



CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION 17 SEPTEMBER 2007

Report of the Climate Change Commission

Involving the public in reducing Carbon Emissions

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Commission consider the report and indicate whether and if so, how, they wish to proceed with this initiative.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At a previous meeting of the Climate Change Commission there was brief mention of the possibility of preparing a leaflet that would inform the public of how they might in practical terms reduce the amount of carbon dioxide they produce.
- 2.2 A draft leaflet has now been prepared and is contained in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 The Commission is asked to consider the leaflet and to indicate whether and if so, how, they wish to proceed with this initiative.

For more information contact: David Romaine 01332 255598 e-mail david.romaine@derby.gov.uk
Background papers: Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices: Appendix 2 - Carbon Challenge leaflet

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. There will be costs associated with producing and distributing the leaflet and these will have to be contained within the Commission's research budget .

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. Actions to combat climate change will be of benefit to all Derby people.

Corporate Objectives

5. This report has the potential to link with the following Corporate Objectives,

- Leading Derby towards a better environment

The Carbon Challenge ^{v2}

Produced by Derby City Council's
Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Reducing the impact of Climate Change

The weather in the UK over the past two years, the hottest since records began in 2006 and the wettest in 2007, has provided a graphic illustration of the potential for climate change to affect life in this country and has shown how important it is for local authorities, businesses and the public to reduce the amount of carbon (in the form of carbon dioxide) that they produce.

The City Council is already committed to reducing its carbon emissions by 25% over the next five years and is working with the other local businesses that form Derby 7Cs, to spread the word to the group's 33,000 employees about practical solutions for responsible energy use and environmental stewardship. The actions of the 7Cs group should help to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from the Derby area but it is likely they will only have a limited impact upon the carbon resulting from the activities of the City's residents.

With 25% of UK carbon emissions coming from residential dwellings and each commuter car generating on average about one tonne of carbon a year, it is important that we now look at ways for reducing the carbon produced by Derby residents.

This leaflet has been produced by the Councils Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Commission and is intended as a starting point in the process of reducing carbon emissions from Derby's residential sector. Some of these initiatives will also save money!

Further information can be obtained from the contacts shown on the next page.

Things you can do that don't cost anything

- Turn down your central heating – a reduction in temperature of 1C will save about £??/year for an average house and will reduce the amount of Carbon emitted by ?? tonnes/year.
- Turn down your hot water to 60C. You won't notice the difference but the Energy Saving Trust estimate this will save about £20/year.
- Wash clothes in cold water. Hot water is only needed for very dirty items. Remember the slogan is 'If it's not dirty, wash at 30C.' Washing most of your wash in cold water could save up to £??/year.
- Only wash full loads in your washing machine – part loads use the same amount of energy but you need more of them
- Don't use a tumble dryer, hang your clothes out to dry or if its raining hang them in your shower or utility room.
- Don't overfill your kettle, just boil what you need at the time.
- Let hot food cool down before you put it in the fridge, clean the cooling coils and defrost your fridge regularly
- Put foil behind your radiators to reflect the heat away from the wall.
- Switch off electrical appliances rather than leaving them on standby and don't leave items such as phone chargers plugged in when you're not using them.
- Turn off the lights, television etc when you leave a room.
- Take a shower instead of a bath – or share your bath water with someone.

- Recycle more. Buying recycled materials and increasing your home recycling by 10% can save about 90kg of carbon each year.
- Don't use your car for short journeys. If you can, walk or cycle for journeys of less than 2km.
- Remove yourself from junk mail lists.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle to save waste.
- Wherever possible, buy and eat locally grown, unprocessed food – there are high environmental costs associated with imported foodstuffs.
- If the foodstuffs you need are not produced locally, buy those that come from Europe rather than from farther afield.
- Do all your week's shopping in one visit to the supermarket and use local shops for anything else you find you need during the week.
- Reduce your car use, especially for single occupancy journeys. Walk, cycle, use public transport, or car share for your journey to and from work.
- Avoid flying wherever possible – for journeys in the UK or Europe go by train or coach or in your car with others.
- Take holidays in the UK or Europe and travel by train or coach or in your car with others.

Spending to save

- Improve the insulation of your house. Better wall and roof insulation will make a big reduction to your fuel bills
- Replace any single glazed windows with double glazed units
- Fit draught excluder strips to your doors
- Replace old incandescent lamp bulbs with energy saving bulbs
- When domestic appliances wear out replace them with more energy efficient units – look for the energy rating before you buy
- Increase the insulation of your hot water tank - if you have one
- Fit a low flow shower head to reduce water use and water heating costs
- Install a 'save-a flush' in your toilet or only flush when necessary
- If your central heating boiler is due for replacement upgrade to a more efficient unit
- Use solar water heating to reduce your consumption of fossil fuels

Lifestyle changes

- Eat fewer animal products: A diet of 30% meat, dairy and poultry produces 1,485 kg carbon dioxide each year, whilst a vegetarian diet generates only half of that. If you replace red meat with fish, eggs and poultry, you can save more than 430 kg carbon dioxide a year.

Tell us what you think about Climate Change

If you have any comments about this leaflet or any suggestions as to how the Council might respond to the challenge of climate change, please telephone or e-mail:

Councillor Philip Ingall – Chair of the Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Commission, tel: 01332 326621 e-mail philip.ingall@derby.gov.uk, or

Councillor Alan Grimadell – Vice Chair of the Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Commission, e-mail alan.grimadell@derby.gov.uk

You can also write to them c/o:
Derby City Council,
The Council House
Corporation Street,
Derby DE1 2FS