

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration

Annual Statement January 2009



CLACKMANNANSHIRE

COUNCIL



Organisation Profile	
Organisation name	Clackmannanshire Council
Web site address	www.clacksweb.org.uk
Number of employees (full time equivalent)	2320.8
List council services/departments	Chief Executive's Service Corporate Development Services Development and Environmental Services Services to People
Total number of council premises (excluding land)	120
Revenue budget for current financial year	£123.6m
Capital budget for current financial year	£20.1m
Local authority area population	49,900 (June 2007 estimate)
Number of households in the council area and expected household growth	21,940 in 2006, predicted to rise to 27,880 by 2031 (a 27% increase).
Total greenhouse gas or 'carbon dioxide' emissions from council operations	52,753 tonnes CO ₂ e (2006/07)
Area footprint	According to REAP 2004 data (available at http://resource-accounting.org.uk/downloads/scotland) Ecological footprint - 5.29 global hectares/capita Carbon footprint - 12.03 tonnes/capita Greenhouse gas footprint - 16.29 tonnes CO ₂ e/capita

Governance Arrangements

There is no decision-making body in the Council with a specific climate change remit: decisions relating to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration are made by the full Council. The Council has a Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Councillor Carrick, who is a member of COSLA's Climate Change Task Group.

The Council's Sustainability Team has co-ordinated the preparation of a draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Clackmannanshire: the consultation phase of this ended on October 24th 2008. The Strategy embodies the council's policy on climate change mitigation and adaptation; it is currently being finalised along with an accompanying Action Plan and Communications Plan for presentation to Council in Spring 2009.

We have a Sustainability Champions' Network which is made up of managers and officers from all council services: the Network supports the development of the Strategy and will be instrumental in implementing it.

The Sustainability Team has responsibility for climate change within the council. Other divisions in the Council also contribute to action on climate change, particularly: Property Services; Roads and Transportation; Waste Services; and Housing Services. A Carbon Management Plan (the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme Strategy and Implementation Plan) has been agreed with the Carbon Trust; it is sponsored by the Head of Property Services and includes actions for property, waste, transport and housing.

Key council officers with responsibility for climate change issues are:

- Director of Development and Environmental Services, who has the brief and therefore the ultimate responsibility for sustainability issues, including climate change, in the council.
- Strategy and Support Manager, who manages the council's sustainability work.
- Team Leader, Sustainability
- Sustainability Officer
- Integrated Waste Manager
- Property Team Leader
- Team Leader - Traffic & Transportation

There are two posts in the council that have climate change in their remit or job description: the Team Leader Sustainability and the Sustainability Officer. There is no dedicated climate change officer.

Commitment one: to work with the Scottish Government and the UK Government to contribute to the delivery of Scotland's and the UK's Climate Change Programmes, including to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to future climate change scenarios.

We first signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration on 19th January, 2007, and we have since renewed our commitment by re-signing the Declaration using the Scottish Government version in 2008. By signing the Declaration we have acknowledged that climate change is happening and that human activities are having a potentially dangerous influence; we have also committed to take action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Actions taken to meet this commitment:

- In our single outcome agreement (SOA) with Scottish Government, we have identified and agreed to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions from both the Council and Clackmannanshire as a whole. We have also set a target of reducing the annual greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations by 15%: from 52,753 tonnes of CO₂e in 2007/08 to 44,840 tonnes in 2012/13. This reduction will be driven through the implementation of our Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan, developed in conjunction with the Carbon Trust. We have also committed to reduce Clackmannanshire's carbon footprint by 10% by 2011, from 11.15 tonnes/capita in 2003.
- We have participated in the Scottish Government's consultations on the Climate Change Bill, Flooding Bill and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.
- We have produced a draft Clackmannanshire Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and have consulted with a large number of stakeholders, including the Scottish Government, during its preparation.
- We have a Flood Liaison Advisory Group (FLAG), which includes the Council, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and environmental non-governmental organisations. The FLAG promotes holistic approaches to flood management.

Next steps:

- Take further action to meet the commitments we have made in the SOA.
- Participate in further consultation on climate change legislation and strategy, and work with the Scottish Government to identify what support we need to make progress.
- Finalise and implement the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, taking into account the comments made on the Strategy and its accompanying environmental report.
- Evaluate the benefits of working towards Carbon Trust Standard accreditation.

Commitment two: To produce and publicly declare a plan, with targets and time-scales, to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations. This will include our energy use and sourcing, travel and transportation, waste production and disposal, estate management, procurement of goods and services, and improved staff awareness.

We have taken number of steps to quantify our greenhouse gas emissions and have developed a Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan (SIP) to achieve a 15% reduction in emissions from our own operations. We have worked with the Carbon Trust as part of their Local Authority Carbon Management Programme to establish what our greenhouse gas emissions currently are and what actions we can take to reduce our impact.

Our total greenhouse gas emissions for 2006/7 amounted to 52,753 tonnes CO₂e. The main source of greenhouse gas emissions in our own operations is housing, contributing 57% of the total emissions. Other primary sources have been identified as transport, buildings, commuting, street lighting and collected waste. The following table shows how Clackmannanshire's emissions are broken down into these sources and the targets set to achieve a 15% reduction from each by 2012/13.

	2006/07 emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)	Percentage of total 2006/07 emissions	Target for 2008/09 (tonnes CO ₂ e)	Target for 2012/13 (tonnes CO ₂ e)
Housing	30160	57%	29255	25636
Transport	8247	16%	8000	7010
Buildings	7184	14%	6968	6106
Commuting	4725	9%	4583	4016
Street lighting	2310	4%	2241	1964
Collected waste	127	<1%	123	108

The Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACM) provides a framework for the Council to evaluate its activities at present, and to plan a way forward in order to meet clearly defined carbon reduction targets. The SIP sets out the first tranche of actions that we will take to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, bearing in mind that most of the "quick wins" have already been done. The vision of the SIP is:

- To make a significant contribution to government targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to become fully compliant with the commitments outlined in Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.
- To establish Clackmannanshire Council as a national leader in operating a sustainable, low carbon economy.
- To develop a "whole council" approach, where not only council employees, but also all those who live and work within the Clackmannanshire area participate in, and continue to experience the benefits of, a more sustainable society.

Key projects detailed in the SIP include a continuation of the work on the housing stock to reduce energy consumption, a widespread and comprehensive energy awareness campaign and the implementation of incentives for staff to use environmentally friendly modes of transport as opposed to personal cars.

Although its vision is to benefit the whole community, the LACM Strategy and Implementation Plan is primarily a document for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations. We are also in the process of producing a Travel Plan for the council, which will try to reduce the need for people to drive:

promoting alternative ways of working as well as alternative modes of transport. These documents both complement the draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, which deals with the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, particularly by reducing the Council's impact, in the context of a range of other sustainability issues in Clackmannanshire. The draft Strategy was approved by Council for public consultation in June 2008, and the consultation ran until 24 October 2008.

As well as committing to produce a plan, we have also committed to "publicly declare" it. We have taken a number of steps to do this, raising awareness of both the SIP and the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. These two documents were both approved at the Council meeting of 5 June 2008: the public are entitled to attend Council meetings, and agendas and reports are published on the council's website in advance of the meeting. Once the Strategy and SIP were approved a press release was prepared and put in the "News" section of the Council's website; it was also circulated to local newspapers and subsequently reported on. The local newspapers also reported on Clackmannanshire Council receiving our Local Authority Carbon Management programme graduation certificate in May 2008.

As part of the preparation of the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, we carried out a strategic environmental assessment, which meant that we were obliged to publish the draft strategy and invite the public to express their views on it. Since the issues are so important, we took the consultation beyond the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Scotland Act and held a series of public events, as well as sending the document to approximately 80 stakeholders who we expected might have an interest. These stakeholders included community groups, environmental agencies and all libraries and schools Clackmannanshire. There were three evening drop-in consultation sessions in Alloa, Alva and Dollar, which were advertised in the press, on our website and with posters at the venues: these were an opportunity for people to talk to the officers involved in producing the strategy and discuss any issues or raise questions. There was also a one-day event in Alloa which gave members of the public the opportunity to find out more about energy efficiency and waste minimisation, as well as the Strategy and the council's work on sustainability in general.

The SIP relies on everyone who works for the Council playing their part, so raising staff awareness is very important. We have established a Green Office Working Group, which brings together officers from Waste Services, Property Services and Transportation, as well as Communications, to implement measures to reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions. The group works to raise staff awareness of the need to reduce emissions, and of the ways to do it. Ways this is done include internal emails to all staff, Sustainability notice boards in the main Council offices, and a Sustainability Bulletin. As part of the development of the SIP, there was an "opportunities workshop", which was a chance for all staff to suggest ways to reduce the Council's carbon emissions; the suggestions were then discussed and prioritised at a meeting of the Sustainability Champions' Network. During the development of the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy there were meetings with senior managers to decide the content of the strategy and ensure buy-in to it. There were also a series of drop-in sessions in the main Council offices, to which all staff were invited in order to make suggestions, raise concerns and discuss the strategy.

Next steps

- Energy awareness training for staff.
- Implement the actions in the SIP.
- Further opportunities workshops to identify future emissions-reducing actions.

- Finalise the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy
- Evaluate the benefits of working towards Carbon Trust Standard accreditation.

Commitment three: To ensure that greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation measures are clearly incorporated into our new and existing strategies, plans and programmes, in line with sustainable development principles.

There is a legal requirement to carry out strategic environmental assessment (SEA) on all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies: this is a systematic process to predict and mitigate the likely impacts that they will have on the environment. SEA considers impacts on "climatic factors," which ensures that climate change is considered; it also requires consideration of other environmental and social factors, and is considered to be a way of ensuring that plans are developed in line with sustainable development principles. Staff from across the council have received training in SEA and have been briefed on the requirement to undertake it. We have also developed a checklist which is used to assess the sustainability implications of the recommendations contained in Council reports, including climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy addresses climate change in the context of sustainable development, and acknowledges the interrelationship between climate change and other environmental, social and economic considerations. Once adopted, the Strategy will be a guiding document in the production of the Council's plans, programmes and strategies.

Next steps

- Finalise the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and ensure that it is taken into account in the production of, or amendments to, plans, programmes and strategies.
- Continue to promote the importance of, and requirement for, SEA in the council.
- Production of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Council

Commitment four: To assess the risks and opportunities for our services and our communities of predicted climate change scenarios and impacts, and take action to adapt accordingly and in line with sustainable development principles.

We have taken a number of steps to deal with climate change risks and opportunities. Adaptation to the impacts of climate change is a key part of the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and something that will need to be considered in our planning for the future.

We have an Emergency Planning team, which assesses major risks in the area and puts in place plans to deal with them. There are Major Emergencies Operational Procedures, which include procedures for dealing with extreme weather events, and the Council website has advice to the community about how to prepare for emergencies.

Flooding is a major issue for Clackmannanshire, and the risk of flooding is likely to increase with a changing climate. In addition to convening a FLAG group, mentioned in Commitment 1 above, we have also worked in partnership with WWF Scotland on an innovative sustainable flood management scheme on the River Devon, which uses "soft engineering" to work with, rather than against, the river's natural processes. By slowing the flow of water into the river upstream and allowing managed retreat of flood waters, settlements downstream are less likely to be flooded. Measures include the restoration of upland bogs and wetlands, planting of riparian woodland and replacing river meanders. This work provides multiple benefits for flood management and biodiversity, and the creation of carbon sinks. More information on this project, and the wider application of the techniques used, can be found in WWF's non-technical report on sustainable flood management, "Slowing the Flow," which is available electronically on the web at http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/slowngflow_web.pdf

The impacts of climate change will not just be felt by people: our plant and animal species will also need to adapt, and are likely to move northwards as temperatures rise. Our work with the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership includes the protection and creation of habitat: it is also an ideal opportunity for the people of Clackmannanshire to get involved with nature conservation.

The current version of the Clackmannanshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) expires this year. The review process is already underway and will produce a plan that will provide guidance and set targets for biodiversity conservation in Clackmannanshire over the next five years. The revised LBAP will increase emphasis on habitat connectivity through the identification and creation of ecologically functional habitat networks. These networks will assist species in their adaptation to climate change by enabling species to move northwards as required as the climate changes as well as focusing on the biodiversity benefits of sustainable flood management techniques.

The Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy makes it clear that climate change mitigation and adaptation should be viewed in the context of sustainable development, and that measures to address the impacts of climate change should be analysed for their impacts on other environmental, social and economic concerns. The requirement to carry out strategic environmental assessment for most plans, programmes and strategies should ensure that sustainable development principles are taken into account in decision-making for larger programmes and projects.

Next steps

- Revise the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, ensuring that climate change adaptation is a core consideration
- Consider producing a Local Climate Impacts Profile for Clackmannanshire
- Develop Emergency Planning activity to include climate risks
- Produce a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Clackmannanshire

Commitment five: To encourage and work with others in our local community to take action to adapt to the impact of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.

The Stockholm Environment Institute's Resources and Energy Analysis Programme (REAP) estimates Clackmannanshire's carbon dioxide emissions for 2004 as 12.03 tonnes CO₂/capita; this is an increase on the 2003 estimate of 11.15 tonnes CO₂/capita, but our carbon footprint remains below the Scottish average, which is now estimated to be 12.16 tonnes CO₂/capita. In our Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government we agreed to reduce Clackmannanshire's carbon footprint by 10% by 2011.

In order to encourage and enable the community reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions:

- We distribute information booklets on saving energy and reducing carbon emissions through a variety of outlets, council departments, events, home visits and external organisations. These booklets increase awareness of energy issues.
- We provide home energy advice to residents, through home visits, to enable residents to reduce their fuel bills through using energy more efficiently. These visits also cover renewable energy systems where appropriate.
- We work in partnership with Scottish Gas to provide low cost cavity wall and loft insulation to home owners. The scheme was publicised through the local media and by a mailshot to home owners who had previously answered an Energy Saving Trust questionnaire. To date this has generated 73 surveys being booked, 5 installations completed and 12 installations to be carried out. This scheme will also be promoted as part of Warm and Well Areas.
- We have received Warm Deal funding from the Scottish Government to provide insulation to 110 council owned dwellings. To effectively tackle the pockets at high risk of fuel poverty throughout the County, we will target geographical areas using both Warm Deal funding and the private sector insulation scheme, beginning with a neighbourhood in Alloa. The scheme will be rolled out to further high risk areas as further funding becomes available over the next 18 months. This will enable residents to reduce their energy usage and carbon emissions.
- All of our schools are registered on the EcoSchools and 14 have been awarded at least one green flag. The EcoSchools programme includes energy, transport and waste minimisation in its nine topics, all of which can have an impact on the community's greenhouse gas emissions. We run an annual competition for schools to reduce their energy consumption, and council's Energy Officer works with schools to help them make these savings.
- We have promotional materials and information about ways to reduce the environmental impact of travel, which are available to the public. These include a booklet on fuel-efficient driving and information about alternative modes of transport. We also have a car-sharing scheme, TripshareClacks, which matches up people making similar journeys.

The Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, although primarily a council document, is also intended to help members of the community to reduce their environmental impact, and we hope that other organisations in Clackmannanshire will take inspiration from it. As part of our consultation on the Strategy, we ran a public drop-in event with a number of other organisations, which gave people the opportunity to talk to representatives of the Energy Saving Trust and the Energy Challenge to find ways to reduce their energy consumption; the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) were also on hand to provide advice on composting, which diverts garden waste and some food waste from landfill, reducing methane emissions.

Our Countryside Rangers and Biodiversity Co-ordinator do a lot of work to help Clackmannanshire's wildlife adapt to the impacts of climate change by creating and protecting habitats and habitat corridors. They often invite members of the community to help with this work as volunteers, and work with school children as part of the curriculum and as part of EcoSchools activity.

The Countryside Rangers also have a role in maintaining Clackmannanshire's network of paths and rights of way. Our path network provides a valuable opportunity for active travel rather than private car use, both for commuting and recreation. In 2008 we prepared and consulted on a draft Core Paths Plan for Clackmannanshire. The plan was developed based on responses from public consultation exercises, and with the advice and support of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum, an advisory group made up of representatives of community groups, user groups, agencies and land managers. It aims to provide a path network sufficient for the needs of Clackmannanshire's communities, and for a range of recreational activities.

We are committed to community planning in partnership with other public agencies, the private sector and the community. One of the four "themes" of the community planning partnership, the Clackmannanshire Alliance, is the environment and sustainability. The Environment Theme Team is preparing a draft framework for environmental and sustainability action, which includes a number of projects that will help the community mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. These include encouraging "eco-building"; encouraging local food production and purchase; measures to improve and encourage sustainable transport; and a campaign of education and awareness-raising on environmental issues.

Next steps

Although we don't have funding available specifically to help communities with climate change adaptation, funding is available from other organisations such as the Climate Challenge Fund and the Energy Saving Trust. A future action against this commitment will be to provide links from our website to these organisations, to make it easier for our communities to find out about and access funding.

In association with our community planning partners, we will complete our Environment and Sustainability Framework by Summer 2009.

We will continue the Core Path Planning process, working to resolve any objections, and adopt the Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan.

Commitment Seven: To collaborate with other organisations to promote good practice on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We work in partnership with a number of organisations to promote leadership and good practice on climate change. As detailed under Commitment 4, we have worked with partners including WWF Scotland and the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership on an innovative sustainable flood management project on the River Devon, taking a whole-catchment approach. We also work with partner organisations to develop and implement the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the Environment Theme Team's framework for action.

We work with the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) to share good practice on climate change mitigation and adaptation. SSN is a network of sustainable development officers and advocates from Scottish local authorities. It exists to improve local government's contribution to achieving a sustainable Scotland, and one of its priority themes is climate change. We regularly attend and participate in SSN meetings and conferences, several of which have been opportunities to share best practice in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Our Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Councillor Eddie Carrick, sits on COSLA's Climate Change Task Group which meets regularly to advance the climate change agenda in local government. The Climate Change Task Group's work is structured around six interconnected, critical factors: the need to improve and expand leadership on climate change within, across and by local government; to promote, demonstrate and support cultural change within local government so that climate change action is more widely understood, rewarded and enacted; to influence and respond effectively to legislation and policy developments, to improve local authority responses to climate change; to ensure the proposed scrutiny, reporting and auditing of climate change action by local government is proportionate and robust; to ensure that appropriate support programmes are in place and well coordinated and resourced to support local government action on climate change; to ensure that the resource requirements needed to invest in and support effective action on climate change are identified, actioned and co-ordinated, and ensure that climate change is mainstreamed into existing resource management procedures.

We have contributed to, and learnt from, both SSN's and COSLA's response to the Scottish Government's consultations on the Climate Change Bill and the Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Our officers have attended workshops organised by both these organisations to develop consultation responses, and they have been a valuable means of sharing good practice between local authorities and other organisations.

Our Single Outcome Agreement for 2008/9 (SOA) was approved by the Clackmannanshire Alliance and includes a commitment to reduce the Council's and Clackmannanshire's greenhouse gas emissions. We will be working closely with our community planning partners to develop a Single Outcome Agreement for 2009/10 between the Clackmannanshire Alliance and the Scottish Government which reflects the need for action on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Next Steps

Work with the Clackmannanshire Alliance to achieve the targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions set in the Single Outcome Agreement and to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation are considered in the 2009/10 SOA.

Work with our community planning partners to encourage them to publicly declare their support for Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.

What challenges do you still face and what help would you find useful in addressing these?

We still face a number of challenges in meeting our commitments under the Declaration. We have concerns about the limited availability of financial and staff resources to tackle what has been described as one of the most important challenges facing humankind. Given the size and importance of the challenge, and the expectations arising from the National Performance Framework and the anticipated Climate Change Act, there will need to be a significant increase in the resources available to local authorities to ensure effective action on mitigation and adaptation.

We would welcome an explanation of how the Scottish Government intends for Scotland to meet the ambitious emissions reduction targets it has committed to. We would welcome clear objectives for all public authorities and agencies, with regard to both mitigation and adaptation activity, and clarity in terms of the timescales for meeting these objectives, to ensure that stakeholders are working together effectively.

A key problem for climate change work is engaging stakeholders to work towards dealing with a problem that can seem remote and insurmountable. We would welcome guidance and advice on how to communicate the climate change message effectively in order to obtain buy-in from all stakeholders, including our staff, our partners and our communities.

Climate change adaptation is a new area of responsibility which has a significant degree of uncertainty. We would find useful a structured training and awareness programme for public sector staff to acquire skills, knowledge and experience. We would also welcome improved guidance from the Scottish Government on building standards, transport and planning in relation to climate change adaptation in order to support Councils' development and delivery of focused policies and operational changes.

In our response to the consultation on the Climate Change Adaptation Framework, we suggested that the Scottish Government should seek to promote climate change adaptation through the funding of innovative projects and research in Scotland. A pressing challenge in responding to critical weather events is uncertainty. We would welcome the development of a tool kit for public bodies to help them identify the issues and operations likely to be impacted by climate change and to assist in decisions to prioritise action areas and focus contingency planning measures.

The Home Energy Conservation Act targets were set until 2007, and we met our target of reducing domestic energy consumption by 23% between 1997 and 2007. We would now welcome guidance from Scottish Government on the future of the HECA and HECA targets.

There is also a pressing need for the Scottish Government to take the lead in establishing accurate and up-to-date data on greenhouse gas emissions for local authority and other local areas in Scotland. Only through the availability of readily accessible data on emissions can we measure our progress on reducing our climate change impact.