



**West Lothian
Council**

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION – ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2009

REPORT BY HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT & REGULATORY SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive of West Lothian's annual Declaration Report on climate change to the Scottish Government.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive approve the content of the report, and appended Declaration Report (Appendix 1), for submission to the Sustainable Scotland Network and publication on their website.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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| I Council Values | Being honest, open and accountable; working in partnership; making best use of our resources; and focusing on our customers' needs. |
| II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment) | Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 |
| IV Consultations | Internal consultation with Property Services Energy Manager. Content noted and agreed at the Environmental PDSP, with the panel's recommendation to submit this to Council Executive for approval. |

D. TERMS OF REPORT

1.0 Background

Between January and April 2007, all of Scotland's local authorities signed up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration. The Declaration is a public statement wherein local authorities acknowledge the reality and implications of climate change and their responsibility to respond effectively. Signatories to the Declaration are

committed to produce an annual statement, detailing their progress in mitigating, and adapting to, climate change.

2.0 **Commitment and Action**

As signatories to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, each Scottish local authority is committed to taking action across a range of key areas. These can be summarised as:

1. Providing effective **leadership, governance and management** on climate change.
2. Reducing the local authority's **own direct greenhouse gas emissions** from their estate and services.
3. Taking action to reduce **emissions from the local authority area**.
4. Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to **adapt to the impacts of climate change**.
5. Developing effective **partnership working and climate change communications**, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

3.0 **Declaration Reporting**

The Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) in partnership with the Scottish Government prepared a reporting template for all local authorities. Completed annual reports are sent to the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) and are placed on their web site: <http://www.sustainable-scotland.net/climatechange>. A draft response for West Lothian Council is attached as Appendix 1.

E. CONCLUSION

West Lothian Council is committed to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration and has prepared an annual report to be published on the website of the Sustainable Scotland Network.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Report on Carbon Management Plan and Climate Change Strategy to Environment PDSP in April 2009, and Council Executive in May 2009

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Scottish Government
Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1: Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, Annual Report – West Lothian Council December 2009

Contact Person: Rona Gold: Climate Change Policy Officer 01506-775207

Steve Field Head of Development & Regulatory Services, County Buildings, Linlithgow, EH49 7EZ.

Date: 23 February 2010

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration Annual Report – West Lothian Council 31 December 2009

Section 1 **Governance, Leadership and Management**

West Lothian Council established a Carbon Management Board (CMB) in November 2008. This is chaired by the Director of Development and Environmental Services. Membership includes six of the Council's eleven Heads of Service.

The establishment of the CMB was a result of the Council's participation in the Scottish Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACM). Participation in the LACM has also produced a Carbon Management Plan (CMP) for West Lothian Council.

Policies, strategies and decisions regarding climate change in West Lothian are subject to the Council's governance system. This consists of Local Area Committees for the nine multi-member wards, policy development and scrutiny panels (PDSPs), and Council Executive meetings. Within each of these, elected members are informed on climate change matters.

West Lothian Council works closely with its Community Planning Partners (CPP) and has initiated discussions with the CPP on carbon footprinting and the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

Section 1 Priorities for the year ahead

To develop the work of the Carbon Management Board to ensure effective implementation of the Council's CMP and oversee preparation of draft Climate Change Strategy.

To work with the CPP and establish an effective way of measuring our carbon footprint for the SOA.

Section 2 **Reducing the local authority's own direct greenhouse gas emissions from their estate and services.**

West Lothian Council took part in the Carbon Trust's Local Authorities Carbon Management Programme (LACM), Phase 6. The programme allowed West Lothian Council to establish an emissions baseline from which to develop carbon reduction projects. The baseline and carbon reduction projects are contained within the Council's Carbon Management Plan.

The scope of the LACM programme in West Lothian Council includes carbon emissions associated with the Council's: transport, street-lighting, buildings, waste and housing stock. The data for these emissions is gathered from energy consumption figures, fuel use, municipal waste collection information and housing type. The carbon footprint is calculated using the Carbon Trust's Carbon Baseline tool which uses standardised factors and benchmarked values.

Through the LACM programme West Lothian Council has an estimated carbon footprint of 172,624 tonnes of CO₂ in 2007/08, the baseline year.

To help visualise this, West Lothian Council's carbon footprint is equivalent to 863,120 double-decker buses (where one tonne of CO₂ occupies the same volume as five double-decker buses).

To achieve its reduction targets West Lothian Council is working on a number of projects from office rationalisation to energy from waste. The projects are contained within the Carbon Management Plan.

Section 2 Priorities for the year ahead

West Lothian Council will revise its carbon footprint to ensure that the footprint is robust and that data gathering measures are comparable for future years.

Progress on carbon reduction projects within the Carbon Management Plan will be reported quarterly to the Carbon Management Board and annually to the Environment PDSP.

Section 3

Taking action to reduce the emissions from the local authority area

Domestic CO₂ emissions for West Lothian are estimated to be 2.6 tonnes CO₂ per capita. This is in the lower range of Scottish Local Authority averages.

Area wide emissions for West Lothian, taking into consideration all sectors (i.e. industry, land use and road transport) are estimated to be 8.57 tonnes CO₂ per capita, this is slightly higher than the Scottish average. This is due to West Lothian having a higher percentage of emissions due to road transport.

(This data has been sourced from Defra's Local and Regional CO₂ emissions estimates for 2006.)

In order to help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from the community, West Lothian Council has committed, through its Carbon Management Plan, to ongoing education and awareness of climate change. Some West Lothian community groups, such as Linlithgow Climate Challenge and Fauldhouse Development Trust have successfully applied to the Climate Challenge Fund. West Lothian Council supports the work of these groups.

Section 3 Priorities for the year ahead

To work with Community Planning Partners (CPP) on the area wide carbon footprint and develop carbon reduction measures for the CPP towards the SOA.

Support community groups undertaking carbon reduction projects.

Section 4

Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Climate Change Policy Officer has attended introductory training on the UKCP09 dataset. This will help to develop climate change projections and plans for adaptation to climate change.

Section 4 Priorities for the year ahead

Consider the best approach to adaptation and climate change for West Lothian Council through drafting of, and consultation on, a climate change strategy.

Section 5

Developing effective partnership working and climate change communications, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

West Lothian Council has worked in partnership with WWF Scotland and the Sustainable Scotland Network on the Local Footprints Project. This project linked with West Lothian Council's Eco Schools programme and offered teachers training on using the Schools Global Footprint resource.

West Lothian Council has worked in partnership with the Carbon Trust on the Local Authority Carbon Management programme. This enabled the Council to calculate its carbon footprint and prepare a Carbon Management Plan.

To promote awareness of climate change, West Lothian Council has a dedicated web page on energy advice and carbon footprinting: <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/1210/energyconservation/>.

Along with this, there are regular news articles on climate change in the Council's Bulletin which is delivered to every household in the West Lothian Council area.

In order to help build capacity on climate change West Lothian Council has the following:

Internal capacity building

- A Carbon Management Board and carbon reduction reporting structure.
- Offered training on carbon footprinting to teaching staff

Capacity Building with partners

- West Lothian Council has started working with CPPs on carbon footprinting and the SOA.

Capacity Building in the Community

West Lothian Council's Community Regeneration Service works with communities in each of the multi-member wards. This work involves helping to build the communities capacity in projects such as environmental projects which target climate change and carbon reduction. These projects are generally part of community projects that aim to improve health and access to skills and employment.

Section 5 Priorities for the year ahead

To work with CPP on carbon footprinting and the SOA.

Develop the existing web resource.

Climate Change Progress Highlights of the Past Year

Developed the Carbon Management Plan with baseline emissions and carbon reduction projects

Established the Carbon Management Board