

Climate Change Board – 11 June 2008

Agenda item 7 – The Council's Carbon Baseline – update and future monitoring arrangements.

1. The aim of the attached report is to build on the accuracy and robustness of the phase one baseline exercise that was brought to the last meeting of the Board in December. This report includes new and more accurate data from Council buildings, staff commuting and the waste generated from the Council's internal activities.
2. The need to more accurately refine these figures comes from the following main drivers:
 - The Council's own internal target to reduce its carbon emissions by 25% by 2011 – by having an accurate baseline we will be able to gauge the progress we are making to achieve this ambitious target.
 - National Indicator 185 – Percentage CO2 reduction from LA operations – the Council will need to report on an annual basis to Defra against the target it has set itself.
 - The Governments 'Carbon Reduction Commitment' – this will require the Council to operate within a carbon cap restricting the amount of energy it can use.
3. The work already undertaken on the baseline report will be further developed in order to:
 - develop a system to capture the carbon savings from all major projects
 - bring together essential data from a range of departments in order to meet the requirements of NI185 and other related indicators including, for example, NI194 that looks at air quality in local authority operations.
4. Clearly the process of carbon baselining and continuous monitoring is not going to go away and is a discipline that we will need to refine and improve. It is essential that we develop a system to more efficiently bring this information together.

Andy Hills