/environmentandpollution/Geothermal/default.asp

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**COMMUNITY-OWNED ENERGY**

Sundance Renewables is a workers’ co-operative and a company limited by guarantee which has been operating from West Wales since 2004. It helps community regeneration through appropriate and sustainable methods and the development of renewable energy projects. Also, by engaging local communities in consultation and by offering a range of educational resources, Sundance Renewables is increasing understanding and awareness of energy issues. Sundance is an approved feasibility study consultant and installer for wind, solar and biomass systems under the Clear-Skies DTI grant programme and an installer for PV systems for the DTI Solar grant scheme.

www.sundancerenewables.org.uk
The Welsh Assembly Government is proposing a Community Scale Renewable Energy Generation project which would enable the establishment of sustainable, energy-based social enterprises in Wales. The Assembly Government is also working with Blaenau Gwent Council to select a private Energy Service Company (ESCo) partner to provide a low carbon energy supply to The Works Ebbw Vale project. The ESCo at The Works will be one of the first of its type in Wales and will serve as a model for forthcoming low carbon developments across the country.

**Funding options**

EU Convergence and Competitiveness programmes 2007-2013 allows Structural Funds to be invested in initiatives favouring energy efficiency and renewable energy in low-income homes.

Salix – a publicly funded company that provides interest-free matched funding to invest in energy efficiency and carbon-reduction in the local authority’s own estate. Caerphilly County Borough Council received match funding for a £800,000 project on energy carbon reduction in the local authority area, concentrating on the leisure sector. As a result they saved 876 tonnes of CO₂ and £94,000 annually.

Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) funding. Public-private partnership through which local authorities access new or improved capital assets.²⁶ Social enterprise. Section 106 requirements on developers to provide ESCOs. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to fund new green infrastructure. See also Energy Saving Trust (EST) grants database.

**Key partners**

EST
Health Authorities
Housing Associations
Energy suppliers
Contractors
Renewable and low-carbon energy generators
Local energy users

**Powers**

Local Government Act 2003 capital financing can be used to invest in an ESCO. Local Government Act 2000 well-being power enables local authorities to undertake all tasks necessary for establishment of an ESCO.

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**AGROFUELS**

In many cases liquid agrofuels offer poor, or no, greenhouse-gas savings. The import and large-scale production and use of agrofuels should therefore be ruled out until mandatory standards are in place that guarantee carbon savings of at least 60 per cent and no adverse environmental or social impacts, either direct or indirect. www.foe.co.uk/briefings/fuelling_or_fooling_europe.pdf

The conversion of waste vegetable oils to biodiesel does offer substantial benefits and should be promoted.

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**WASTE**

Maximised waste reduction, recycling and composting must be a priority for municipal and commercial waste, and offers the greatest overall reduction of climate emissions. The best climate outcome comes from preventing waste (avoid the climate emissions associated with the product we’re wasting), recycling (recycling emits less carbon dioxide than extracting and processing virgin resources), composting (which adds carbon to soils, and reduces the need for fertilizers) and anaerobic digestion (which creates 100 per cent renewable energy from food and agricultural wastes). It also makes sense to generate from combustion of unrecyclable clean waste wood in purpose-built wood-only burners. Both landfill and incineration have negative climate impacts – landfill of biodegradable wastes will release the greenhouse gas methane, and incineration is very inefficient, and its overall climate impact is negative, with plastics and other fossil-fuel derived materials leading to large emissions of fossil carbon dioxide.

Friends of the Earth supports the generation of renewable energy by anaerobic digestion of food and agricultural wastes, and combustion of clean waste wood in purpose-built wood-only burners. Incineration is a net source of emissions and Friends of the Earth opposes its use. www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/dirty_truths.pdf
Description
This measure would require a policy incentivising and requiring the development of renewable energy in the core strategy of the Local Development Plan.

The approval of new renewable energy capacity is vital in de-carbonising our energy supply. Locally-produced renewable energy will provide a safe and secure energy supply. Local authorities play the lead role in giving consent to new renewable energy schemes below 50 MW (eg anything up to largish windfarm of twenty five 2MW turbines).

The policy should ensure that developments minimise emissions by following the hierarchy: use less energy; use renewable energy; and supply energy efficiently. In addition the core strategy should ensure that assessments of energy demand and carbon emissions are included as part of a sustainable design and construction statement relating to new developments, and that energy efficiency and on-site renewable energy technologies are expected to deliver at least 20 per cent reduction of overall carbon emissions from the planned development. The Local Development Plan should identify existing, and promote new, decentralised heating, cooling and power energy networks (linked to the creation of ESCOs); and policies should require developments to demonstrate that their heating, cooling and power systems have been selected to minimise carbon emissions and, where possible, be able to connect to an off-site, decentralised network.

The core strategy should contain proactive policies and targets on medium- and large-scale renewables and a general presumption in favour of renewables technology unless there are overwhelming negative social or environmental impacts.

Delivery and best practice
This measure would be delivered through the Local Development Plan (LDP). Each local authority should have a good knowledge of the Welsh and regional renewable energy resources and national planning policies, including strategic search areas for large windfarms (TAN 8 policy). They should commission local energy resource studies (eg heat maps) to ensure a solid evidence base for the development of proactive policy.

Community-owned schemes should be prioritised as part of the Climate Change Action Plan, and the Local Service Agreement.

The London Plan\textsuperscript{27} contains the best-practice planning policy on renewable energy development – policies (Policy 4A.1 - 4A.7). Research by London South Bank University has assessed the effectiveness of the policy.

Funding options
Section 106 agreements could include provision for renewable energy schemes

WAG grants via the Climate Change Framework of the European Structural Funds programme

Key partners
Builders
Manufacturers
Renewable energy companies
National Grid
Landowners
Forestry Commission
Non-governmental organisations

Powers
The Planning and Energy Act 2008 requires local authorities to consider climate change in development documents, and to ensure a minimum of renewable energy on new development.

LOW CARBON REGIONS IN WALES
A key objective in the Wales Spatial Plan is that all regions should seek to become low carbon regions. The Sustainable Development Commission is currently working on a study defining the concept of a low carbon region and how this can be achieved in the areas of Wales. On the basis of this study the WAG states that each Spatial Plan area will identify how it can move towards becoming a low carbon region. The Assembly Government is also exploring ways in which community groups in large cities can collaborate to develop whole-city low carbon community approaches.

GENERATING CHANGE
The Carmarthenshire Energy Agency was established in 2004 and is now part of Carmarthenshire County Council. The Agency aims to develop sustainable energy projects to combat climate change and boost economic development in the country. The Agency has adopted a ‘seeing is believing’ approach and has delivered a number of community-based demonstration projects in the county including the installation of solar panels on 29 community halls.

Retro-fitting urban areas by district heating schemes

A local authority should start by identifying its area’s indigenous renewable energy resources and other potential for low and zero-carbon energy provision. As well as rural wind, hydro and biomass energy resources there are renewable energy resources in suburban and urban areas which can be harnessed by solar PV and thermal panels, ground and air source heat pumps, larger bore hole heat and geothermal schemes, and in some areas small wind turbines. Authorities and the public should also bear in mind the rising cost and eventual decline of gas (fossil methane) for heating in the coming decades.

The increasing cost and concern about future gas imports and the growing interest in the efficient use of biomass, solar and other renewable sources has meant an increasing interest in district heating in urban areas. District heating schemes are where hot water is piped to consumers along a street by street network of pipes called a heat grid. Modern pipes can be set within the kerb areas of streets. Heat grids are used very effectively in Denmark allowing them to make very efficient use of biomass heat and reject hot water from power stations. More recently, large-scale solar thermal panel arrays, rather than extensive individual roof-top installation schemes, have been directly connected into district heating schemes. Large community-scale solar thermal panel arrays (eg a 8,000 square meter scheme in Braenderup, Denmark) are much more cost effective and quicker to construct and can be coupled with community-scale thermal storage tanks called accumulators. Similarly, cost-effective community-scale ground-source and air-source heat pumps and deeper geothermal schemes could be best facilitated by presence or provision of a local heat grid and community heat stores.

Community-scale CHP schemes and the associated ‘heat grids’ should be part of any community strategy and development plan. As well as providing heat and hot water on demand such infrastructure can provide valuable back-up power generation and energy storage. Heat grids look likely to be key to enabling various ‘urban’ renewable energy resources to be harnessed cost-effectively and with lower local disruption particularly solar thermal, ground and air source. Heat and geothermal energy.

Also, within and or adjacent to a local authority area there may be very significant quantities of reject hot water from either existing or newly consented coal and gas power stations. The reject heat (hot water) from new power stations is likely to become even more valuable in future as by 2025 all stations would probably be fitted with Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) equipment. So the reject heat would be ‘low-carbon’ and could be utilised in urban heat grids with appropriate spatial planning.

Such community-scale heat grids and stores can subsequently link together to form district and potentially city-wide systems greatly adding to the technical and commercial efficiency and flexibility of energy provision from local to national scale. One of the best and simplest examples of a retro-fitted city-wide heat grid is in the Danish city of Odense which supplies hot water to 200,000 people in 80,000 homes via a 1,100 mile pipeline network (see : http://dbdh.dk/images/uploads/pdf-consumer/a-remarkable-system.pdf ).

All potential renewable energy and potential low-carbon heat resources, be they rural, urban and suburban, should be clearly mapped out, consulted on and integrated into the Local Development Plan.
v TRANSPORT: plan to meet an ambitious target to cut car journeys

Description
Road journeys account for about 12% of Wales’s total emissions of carbon dioxide and meaningful cuts in carbon at the local level will require cuts in car use. An ambitious target should be set to reduce the number of car journeys within the local area.

As well as cutting carbon, reducing the number of cars on the roads is vital for local economies. Congestion is estimated to cost the UK economy up to £30 billion a year. There would be health benefits as well – for example, air pollution from traffic is a major trigger of asthma symptoms. Top class public transport systems would benefit people in the lowest income groups, 70 per cent of whom do not have access to a car.

So-called ‘smarter travel’ choices measures, for example, can cut peak-hour traffic levels by over 20 per cent.

This target should be set at an ambitious level, given the context of Government admissions that not enough is being done to reduce CO2 from car journeys. The WAG has issued ‘Smarter Choices’ guidance, has set up the Cardiff Sustainable Travel Town initiative and is looking to develop three more sustainable travel towns.

Delivery and best practice
Each area’s transport challenge is different. Many local factors influence why, how far, and by what means people travel. Different approaches to inspiring people to use their car less may be needed in rural, suburban and urban areas. In Wales, local transport policies are currently being incorporated into four Regional Transport Plans (RTPs) which will replace the former 22 Local Transport Plans (LTPs).

The Welsh Assembly Government requires local authorities to work together in each of the four transport consortia in Wales to produce and deliver the Regional Transport Plans. Unlike the LTPs, the RTPs will be bidding documents for WAG Transport Grant funding and will influence the distribution of EU Convergence funding for transport projects.

There are many examples of schemes that could be combined to reduce car use over the short to longer-term:

- In Wales there are 2 concessionary fare schemes on local bus services. Women and men aged 60 or over and disabled people (and companions) of all ages, who are resident in Wales, are able to travel free on registered local bus services in Wales.
- Smarter travel choices programmes, which provide tailored information on alternatives to car use, have proven successful in making double-digit cuts in CO2 emissions quickly and cheaply.
- Investing in public transport and using new legal powers to insist on minimum standards for bus networks, and boosting facilities for walking and cycling.
- Bringing in low speed limits, car clubs, bus priority measures, parking policies, and possibly road pricing to reduce car usage for unnecessary journeys.
- In the longer term, land use planning can reduce the need to travel to and from new and existing developments.

Funding options
The WAG National Transport Plan will be funded largely from the Welsh Assembly Government’s transport budget.

Partners
Local businesses
Schools, primary care trusts and other public sector operations
Public transport providers
Tourist boards
Community and voluntary sector groups

Powers
The Transport (Wales) Act 2006 required WAG to draw up an overarching transport strategy for the country. Previously WAG had powers to promote public transport, but there was no statutory requirement to promote integrated transport across Wales. The WAG now has responsibility for the road network and local rail network but not the First Great Western and West Coast mainline franchises which remain under the control of central government. The Assembly can also provide financial backing to new transport services, including air services, that meet gaps in commercial provision.

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Partners
Local businesses
Schools, primary care trusts and other public sector operations
Public transport providers
Tourist boards
Community and voluntary sector groups
Description
This policy measure seeks to cut emissions by increasing the use of lower-carbon vehicles – cars, buses and vans. The urgency of climate change means that technology will be only part of the solution, and that local authorities should prioritise policies that change how and how much people travel (see previous page). However, there are opportunities for local authorities to also promote the use of greener vehicles, both in urban and rural areas.

As well as reducing emissions, greener cars can save authorities and citizens money: “If everyone buying a brand new car chose the most fuel efficient car in its class, CO2 emissions from new cars could be reduced by up to 24 per cent and save up to three months worth of fuel per year”. Low-emissions buses could cut carbon emissions from a bus fleet by 40 per cent. Low-carbon vehicles are already with us and the technology is developing quickly. Cars, buses and vans can now be powered by electricity or hybrid technology, and even in standard cars there are big variations in carbon emissions.

Delivery and best practice
Local authorities can encourage the switch to greener vehicles directly through procurement policies, installing (as the technology develops) infrastructure such as electric vehicle charging points or battery exchange stations, and bringing in policies such as parking schemes that reward lower-carbon vehicles. The UK Government has recently announced up to £20 million of funding to stimulate the building of recharging infrastructure. Local authorities can also insist that privately-run bus services in their area meet emissions standards.

Local authorities that wish to stimulate the local market for electric vehicles could do so by, for example, directly providing or encouraging charging points in strategic locations, such as key service centres. This approach makes a charging network as appropriate for a rural authority as an urban. Cumbria County Council estimates that 91 per cent of its 105,590 households can access a key service centre within 30 minutes using public transport. It seems fair to assume that a return trip of these distances would be within the range of an electric car – the average range of which is approximately 50 miles between charges. It may be that similar possibilities exist for rural areas of Wales.

Best practice:
• Differentiated parking charging: LB Richmond
• Use of low-emissions buses: Transport for London
• Demand-responsive ‘dial-a-ride’ Bwcabus service in Carmarthenshire
• Recharging infrastructure: Switzerland is planning an entirely new electric vehicle infrastructure system. Brussels is planning something similar.
• DfT has a £20 million Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme (www.lcvpp.org.uk) demonstrating the use of low-carbon vehicles in the public sector. Local authorities in Liverpool, Newcastle and Gateshead, Coventry, Leeds and Glasgow are part of this trial
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The grant can be used to enhance existing transport schemes, to introduce new services, and to fund the implementation of new community transport services and capital works such as improvement to bus shelters, transport information and enhancing accessibility through the purchase of low floor buses.

The LTSG scheme will enable local authorities in Wales to provide additional bus and other local transport services. A total of £10.8 million in grants will be available to local authorities with the grant not being counted as part of an authority’s budget requirement for capping purposes.

Cars and vans: Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme.

Negotiations with private companies, car park owners and the street electricity supplier to sponsor car charging points or S106 agreement for new developments.

Key partners
Public transport providers
Car and van industries
Welsh Assembly Government
Utility companies
Large retailers and car park owners (for charging points)

Powers
Under the Local Transport Act 2008, local authorities can specify minimum emissions standards from privately-run buses when bringing in quality partnerships or contracts.

The EU has recently passed a Directive on the procurement of green vehicles. This requires public authorities, including local councils, to take energy and environmental criteria into account when buying or specifying vehicles. It will be transposed into law in the UK in autumn 2010.
5. HOW TO BE A LOW-CARBON COUNCIL

Each local authority will choose its own path to cut carbon emissions. What is vital is that action starts now across the whole authority and that the outcome is a 40 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions in the local authority area by 2020. As a guide to progress, a good low-carbon community will be achieving the following by 2010:

- Corporate Climate Change Action Plan with 40 per cent reduction target for the local authority area by 2020.
- Meeting or exceeding renewable energy targets set by the Welsh Assembly Government.
- A lead council member for climate change.
- Implementation of policy measures in each sector – housing, energy and transport.
- Climate change communications strategy launched.

6. CONCLUSION

Action on climate change is vital for the future of the planet but it also makes good business, social and political sense. Local communities should be at heart of building a low-carbon economy that offers a fair and sustainable life for all.

The vision of a low-carbon community is no long-term aspiration; it is a real and pragmatic solution to existing problems. Realising this vision is no longer a matter of technical barriers; it is a matter of personal and political will to deliver change.
Friends of the Earth’s Get Serious About CO2 campaign was developed because local government and community action are vital in tackling climate change.

Achieving a serious reduction in emissions requires public support and political leadership. Between 2005 and 2008 some 200,000 people supported Friends of the Earth’s Big Ask campaign for a Climate Change Act. Now people across the country will be putting pressure on their councils to get serious about cutting emissions locally.

Alongside the Get Serious About CO2 campaign, Friends of the Earth is working with our international partners towards a strong and just global agreement on climate change, while also pressing Governments to address one of the biggest contributors to climate-changing emissions, the global food system.

The Get Serious About CO2 campaign is calling for:

1. Local councils to contribute to achieving the Assembly’s agreement to cut carbon emissions in Wales 40 per cent by 2020, by committing to cut carbon emissions in their area by at least 40 per cent by 2020, and produce climate change action plans to show how the cuts will be made.

2. More money and support for councils to take local actions to cut carbon, such as fitting green energy, insulating homes and improving public transport.

3. Support for a new requirement on all local councils to take action to cut their emissions.
DIRECTORY

Association for the Conservation of Energy
www.ukace.org
ACE works to reduce energy demand to ensure a secure and sustainable energy future by lobbying for consistent policy, legislation and targets and by working to raise a positive awareness of energy conservation and encourage increased investment in all energy saving measures.

The British Wind Energy Association
www.bwea.com
BWEA is the UK’s leading renewable energy body. Its primary purpose is to promote the use of wind, wave and tidal power in and around the UK. Its website provides information about wind capacity, technologies, installed projects, suppliers and policies.

Building Research Establishment Wales
www.bre.co.uk/wales
BRE Wales is a multi-disciplinary team providing sustainable building consultancy and research throughout Wales.

Carbon Trust
www.carbontrust.org.uk
The Trust exists to help businesses and other organisations cut their carbon emissions. The Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACM) gives councils technical and management support to achieve carbon emissions savings. The primary focus of the work is to reduce emissions under the control of the local authority such as buildings, vehicle fleets, street lighting and landfill sites.

Centre for Alternative Technology
www.cat.org.uk
CAT demonstrates practical solutions to problems such as climate change, pollution and the waste of precious resources and aims to address every aspect of the average lifestyle - renewable energy, environmental building, energy efficiency, organic growing and alternative sewage systems. It provides training including low-carbon residential courses, information and consultancy.

Combined Heat and Power Association
www.chpa.co.uk
The Combined Heat and Power Association promotes the wider use of combined heat and power and community heating. The website has case studies, reports and news items. Free calculator for calculating benefits of CHP available via the CHPA website or at http://www.stilwell-ltd.co.uk/html/bulletin

DECC
Department for Energy and Climate Change
www.decc.gov.uk
DECC is responsible for strategic aspects of UK energy policy, and for tackling global climate change. This includes: working to achieve an international agreement on climate change; ensuring that our energy supplies are secure and diverse; and moving towards a low-carbon economy, through carbon budgets and other mechanisms.

DEFRA
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
www.defra.gov.uk
The DEFRA website holds the datasets on CO2 emissions by local authority area. The department is also responsible for aspects of climate adaptation, flooding and water management, water quality, air quality, agriculture and food, and biodiversity that are not already devolved to Wales.

DFT
Department for Transport
www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ (regional and local pages)
DFT is ultimately responsible for all aspects of UK transport policy, even though many aspects are devolved to the national, regional or local level. They have a specific section on their site (above) with information about local and regional transport.

Energy4All
www.energy4all.co.uk
This is the leading organisation promoting community-owned renewable energy projects. This can include communities buying into commercial projects, and wholly-community led projects.

Energy Saving Trust
www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
Provides advice and support to individuals, companies and public bodies including local authorities, consisting of practical help advice line for council housing and housing associations backed up by good FAQ database on “what carbon emissions saving do I get if…”, plus a one-to-one support programme for local authorities. Also provides Energy Services Support where local authorities can get up to two days free consultancy from Impetus on energy services.

Energy Efficiency Partnership for Housing
www.eeph.org.uk
The partnership brings together people from national and local government, housing bodies and the private sector. The website holds a series of useful reports on particular technologies and issues. The working groups look at particular issues and produce their own reports.

Existing Homes Alliance
www.existinghomesalliance.org
The Existing Homes Alliance is a coalition of organisations working to transform the UK’s existing housing stock in line with the UK’s need to cut carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. It works with banks, builders, energy utilities, suppliers, social housing managers, homeowners, landlords, and with government, to develop a programme of radical low carbon refurbishment.
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
www.iclei.org
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of over 1,077 local and regional governments that have made a commitment to sustainable development. It provides technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local government in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level.

IDEA – Improvement and development Agency
www.idea.gov.uk
Provides guidance and training to local authorities on climate change, particularly on leadership and process.

Local Government Association
www.lga.gov.uk
The LGA is the voice of local government on a UK level. The LGA’s Small Change Big Difference campaign, launched in March 2008, encourages councils to do more to tackle climate change and decision makers and the public to see councils as central to the solution.

National Energy Action
www.nea.org.uk
NEA promotes energy efficiency services to tackle the heating and insulation problems of low-income households. It works in partnership with government, fuel utilities, housing providers and health services, consumer organisations to eradicate fuel poverty and secure greater investment in energy efficiency to help those who are poor or vulnerable.

Partnerships for Renewables
www.pfr.co.uk
Partnerships for Renewables helps public sector bodies to plan, develop, construct and operate wind and other renewable energy projects on their own land and buildings. It aims to deliver 500 megawatts of clean, green electricity, over the next 5 - 8 years, on public sector land.

Planning Aid Wales
www.planningaidwales.org.uk
Planning Aid Wales is an independent registered charity who provide free, professional and impartial advice and support on all aspects of land use planning in Wales through a Wales-wide network of volunteers. They also prepare factsheets for Councillors and are currently preparing further training materials.

Renewable Energy Association
www.r-e-a.net
The Renewable Energy Association represents British renewable energy producers and promotes the use of sustainable energy in the UK.

Sustrans
www.sustrans.org.uk
Sustrans works on practical projects at local level, such as the National Cycle Network.

Town and Country Planning Association
www.tcpa.org.uk
The Town and Country Planning Association seeks to reform the UK’s planning system to promote sustainable development and make it more responsive to people’s needs and aspirations.

Transition Towns
www.transitiontowns.org
Transition Towns are community initiatives to develop community defined, community implemented 15-20 year “Energy Descent Action Plans” to address peak oil and climate change. The plans should comprise a “coordinated range of projects across all these areas of life that strives to rebuild the resilience we’ve lost as a result of cheap oil and reduce the community’s carbon emissions drastically.”

UK Climate Impacts Programme
www.ukcip.org.uk
UKCIP provides research on the likely impacts of climate change on each region of the UK, including construction, working practices, demand for goods and services, biodiversity, service delivery, health; and advice on adaptation including an on-line climate adaptation tool.

Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)
This is the WAG Department responsible for local government organization, policy and finance in Wales.

Department for the Economy and Transport - www.wales.gov.uk/about/department/dein
Responsible for an overall transport strategy and plan for Wales, Green Jobs and the labour market

Welsh Assembly Government
Department for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing - www.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/desh
Responsible for Wales-wide policies on planning, energy, housing and fuel poverty, waste, climate change and overarching responsibility for sustainable development.

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)
www.wlga.gov.uk
The WLGA represents the interests of local government and promotes local democracy in Wales. The WLGA’s primary purposes are to promote better local government and its reputation and to support authorities in the development of policies and priorities which will improve public services and democracy.

And last but not least
www.foe.co.uk, www.foecymru.co.uk and www.getseriousaboutco2.org
These sites will carry regular updates on the campaign, published research, and technical briefings on policy areas including housing, transport and energy.
REFERENCES


4 Bertoldi, European Commission DG JRC, presentation to EEDAL Conference 2006.


6 Deutsche Bank Group, Investing in Climate Change 2009: Necessity and opportunity in turbulent times, October 2008 www.policypointers.org

7 ‘One Wales – an agreement between the Labour and Plaid Cymru Groups in the National Assembly’, June 2007 http://wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/1wales/?lang=en

8 Environmental Audit Committee, November 2008, www.parliament.uk


11 Environmental Audit Committee, Climate change and local, regional and devolved government, Eighth report of session 2007-08, November 2008 www.parliament.uk


14 Freiburg-im-Breisgau, Germany www.freiburg.de

15 Three quarters of the public think that councils have a key role in tackling climate change. ComRes opinion poll commissioned by the Local Government Association, 2008 www.lga.gov.uk/lga/ao/085168

16 Section of Wales Act (2006), section 79 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060032_en_6#pt2-pb5-11g79

17 Climate change strategy – programme of action consultation, Dutch Assembly Government, June 2009


20 ‘The Economic costs of road traffic congestion’ – Goodwin (2004, UCL) eprints.ucl.ac.uk/1259/

21 Wales Programme for Improvement http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/partnership/programme/impmbwp/pageid=111283

22 CERT Funding for Local Authorities briefing www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Media/Business-and-Public-Sector-Media/LA-HA-publications/CERT-briefing-note


24 Housing Health and Safety Rating System www.communities.gov.uk/hhsrs

25 Low Carbon Buildings Programme www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk


27 The London Plan, www.london.gov.uk

28 For example, Nottingham City Council estimates that congestion costs the East Midlands economy £935 million, £430 million of this in incurred by businesses in the region – and on local road networks in Nottingham the direct annual economic cost of delay is estimated at £160m. www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4509


30 www.asthma.org.uk/news_media/media_releases/asthma_uk_comment_13.html

31 www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/smarterchoices/ctwwt/

32 www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8282978&aspect=full
Unchecked, national car traffic levels are predicted to increase by up to 32% by 2025 with current policy. DfT: “It is clear that transport will need to contribute further towards achieving the Government’s ambitious CO2 targets. The CO2 forecasts set out in this document should be seen as an interim baseline. The Government will outline its policies and proposals to meet carbon budgets in mid 2009. As part of this, we will be developing a strategy for delivering a greater contribution from transport. We will look to incorporate this strategy in our models and can then expect to see these CO2 forecasts reduce.”

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/roadtransportforecasts08/rtf08.pdf

Three model ‘sustainable travel towns’ – Darlington, Peterborough and Worcester – used smarter choices techniques to reduce car use by an average 12% in two years. www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/demonstrationtowns/lettersustainabletraveltowns.pdf

DfT’s guidance on local transport plans contains more information www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/guidance/

campaigns.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home/on-the-move/buying-your-car.html

“The wide spread roll-out and uptake of Electric Vehicles and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles after 2014 would require increased consumer confidence and education; improvements in battery performance and cost; charging infrastructure which keeps pace with demand; and stimulation of the market through appropriate incentives which encourage the uptake of low carbon vehicles. Without these a ‘Business as Usual’ scenario would prevail.”


www.cumbriastrategicpartnership.org.uk/elibrary/view.asp?id=2027658

www.lowcvp.org.uk

www.richmond.gov.uk/home/transport_and_streets/motor_vehicles_roads_and_parking/parking/car_parking_permits/vehicle_banding_for_parking_permits_explained.htm


Local Transport Service Grant of £10.8m announced in July 2009 and a £1m, Bus Revenue Grant for innovative services

According to PTEG, “PTEs have the power to regulate the emissions performance of tendered services including subsidised services, educational contracts and other specialised contracts” See http://www.pteg.net/NR/rdonlyres/601B04E7-2FD2-4245-94FF-6B4F74F2361E/0/PTEG_busttrreportv13final.pdf section 2.4.2
This report has been prepared for local government officers and members as part of Friends of the Earth’s Get Serious About CO2 campaign. It is based on independent research, expert advice, and Friends of the Earth’s own work with local government.

The report sets out the scientific and economic case for local authorities to take action on climate change. It explores the kinds of political and cultural changes that are often needed within local government for effective action to take place. The policy approach sets out a tried and tested method that should enable authorities to act across all sectors. Using examples of good practice already happening in some areas, the report demonstrates what local authorities can do now — specifically in housing, energy and transport.

“Tackling climate change must be at the centre of local government’s vision for their communities. It is not another priority amongst the many that compete for local government leaders’ attention. It is now clear from the evidence that it is the single priority which overrides all others, now and for the foreseeable future.”

Local Government Association’s climate change commission 2007

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