

## **DRAFT**

# **Bracknell Forest Council Climate Change Action Plan 2013**

### INTRODUCTION

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change was signed by the Leader and Chief Executive on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

The Declaration committed us: “Within the next two years develop plans with our partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change, according to local priorities, securing maximum benefit for our communities.”

Our first climate change action plan was published in October 2008 and focussed mainly on short term actions that the council could implement internally. The plan also included actions that our partners from the statutory, business, voluntary and community sectors could support through the Bracknell Forest Partnership and in their own organisations. Fundamentally, the plan encourages a focus on reducing wastefulness from its operations, to use resources more effectively and encouraging others to do likewise. Such an approach is felt to be uncontentious – delivering benefits to the council, residents, and partner organisations in financial, operational and environmental terms without becoming overly embroiled in the science behind climate change.

The Bracknell Forest Climate Change Partnership was established in April 2009 and made a commitment to support the development and implementation of the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan.

A progress report was published in October 2009 and a revised Action Plan was published in April 2010.

In January 2013, the Council refreshed its commitment to action on climate change by becoming a signatory to Climate Local, the Local Government Association’s successor to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

This 2013 version of our Climate Change Action Plan reflects our commitment under Climate Local.

The aims of our climate change action plan are:

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the council’s own operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal, and the purchase of goods and services.
- To implement policies which reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough.
- To provide focus for climate change leadership in the Borough.
- To highlight and support complimentary strategies and plans in the Borough e.g. waste & recycling, transport, housing development, biodiversity, etc.

- To encourage members of the Bracknell Forest Partnership and other local organisations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- To prepare for the impacts of climate change.
- To demonstrate the economic, social and environmental benefits of tackling climate change.
- To change attitudes and behaviour towards the use of natural resources, particularly fossil fuels.

The context for our Climate Change Action Plan is given by describing what is climate change, what the drivers are to take action on CO<sub>2</sub>, what the “BFC controllable” emissions are, and the need to plan for the future.

The plan itself is presented using 7 key themes:

1. Taking the lead
2. Energy
3. Transport
4. Waste
5. Procurement
6. Adaptation
7. Raising awareness

## **What is Climate Change?**

Climate refers to the average weather experienced over a long period of time. This includes temperature, wind and rainfall patterns. The Earth's climate is not static, and has changed many times in response to a variety of natural causes.

While there are alternative views on the science behind climate change, the council has formed the view that it does exist and that human activity makes a significant contribution to it although the science behind climate change is not the primary driver for our action plan.

The Earth has warmed 0.74°C over the last hundred years. About 0.4°C of this warming has occurred since the 1970s.

The Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) contends strongly that human activity is the main cause of observed climatic changes.

The majority of scientists believe the main human influence on global climate is emissions of the key greenhouse gasses: carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. At present, just over 7 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted globally through fossil fuel use and an additional 1.6 billion tonnes is emitted by land use change, largely by deforestation. The concentration of these gasses in the atmosphere has now reached levels unprecedented for tens of thousands of years.

According to AR4, mean global temperatures are likely to rise between 1.1 and 6.4°C (with a best estimate of 1.8 to 4.0°C) above 1990 levels by the end of this century, depending on our emissions. This will result in further global sea level rises of between 20 and 60cm by the end of the century, continued melting of ice caps, glaciers and sea ice, changes in rainfall patterns and intensification of tropical cyclones.

For the UK, climate change means hotter, drier summers, milder, wetter winters, higher sea levels and a risk of coastal flooding. Across the globe, there will be more intense heat waves, droughts and flooding. There may be severe problems for regions where people are particularly vulnerable to changes in the weather. Food shortages and the spread of disease are commonly predicted.

## **Why Must We Act?**

The Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change (2007) concluded that the costs of not acting will be equivalent to 5% of global GDP each year and could rise to 20% if a wider range of risks and impacts are taken into account. In contrast, the cost of acting now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avoid the worst impacts of climate change can be limited to about 1% of global GDP per year.

The Climate Change Act (2008) sets a legally binding target for the UK to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 and at least 34% by 2020 against a 1990 baseline. The Act established a carbon budgeting system which caps emissions over five year periods. The first four budgets run from 2008-12, 2013-17, 2018-22, and 2023-27. Government policies to meet these budgets are outlined in the Carbon Plan published in December 2011.

## Carbon Dioxide Emissions in Bracknell Forest

From 2003, DEFRA published experimental statistics of carbon dioxide emissions for local authority areas. In 2008, the experimental data set for 2005 was upgraded to full national statistics status and 2005 became the baseline year for future performance monitoring.

Bracknell Forest Carbon Dioxide Emissions under the influence of the Local Authority 2005-2010

Year	Industry & Commerce kt/CO <sub>2</sub>	Domestic kt/CO <sub>2</sub>	Road Transport kt/CO <sub>2</sub>	Total kt/CO <sub>2</sub>	Population 000's	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2005	308.4	263.6	162.9	735.0	111.2	6.6
2006	311.3	264.8	159.2	735.3	111.8	6.6
2007	303.8	261.4	160.0	725.2	113.0	6.4
2008	297.1	260.4	154.1	711.7	114.0	6.2
2009	249.1	233.6	148.7	631.4	115.1	5.5
2010	241.8	249.8	146.8	638.4	116.5	5.5

Note: 2005-2009 figures revised to be comparable with 2010 figures.

The table above shows that per capita emissions in Bracknell Forest fell by 17% in the period 2005-2010. However, it is felt that the 2009 and 2010 figures were influenced by the economic recession.

In 2009 the council published a Carbon Management Plan to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from its own operations by 25% from a 2007/08 baseline by 2012/13. This is forecast to save 16,261 t/CO<sub>2</sub> and £4.4 million in energy costs by 2012/13. A report on the Council's Carbon Management Plan will be published late 2013.

## Adaptation

In January 2012 the Government published the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), the first in a five year cycle. Detailed analysis was undertaken for over 100 impacts across 11 key sectors and is presented in five themes:

1. Agriculture & Forestry
2. Business, Industry & Services
3. Health & Wellbeing
4. Buildings and Infrastructure
5. Natural Environment

The CCRA will inform the development of a National Adaptation Programme.

Local Government has been identified as a key sector and will be required to incorporate climate risk management and adaptation into its routine decision making by 2015.

## **Theme 1: Taking the Lead**

Bracknell Forest Council is taking the lead on climate change in the Borough to ensure the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of the local community. This includes taking advantage of the economic opportunities created by climate change and providing everyone in the community with a high quality, healthy, well adapted environment. We are also conscious of the impacts of climate change on the poorest communities of the world and believe that there is a moral imperative for everyone to take action on climate change - now.

Bracknell Forest Council is uniquely placed to tackle climate change locally. It has a democratic mandate for action; enjoys close proximity to citizens through the services it delivers; has a strategic role convening and leading other public, private and voluntary sector partners; and works with other regional bodies. By signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and then Climate Local, we made a commitment to work with partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change, according to local priorities, securing maximum benefit for our communities.

While Bracknell Forest Council is leading by example in reducing carbon dioxide emissions from its own operations, far greater CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are generated by the local community. We therefore plan to work with our partners and local communities to adopt low carbon lifestyles and tackle climate change together.

No.	Action	SMART Target(s)	Lead Team	Partners	Resource
L1	Lead by example – improve our own policies and practices	Include climate change mitigation and adaptation in all relevant policy documents. Ensure compliance with climate change policy requirements	Climate Change Working Group	Chief Exec's Office DMTs CMT Climate Change Partnership	Ongoing core work
L2	Publish and utilise planning policies which both enable economic prosperity and promote sustainability	Review BFC planning policies to reflect changes in national planning and climate change policies.	Planning Policy	Building Control CMT	
L3	Improve energy efficiency of relevant Council buildings	Implement energy efficiency priorities from Annual Condition Surveys and Display Energy Certificates. Install renewable energy technologies whenever feasible.	CMT	Budget Holders Surveyors	Capital budget Invest-to-Save Feed-in Tariffs Renewable Heat Incentive
L4	Raise awareness and stimulate actions in the community	Maintain public awareness of climate change and sustainability issues. Implement an ongoing programme of community actions.	Climate Change Working Group	Corporate Communications Climate Change Partnership	Ongoing core work
L5	Support homeowners to improve energy efficiency	Investigate alternative schemes to support home energy efficiency. Promote home energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes to homeowners.	Climate Change Working Group	Sustainable Energy Officer Climate Change Partnership	Ongoing core work
L6	Educate current and future generations on sustainability	Support the DC&F sustainable schools agenda in all Bracknell Schools. Support the Eco-Schools programme in local schools. Provide sustainability educational support to community groups ongoing	Children, Young People & Learning  Climate Change Working Group		Ongoing core work

L7	Develop a renewable and low carbon energy strategy for Bracknell Forest.	Refresh RE/LC policies in Local Development Framework by 2014 Assess feasibility of establishing a Low Carbon Energy Fund for Zero Carbon Homes “allowable solutions” from 2016	Spatial Policy	Carbon Management Board Climate Change Partnership	Renewable and Low Carbon Development Report by Peter Brett Associates 2011.
L8	Support key partners in adopting sustainable policies and practices	Seek the support of the Bracknell Forest Partnership for the Council's strategy  Support the development of a wood fuel hub in the borough  Participate in the Thames Valley Vision Project	Chief Executive's Office  Spatial Policy  Director ECC Climate Change Manager	BFP Board Climate Change Partnership  Crown Estate, Forestry Commission  SSE	Renewable and Low Carbon Development Report by Peter Brett Associates 2011.
L9	Adopt the new Climate Local agreement	Sign the Climate Local commitment and publish a revised Climate Change Action plan in accordance with the Climate Local commitment by June 2013	Leader and Chief Executive  Climate Change Working Group	Carbon Management Board CMT BFP Board Climate Change Partnership	
L10	Support National Adaptation Programme	Develop relevant plans and processes as priorities emerge from central government	Climate Change Working Group	CMT BFP Board Health & Wellbeing Board Climate Change Partnership	NHS Sustainable Development Unit Guidance: Adapting to Climate Change for Health & Social Care organisations.

## Theme 2: Energy

Since 1990, UK carbon dioxide emissions decreased by around 23%. This was largely through the switch from carbon intensive fuels such as coal and oil, towards low or zero carbon emission fuels such as gas, nuclear and renewable energy.

In 2010, three main sectors accounted for 81% of all end-user greenhouse gas emissions: the business sector 31%, the residential sector 27%, and the transport sector 24%.

Energy is used by a wide range of different appliances in the home – with about 60% used for heating, 20% for hot water and the remainder for lighting and appliances.

The “energy hierarchy” should be used to determine priorities for action:

- Reduce the need for energy
- Maximise energy efficiency
- Use renewable energy

Types of renewable energy include:

- Wind turbines – electricity
- Solar photovoltaic (PV) – electricity
- Solar thermal – hot water
- Fuel cells - electricity
- Ground source heat pumps – hot water
- Air source heat pumps – hot water
- Biomass boilers – hot water
- Hydro (water driven) – electricity

Bracknell Forest Council is taking steps to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from its own properties and those of its partners in the Bracknell Forest Partnership. The council also provides support and subsidies for local residents to make their homes more energy efficient.

Combined heat and power (CHP) is used at Coral Reef and Bracknell Forest Leisure Centre to generate heat and electricity efficiently. A biomass pellet boiler is supplying heat at the new Garth Hill College, which opened in September 2010. Solar photovoltaic panels were installed on the roof of Bracknell Leisure Centre in March 2012.

From February 2008, all new developments over 5 houses or 500 M<sup>2</sup> of floor space for other development had to demonstrate how carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by at least 10% and provide at least 20% on-site renewable energy generation. Development below this threshold needs to provide at least 10% of their energy requirements from on-site renewable energy generation (Policy CS12 of the council's Core Strategy).

No.	Action	SMART Target(s)	Lead Team	Partners	Resource
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**Internal**

E1	Develop a comprehensive street lighting policy for Bracknell Forest	Review the Council's street lighting system by April 2014. Conduct a trial using LED lighting Continue to roll out the application of the Mayflower link to all new lighting units Draft a low carbon street lighting policy for adoption by the Council by March 2015	Highways asset management group	Street Scene Working Group  Highway Transportation	
E2	Implement Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC).	Meet all reporting and related deadlines  Assess implications of CRC simplification and whether BFC is required to participate	Climate Change Team	EC&C Finance Corporate Services	Note: CRC Simplification excludes all schools from CRC and may bring BFC below registration threshold for Phase 2 from April 2014
E3	Implement Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates & Inspections)	Renew Display Energy Certificates annually for all Council and school buildings over 500M <sup>2</sup> Display valid DEC's in a prominent place visible to the public. Produce annual inspection reports for all air conditioning systems over 12kW	Climate Change Team	Schools Admissions & Property Facilities/Site Managers	Energy Manager is registered Energy Assessor

E4	Review Carbon Management Plan	Submit final report on the Council's Carbon Management Plan 2008-2012 by September 2013.	Director ECC Climate Change Team	Carbon Management Board	
E5	Improve energy/carbon efficiency of Council buildings and schools where practical	Utilise Invest-to-Save fund to implement energy/carbon efficiency measures in Council buildings and Schools  Review the Council's Energy Management system	Climate Change Team	Schools Admissions & Property. Facilities/Site Managers	£1m ITS Fund / DEC Advisory Reports
E6	Install renewable energy and low carbon technologies on appropriate Council buildings and schools	Conduct feasibility studies for RE/LC technologies, obtain quotes and submit Invest-to-Save bids. Support procurement and installation on viable sites.	Climate Change Team	Schools Admissions & Property Governing bodies Corporate Property Procurement	Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) & Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)
E8	Support Bracknell Forest Schools to implement a schools energy policy	Support schools to implement a schools energy policy. Review implementation and report progress in Schools Annual Environmental Report	Climate Change Team	Schools Admissions & Property Governing bodies	Schools Energy Policy template supplied to all BFC schools.
E9	Publish a Corporate Energy Report and Schools Environmental Report	Publish a BFC Energy Report, inclusive of schools energy by September annually Publish a Schools Environmental Report inclusive of schools energy by December annually	Climate Change Team	Schools Admissions & Property	

E10	Review low carbon & renewable energy heating options for Bracknell Leisure Centre and Coral Reef	Investigate low carbon & renewable energy options for replacing gas CHP units at Bracknell Leisure Centre and Coral Reef. Submit CMT Report	Chief Officer: Leisure and Culture  Climate Change Team	Leisure Services	
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## Households

E11	Promote Flexible Home Improvement Loan scheme to eligible private home owners.	Value of loans awarded for energy saving works and number of applicants by March annually.	Regulatory Services	Berkshire Authorities Climate Change Team Housing Strategy Team	Link to Green Deal from January 2013.
E12	Promote renewable energy schemes through the Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) and Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)	Publicise renewable energy schemes through Council website, press releases and Your Energy Matters advisory centre.	Climate Change Team	Corporate Communications Climate Change Partnership	Feed-in Tariffs & Renewable Heat Incentives
E13	Promote home energy efficiency & alleviate fuel poverty	Establish Green Deal / ECO advisory service for Bracknell Forest residents by March 2013. Reduce the number of home under SAP 50 by 2.5% p.a.	Climate Change Team	Green Deal Providers Bracknell Forest Homes Social Services	Green Deal/ECO finance.
E14	Improve our understanding of residential energy efficiency	Increase the proportion of homes recorded in the ELMHURST home energy database (currently 75%)  Publish Home Energy Conservation reports	Climate Change Team	Elmhurst Energy  Housing Bracknell Forest Homes	Landmark registry licence.

## Theme 3: Transport

The United Kingdom's Climate Change Act 2008 is the world's first national long-term legally binding framework. It commits the Government to cut emissions by at least 80% by 2050. In order to meet the United Kingdom's commitments, we need to build on current progress in reducing transport emissions.

Domestic transport accounted for 22% of the United Kingdom's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2009 (the most recent data available), and more than half of these are from the private car. One third of emissions are generated by trips under ten miles, with trips in the 2 to 5 mile category contributing 40% of these emissions. Local transport policies therefore have a key role to play.

In January 2011, the coalition published its White Paper for Local Transport titled; "Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon – Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen." The Local Sustainable Transport Fund was set up by central government to award grants to Local Authorities who could demonstrate a package of measures that would reduce carbon emissions and promote economic growth.

Bracknell Forest Council was successful in its bid for a grant and has been awarded £1.6 million. This money will be used over the next 3 years to deliver the following measures;

- To work with local employers to reduce the congestion and emissions caused by single occupancy car commuting
- To work with schools to encourage more cycling
- To work with targeted residential areas to encourage more sustainable travel modes
- To renovate Bracknell bus station
- To provide real time journey information to allow more informed travel choices
- To improve our ability to manage the major traffic junctions in the borough so they operate more effectively

The council is a major employer in its own right, and so generates a significant amount of commuting and business related journeys. Our Travel Plan has been effective in reducing the percentage of staff travelling alone by car to work from 90% in 2005 to 72% in 2010. A further survey is due towards the end of 2012 to check whether this improvement has been maintained.

Travel patterns in the borough, as monitored via the annual 'Travel in Bracknell Report', show long-term increases in rail, bus, cycling and pedestrian modes, and a general decrease in average annual daily flow of vehicle traffic.

No.	Action	SMART Target(s)	Lead Team	Partners	Resource
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### Transport Planning

T1	Increase the use of sustainable modes of transport in targeted areas	Deliver Personal Travel Planning to targeted areas Reduce car journeys for all trip purposes by 10% in the targeted areas by March 2015	Planning and Transportation	Bracknell Forest Partnership	Local Sustainable Transport Funded Programme
T2	Encourage more children (and parents) to cycle to school by delivering a Bike It programme to 24 schools	Achieve a 15% increase in cycling to school at the targeted schools by March 2015	Planning and Transportation	Bracknell Forest Partnership	Local Sustainable Transport Funded Programme
T3	Encourage more employers to support sustainable travel choices among employees	Reduce commuting to work by car by 10% at targeted employer sites by March 2015	Planning and Transportation	Bracknell Forest Partnership	Local Sustainable Transport Funded Programme

### Fleet Management

T4	Reduce environmental impact of vehicle fleet	Seize all appropriate opportunities to downsize and optimise replacement vehicles	Integrated Transport Unit	Climate Change Working Group	Ongoing core work
T5	Review pool car scheme	Consider the use of electric vehicles. Assess the feasibility of converting from pool cars to a car club. Implement any changes by March 2014	Integrated Transport Unit	Climate Change Working Group Travel Plan Co-ordinator	Plugged-in Fleets study approved.
T6	Seek to encourage reductions in the environmental impact of contractors' vehicles	Establish appropriate reporting of vehicle mileage and fuel consumption.  Encourage contractors to reduce environmental impacts of vehicles	Procuring officers	Procurement Climate Change Team	

## Theme 4: Waste

How we manage our waste has a direct impact on climate change. Everyday waste contains readily biodegradable organic matter such as kitchen waste, garden waste and paper. When these wastes break down in landfill they give off carbon dioxide and methane gas. Methane is one of the greenhouse gasses that are believed to be contributing to the effects of climate change.

Here are some facts from DEFRA about the link between our waste and climate change:

Whilst CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) is the most prevalent greenhouse gas, methane is 23 times more damaging to the atmosphere than CO<sub>2</sub>.

Methane emissions from biodegradable waste in landfill account for 40% of all UK methane emissions and 3% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions.

Current UK recycling of waste materials is estimated to save more than 18 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, through avoided primary material production. That's equivalent to the annual CO<sub>2</sub> output of 5 million cars.

Although it's a complex thing to assess, recycling is often less energy intensive than making products from virgin materials. For example aluminium recycling uses 95% less energy than is used in making the same product from aluminium ore. Energy consumption is a major contributor to climate change and recycling can be one way of reducing it.

The way in which waste is collected also has an impact on climate change. Vehicles are a major source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and so provision of kerbside recycling and local recycling centres enables residents to greatly reduce the number of journeys that they would otherwise need to cover in order to dispose of their waste at the Household Waste Recycling Centre for example.

Bracknell Forest Council has worked to continually decrease overall waste; increase the amount of waste recycled and composted; decrease the amount sent to landfill and promote home composting. The council introduced Alternate Weekly Collections in 2006. The amount of waste recycled and composted has increased from 9% in 1998 to over 42% in 2011/12.

Bracknell Forest Council is part of a waste disposal partnership with Reading and Wokingham Borough Councils together with waste disposal contractor Waste Recycling Group (WRG). This partnership is known as re3 and WRG have a 25-year contract, ending in December 2031. Since the start of the contract new waste facilities have been provided, including two Household Waste Recycling Centres, one at Longshot Lane in Bracknell and one at Smallmead in Reading. In 2009 the Materials Recovery Facility was completed at Smallmead, this machinery separates the co-mingled recycling collected from the kerbside back into separate materials. This infrastructure enables the partnership to deal with the 190,000 tonnes of waste from the three councils in the most sustainable and cost effective way. It also aims to encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle more waste.

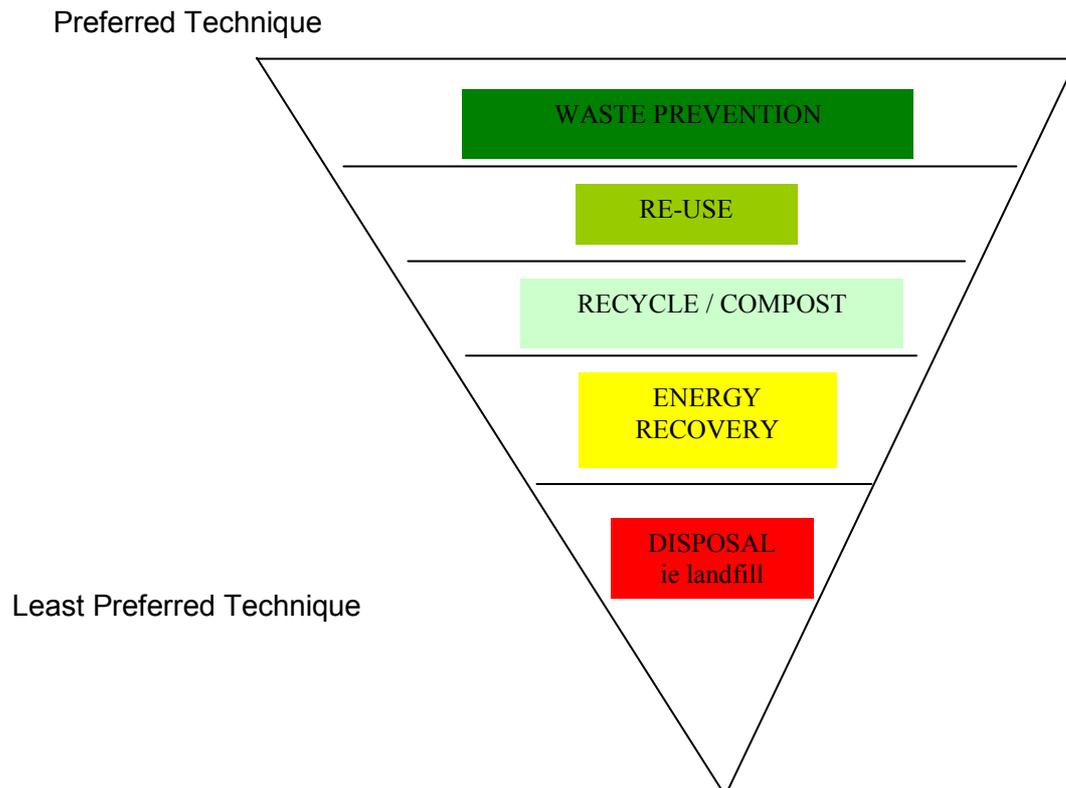
Since 2009 the re3 partnership has been diverting waste from landfill by sending a proportion of the residual waste collected at the kerbside of the three boroughs to Energy from Waste to be converted into heat and power.

The re3 partners have formulated a joint waste strategy and have adopted the government waste hierarchy (National Waste Strategy 2007) below, which shows

the best way to deal with waste. The most important action is to reduce the amount of waste we produce in the first place.

Bracknell Forest Council as an individual authority and as part of the re3 partnership is committed to the protection of the environment in relation to management of waste and climate change and will continually review ways in which these issues can be tackled.

### The Waste Hierarchy



No	Action	SMART Target(s)	Lead	Partners	Resource
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### Waste Minimisation and Awareness

W1	Increase participation in recycling and composting.	Implement a co-ordinated programme of awareness-raising for the whole community. Implement BFC incentive scheme 78% participation rate in recycling	Waste and Recycling Team.	re3 council waste and recycling teams.	Ongoing core work
W2	Support local small businesses on recycling and waste reduction	Work with small business to promote best practice. Networking and partnerships.	re3 partners.	Business Link. Environwise.	re3 partners current resources via web site

### Garden Waste

W3	Promotion of home composting.	Increase the number of home composters delivered in the Borough, ongoing.	Waste and Recycling Team.	WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) and re3 partners.	re3 partnership to manage the supply of compost bins and wormeries.
W4	Promotion of the garden waste collection scheme.	Maintain participation in the brown bin scheme now collection charge introduced in 2012/13	Waste and Recycling Team.	SITA	Ongoing core work

### Recycling

W5	Increase the number of recycling sites available to residents for items not collected at the kerbside.	Increase glass and textile recycling sites in Bracknell Forest. Ensure all new developments are provided with underground recycling sites for glass and charity banks.	Waste and Recycling Team.	Re3 waste contractor. Planning and Transportation. Developers.	Ongoing core work  Funded as part of new development, the first opened for use in 2012.
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W6	Reduce the amount of dumped rubbish at recycling sites.	Ensure all recycling sites have clear signs, new litter bins and advice on fly-tipping. Use CCTV to monitor sites where highest amount of dumped rubbish is recorded and take enforcement action when appropriate.	Waste and Recycling Team.  Enforcement Team	Waste collection contractor	Ongoing core work
W7	Continue to promote waste minimisation methods, including reducing food waste..	Reduce food waste in residual waste and increase uptake in green cone food digesters.  Utilise “love food hate waste” campaign	Waste & Recycling Team.	SITA Re3 partners	
W8	Work with local charities, voluntary groups and other organisations to develop small recycling and reuse schemes for items that are currently more difficult to recycle and reuse.	Through re3 partnership continue to increase reuse of furniture and paint.	Waste & Recycling Team. Re3 partners	Sue Ryder – part of re3 contract Green Machine CIC – run local community repaint project	Self funded projects run through re3
W9	Decrease contamination in the collected recyclate	Currently 16% contamination rate	Waste & Recycling Team.	FCC Re3 partners	

## **Theme 5: Procurement**

Local Government spends more than £40 billion each year undertaking capital projects and buying goods and services. LGA notes, “Our spending decisions are an important instrument in tackling climate change both by reducing carbon emissions and ensuring that our buildings and infrastructure are resilient to climate change.”

The Council spends approximately £90 million p.a. on bought-in goods and services. Our Procurement Strategy, to help deliver the council’s Medium Term Objectives, was approved in 2008 and is updated periodically with support from the Service Efficiency Steering Group.

We have a small team of specialised procurement officers in the Corporate Procurement Team who develop procurement policies and procedures and establish and manage corporate contracts. All other procurement and purchasing activities are devolved to departmental budget holders with central advice and support.

Procurement has published a Sustainable Purchasing Guide as Appendix 3 of the Procurement Manual. The guide “promotes awareness of the environmental, social and economic impacts of various goods and services and aims to help staff involved in council purchasing to integrate sustainability into purchasing decisions.”

The current policy framework provides an opportunity to review our procurement policies and practices to ensure that sustainable procurement is fully embedded into all parts of our procurement processes.

No.	Action	SMART Target	Lead Team	Partners	Resource
P1	Review sustainable procurement in the Procurement Strategy.	Revise Procurement Strategy by March 2014	Head of procurement	Service Efficiency steering group	Ongoing core work
P2	Consider extent to which Social Value Act can be used to help achieve Council's Climate Change Strategy	Review procurement processes and document templates. Develop a suite of questions which can be used in the tender process by September 2013.	Corporate Procurement.	Service Efficiency steering group	Ongoing core work
P3	Sustainable procurement training	Review Procurement Training Plan by March 2013. Procurement briefings to include sustainable procurement principles.	Corporate Procurement.	Climate Change Working Group	Ongoing core work
P4	Promote sustainable procurement policy	Continue to communicate to staff through Procurement briefings and suppliers through external website by March 2014.	Corporate Procurement.	Service Efficiency steering group	Existing resource

## Theme 6: Adaptation

The Stern Review highlighted the fact that even if the world were to cease all greenhouse gas emissions tomorrow, we would still face many decades of climate change due to the length of time that carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere. Although efforts to cut emissions should continue, it is essential that we begin adapting assets, infrastructure and services to cope with the future impacts of climate change.

The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP 09) identifies the following climate change risks for SE England;

- Hotter, drier summers,
- Milder, wetter winters,
- More frequent extreme high temperatures,
- More frequent heavy downpours of rain,
- Significant decreases in soil moisture content in summer,
- Sea level rises and increases in storm surge height,
- Possible higher wind speeds.

While Bracknell Forest may not feel the direct impact of sea level rises and storm surges, there is a risk of flooding from local rivers and surface water.

The Local Development Framework, informed by a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, limits development in the floodplains of The Cut and Blackwater rivers on the northern and southern boundaries of the Borough. However, the risk of flooding from surface water run-off during periods of heavy and prolonged rainfall is less predictable and may occur anywhere in the Borough.

Bracknell Forest was fortunate to avoid the worst of the summer 2007 floods, which cost eighteen Local Authorities a quarter of a billion pounds. Seventy percent of this cost was incurred by just four Local Authorities. The floods also highlighted problems of coordination amongst the agencies responsible for water management and emergency response.

At the other end of the spectrum, hotter, drier summers can cause drought, resulting in domestic water restrictions; hosepipe bans; plant die-off; species migration and forest fires.

Extreme variations in the moisture content of soil can cause heave and shrinkage, resulting in structural damage to buildings.

No.	Action	SMART Target	Lead Team	Partners	Resource
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**Water**

A1	Reduce the risk of surface flooding throughout the Borough.	Publish a local Flood Risk Management Strategy by September 2013  Establish Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) Approving Body by April 2014	Engineer (Flooding)  Senior Engineer (SUDS & Highway Adoption)	Thames Water. Environment Agency.	
A2	Reduce water use in identified council buildings.	Install automatic meter readers on inaccessible water meters by March 2014. Reduce water consumption & leakage by 5% p.a.	Climate Change Team.	Schools  Site Managers	

A3	Encourage public to have more environmentally friendly gardens.	<p>Increase promotion of green gardening and water conservation techniques e.g. -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- garden centre day</li> <li>- water butts</li> <li>- drought resistant plants</li> <li>- winter planting of woody plants</li> <li>- mulching, composting &amp; top dressing</li> <li>- Gardening for Wildlife</li> </ul>	Biodiversity Officer	Bracknell Flowers committee.	Increased promotional time & cost.
A4	Improve water supply and retention to trees in order to reduce impacts of warmer summers and droughts.	<p>Increase planting of amenity trees during winter months. The Council will not plant trees outside of the planting season. Use of drought resistant tree species to be given greater consideration. Greater use of the planting box to minimise run off and evaporation of water. Greater utilisation of compost/ mulch/wood chip to prepare planting pits and top dress newly planted trees.</p>	Landscape Services.	Parks & Countryside	Increased cost of planting boxes, compost/mulch/wood chip.

## Open Spaces

A5	Adapt maintenance programmes for parks and open spaces to changes in the growth patterns of plants	Review current maintenance regimes to accommodate altered growth patterns of plants. Continue to write risk management policy document addressing climate change. Greater use of mulching and soil improvement techniques.	Parks & Countryside	Landscape Services	Assess implications once review and changes in growing season are known
A6	Plan for impacts of climate change on species and habitat conservation and migration	Tree Service, Landscape designer and Biodiversity Officer to be consulted on all tree planting schemes to advise on site and species selection	Landscape Services Parks & Countryside Service	Friends Groups Natural England	Increased consultation time by Tree Service, Landscape Designer and Biodiversity Officer.
A7	Implement climate change cross-cutting theme in Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-17	Identify and adopt a green infrastructure network and policy for Bracknell Forest borough by March 2014 Publish a review of the impacts of climate change on the BAP and identify actions by 2015.	Landscape Services Parks & Countryside Service	Biodiversity Forum Climate Change Partnership	
A8	Reduce wildfire risk in Bracknell Forest	Extend Swinley Forest fire risk mapping to other wooded areas in the borough. Manage woodlands to reduce wildfire risk. Introduce a wildfire risk assessment and mitigation policy for new development in borough.	Emergency Planning  Planning officers	Home Counties Wildfire Group GIS Tree Service Spatial Policy Parks & Countryside	
A9	Plant trees to provide shade.	Encourage schools and other land owners to plant shade trees utilising national events i.e. National Tree Week.	Children's Services	Education. Parks & Countryside Service	Conditional on availability of funds to plant and maintain new trees.

## **Theme 7: Raising awareness**

There can be few people today who are not aware of climate change through the popular media. From extreme weather events around the globe to melting ice caps and the plight of the polar bears, climate change is rarely out of the news.

How our everyday lifestyles contribute towards climate change and what effects it may have on our lives or those of our children are less well understood.

The widespread scientific consensus that man-made greenhouse gas emissions are responsible for climate change and the increasing evidence of the consequences are galvanising our actions around two themes:

- Mitigation – reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Adaptation – preparing for the consequences.

Hence, while the council has been raising awareness of environmental issues for many years, the emphasis is now shifting towards the impacts of climate change.

The Energy Savings Trust identified three ways that local authorities can address climate change:

- As estate managers - Local authorities are large employers and major consumers of energy and other resources. Through better management of transport and buildings, councils can cut emissions and save money. They can also consider how their estate can be better adapted to the changing climate.
- As service providers - For all the services a local authority provides, from Emergency Planning to Social Care, councils can ensure that the impacts of climate change are properly taken into account and emissions are cut as far as possible.
- As community leaders - through the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Strategic Partnership, local authorities can work with other public and private agencies and the wider community to help cut the overall emissions of their area and develop an integrated response to climate change adaptation.

Raising awareness of climate change will take place in each of these areas to ensure that everyone is able to play their part in the major environmental challenge of our time. This includes councillors, council staff, members of the Bracknell Forest Partnership, local statutory, business, voluntary and community sector organisations and individual members of the community.

No.	Action	SMART Target	Lead Team	Partners	Resource
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### Internal

R1	Raise staff awareness of the Climate Change Action Plan.	Publish revised Climate Change Action Plan by July 2013. Include actions in Council service plans annually. Where relevant, Include climate change in staff training and development programmes, Run environmental management workshops	CMT Climate Change Working Group. CMT.	Corporate Communications. HR	Ongoing core work
R2	Maintain staff awareness through internal communications channels.	Maintain Climate Change page on BORIS with links to relevant resources. Publish climate change articles in Forest Views. Publish Corporate Energy Report and Schools Environmental Report annually.	Climate Change Team	Corporate Communications, I.T. Energy Champions Children, Young People & Learning	Ongoing core work
R3	Increase the number of registered Eco-Schools achieving awards.	Encourage increased participation in the Eco-Schools Programme. Provide advice and support for participating schools. Report progress in annual Schools Environmental Report and other publications	Climate Change Team	Children, Young People & Learning Corporate Communications	Ongoing core work
R4	Promote environmental education in schools.	Develop awareness of the environment and climate change through Geography and cross curricular activities. Incorporate environmental and climate change themes in intra/inter school collaborative projects e.g. music & dance.	Children, Young People & Learning	Schools	Ongoing core work

## Strategic Planning

R5	Support climate change action by all members of the Bracknell Forest Partnership.	Maintain working relationships with the BFP Board and theme partnerships. Implement collaborative climate change projects with theme partnerships.	Climate Change Partnership. Partnership Board.	Theme Partnerships.	Ongoing core work
R6	Encourage partnership members to develop and publish their own CC action plans.	Action plans published annually.	Partnership Board.	BFP Members.	Ongoing core work
R7	Collaborate with other Berkshire authorities through Climate Berkshire.	Support development and implementation of strategic climate change priorities for Berkshire.	Executive Member Climate Change Team	Climate Change Partnership	Ongoing core work

## Throughout the Borough

R8	Communicate actions on climate change to the public through a variety of local media.	Maintain a climate change page on BFBC web site with links to relevant resources. Publish climate change articles in Town & Country. Issue climate change press releases to local media. Promote climate change action at public events.	Climate Change Team	Corporate Communications. I.T.	Ongoing core work
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