

Climate Change Strategy & Carbon Reduction Measures

Summary of Existing WDC Strategies, Policies and Projects

Details of policies and service plans of Warwick District Council and its partners which can contribute to a structured approach to tackling climate change.

Policy / Lead Officer	Scope / reach	Recommendations for review / implementation
WDC Environmental Policy SD(E)	Provides a broad framework for a more detailed Warwick District Carbon Reduction Action Plan.	Existing Environmental Policy is now outdated (1999) Consider updating.
Warwick District Local Plan HoP&E	Adopted local plan includes significant measures to address carbon reduction (eg Merton Rule requiring 10% renewables generated on-site). LAA action (15% target) Influences new build more than existing development.	Potential to increase influence over carbon reduction as part of the new local plan (Core Strategy). Encourage Zero-energy development Encourage Carbon Offsetting by planting/biodiversity Planning to minimise unnecessary car commuting and maximise use of public transport
Warwickshire Waste Strategy and Recycling Targets. Waste Manager	Current targets aim to increase recycling rates to 40 – 45% by 2010. LAA action	Increasing these reduction targets will reduce carbon emissions Support for education around recycling and resource conservation can stimulate a reduction in waste produced and increase in the amount of waste recycled. Continued / increased support for waste minimisation schemes (Potential new project area)
Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) C.Ex via LA21	Community partnership document setting out where 'the community' of Warwick District sees itself aspirationally by 2020.	Community plan targets could place a large emphasis on reducing carbon emissions through innovative partnership schemes relating to health promotion, housing, faiths and

	<p>Potential for influencing partner organisations through a broad range of projects.</p> <p>Specific targets will be set against work areas.</p>	<p>culture etc.</p> <p>The SCS's potential for carbon reduction should be maximised as the plan is still under development.</p> <p>(Potential new project areas)</p>
<p>Procurement Strategy SD(CR)</p>	<p>Procurement officer to come into post shortly</p> <p>Procurement policy in place. (LAA action)</p>	<p>Significant potential to reduce carbon emissions (and cost savings) through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local purchasing policy • Corp Business Travel • environmentally friendly purchasing policy (e.g. buying recycled goods) • environmental requirements for suppliers.
<p>HECA SD(CR)</p>	<p>Already works to agreed SLA LAA action</p>	<p>Consider expanding advisory role (Potential additional project area)</p>
<p>Air Quality management Area Action Plan HoEH</p>	<p>Mandatory duty for WDC</p>	<p>WDC has agreed for WCC consultation report on future AQMs (see LTP below)</p>
<p>Annual Service Assurance Efficiency Statements SD(CR)</p>	<p>Self certification by Services</p>	<p>Carbon reduction measures to be specified in Service Plans (current or proposed projects)</p>
<p>Mobile Working SD(CIA)</p>	<p>Scope to increase remote working</p>	<p>Encourage gradual implementation</p>
<p>Housing & Hsg Strategy HoH HoHS</p>	<p>Covers Social rented sector and general housing needs</p>	<p>Existing energy efficiency programme including work of HECA could be broadened.(see above)</p> <p>Self-financing district heating and CHP schemes such as Radcliffe Gardens/Christine Ledger Square and The Crest could be developed. (Programmed capital investment schemes)</p> <p>For new build developments planning could be used to help incentivise private funding of some types of scheme. (Potential future schemes – linked to affordable housing)</p>

<p>Local Transport Plan HoEH</p>	<p>Does not attempt to quantify the impact of the proposals in the Plan on carbon emissions in the District.</p> <p>LAA target for WCC The LTP does include a short section on Climate Change and the contribution of transport to CO2 emissions.</p> <p>Transport emissions account for 430,000 tonnes of CO2 in the District. This compares with 2700 tonnes of CO2 directly produced by the activities of WDC. There is therefore huge scope to influence CO2 reduction measures</p>	<p>Even though the LTP is the responsibility of the County Council , WDC regulates air quality and therefore can directly influence measures for carbon reduction.</p> <p>The LTP proposals (particularly those related to public transport, walking and cycling) aim to reduce overall carbon emissions in the District by making alternatives to the private car more attractive.</p> <p>This is particularly important given that the Warwick/Leamington Spa area has the lowest peak hour journey speeds and highest levels of congestion in the County.</p>
<p>HoP&E</p>	<p>Scope for Green Travel Travel Passes</p> <p>PP – Green Travel Plans</p>	<p>Potential future projects</p>
<p>SD(CIA)</p>	<p>Car Sharing</p>	
<p>SD(CIA)</p>	<p>Pool Cars</p>	
<p>SD(CIA)</p>	<p>Increase Cycle Trips</p>	

Monitoring

The council carries out monitoring of various relevant baseline data and some of this is useful for informing progress against a carbon reduction strategy. The following indicators are listed in appendix 2 of the Annual Monitoring Report for the Local Plan and are of relevance to climate change and carbon reduction:

- Proportion of total trips taken on foot (WCC LTP Annual Progress Report)
- Proportion of total trips taken by cycle in Warwick, Leamington and Kenilworth (WCC LTP Annual Progress Report)
- Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, areas of employment, and a major retail centre. (AMR 19)

- Amount of waste produced across the district per head of population (WCC Quality of Life Report)
- Percentage of waste composted per head across the District. (WCC Quality of Life Report)
- Renewable Energy installed by type (AMR 24)
- Total domestic energy efficiency improvement 1996 – present (WEEAC WCC QoLR)
- Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance (AMR 28)
NB This will affect climate change in some cases but not all.
- Number of days per year when air pollution is moderate or high.
NB This indicator assumes a correlation between levels of CO2 emissions and air pollution levels.
- Net additional dwellings for the current year.
Since planning policies principally affect new build, this indicator could be used to demonstrate the impact these policies are having on new development. This could be directly translated into tonnes of CO2 if an approximate figure was calculated for the tonnes of CO2 released per year from each new dwelling.

Environmental Policy

Warwick District Council has an environmental policy in place which provides a broad framework for a detailed carbon reduction plan. The policy states a full commitment to improving the local and global environment, played out through improving its own environmental performance, as well as WDC exercising its role as an influencer locally to create an environment which it will be proud to hand on to future generations.

The policy was last reviewed and revised in 1999, and although somewhat out of date it does contain specific commitments which provide a good basis for action on carbon reduction. Key policy aims which relate to carbon reduction include:

- Minimising waste production, recycling and reusing materials
- Purchasing more sustainable goods and services,
- Investing in energy and water saving projects
- Encouraging the development of renewable energy
- Managing council buildings in a way which minimises negative impacts on the environment and promotes environmental benefits (including council housing).
- Resisting over-development of the district by adopting planning policies that ensure long term environmental protection, whilst providing for legitimate development needs and employment opportunities.
- Encourage investment in and use of public and community transport and facilities for cyclists and pedestrians
- Monitor and improve air, soil and water quality.
- Satisfy our needs using a greater proportion of local produce, materials and expertise.

Local Plan

The adopted Warwick District Local Plan sets out policies which govern the development of the built and natural environment within the district up to 2011. The local plan influences all aspects of local development and there are many policies within it which also influence the impact which that development will have on future carbon emissions.

A full sustainability appraisal of the local plan has been carried out already, and a more concise overview of the plan's climate impact it is appropriate here.

Two of the key aims of the core strategy of the Local Plan are "effective protection of the environment" and "prudent use of natural resources". Within this the plan states a number of objectives, for example: to reduce the need to travel, to promote more sustainable travel options, to ensure the prudent use of scarce resources to limit impact on climate change, to reduce the generation and disposal of waste, to protect and enhance the natural environment, etc. All the policies of the local plan then seek to meet these objectives. The plan is monitored annually through the annual monitoring report.

All the elements of the Local Plan should work together to reduce the District's carbon footprint. For example the plan seeks to provide enough houses to meet local needs whilst aiming to protect town centres and allow people to meet their shopping needs locally, rather than having to travel. The Annual Monitoring report for the Local Plan provides detailed information on progress.

The factors which will influence the development of the next Local Plan to promote development which reduces carbon emissions are very broad. They include Government planning policy and guidance (e.g. PPSs) including the impact of the climate change bill, plus other national policies that may impact on planning through a wide range of local and national stakeholders. Key local factors will be the new corporate strategy, the LAA, and possibly also local documents such as Parish Plans.

Warwickshire Waste Strategy

Promoting waste minimization, re-use, recycling and composting as alternatives to using virgin materials will have a strong positive impact on reducing carbon emissions. As the waste collection authority for the district, WDC has a strong influence over these factors and the Warwickshire Waste Strategy is therefore relevant.

Warwick District Council is an active partner in the Warwickshire Waste Strategy which has set the challenging target of recycling 40 – 45% of waste by 2010. As set out in the waste strategy, the development of waste management policy and practice will adhere to the principles of the waste hierarchy, the proximity principle and regional self sufficiency. All these principles are highly consistent with good practice in carbon reduction.

The Council's decision to go for alternate weekly waste collection should reduce the number of collections from most households within the District from four every two weeks to three. Experience from other areas shows that alternative weekly collection has a strong impact on recycling rates and recycling participation rates.

Additional key drivers for an increase in recycling and waste minimization include the EU Landfill Directive, UK Waste Strategy 2000, Waste Emissions Trading Act 2003, Household Waste Recycling Act.