

Waverley Borough Council

Climate Change Action Plan

What is climate change?

Climate change is about changes in average weather patterns, such as rainfall, temperature and wind, occurring over a long period of time. The Earth's climate is constantly changing due to a variety of natural causes. However, scientists have found that, in recent years, average climate temperature has risen far faster than would occur because of natural causes; they therefore conclude that this recent change in climate is man-made.

Climate change is already occurring. Many of us can remember winter snowfalls that now rarely occur and have seen Spring appearing to come earlier every year. Globally, the ten hottest years on record have all been since 1990. The exact amount of warming that will occur in global temperatures over the next few decades is not precisely known; according to the UK Government (2006) scientific models show that temperatures could increase from anything between 1.4 to 5.8°C by 2100, depending on a variety of factors.

Scientists believe that the main human influence on climate is likely to be emissions of greenhouse gases, such as methane and carbon dioxide (CO₂). The amount of greenhouse gases emitted is likely to have an impact on the level of temperature warming experienced globally over the next few decades.

Burning coal, oil and gas for energy - to power our homes, businesses and cars - is one of the main causes for the high levels of carbon dioxide emissions.

How will climate change impact on us?

Here in Waverley, climate change is likely to result in warmer average temperatures, so drier summers, wetter winters and less snow. Drought and flooding could therefore become more likely. There may also be impacts on local wildlife. Both positive and negative impacts on human health are likely.

Problems experienced elsewhere around the globe are predicted to include flooding from global sea level rise, drought, food and water shortages, the spread of disease, loss of wildlife, the possible melting of the polar ice caps and higher frequency of storms and other extreme weather events.

The costs to society, the economy and the environment from climate change could be enormous.

What action is Waverley taking?

We all have a part to play in addressing the causes of and threats from climate change; local people, local schools and local businesses, as well as Governments and international organisations, need to be taking action.

Waverley Borough Council confirmed its commitment to addressing climate change by signing the **Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change** on 21st July 2006.

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/susdev/climate.asp for further details)

The Council has reviewed its policies and actions in order to meet the following aims:

- to minimise the Council's contribution to climate change; and
- to be ready for the possible impacts that climate change may have on the Borough.

This document, agreed by the Council's Executive on 11th July 2006, draws together the many actions Waverley Borough Council is already taking and planning to undertake to meet these aims, and shows how the Council is making a contribution towards achieving UK climate change targets.

Waverley's Climate Change Action Plan forms part of WISE, Waverley's Initiative for a Sustainable Environment, the Council's sustainability programme for the Borough.

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/susdev for further details)



Action Plan

Existing housing

OBJECTIVE: To minimise the climate change impacts associated with the 48,500 existing housing properties in the Borough

ACTION 1: Improving the energy efficiency of existing Council-owned housing properties

Waverley is continuing to upgrade the energy efficiency of the Borough's council-owned housing, saving residents money on their heating bills in the process and helping to reduce fuel poverty¹. The average SAP rating² for Council housing properties is 67.86 out of 120 (last assessed in March 2005). The Housing Department have been working with the Energy Saving Trust to develop new specifications for our refurbishment building work, upgrading the energy efficiency requirements.

Energy efficiency improvements

All Waverley's existing housing properties have now had improved levels of insulation installed, including cavity wall and solid wall insulation. £250,000 is being spent between 2006 and 2009 to upgrade remaining properties requiring roof insulation. Inefficient boilers are being replaced over the next few years with more efficient condensing versions.

ACTION 2: Microgeneration technologies, including renewables, to power Council housing properties

Waverley is currently investigating options for installing microgeneration technologies, including renewables, to power Council housing properties, particularly in rural areas. Options under investigation include heat pumps, solar and domestic wind turbines. Possibilities for obtaining grants to assist with costs will also be researched.

Eco Homes in Haslemere

All the houses built on Waverley's 2005 re-development of the former Kiln Fields estate in Haslemere were constructed to BRE Eco Homes standard 'Very Good'. Two houses were constructed to the higher 'Excellent' standard and had water-efficient spray taps, high levels of insulation and solar hot-water heating panels installed, amongst other measures. Many of the eco-features included in the houses could be installed into most existing homes.

¹ A household is in fuel poverty if in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime it would be required to spend more than 10% of its income (including Housing Benefit or Income Support for Mortgage Interest) on all household fuel use (UK Government, 2006).

² The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is the Government's recommended system for home energy rating. The 2001 version used to calculate Waverley's SAP rating takes into account a range of factors that contribute to energy efficiency including: thermal insulation of the building fabric, ventilation characteristics of the dwelling, efficiency and control of the heating systems, solar gain characteristics of the dwelling, and the fuel used to provide space and water heating.

ACTION 3: Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) target

Waverley is working towards meeting the target set in the Act which seeks 30.4% improvement in energy efficiency in residential accommodation from 1996 to 2011. According to the Government Office for the South East (GOSE), Waverley is currently moving in the right direction to meet that target. Many of the actions contained in this Action Plan will contribute to reaching that target.

ACTION 4: Water use minimisation in residential properties

Waverley has been promoting a reduced cost water butt offer from Blackwall and Thames Water to local residents throughout 2006. 450 were sold by Blackwall between the end of February and mid-May 2006. Waverley also provides information about water use reduction via the Council's website.

ACTION 5: Grants for energy efficiency improvements and installation of renewables

Waverley works in partnership with the local Energy Advice Centre to provide advice to local residents on relevant grants that they may be entitled to which will help them to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions associated with energy use in the home. Waverley also provides Home Improvement Grants for some energy efficiency improvements in the homes of Waverley residents on low incomes who do not qualify for other grant schemes³. Waverley will investigate the potential of supplying information on available renewables grants to planning applicants where relevant to the application.

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/susdev/energy.asp for further details)

New development

OBJECTIVE: To use Waverley's Planning and Building Control functions and work with Housing Associations to minimise the climate change impacts associated with the 215 new homes⁴ and other new developments built in the Borough each year

ACTION 6: Enforcing Building Regulations

Waverley's Building Control section will continue to enforce the building regulations set out by Government. Revised energy efficiency standards for new buildings were issued in 2006, such that new homes will now be 40% more efficient than under the pre-2002 regulations⁵, thereby using less energy, which tends to be produced from carbon dioxide generating fossil fuels.

³ This grant only applies to privately owned housing and not to Council housing properties.

⁴ Approximate figure from Planning Policy calculations

⁵ UK Government calculation (2006)

ACTION 7: Code for Sustainable Homes

Once published, Waverley will look at how to make best use of the Government's forthcoming Code for Sustainable Homes, which builds on the Eco Homes concept⁶. The Code sets higher standards for energy and water efficiency than the current building regulations and will provide information and advice to householders on the sustainability and running costs of their homes.

ACTION 8: Improving energy efficiency, water efficiency and water drainage standards of new-build housing association homes

Waverley works with Housing Associations to develop new housing properties for people on the Council's housing register and for shared ownership. Under Housing Corporation funding rules, these must now be built to the Building Research Establishment's Eco Homes standard 'Very Good', which includes installing energy and water efficiency measures and sustainable urban drainage systems. According to the UK Government, Eco Homes standard 'Very Good' is likely to equate to Level Three of the forthcoming Code for Sustainable Homes⁷.

ACTION 9: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal of planning policy

Waverley is now required under UK and European law⁸ to undertake a strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal of its planning policies as they are developed. The process includes assessing policies against climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives to ensure that these issues are taken into account in planning policy development.

ACTION 10: Reducing the contribution to climate change associated with new development in the Borough through the use of planning policy

Waverley's current Local Plan contains policies on energy conservation in new developments, on renewable energy and on encouraging non-car modes of travel, all of which will contribute to reducing the carbon dioxide emissions associated with new developments. The Council's Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Submission Draft) contains a policy directly requiring development proposals to include measures to address the issue of climate change, including factors such as renewable energy and the provision of recycling facilities⁹, and a policy on managing travel demand and widening travel choice to encourage alternative modes of transport to the car, such as cycling and walking. The Council has also worked in partnership with the Waverley Cycling Forum to develop a Cycle Plan which aims to increase levels of cycling in the Borough.

⁶ Eco Homes was developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE)

⁷ UK Government (2005) - Proposals for Introducing a Code for Sustainable Homes - A Consultation Paper

⁸ Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (requirement for sustainability appraisals) and European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment" (the 'SEA Directive'), transposed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

⁹ This helps to avoid the methane production associated with sending the biodegradable element of household waste to landfill

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/planningpolicy for further details)

ACTION 11: Taking into account possible impacts from climate change through planning policy

Waverley's current Local Plan contains policies on water conservation, drainage and building in the flood plain, which will help to address the possible drought and flooding impacts associated with climate change. The Council's Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Submission Draft) contains a policy on flood defences, drainage and building in flood plains, and a policy directly requiring development proposals to include measures to address the issue of climate change, including factors such as water management.

ACTION 12: Surrey Structure Plan 10% renewables target

Policy SE2 of the Surrey Structure Plan (2004) states that 'commercial and residential development should be designed such that a minimum of 10% of the energy requirement is provided by renewable resources'. Waverley is currently working with other authorities in Surrey to develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on renewables which includes a toolkit for developers to measure the contribution to that target. Waverley is also working in partnership with other Surrey authorities to investigate the possibility of introducing a renewables target higher than 10%. The draft South East Plan also contains policies on energy efficiency and renewables.

ACTION 13: Detailed policy on sustainable construction and microgeneration

Waverley is currently working with other authorities in Surrey to develop common approaches, including Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), on sustainable construction and microgeneration¹⁰ / renewables, in order to improve the climate change impacts associated with development in the Borough. The Surrey Design guide, which includes sections on energy and water efficiency, has already been adopted by the Council and now forms a Supplementary Planning Document.

ACTION 14: Travel plans

Travel plans are required for new developments where appropriate, according to factors such as whether the use of the development is likely to cause additional traffic movements. These aim to reduce the need to use the private car and promote alternative forms of transport, thereby helping to minimise the carbon dioxide emissions associated with new developments.

ACTION 15: Waverley Design Awards

Waverley will continue to run the bi-annual Waverley Design Awards which have a Sustainable Design section that rewards sustainably designed developments, including climate change related features.

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/planningpolicy/awards.asp for further details)

¹⁰ Microgeneration is the production of heat or electricity on a small scale from a low carbon source, for example using ground source heat pumps, micro wind turbines, bio-energy crops or solar.

Countryside management and landscape

OBJECTIVE: To minimise the negative climate change impacts associated with Waverley's countryside management and landscaping activities and enhance positive contributions to mitigation and adaptation

ACTION 16: Managing trees

Waverley's continuing management of the countryside for which it has responsibility is preserving and enhancing an important absorber and store of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide - trees.

ACTION 17: Disposal of tree management waste

Most of Waverley's tree waste from its countryside management and landscaping activities is left on sites as habitats and some is sent for composting, but a tiny amount of brash is currently burned, generating carbon dioxide. Waverley is always looking at alternative ways of disposing of the waste generated from its countryside management activities.

Woodfuel project

Many of the woodlands in the Borough are not being actively managed, in part because of the economic challenges of doing so. Waverley Borough Council is working in partnership with the Surrey Hills Woodfuel Group, a DEFRA funded consortium of local organisations seeking to encourage local production of wood as a fuel and its use in sustainable heat projects. The project includes the potential for renewable biomass fuel to be made from Waverley's woodland management tree waste, thereby recycling this waste product and producing an alternative to climate-damaging fossil fuels. This woodfuel project may also be able to assist in subsidising the costs of woodland management, making it more economically viable. The group has already begun to identify several sites where sustainable wood heating could be applied, from public buildings to domestic scale.

ACTION 18: Minimise water use

The Council uses mulch in landscaping work to both suppress weeds and help with water retention.

ACTION 19: Wildlife corridors

Climate change may have a negative impact on wildlife habitats. Waverley is actively working in partnership with other organisations to create wildlife corridors, joining up habitats, including the land Waverley manages, to allow the natural migration of wildlife.

Household waste management and recycling services

OBJECTIVE: To minimise the production of methane and carbon dioxide from household waste management activity in the Borough

ACTION 20: Provide alternatives to landfill for biodegradable waste

Methane is a significant greenhouse gas associated with climate change. Waverley's household waste and recycling policies help to minimise the amount of biodegradable waste reaching landfill and therefore the methane produced when it rots, by:

- diverting paper from landfill through the provision of a doorstep recycling scheme;
- diverting cardboard from landfill through the provision of bring-site banks;
- diverting garden waste from landfill through encouraging home composting and providing a doorstep garden waste collection scheme;
- diverting green kitchen waste, such as fruit and vegetable peelings, from landfill through encouraging home composting; and
- putting in place a single-bin policy and an alternate weekly collection system which encourages use of the recycling schemes and reduces the overall amount of waste going to landfill.

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/recycling for further details)

ACTION 21: Minimise refuse vehicle movements

Waverley's new system of alternate weekly collections reduces the number of vehicle movements required for domestic refuse collections, thereby also reducing associated carbon dioxide emissions from the diesel-powered refuse lorries.

Sustainable Community Planning

OBJECTIVE: To work through the Local Strategic Partnership for Waverley to minimise the climate change impacts arising from activities within the Borough

ACTION 22: Working in partnership through the LSP and Sustainable Community Strategy to address climate change issues

Waverley's Community Strategy was developed by the Local Strategic Partnership, which includes representatives from the local police, health and voluntary services, the County Council and Waverley Borough Council. The current Strategy document contains several actions which relate to climate change, including 'make alternatives to using the car more attractive and convenient', 'protect the environment by reducing the adverse impact of traffic' and 'promote waste minimisation and increase recycling'¹¹. Waverley will promote to the LSP that further actions on

¹¹ See also Actions 10 (planning) and 20 (recycling and composting)

climate change be included in the Community Strategy when it is next reviewed.

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/lsp for further details)

Emergency planning

OBJECTIVE: To ensure that the Council is ready to assist with any emergencies that result from the impacts of climate change

ACTION 23: Working in partnership to be prepared for climate change emergencies

Waverley works in partnership with various organisations, including other Surrey Boroughs and Districts, the County Council, Regional Government, Police, Fire, Ambulance and Health services, Armed services and the Environment Agency, through the Surrey Local Resilience Forum to have plans in place to deal with emergencies of all kinds, including those that might result from climate change, such as drought and flooding.

(See www.surreyalert.info for further details)

Facilities management

OBJECTIVE: To reduce the climate change impacts associated with Waverley's own offices and other non-housing Council properties

ACTION 24: Monitoring energy and water use in Waverley's offices

Waverley is currently establishing systems for actively monitoring the amount of electricity, gas and water being used in the Council offices. This will enable the Council to more easily identify further ways to reduce energy and water use in the Council's offices.

ACTION 25: Improving energy and water efficiency

Waverley has already put in place several energy and water efficiency measures in the main Council office building in Godalming. The Council will undertake a review of action already taken and investigate ways of further improving the energy and water efficiency of the main office building.

Installation of energy and water efficiency measures

Several technologies have already been installed into Waverley's main offices in Godalming. These include roofing insulation, reduced flush urinals and energy efficient lighting. Traditional CRT computer monitors are also being replaced with LCD versions, which are more energy efficient, as computer upgrades take place.

ACTION 26: Microgeneration / renewables

According to the UK Government (2006), the energy supply sector is the biggest single contributor to the UK's carbon dioxide emissions. During 2006, Waverley will therefore research the options for installing microgeneration (including renewables) technologies into Waverley's Council office buildings. Such projects are likely to become more cost-effective as fossil fuel prices (gas and electricity) continue to rise.

ACTION 27: Renewables and energy efficiency measures in other Council properties

Waverley will investigate options for installing renewable energy generation technologies and energy efficiency measures in Waverley's non-housing and non-office properties, such as leisure and countryside facilities, whenever the opportunity arises.

ACTION 28: Green electricity tariff

Waverley's objective is to purchase all electricity, further to any that is generated on site, for the Council's main office building from 100% renewable energy tariff. This also enables the Council to be exempt from paying the Climate Change Levy which businesses (including Councils for their office buildings) have to pay on fossil-fuel generated electricity and on gas.

ACTION 29: Monitoring and increasing the percentage of Waverley's office waste that is recycled

Waverley already has facilities within its own offices to recycle some of the biodegradable office waste generated, particularly office paper, newspapers and cardboard, which would produce methane as they degrade if they were sent to landfill for disposal. The Council will put in place systems for monitoring Waverley's office waste, review action already taken and endeavour to increase the percentage of it that is recycled.

Procurement

OBJECTIVE: To minimise the negative climate change impacts associated with Waverley's purchasing activity

ACTION 30: Procurement Strategy and staff guidance

Waverley's Procurement Strategy and associated purchasing guidance for staff already contains provisions promoting the consideration of environmental issues, such as energy and water efficiency, in procurement. These provisions will be reviewed to ensure that climate change issues are adequately addressed. Joint procurement activities will also be examined, which may result in reduced carbon emissions; these can possibly include, into the future, the specification in service procurement contracts of bio-fuelled vehicles across the whole of Surrey.

ACTION 31: Recycled paper

Trees absorb and store carbon dioxide, thereby making a positive contribution to mitigating climate change. Use of recycled paper reduces the need to cut down trees for paper production and provides a market for the paper that has been diverted from landfill through recycling schemes, thereby avoiding associated methane production from biodegradable paper rotting in landfill. Recycled paper also takes less energy to manufacture than virgin paper; less energy used means less associated carbon dioxide generation¹². 98% of Waverley's in-house printing and photocopying is already on recycled paper; recycled paper is also provided in Council committee rooms. Waverley will put in place a recycled paper policy which also covers external print works and seek to eliminate the remaining small amount of non-recycled paper purchased for internal printing and copying.

Staff and visitor transport

OBJECTIVE: To minimise carbon dioxide emissions associated with staff and visitor transport

ACTION 32: Waverley's Company Transport plan

Waverley's Company Transport Plan, TravelWISE, aims to minimise the journeys made on Council business and by visitors and encourage the use of more environmentally friendly forms of transport by visitors and staff. Waverley will review and update TravelWISE to further minimise the Council's transport related impacts, including investigating the potential of hybrid vehicles for the Council.

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/susdev/travelwise.asp for further details)

ACTION 33: LPG vans

Waverley purchased two LPG dual fuel vans for use for use by our animal control officers. LPG (liquid petroleum gas) gives a 10-15% carbon dioxide reduction in comparison to petrol and is on a par with diesel. LPG also delivers 80% lower nitrous oxide emissions than diesel, along with zero particulate emissions¹³.

ACTION 34: Information and services on Waverley's website

The availability of information and services via Waverley's website reduces the need for residents to visit the Council offices, thereby reducing travel-associated carbon dioxide emissions. Waverley will continue to provide as much relevant information and as many services as possible via the Council website.

¹² Most UK energy comes from fossil fuels, particularly natural gas

¹³ All figures are provided by the Energy Saving Trust

Promoting climate change issues

OBJECTIVE: To raise awareness of climate change, its causes, likely effects and how to adapt to the changing climate with the public and organisations throughout the Borough

ACTION 35: Raising awareness of climate change

There is a climate change webpage on the Council's website which provides information on climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy and water efficiency, together with further details about the action the Council is taking on climate change. The issue of climate change is also raised as part of other Council promotional activities on water efficiency, energy efficiency and renewables (see Action 36 below).

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/susdev/climate.asp for further details)

ACTION 36: Promoting water efficiency, energy efficiency and renewables to local residents

Waverley continues to publicise relevant services and grants offered to residents by external groups, including from the Government-funded Energy Saving Trust; promotions take place via displays, events, press articles and information on Waverley's website. Waverley will also investigate the potential of supplying information on climate change, water efficiency, energy efficiency, renewables and available grants to planning applicants where relevant to the application.

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/susdev/living.asp for further details)

Wey To Go community website - www.weytogo.org.uk

Waverley has been supporting local residents in their development of the Wey To Go community website which provides local information about leading more sustainable lifestyles and stories about changes local people have already made. The website, launched in European Green Week at the beginning of June 2006, is written and run by local people for local people. Subjects covered include energy and water efficiency and renewable energy.

ACTION 37: Promotion of the Eco Schools scheme

Waverley will continue to promote the international Eco Schools scheme to local schools, which encourages schools to look at how they can minimise their environmental impacts, including from energy use and transport; taking such action helps schools to reduce their contribution to climate change.

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/susdev/ecoschools.asp for further details)

ACTION 38: Promotion of water efficiency, energy efficiency and renewables to local businesses

Waverley will continue to work in partnership with others, such as the Carbon Trust and the Surrey Economic Partnership's Sustainable Business

Programme, to promote climate change issues to local businesses and the related services and grants available to them through external organisations.

(See www.waverley.gov.uk/susdev/business.asp for further details)

ACTION 39: Promotion of energy and water efficiency to Council staff

Waverley will continue to promote energy and water efficiency to staff through a variety of promotional activities and the staff induction programme, including 'lights off' campaigns and reminding staff not to leave computers on standby.

ACTION 40: New opportunities for promotional activities

Waverley will look for new ways to further promote climate change issues to local people, including Council tenants, local schools and local businesses in the Borough.

Monitoring and reviewing this action plan

This plan will be reviewed in 12 to 18 months to enable it to be kept up-to-date and to show our progress over that period. The Council will also consult with the public at that stage to obtain their views on what Waverley has achieved to date and on what action should be taken in future.

Monitoring schemes will be set up, for example to monitor the Council's in-house energy and water use, to enable both the collection of baseline data and the monitoring of change into the future.