



The Council is committed to taking action to ensure that South Cambridgeshire plays its part in tackling manmade climate change.

We will achieve this by:

- **setting exemplary standards in the way we operate our business and provide our services;**
- **working with local communities across the district to make the transition to more sustainable energy use;**
- **understanding and responding to how we can best help businesses to grow and prosper whilst using energy more sustainably.**

In order to ensure that the Council remains both flexible and responsive, the following priority actions will be pursued over the next 12 months (after which they will be reviewed and re-aligned as necessary for the next 12 months):

Council operations and service provision:

- install photovoltaic array at South Cambridgeshire Hall;
- install photovoltaic panels on suitable Council housing stock through a 'roof rental' contract whilst rolling out solid wall insulation to properties as and when available;
- continue to develop domestic waste recycling programme to achieve a 65% recycling rate in 2013;
- ensure the appropriate steps are taken to strengthen the new Local Development Framework's response to the climate change agenda;
- roll-out sustainable procurement training sessions;
- establish a Green Team Champions network.

Working with local communities

- take the Rampton Drift Retro-fit project from full installation into its comprehensive monitoring phase;
- continue to sustain and develop the South Cambs Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership and establish a longer term business model;
- in partnership with site developers on our major growth areas, provide 'sustainable show homes' that take options for more sustainable low-carbon living a step further forward for visitors to see and for prospective residents to specify in 'off-plan' purchases;
- prepare for the introduction of the Government's Green Deal low-carbon loans programme.

Understanding and responding to the needs of business in making the transition to more sustainable energy use in their operations:

- providing open conversations and local events to bring forward sustainable energy opportunities for the District's major business sectors;
- facilitate improvements to business recycling rates;
- engage with local smaller businesses through the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership and under the auspices of the Cambridge Climate Change Charter.

The threats and challenges of climate change are clear and real. We need to diversify our energy supply, moving to a low-carbon economy. It also makes sense to use energy more efficiently, in our homes and in our businesses. In many of our villages, people are reliant on off-grid fuels such as heating oil, and these are going up in price.

Whether it is a wood-chip boiler in the home, solar panels on an office, retro-fitting better insulation on houses, or a farm-based unit producing bio-gas, South Cambridgeshire District Council is committed to finding practical solutions. We will drive forward local initiatives, working with and listening to communities and businesses. We will talk to and feed back what we learn to central government, so that policies in Whitehall are informed by experience on the ground here in Cambridgeshire.

The challenge is global and will be played out over the next 20 years. But, to make progress our actions must start to take effect here and now. They must be focused, realistically achievable, clearly scheduled, regularly reviewed and actively tailored to the issues and needs of our local area.

The vision is for South Cambridgeshire, by the end of 2013, to stand out as a local area leader in its contribution towards the national target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by a third in the next ten years. We aim to be a district that understands how best to do this in relation to the local circumstances and needs of all its residents and businesses.

The core mission for the period of this Plan is to press on from our successful and innovative work to date in delivering more sustainable energy use in our homes, our communities and our businesses. Sustainable energy being energy that is only used when really needed, is used as efficiently as possible, is generated from renewable (or very low carbon) sources where practically possible and is affordable for all.

Other important issues such as adapting to climate impacts and land use change will not be ignored during the period of this Plan, but the priorities will rest with the transition to more sustainable energy use.

The Government's pathways and policies for tackling climate change are still developing. This means that local plans will need to swiftly respond to new direction and opportunities as they are brought forward.

The above priority actions for the next 12 months have been drawn from a full assessment of what tackling climate change in South Cambridgeshire is likely to mean over the next two to three years. The assessment can be found at:

<http://www.scambs.gov.uk/environment/energy/climatechangeactionplan.htm>.