# Norwich City Council Environmental Strategy 2011-2014

## **Contents Page**

No	Section	Page
1	Foreword	3
2	Norwich City Council Environmental Policy	5
3	Context / purpose	6
4	Key achievements	9
5	Development of the strategy	10
6	Where do we want to be?	11
7	How will we get there?	12
8	How will we know?	13
9	Action programme	14

## 1. Foreword – by the portfolio holder

- 1.1 Until recently, it has been possible to challenge the proposition that human activity has added to the natural process of climate change since the beginning of the industrial revolution. This is no longer the case. Climate change is happening and poses a long term threat to prosperity and the well being for our city.
- 1.2 We have suffered abnormal seasonal rainfall, high temperatures and stormy winters. According to the Met Office, April 2011, was the warmest April on record. The UK mean temperature was 3.7°C above the 1971–2000 average and it was the warmest April in the series from 1910.
  - "While there are noticeable highs and lows in year to year data, over longer periods of time there is a discernable warming trend across the globe. Natural causes can explain only a small part of this warming. The overwhelming majority of scientists agree that this is due to rising concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere caused by human activities". (UK Met Office 2011)
- 1.3 The global challenge of climate change is significant and requires a decarbonisation of the economy and a move away from the use of fossil fuels.
- 1.4 The Climate Change Act 2008 set out targets to reduce carbon emissions in the UK by 50% by 2025, and at least an 80% by 2050. The UK is the first country to pass legislation which has introduced a legally binding framework to tackle the dangers of climate change.
- 1.5 The public also have an expectation that action should be taken lpsos MORI's most recent survey on climate change and energy supply shows that, despite a decline in concern about climate change, the majority of the British public still believe the climate is changing and say they are prepared to act on this.
- 1.6 Attention continues to focus upon the role of Local Government in helping to meet this challenge. The LG Group and the Department of Energy and Climate Change have recently reached an agreement setting out how local and central government will work together to tackle climate change. This will help local government work toward its aim of reducing its own carbon emissions by on average 30% and support homeowners to save on average £300 on their energy bills.
- 1.7 I am pleased that Norwich City Council has already made significant progress in reducing our emissions via our carbon management programme and the use of eco technology. For example we achieved an 8% reduction in our carbon emissions during 2010/11.
- 1.8 However, climate change and global warming are not the only environmental issues which can have a negative impact or influence on society. The past 20 years have seen a growing realisation that the

- current model of development is unsustainable. In other words, we are living beyond our means. From the loss of biodiversity with the felling of rainforests or over fishing to the negative effect our consumption patterns are having on the environment and the climate.
- 1.9 Unless we start to make real progress toward reconciling these contradictions we face a future that is less certain and less secure. We need to make a decisive move toward more sustainable development.
- 1.10 A widely-used and accepted international definition of sustainable development is: 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Sustainable development offers the best hope for the future. Whether at school, in the home or at work, we all have a part to play. Our small everyday actions add up to make a big difference.
- 1.11 At a local level this new environmental strategy aims to deliver a sustainable environment which improves or maintains the quality of life for all of us. By making sure we use our natural resources wisely, emitting less CO<sub>2</sub> and recycling as much as possible, we can also take advantage of the fantastic opportunities to make financial savings whilst maintaining excellent services to our citizens which are more sustainable. Much good work has already taken place and this strategy will set out how we intend to build upon these actions and to deliver further improvements.

State who the portfolio holder is

## 2.0 Norwich City Council's environmental policy

- 2.1 It is the Council's policy to meet its national and international legislative obligations, to develop local sustainable communities, enhance the local environment, deliver environmentally-friendly services and enforce environmental legislation to help stem the depletion of finite natural resources.
- 2.2 The council is committed to preventing pollution of the environment directly through compliance with legislation and the continual improvement of our estate management and environmental performance. The council will demonstrate this by monitoring it's resource use and by:
  - increasing energy efficiency in council owned property
  - promotion of domestic energy efficiency
  - reducing disposal of waste to landfill
  - increasing recycling
  - reducing consumption of paper in council activities
  - reducing consumption of fuel in council activities
  - reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our operations via a target of 6% per year from a baseline of 2007 until 2012/13 (30% over 5 years)
  - prevention of groundwater pollution and contamination of the land
  - protection and enhancement of habitat and biodiversity
  - ensuring our procurement procedures balance high environmental specifications with total cost of ownership

## 2.3 This will be achieved through

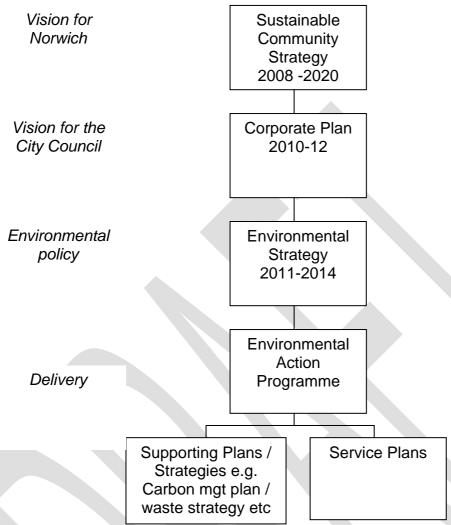
- The implementation and maintenance of this policy in all areas of our work.
- Implementation of a checklist and monitoring programmes
- Compliance with applicable legal requirements to which we subscribe and to other requirements which relate to the other environmental aspects of our activities. For example best practice guidance from central government.
- Campaigns and promotional work
- Studies and questionnaires.
- 2.3 The delivery of this policy demonstrates our determination to lead in the fields of environmental protection and resource efficiency. The council also aims to influence others by demonstrating our efforts to community and business leaders via networking and other communications.

#### 3. Context and purpose

- 3.1 The sustainable community strategy for Norwich 2008-2020 sets themes with strategic objectives for the city. The second theme, "City of environmental excellence" sets the key objective for Norwich to become a low-carbon city, to minimise our use of global resources and to become a model city for the management of the natural and historic environment.
- 3.2 Within the council's current corporate plan 2010-12 there is the key corporate priority "to deliver sustainable growth and development" and a corporate commitment "To achieve achieve at least a 6 per cent reduction per year in the city council's carbon footprint"
- 3.3 This environmental strategy sets out a road map for how the council will work towards achieving its key environmental objectives, priorities and commitments for the City.
- 3.4 The strategy, therefore, acts an overarching environmental policy for Norwich City Council, sitting at a corporate level to provide direction for service-led environmental improvements, through service plans, other council strategies (such as the council's carbon management plan, waste strategy, local development framework and procurement strategy) and procedures.

This is summarised in the diagram below:

Diagram A: Strategic Framework for Environmental Strategy



- 3.5 By working towards a sustainable community within Norwich we will 'balance and integrate social, economic and environmental components of the community; meet the needs of existing and future generations; and respect the needs of other communities. To create a sustainable community we will tackle the same issues as a climate change strategy would, therefore this strategy encompasses the actions taken by the council to address climate change.
- 3.6 The Council is also a partner in the county-wide Norfolk Climate Change Task Force working towards a reduction in our per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the local authority area through joint activities and projects. This strategy therefore includes our contribution to joint activities where appropriate.
- 3.7 This year's environmental strategy comes at a time when the council is facing significant financial challenges. Inevitably there will be resource restrictions on what can be achieved. However, by making sure we use natural resources wisely, emitting less CO<sub>2</sub> and recycling as much as possible will also present us with opportunities to make savings as well

as protect our environment. The strategy and action programme are therefore designed to grasp those opportunities wherever possible.



4.0 Key achievements from the last environmental strategy

- 4.1 The council has delivered a range of major environmental improvements through its last environmental strategy and other key policies. These are summarised below:
  - Achieved an 8% reduction in our carbon emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>) during 2010/11 contributing to a total reduction of 16.9% in the last three years.
  - Received recognition from the CLG (Communities and Local Government) as having the highest decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita in the south and east of the UK as well as being one of the highest nationally, whilst at the same time having one of the highest population growths.
  - Received recognition by the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) LivCom Awards 2010 as being regarded as a gold standard in the management of our environment.
  - Commended as an example of best practice by the Carbon Trust and Salix for our innovative use of low carbon technology.
  - More than doubled our recycling rate in a two year period which is now at over 40%. This has meant we are in the top 10 of authorities in the country for reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. The amount of waste produced per person has reduced by 18kg – the biggest improvement in the country. Next year we aim to achieve a 55 per cent recycling rate, boosted by the roll-out of our food recycling service, which is the first district wide food waste collection service in Norfolk.
  - Ran a successful and diverse programme of energy and affordable warmth work – including improvements to around 2.500 council homes.
  - Completed the eco retrofit of over 800 council homes to make them more energy efficient.
  - Completed the St Augustine's gyratory to improve air quality and traffic flow in the north of the City.
  - Adopted the new Greater Norwich Development Partnership Joint core strategy. This provides policies to require new development to be sustainably located and designed. There is a particular focus on addressing climate change and promoting low carbon development. This includes the most progressive policy for water efficiency in the country, and policies requiring energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy and the protection of environmental assets.
- 4.2 More detailed reports on progress against the last environmental strategy can be found in the council's annual environmental statements on the council's website at:

www.norwich.gov.uk/site\_files/pages/City\_Life\_\_Eco\_Issues.html

## 5.0 Development of the strategy

- 5.1 In November 2009 Norwich City Council agreed to establish and support the Norwich Independent Climate Change Commission (NICCC) to seek the views of local people on the impact of climate change through a consultation exercise.
- 5.2 NICCC's board consisted of representatives from a wide range of people involved in the city, including businesses, faith groups, the media and Norwich City Council. It analysed the consultation findings and produced an independent report setting out a number of recommendations on how the council and other organisations and local people in the City might better prepare for a more sustainable future. The report was considered by the council's cabinet in November 2010 and it was agreed to use the report to inform the development of this strategy.
- 5.4 A stakeholder workshop was then held on ??? where a large range of different organisations in the City came together to discuss the issues and recommendations raised by the NICCC report.
- 5.5 The NICCC's report and the outputs of the stakeholder workshop have been used to help to develop this environmental strategy. Other information and approaches that have been used to inform the strategy include:
  - analysis of information from customers on what are the key issues and priorities for local residents in the City
  - review of the current policy context and economic climate including the need for the council to continue to significantly reduce its resources
  - discussions with key partners over their priorities for the City
  - workshops with cabinet members and staff to consider the key role of the council in the current climate.

## 6.0 Where do we want to be?

Our key strategic environmental outcomes and priorities are set out in the table below:

Environmental	Environmental Priority
Outcome	
A That the impact of climate change is minimised wherever possible	A1 To continue to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 6% per annum up to the end of 2013 (total of 30% reduction)
wholevel possible	A2 To continue to improve the energy efficiency of housing and other buildings in the city
	A3 To continue to support and encourage more sustainable transport solutions and the delivery of the Norwich Area Transport Strategy
	A4 To "Green" the Council's approach to procurement by 2013/14
	A5 To achieve Level 3 against the current climate change adaptation indicator
	A6 To ensure development meets people's needs in a sustainable manner.
	A7: To improve our existing homes through strong planning guidance
	A8: To develop and implement a range of programmes and activities to promote and reduce the amount of water used in the city
	A9 To raise awareness of energy conservation and good environmental practice to citizens and business in Norwich
B Waste sent to landfill is minimised and	B1 To increase the recycling level in Norwich to 55%
diverted	B2 To develop a range of recycling options for council facilities
C The local environment is protected	C1 To develop and deliver a range of work programmes to maintain our natural environment
	C2 To prevent pollution of air, water and land

and	protect	local	habitat	and	bio	diversity
throu	igh an ar	nnual v	vork plar	1		

#### 7.0 How will we get there?

- 7.1 The council will achieve its environmental priorities through progression of an environmental action programme.
- 7.2 This action programme sets out the key activities and actions the council will progress within the following areas of its responsibility:
  - As an Estate Manager the council is a large employer and a major consumer of energy and other resources. Through better management of transport and buildings the council can cut emissions and save money and manage the estate so that it can be better adapted to the changing climate
  - As a Purchaser of Goods and Services the council purchases a range of good and services and by greening its approach to procurement can support sustainability
  - As a Service Provider the council can ensure that the impacts of climate change are properly taken into account and emissions are cut as far as possible through the operation of all services provided such as through the council's role as the local planning authority and as an enforcement body
  - As Community Leaders through providing leadership to the City and through local partnerships and acting as an advocate and lobbyist.
- 7.3 The council's environmental action programme can be found at Annex A. This will be updated to accommodate new and emerging policy from central government and other sources as appropriate during the length of the strategy.
- 7.4 Responsibility for the overall delivery of the environmental action programme rests with the corporate leadership team and is coordinated and managed by the environmental strategy team. Specific actions, projects and activities within the programme will be the responsibility of different heads of service and operational managers.

#### 8.0 How we will know?

- 8.1 Overall progress on the environmental action programme will be reported quarterly to Scrutiny and Cabinet through the council's regular performance reporting and in detail through an annual environmental statement. This reporting will include the following key performance measures
  - CO<sub>2</sub> reduction for local authority operations
  - Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Local Authority area
- 8.2 Regular progress reports will also be provided to the council's sustainable development panel which is a cross party working group chaired by the Cabinet member with responsibility for sustainable development. They will provide additional monitoring, challenge and scrutiny on the progress of the council in delivering its environmental action programme.
- 8.3 Progress will be communicated regularly to staff through a range of internal communications. It will be passed to all contractors and suppliers who have major contracts with Norwich City Council. This strategy and our annual environmental statement setting out overall available progress will be publicly through our website www.norwich.gov.uk and supported by a range of external communications to support awareness raising on these issues in the wider city.
- 8.4 Risks to the non delivery of this strategy have been considered however, from time to time, activities within this strategy may be adversely affected by factors which may fall out for the control of the authority.



# 9.0 Action Programme

	Outcome / Priority	Key Actions	Outputs	Service responsible	Delivery
A	That the impact of climate change	is minimised wherever possi	ible		
<b>A</b> 1	To continue to reduce the City Council's carbon emissions by 6% per annum up to the end of 2013 (Total of 30% reduction)	Deliver carbon management programme by 2013	T8 to T5 lighting projects Riverside Centre	ES + PS ES + Leisure	December 2011
			Voltage Reduction and pool cover	connection	December 2011
	-		St Andrews Car Park	_	
			LED lighting project	ES + PS	December 2011
			Monitoring of CO2 and NOx emissions	ES	July 2011
	_		Vending machine	E3	July 2011
			removals and timers Develop an intern programme with the UEA Carbon Management	ES - Cultural Services	Ongoing
			Programme students to explore cost/benefit for		
			Carbon accounting	ES	April 2014
		Complete utility review by 2012	Utility Bills Review (LEAN) and Tariff		
			optimisation	ES + Procurement	April 2012
			Produce an internal Energy Policy	ES + Procurement	April 2012

		-	Monitoring of SALIX investments	ES + Finance	Ongoing
		Complete accommodation and work styles review by 2012	Accommodation Strategy Working Styles	PS (Property Services) PS (Property	Ongoing
		_	Policy Review the city's many assets to ensure they are	Services)	Ongoing
			maintained and their value maximised	PS (Property Services)	Ongoing
		Investigate micro generation investment opportunities by 2014	Solar PV System on City Hall	ES + PS	March 2012
		2014	New Mills Micro Generation project	Economic Development + PS	Water 2012
		Monitor and report progress against our 30% target on an annual basis	Annual reporting on Carbon emissions	ES	July 2012
		dillidal sacio	Production of Display Energy Certificates	ES + PS	July 2012
	To continue to improve the energy	Develop and deliver programmes and projects to improve			
A2	efficiency of housing and other buildings in the city	energy efficiency measures in housing by 2014	"Warm Homes" promotions	ES	Dec 2011
			Identify one or more key funding partners for home energy projects	ES	Dec 2011

			Eco Retrofit Programme Window replacement and boiler replacement	Housing	July 2012
	- - -		programmes PV For Free Project ECP Asset review Develop a head load	Housing Housing ES + PS	Ongoing July 2012 Dec 2014
			map for Norwich City Centre New web pages with	ED + ES	April 2012
			environmental advice Working with our contractors to increase fuel	ES	April 2012
			efficiency Identify substandard	ES	Ongoing
			housing Promotion of the Green Deal including investigation of options for social	PSH	Ongoing
			housing sector Developed a cross service affordable warmth strategy and review the councils approach to affordable warmth	ES + Housing	Apr-14
			work.	PSH+ES+PS+Housing	April 2012
А3	To continue to support and encourage more sustainable transport solutions and the delivery of the Norwich Area Transport Strategy	Deliver Local Area Transport Strategy + GDNP transport projects as funding allows	St Augustine's gyratory	R+D	Ongoing

Assessment			
	Pedestrianisation of		
	Westlegate	R+D	Ongoing
	Review of speed		
	management	R+D	Ongoing
	Bus rapid transit		
	(BRT) network;	R+D	Ongoing
	Improvements to a		
	core bus network as		
	well as integrated		
 	ticketing and	D : D	Ongoing
 _	improved information; City centre	R+D	Ongoing
	improvements;	R+D	Ongoing
 -	A package of cycling	K+D	Origoning
	and walking		
	improvements;	R+D	Ongoing
	Smarter Choices		
	initiatives, like travel	R+D NCCTF and	
 	planning	County Council	Ongoing
Refresh the council's "Green"			
travel plan and reduce our			
 transport emissions by 10% by 2013	Fleet Review	PS + ES	April 2012
 2013	Internal car share	P3 + E3	April 2012
	system	PS + ES	April 2012
 -	Electric/ Hybrid Fleet	10+60	Αριίι 2012
	Cars	PS + ES	April 2012
	Trial stop/start		
	technology in council		
	fleet	ES + CS	April 2013
	Travel choice		
	promotions	PS + ES	April 2012
	Improved cycle	50 50	4 " 0040
	facilities	PS + ES	April 2012
	Bikes for staff to use	PS + ES	April 2012

			Cycle to work scheme EST driver training	PS + ES	April 2012
			for staff and contractors	ES	April 2012
A4	To "Green" the council's approach to procurement	Implement the new procurement strategy by 2013	Create an Eco Procurement Guide Establish a sustainability	ES and Procurement	April 2013
	_		Checklist pre tender Monitor Contractors EMS and Carbon	ES and Procurement	April 2013
			Emissions Purchase electricity from 100% Green	ES	April 2013
 			supply	Procurement	Sept 2011
A5	To achieve Level 3 against the current climate change adaption indicator	Develop a robust approach to service risk and climate change using the UKCIP08 weather	Achieve L3 NI188 via use of the CAT Tool	ES	
	(NI 188)	projections by 2013	Member Training Officer Training	ES ES + Climate Taskforce	_
	_	-			
			Ensure all new development is built to high JCS design and environmental standards		
A6	To ensure development meets people's needs in a sustainable manner.	Implement the GNDP Joint Core Strategy by 2031	Construction of 184 homes to L4 of the	ED + Planning	Ongoing April 2017

			code of sustainable homes		
			Energy Policy For the City Update flood maps and info for citizens	ED + ES Planning (with Norfolk County Council)	April 2013
	_	_	Update planning guidance on web for	County Council)	April 2013
	-	-	energy efficiency	Planning	April 2012 Dec 2014
	To improve our existing homes through strong planning guidance	Deliver Climate East training programme by 2011 - Will this	Provide training for planning officers and members on climate		
A7		actually deliver the priority?	change Planning team to receive training on	Planning	April 2011
			microgeneration	Planning	April 2011
	To develop and implement a range of		Implement JCS water efficiency policy for new development Work with Anglia		
A8	programmes and activities to promote and reduce the amount of water used in the city	Develop a cross service approach to the management of water and	Water on communications campaign	Planning ES	Ongoing April 2012
	_	water conservation by 2014			
		Support the emergency planning procedures and processes through an annual	Communicate flood		
		programme of activities	maps to public	ES	April 2012
		programme of activities	Aqua fund projects  Monitoring NCC	ES	April 2012
			water use	ES+PS	Ongoing

			Encourage water buts Encourage SUDS and other flooding policies		
A9	To raise awareness of energy conservation and good environmental practice to citizens and business in Norwich	Develop and deliver a programme of awareness raising activities by 2014	Annual Environmental Statement	ES	Ongoing
			Carbon Champions	ES	Ongoing
			One Small Step Energy Officers Group	ES + Communications City Growth and Development	Ongoing Ongoing
			Production of Display Energy Certificates	ES + PS	ES + Communications
			Update Web pages Sign the new Nottingham	ES	Ongoing
			Declaration	CEO	Dec 2012
			Consider the NICCC recommendations	ES	April 2011
			Citizen Panel Survey Development of case	CCTF	April 2011
	_		studies Build environmental elements into staff	All	Ongoing
			induction	ES + HR	Dec 2012
	_	_	Eco Awards	ES	Ongoing
		-	Eco Staff Survey	ES	Dec 2012
	-	-	School Resource Box	ES	Ongoing
			Support Earth Hour	ES	Ongoing

В	Waste to landfill is minimised and	diverted			
В1	To increase the recycling level in Norwich to 55% by 2012/13	Implement the integrated waste management strategy by 2012	SNH6 To improve our recycling and composting rates to more than 55%	Citywide services	Ongoing
B2	To develop a range of recycling options for council facilities	Develop appropriate waste management procedures for all council buildings by 2012	Procedures in place	ES + Facilities	April 2012
С	The local environment is protected	d			
<b>C</b> 1	To develop and deliver a range of work programmes to maintain our natural environment	Need how and by when ???? Detail to be agreed with Citywide Services	Examples include Plant 200 trees per year to replace damaged and aged stock GIS In Cab monitoring	Citywide Services Citywide Services	Ongoing
		<b>3</b>	Route optimisation of waste fleet	Citywide Services	Ongoing
			EV's in contracts 90% of sites are in positive management	Citywide Services  Citywide Services	Ongoing Ongoing
			Linking tree planting to flood maps	Citywide Services	Ongoing
C2	To prevent pollution of air, water and land and protect local habitat and bio diversity through our annual work plan	Need how and by when ????	Examples include		
·		Detail to be agreed with Citywide Services	Positive management of air quality management zones		

1					
		Develop a series of policy and informationdocuments for contractors and staff working on our estate by 2014	Working with contractors in regards to ISO14001	ES	April 2012
			Events Trader		
			guidance	ES	April 2012

