

## **A Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan for Thanet for 2009 – 2011**

### **Climate Change**

The effects of climate change are an internationally recognised problem, which are also experienced at a local level. In the South East of England our climate is expected to change considerably over the next 80 years. Greater seasonal variation in climate and changes in the pattern of extreme events are expected, which would have a significant impact on an area such as Thanet whose economy relies heavily on visitor numbers. Not to mention the potential cost of flooding and hurricane force winds, which are predicted to become more frequent.

Over the course of the last ten to fifteen years a range of targets and frameworks have been set to tackle and reduce the effects of climate change. In England the Government has set a target for the reduction of greenhouse gasses of 60% by 2050 and 80% by 2100. This is expressed as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent emissions, although there are many other 'greenhouse' gasses that gather in the atmosphere, affecting the world's weather patterns. Some of these, such as methane, are released from landfill waste, whereas others are emitted from vehicle exhausts.

### **Policy Statement**

Concern for the environment is a high priority for many communities across Kent. Thanet District Council's Corporate Plan includes measures intended to protect the environment by minimising our impact on climate change and securing sustainable development in the future.

Reducing carbon emissions is key to minimising the acceleration of climate change, but this strategy covers the whole spectrum of natural resources that the Council and its employees use, including gas, electric, fuel, water and waste disposal; as well as the services which the Council provides that have an impact on local developments.

As a community leader the Council will aim to lead by example by promoting best practice within the Council's own operations to reduce its carbon emissions and demands on other natural resources. It will work with its communities and partners to promote greater awareness of the implications of climate change; and provide advice and assistance to everyone on sustainable living. By reviewing the services provided by the Council and by working with residents, businesses and visitors to the area, we hope that we can cut down the causes of climate change to bring a better quality of life to communities today and the future.

### **The Strategy**

An approach that focuses on 8 key themes has been developed, which covers all of the significant aspects of council activity that can have an impact on climate change. Each of these is explained in terms of the impact it has, the progress that the Council has made to date, and the approach it intends to make in the future. The delivery of the overarching strategy is supported by a detailed Climate Change Action Plan, which sets out the key actions that will be taken by the Council. This covers direct action to reduce emissions and the demand on natural resources, the mechanisms that will be put in place for ongoing monitoring and review, to ensure that it continues to deliver the desired improvements, and the steps the Council will take to influence its communities and other stakeholders. Since 2007 the Council has had a 'Going Green Group', which comprises officers from a wide range of Council services who are tasked with driving forward the actions within the plan.

## ***Responding to Climate Change – an Action Plan***

### **Key Theme 1 – The Corporate Framework**

In order to deliver its commitment to reduce its demand on natural resources and the carbon footprint of the area, the Council must lead by example and demonstrate good practices. It will also pledge to work with its partners, to influence similar levels of commitment, especially the East Kent Local Strategic Partnership to engage with the wide range of organizations across the East of Kent.

In order to drive forward its commitments to the Climate Change Strategy the Council has established the Going Green Group, who will lead the programme of activities set out in this action plan. The Group will be chaired by a member of the senior management team and will have a membership made up of officers from across all of the Council's services, and an elected member who is chosen to act as the Council's Green Champion. The core purpose of the Group will be to deliver the action plan for this key theme.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Formulate and agree a Climate Change Strategy. [EMI 1 & IA 3.1]	April 2009	Sue McGonigal
Undertake a self assessment against the AC KLoEs Reflect areas for improvement in the Climate Change Action Plan. [IA 3.3] <i>Use as supporting information for draft climate change strategy and action plan.</i>	By Dec 2008, then annually in January of each year.	Justine Swain
Gain organizational support from members and senior officers to drive forward a programme of activity to reduce the area's demand for natural resources and reduce its carbon footprint.	Dec 2009	Sue McGonigal
Obtain relevant best practice guidance documentation to enable a technical library to be set up (see Carbon Trust report for suggested reading list).	Ongoing	Justine Swain
Consider impact of climate change and make appropriate entry in the Council's risk register. [IA 3.4]	Feb 09	Sue McGonigal
Sign up to the Nottingham Declaration. [IA 3.5]	April 2009	Sue McGonigal
Consider options for increasing resources to support delivery of the Climate Change Strategy and associated action plan (particularly staff). [IA 3.6]	Feb 2010	Sue McGonigal
Seek suggestions for use of loan funding from Carbon Trust. [IA 3.8]	April 2009	Justine Swain/Sue McGonigal

Promote the use of appropriate costing techniques to consider the sustainability impact of purchases/projects (including use of whole life costing).[IA 3.9]	Mar 2010	Sarah Martin
Revise format of decision making reports to include reference to environmental impact and consider adopting a positive discrimination policy in favour of green schemes.	April 2009	Ginny Bax/Sue McGonigal
Calculate an estimate of the TDC carbon footprint.	April 2010	Justine Swain/Karen Paton
Review emissions by future contractors. Monitor progress over the life of the contract. [IA 3.11]	Dec 2010	Sue McGonigal/ Karen Paton
Engage with partners to assist with the study of significant CO <sub>2</sub> producers.	Ongoing.	Sue McGonigal/Justine Swain

## Key Theme 2 – The Monitoring Framework

In order to be able to evidence progress being made on environmental improvements and measures to reduce demand on natural resources, the Government has set a number of National Indicators which have been adopted by the Council and, in a number of cases, by The Public Services Board (or Kent Partnership), featuring as part of the suite of 35 KA2 indicators. As they are new, there is currently no baseline data available for most/all of these. Therefore, processes are needed to provide a mechanism for the Council to measure its progress and provide required national performance data.

Action	Timescale	Owner
NI 185 CO <sub>2</sub> reduction from Local Authority operations.	Annually reviewed.	Karen Paton / Sue McGonigal
NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions in the LA area.	Annually reviewed.	Tanya Wenham
NI 187 Tackling fuel poverty % people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating.	Annually reviewed.	Tanya Wenham
NI 188 Planning to adapt to climate change.	Annually reviewed.	Sue McGonigal / Justine Swain

### **Key Theme 3 – Planning and Regulation**

The planning system is an ideal vehicle through which we can work to address issues relating to climate change, and as a result one of the key objectives of the Climate Change Strategy is to promote sustainable development.

The Planning and Regulatory systems implemented by the Council can make a significant contribution to climate change issues. This has been recognised by the government in a number of policy documents and related guidance aimed at the promotion of sustainable development. A “Planning and Climate Change” supplement to Planning Policy Statement No1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) was published in December 2007 and sets out how planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change and take into account the unavoidable consequences.

Planning is central to the delivery of the new homes that are needed in the UK; it supports the business development necessary to create jobs and prosperity; and, enables the delivery of the infrastructure which provides access for everyone to essential transport, energy and water and underpins sustainable communities. In making this contribution to a prosperous economy and to a high quality of life for all, planning has a key role in helping to tackle climate change. There is now a formal duty on Local Authorities to consider the impacts of climate change in developing their Local Development Framework (LDF).

The Council’s adopted and emerging planning policies determine the scale, location and nature of all new development within the District and these have a fundamental impact on travel patterns, total movements and modes of travel. It is government policy to reduce travel overall and to encourage the move to modes of travel other than the private motor vehicle. Designing new development to be pedestrian and cycle friendly, to increase access to and usage of public transport and reduce the reliance on private motor vehicles is fundamental to reducing CO2 emissions.

The Council prepares planning briefs to give guidance on key sites and these will be prepared in line with the latest advice and guidance to ensure the impact of such developments on climate change is minimised.

The planning system also determines the location of development in relation to other issues ensuring that areas subject to flood risk, now and predicted, are avoided (or where essential development is required to require appropriate mitigation) and that sensitive areas such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI’s) are not harmed and that biodiversity is enhanced. The council has carried out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to help inform decision making.

In considering planning applications and in implementation of the Building Regulations a number of new initiatives are being developed to ensure that development is more sustainable and that its carbon footprint is minimised.

The “Code for Sustainable Homes” is a means of driving continuous improvement, greater innovation and exemplary achievement in sustainable home building. It measures the sustainability of new homes within nine categories and uses a 1-6 star rating system to communicate the overall sustainability performance of a new home. The code sets minimum standards for nine categories including energy and water use at each level. Following consultation the government made a code rating mandatory for all developments where a local authority received a building notice, initial notice or full plans application from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008.

The Building Regulations are being progressively tightened to require major reductions in carbon emissions from new homes to get to zero carbon by 2016.

Buildings can be assessed under BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and a number of organisations have minimum standards. For example The Homes and Communities Agency requires all new developments on their land to be rated Good or Excellent under BREEAM.

“Buildings for Life” is the national standard for well designed homes and neighbourhoods. Through the use of 20 criteria it promotes design excellence and celebrates best practice in the house building industry. The process of training a number of planning staff to carry out assessments has commenced. Progress on this will need to be reported in the council’s “Annual Monitoring Report” on the LDF

The Council (along with other Kent Councils) has adopted “Kent Design” as a supplementary planning document for use in determining planning applications. This comprehensive guide incorporates all the main principles of sustainable development and has a key role, alongside the policies in the Local Plan and Local Development Framework, in ensuring that new development is sustainable and makes the least possible impact on the environment. The guide encompasses many elements relating to impact on climate change including the use of SUDS (sustainable drainage systems), passive solar heating, use of landscaping and measures aimed at reducing the use of the private car.

An increase in the use of sustainable building principles can be influenced through the delivery of new affordable housing schemes. Housing associations are at the leading edge of design and quality standards, as detailed in the Homes and Communities Agency Design and Quality Strategy. In order to access funding through the National Affordable Housing Programme, Housing associations are currently required to achieve Level three of The Code for Sustainable Homes in all grant funded schemes.

These higher standards will result in reduced fuel bills and reductions in carbon emissions. There is a greater up front cost for these new homes, which is expected to be reduced over time as new technology is developed.

It is expected that Housing Associations will be required to achieve level four of the Code for Sustainable Homes by 2011.

Air quality is a major factor in assessing climate change issues and tackling some of the causes.

Thanet District Council has been monitoring air pollutants since 1993. In 1997 the Kent Air Quality Partnership – a county wide initiative to pool information, knowledge and data to aid long term planning for the county and to enable pollution trends to be monitored.

The Council has a legal obligation to undertake periodic reviews and assessments of air quality within its area. The quality of the air is judged against national air quality objectives for specified pollutants. Where necessary, Action Plans must be implemented with the aim of improving air quality.

An Air Quality Management Area has been designated along the A28 at The Square, Birchington. A detailed assessment has shown that there is a risk of exceeding air quality objectives for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Fine Particles (PM<sub>10</sub>) in this area. The main source of both of these is from road transport. Up to date information and measurement for Thanet and Kent can be viewed at [www.KentAir.org.uk](http://www.KentAir.org.uk)

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Ensure compliance with the requirements to achieve the current statutory level for new homes within the Code for Sustainable Homes.	April 2009 & Ongoing	Geoff Musk
Promote the use of sustainable building principles in all new developments; and insist on the use of sustainable building principles in all new Council developments.	April 2009 & Ongoing	Simon Thomas/Amber Christou/Colin Fitt/Doug Brown
All new build affordable housing to attain level three of the Code for Sustainable Homes.	April 2009 & Ongoing	Amber Christou
20% of new build affordable housing to attain Level four of the Code for Sustainable Homes.	April 2009 & Ongoing	Amber Christou
Adhere to the principles set out in PPS1 in determining planning applications.	April 2009 & Ongoing	Simon Thomas/Doug Brown
Apply the principles set out in PPS1 in decision making on Local Development Framework policy preparation.	April 2009 & Ongoing	Colin Fitt
Have regard to the advice and guidance in "Kent Design" in all decision making on planning applications.	April 2009 & Ongoing	Simon Thomas/Doug Brown
Work with the Kent & Medway Air Quality Partnership to secure a co-ordinated approach to the monitoring and improvement of air quality in Kent.	April 2009 & Ongoing	Penny Button
Continue to monitor air pollution across the Island.	April 2009 & Ongoing	Penny Button

#### **Key Theme 4 - Energy and Water**

Using energy more carefully, or from alternative sources will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions as well as reduce costs and as a result this theme is key to the climate change strategy.

This theme is as important to Council tenants, as much as it is to the delivery of core services. Recognising the benefits to people's health and quality of life, the Council will strive to make heating more affordable for more Council tenants and to provide warmer, more comfortable homes.

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1996 seeks a 30% improvement in energy efficiency in residential accommodation over a 10 – 15 period; to date Thanet District Council has achieved an improvement 24.7%.

Energy and water procurement is managed and contracted centrally with all energy purchased through our membership of Local Authorities South East Region Energy Buying Group (LASER), which ensures not only economies of scale, but the critical mass necessary to optimise competition from renewable sources within the market. For 2007-2008 in excess of 55% of the Council's Electricity consumption was sourced from renewable sources.

The Council has set up a working group 'The Energy Matters' Project Team which is responsible for delivering a 10% reduction in the Council's energy usage by 2010. Already significant savings in energy usage have been achieved through the replacement of the heating system within the main Cecil Street offices 2005 and cessation of kettle use with installation of centrally located hot water boilers. Further improvements will be achieved as part of an ongoing accommodation strategy. As part of this strategy the Council's office portfolio will be significantly rationalised to locate 70% of staff to the main office at Cecil Street and the opportunity to make further improvements to the efficient operation of the building include future installation of double glazing, improved roofing insulation, lux sensor low energy lighting installed throughout, introduction of waterless urinals and replacement of electrical equipment with 'A' rated energy saving devices i.e. hand driers, refrigerators etc. Energy conservation awareness is seen as critical and staff engagement is managed, co-ordinated and communicated by "green champion" volunteers within the membership of the Energy Matters project, bringing ideas and proposing initiatives i.e. IT server rationalisation, monitoring of out of hours PC usage in order to identify quick win areas where greater energy efficiencies can be achieved.

To provide communities with water a large amount of energy is used moving the water around the networks of pipe, from the source to the end user, as well as in process used to filter and purify the resulting waste. Water efficiency therefore contributes to the Climate Change strategy and the Council will consider the steps it can take to reduce water usage in its own operations, as well as promote an awareness of water conservation in the public and business communities. The Council's water consumption is managed and monitored centrally and with the ability to map trends any peaks in usage are identified early, ensuring leakage is investigated and dealt with promptly. Installation of water saving fittings in the Council's main offices will also contribute to the delivery of this action.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Research the impact of putting Hippos in all toilets [IA 3.14]	TBC – Green Champion Group	Robin Haves
Consider the benefit/cost of providing Hippos to all staff and housing tenants [IA 3.15]	April 2009	Craig George
Monitor energy usage by recording monthly meter readings. Use to learn more about energy usage (e.g. map against outdoor temperature); use to set targets. [EMI 3]	TBC – Green Champion Group	Robin Haves/Linda Taylor
Upgrade building energy management system software & hardware at Cecil Street that is used to monitor and control heating and air handling units [SSO3]	April 2009	William Neech/Robin Haves
Install a metering and electricity purchase management system at Ramsgate Inner Marina [SSO5]	Dec 2010	Dominic Evans
Identify what items of plant are left running overnight (data indicates night time use accounts for 21% of day time energy consumption) [GO 2]	Dec 2009	Green Champion Group /Robin

Action	Timetable	Owner
		Haves/William Neech
Optimise number of lights able to be individually controlled as part of accommodation strategy; and replace lights with energy saving/reduced wattage models where possible [GO3 & SSO1 & IA 3.17]	By Dec 2011	Donna Reed
Use 'Facilities Team Aware' stickers to apply to reported problems, (e.g. leaking taps).	Ongoing.	Robin Haves & Green Champion Group
Fit motion sensors where possible and where advantageous. [GO4 & SSO2 & IA 3.18];	By Dec 2011	Donna Reed
Insert a voltage power optimizer at Ramsgate Inner Marina [SSO4]	March 2010	Robin Haves/Dominic Evans
Monitor PC/monitors overnight running and regularly report on [GO 1 & IA 3.19]	Ongoing.	William Neech/Will Causton & Green Champions Group
Review the number of users using 2 screens [IA 3.20]	Sept 2009	Directors
Pilot different ways to deter staff from changing thermostat settings (e.g. 'Do not touch' sign over the dial, with contact number of who to call if there is a problem). [EMI 2 & IA 3.21]	March 2010	Robin Haves / Hayley Eversfield & Green Champions Group
Consider benefit of core hours in office buildings To reduce heating and lighting requirements [GO 2 & IA 3.22]	March 2010	Karen Paton/Robin Haves
Consider options for meeting schedule to reduce the number of evening meetings. (Impacted on by proposals to move to old town) [GO 2 & IA 3.23]	June 2009	Miles Smith
Undertake feasibility study for improving security at Leopold St car park to enable lighting in the upper floors to be turned off at night. [SSO 6]	March 2010	Robin Chantrill Smith
Improve the energy efficiency of heating systems/boilers as part of the upgrade program in council owned homes	Dec 2030	Madeline Homer
Increase the SAP rating of Council owned homes to 90	April 2016	Madeline Homer
Increase energy efficiency in private sector homes through providing advice and loans to landlords, vulnerable tenants and owner occupiers.	March 2011	Tanya Wenham



Action	Timetable	Owner
Run a promotional campaign to promote more efficient use of energy amongst our tenants – i.e. in ‘Your Say’ tenants newsletters – estate road shows	March 2010	Madeline Homer
Review options for using wind turbines to supplement /provide the Council’s energy [3.24]	Ongoing.	Karen Paton/Robin Haves/Linda Taylor & Green Champion Group
Review grant funding for energy reduction projects through the Energy Savings Trust.	Sept 2009	Karen Paton/Tanya Wenham
Produce an Annual Statement of Energy Use in Cecil St (Gas/Elec) and Inner Marina offices (Elec) in order to set targets for the future.	Ongoing.	Dominic Evans/Robin Haves/Linda Taylor & Green Champion Group

### Key Theme 5 – Waste

Waste is a growing problem which has a direct impact on the production of greenhouse gases. This, and the fact that landfill sites are fast filling up means that the Council needs to act now to find new ways to deal with the waste generated within the district.

Historically, the UK has relied on landfill sites for waste disposal. However, European Directive on the Landfill of Waste (Landfill Directive) has introduced important restrictions on how the UK can dispose of its waste in the future.

Biodegradable waste (e.g. food waste, garden waste, paper and card) causes particular problems in landfill. When this material is sent to landfill it is unable to decompose properly because it is buried under other rubbish and doesn’t have access to air. Instead, methane, a powerful greenhouse gas is produced.

The Landfill Directive has set targets for the progressive reduction of biodegradable waste being sent for disposal in landfill compared with the tonnage in 1995. The targets are

- By 2010 the biodegradable waste land filled must be reduced to 75% of that of that produced in 1995.
- By 2013 the biodegradable waste land filled must be reduced to 50% of that produced in 1995.
- By 2020 the biodegradable waste land filled must be reduced to 35% of that produced in 1995.

The UK has adopted a Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme to help achieve these targets.

As well as introducing the wheeled bin recycling scheme to over 40,000 householders in the past three years, Thanet District Council actively promotes home composting as a more environmentally friendly way of dealing with food and garden waste. In addition, all garden waste collected through its collection service is taken to a centralised facility where it is shredded and composted before reuse.

- Domestic waste in Thanet fell from 673kg per household in 2006/7 to 550kg in 2007/8. It is forecast to drop to 536kg for 2008/9 with a Local Area Agreement target of 511kg by 2010/11. The current figure is already better than the countywide average LAA target of 704kg, which is in itself better than the national average.
- Recycling in Thanet has increased from 4% in 2004 to over 30% in 2008, with a target of 40% by 2011.
- Almost all of Thanet's residual waste will be going to Allington for incineration from 2009 onwards, which will already more than achieve to 2020 national target for diversion from landfill.

Action	Timetable	Owner
Continue to meet recycling, composting and landfill waste management targets.	Ongoing.	Mark Seed
Improving recycling facilities/opportunities for those living in council owned flats.	March 2016	Madeline Homer
Ensure that planning permissions for flatted developments have adequate provision for the storage of recycling waste.	April 2010	Simon Thomas/Doug Brown
Work within the Kent Waste Partnership to meet or improve on the waste minimisation and recycling targets set out in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan for Kent and the Local Area Agreement (KA2).	March 2011	Mark Seed

## Key Theme 6 – Transport

Emissions from vehicles create large volumes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent gasses. Given that there is a host of new technologies available to both reduce the level and toxicity of exhaust waste as well as providing alternatives to travel, such as new telecommunications methods, there is much that the Council can do to make a positive contribution in this theme.

To date, the Council has already made some progress in this area through its waste fleet, the majority of which use bio-fuel as part of their operation. And with a recently approved home working policy and draft mobile working policy it is actively promoting more efficient ways of working which will make a difference.

Currently the Council is drafting a staff travel plan, which will cover car fuel reimbursement rates, approaches to car sharing, and other transport related matters, which will be drawn up with consideration of the environmental impact of staff travel.

The Council will continue to work with its partners and influence the provision of road infrastructure and public transport, and will be actively promoting cycling and walking as the best way to enjoy Thanet.

Action	Timetable	Owner
Managers continue to ensure the level of travel being claimed for is kept to a minimum and encourage measures to reduce it/confirm that all travel is necessary and by most efficient route. [IA 3.30]	April 2009	Managers
Consider benefit /cost of providing a pool car/s. Investigate electric cars. [IA 3.31]	TBC by Green Champion Group	Karen Paton
Draft and agree a formal policy to record travel made to and from work by car, bus, and train, walking and cycling. [IA 3.26]	March 2010	Sophie Chadwick/Sarah Carroll
<p>Review staff home to work travelling emissions and introduce measures to reduce by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- maximise home working</li> <li>- promote car sharing for commuting journeys and attendance at business meetings</li> <li>- promote use of public transport /cycling/walking</li> <li>- promote use of more fuel efficient vehicles</li> <li>- use technology to avoid unnecessary journeys</li> </ul> <p>To include reviewing issuing car parking permits, fuel allowances, and incentivising / facilitating car sharing. [IA 3.25, IA 3.26, IA 3.27, IA 3.28 &amp; IA 3.29]</p>	March 2010	Sarah Carroll / Sophie Chadwick
Review the benefits/cost of implementing tele-conference facilities.	March 2010	William Neech
Contact Energy Saving Trust for advice on developing criteria for reducing emissions/make savings from the Council's vehicle fleet.	April 2009	Justine Swain
Use the vehicle selection criteria for the replacement (by lease or purchase) of Council waste vehicles to balance whole life carbon impacts with value for money and functionality.	March 2012	Graham Gosden/ Peter Thomas

## Key Theme 7 – Procurement

In addition to looking at the impact that the activities that it undertakes directly has on the environment, the Council should also consider the impact of its purchasing actions. Goods and services may all have an impact on the Council's carbon footprint and so the Council will look to purchase these in a more sustainable way through reviewing its service delivery options and the specification of contracts to favour businesses that operate green and sustainable policies.

The Council has established a Strategic Procurement Group who are reviewing the procurement arrangements of the council to deliver against this action plan which will ensure our current tendering/contracting processes are enhanced through the formalisation of a Sustainable Procurement Policy. In addition to this, as a member of Kent Buying Consortium who see sustainability as a priority, the Council is supporting the South East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (SEIEP) project initiative which aims to assist all 74 local authorities within the region to achieve Level 1 standard identified within the government publication 'UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan' March 2007. The Council is committed to implementing all of the recommendations contained within Level 1, including

- Raise awareness within the authority
- Sign-up to a Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Identify a Sustainable Procurement Champion
- Insert a standard sustainability clause into all future contracts
- Embed sustainability environmental questionnaire at ITT stage
- Lead on reviewing environmentally friendly alternatives for a selected product range

Action	Timetable	Owner
Commit to adopting sustainable procurement as the Council's main procurement strategy; to include all future specifications to include consideration of energy efficiency. [EMI 4 & IA 3.11]	2009/10	Karen Paton

## Key Theme 8 – Education and Promotion

In order to make a real difference the commitment outlined within the Climate Change Strategy can't simply rest with a handful of individuals, or working groups within the Council. Information about the problem, what is needed and what is planned needs to be communicated to all of the Council and its staff, as well the wider community, visitors and partners alike.

This document is a starting point, setting out the Council's aims in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and how it hopes to make a difference.

Education and promotion within the Council on these issues is covered by Energy Matters and there are a number of other mechanisms that can be used to communicate 'green' messages, for example: TOM, plasma screens, screen savers, staff development sessions.

Outside the Council there are a number of groups, for example: Sustainability Actions; Thanet Coast Project; Thanet Rotters, and others. These provide an existing framework which can be used to communicate messages externally, and also as a source of expertise upon which to draw.

An Education Officer for Waste and Recycling works with all sections of the community to promote waste reduction, recycling and home composting. Activities include recycling workshops with schools, presentations to community groups, attendance with a road show at events such as the Big Event in Margate, promotion of the Love Food Hate Waste campaign and home composting. The importance of waste reduction and recycling in terms of global climate change are emphasised. In particular promotion of the Love Food Hate Waste campaign and home composting are linked to the need to reduce the amount of biodegradable material sent to landfill.

We plan on incorporating climate issues into the Community Strategy, which addresses needs, issues and priorities affecting Thanet's communities, which could extend to issues that will have an impact on the environment, or be impacted on by it.

A clear communication strategy of what the Council is doing in this area is essential, to explain the thinking behind some of its decisions, as well as to encourage more positive action within the district by others.

Action	Timetable	Owner
Develop a programme of staff awareness initiatives; to include training of staff/management on energy management. [EMI 2 & IA 3.10]	Ongoing.	Justine Swain/Karen Paton/Hayley Eversfield & Green Champion Group
Develop a programme of public awareness initiatives Especially via website. [IA 3.16]	Sept 2009	Sophie Chadwick
Publicise invest to save reserve and invite suggestions from staff. [EMI 2 & IA3.7]	April 2009	Sophie Chadwick
Publicise/promote "Buy Local" externally. Raise staff awareness and explore the feasibility of a link to the staff discount scheme.	Ongoing.	Sophie Chadwick
Publicise the new strategy and the signing of the Nottingham Declaration. [IA 3.16]	April 2009	Sophie Chadwick
Explore the possibility of Energy Saving Trust funding for promotions.	Ongoing.	Sophie Chadwick
Seek volunteers to be Green Guardians. [EMI 2]	April 2009	Justine Swain/Karen Paton/Hayley Eversfield

Add CO <sub>2</sub> calculator to corporate website. [IA 3.12]	April 2209	Sophie Chadwick
Commit to report annually on the progress made on reducing emissions.	Annually	Sophie Chadwick
Use screensaver messages to make point about turning pc/printers off when not in use. [EMI 2 & GO1 & IA 3.19]	April 2009	Sophie Chadwick
Promote the Energy Savings Trust's free/funded initiatives.	Ongoing.	Sophie Chadwick/Green Champions Group.

### Key Theme 9 – Management of Natural Habitats

Plans for the district's natural habitats can both assist with reducing the impact of climate change and help to reduce the level of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions which contribute to climate change.

By having a well thought out strategy for irrigation and water resource management, tree numbers and the density of other flora (both in terms of their role as a sponge for dangerous emissions, as well as in respect of their requirement for water). Not least a green and bountiful local environment provides a quality of life, which encourages the communities to have a greater respect for the planet's resources and makes the target of increasing levels of walking and cycling a lot more achievable.

The Council will endeavour to adapt its maintenance of public open spaces to create more areas suitable for habitats. Woodland is seen as a key element in reducing carbon levels. In particular the lack of woodland in Thanet will be supported by the provision of new woodland wherever possible and encouraging the participation of local residents. The Council will also seek in the next five years to provide one area under its control for designation as a wildlife site with the agreement of Kent Wildlife Trust.

The Council will continue to support tree planting wherever possible in private land where sufficient space exists for mature trees and also support the Kent Wildlife Trust in local initiatives such as the Wildlife Gardening Scheme which encourages individual households to adapt their private gardens to more wildlife species by reducing chemicals, encouraging refuge points and breeding opportunities for a variety of insects and mammals.

The Council will continue to monitor the local coastline and support the work of Natural England and Kent Wildlife Trust with the Thanet Coast Project. This work will continue to support careful balances between the commercial and recreational use of the coast with the need to preserve this internationally important marine habitat. This project will continue to work on educating local residents and visitors in the natural habitat and targeting young people to realize and safeguard this resource, for which they will be guardians of for future generations. Wherever possible the enhancement of the natural coastline will be encouraged by provisions such as the Thanet Coastal Path which provides better access but which will be linked with interpretation panels to provide better understanding of the wildlife and their habitat.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Plan to 'sink' more greenhouse gasses through planning for an increase in sustainable woodland in the district and the planting of trees in the urban environment.	During 2010	Paul Verrall
Increase the available woodland area for Thanet residents.	During 2010	John Hammond
Support the Dane Valley community woodland.	April 2009 – March 2012	Paul Verrall
Adapt maintenance grass cutting to create more varied habitats.	Trial during 2009	A Barnes
Continue the work of Thanet Coast Project to support the local marine environment.	Ongoing	Tony Child
Support for the Kent Wildlife Trust – Gardening for Wildlife Award Scheme.	Dec 2009	Sophie Chadwick
Creation of a local wildlife site.	Dec 2010	Paul Verrall