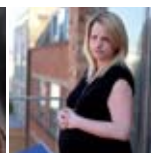
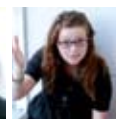
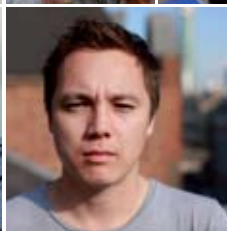


**GET
SERIOUS
ABOUT
CO₂**



CREATE JOBS, SAVE CASH, CUT CARBON

A guide for local government

Many areas of the UK face rising unemployment, a legacy of hard-to-heat cold and damp homes, fuel poverty, grinding traffic congestion and rising energy costs.

At the same time scientists tell us that tackling climate change is more urgent than ever. Taking serious action now to cut greenhouse gas emissions is the way to avoid worsening floods and droughts, rising food prices and economic instability across the UK. In England and Wales 5 million people are already at risk of flooding. Many poorer areas are most at risk – and these are the very people who will be least able to cope. Globally, a billion of the world's poorest could be homeless within our lifetime.

The science is clear that rich countries need to cut their carbon dioxide emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020 to avoid the worst impacts.

Local government has a crucial role to play in driving the changes that will create real benefits for local people while helping keep our climate safe.

Local authorities that get serious about climate change will

- boost their local economy
- create jobs
- slash fuel bills for their communities
- lift people out of fuel poverty
- reduce health problems
- improve public transport.

The serious idea

Councils should adopt a three-pronged approach:

1. Commit to carbon emission cuts in your local area of at least 40 per cent by 2020 – and produce an action plan detailing how you'll do it.
2. Get started now with no-nonsense measures such as making homes more energy efficient, retrofitting renewable energy, creating local energy supplies and going green on transport.
3. Support our campaign for more money and less hassle so local authorities can achieve this; and for a new duty on councils that fail to act on climate change.



**Friends of
the Earth**

This quick-read pamphlet is for local government members and officers. It outlines key policy areas where you could deliver tangible benefits for your community by acting now to tackle climate change. It is based on independent research, expert advice and Friends of the Earth's longstanding work with local authorities. You can download the full report at www.getseriousaboutCO2 or by phoning 020 7490 1555

www.getseriousaboutCO2.com

Why a 40 per cent target?

The Climate Change Act 2008 – a world-leading piece of legislation – requires the UK to reduce its climate-changing emissions to 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Since the Act passed in 2008 the science has shown the situation demands even more urgent action over the next few years.

The best advice is that collectively we need to start cutting now and reduce emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020. That way we will reap the economic and social benefits sooner. Wait and it will cost us more in the future.

Why local authorities?

Councils are large consumers of energy in their own right. But more important, they have a major influence on the way we heat and power our homes and how we travel locally. They also have influence over businesses, and have a key role as community leaders.

Most councils are starting to work on climate change. Some have already set emissions reduction targets beyond 40 per cent – Birmingham and London, for example. But few are demonstrating good practice across all key policy areas. A significant number are still doing little or nothing.

“Local government has a pivotal role in tackling climate change; its community leadership role and the range of services it provides for its constituents and adapting to climate change cannot be regarded as a core activity of local government; it has been designated a core activity on which

Environmental Audit Committee, November 2008

Cuts of 40 per cent are possible

Friends of the Earth has consulted experts in the local authority field and formulated six suggested policies that most local authorities should be adopting. We've commissioned independent research to see what these policies could deliver, and how local authorities can best achieve 40 per cent cuts.

The six policies are:

1. Home insulation.
2. Fitting renewable energy to homes.
3. Reducing traffic levels.
4. Encouraging a shift to low-carbon vehicles.
5. Encouraging renewable energy through planning policies.
6. Setting up Energy Services Companies to invest in local low-carbon energy systems such as combined heat and power.

The research has shown that 40 per cent cuts are possible – and that these policies can deliver a big chunk of that.

Who wins?

Tackling climate change in this way will have huge benefits for the local community.

- Boosting the local economy through creation of jobs.
- Making homes more snug will slash energy bills, lift people out of fuel poverty and improve health problems like asthma among children.
- A local low-carbon energy supply would be safer and cleaner and less dependent on imported oil and gas.
- Reducing traffic will make the air cleaner and our roads safer. More car-sharing schemes will help mobility and cut travel costs for families. More cycling and walking will bring numerous health benefits.
- Improving bus services will particularly help poorer people get around.

76

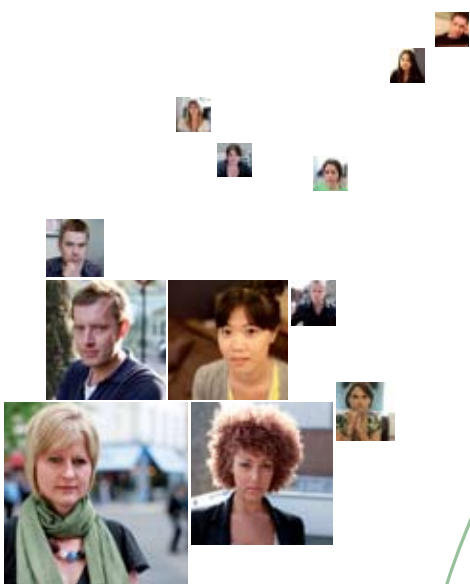
The percentage of public who think councils have a key role in tackling climate change

40

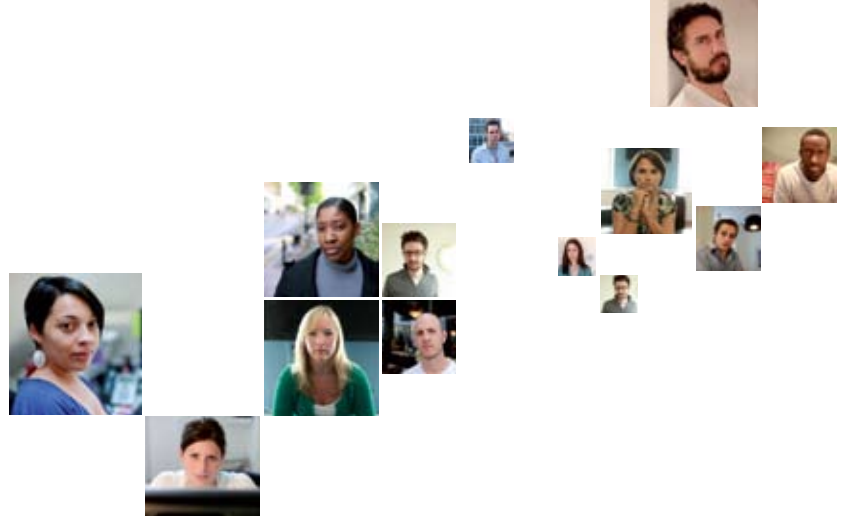
the minimum percentage cuts in carbon emissions councils should aim for by 2020

11,000

The number of tonnes of Southamptton council is saved through district local heat



change particularly through
t provides. Mitigating
n optional extra for local
which action is required.”



How do we know it will work? The evidence...

Sunny jobs: Germany

The solar industry in Germany has seen enormous growth in recent years thanks to a so-called feed-in tariff (a premium paid to small renewable energy suppliers). Companies have been investing half a billion euros annually to increase their capacity to produce solar hardware. The solar energy sector in Germany now employs 50,000 people.

Local heat: Southampton

Southampton city council teamed up with Utilicom to form Southampton Geothermal Heating Company, to finance, build and run a district heating scheme. Geothermal power was later supplemented by combined heat and power to supply electricity, district heating and cooling to local buildings. The scheme produces £10,000-15,000 a year for the council and saves more than 11,000 tonnes of carbon emissions a year.

Generating change: Clackmannanshire

In May 2008 Clackmannanshire council started working with Partnerships for Renewables (PfR) to develop wind turbines on council-owned land. PfR identified potentially suitable sites on the council's estate. The company has signed up to construct up to four turbines and will pay for development, construction and operation. The council will receive rent, local residents will share in a community benefits package and each turbine will save more than 2,800 tonnes of CO₂ a year.

On the road: Camden

The London Borough of Camden has set itself a target to reduce traffic levels by 15 per cent on 2001 levels by the year 2012. The council's green transport strategy has already cut traffic and CO₂ by nearly a quarter between 1997 and 2005.

Hot money: South Derbyshire

South Derbyshire's Renewable Scheme offers interest-free loans of up to £4,000 towards household renewable energy systems such as a solar water heating, small wind turbines or ground source heat pumps.

Cosy numbers: Kirklees

Kirklees Council, in Yorkshire, plans to offer free loft and cavity-wall insulation to all of its 170,000 homes by 2010. So far the results have been:

- 21,000 homes insulated
- 120 jobs created
- £150 a year off the average household's fuel bill
- 18,000 tonnes of carbon saved since 2000.

People see it as the council's role to tackle climate change

A ComRes opinion poll commissioned by the Local Government Association showed that 82 per cent of MPs and 76 per cent of the public agree or agree strongly that councils have a key role in tackling climate change. Of those respondents, 97 per cent of MPs and 77 per cent of the public saw local council's role as "helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their area".

21,000

The number of homes Kirklees council has already insulated

250,000

The number of people Germany's renewable energy sector employs

150,000

The number of new jobs in the new low-carbon economy, according to the Local Government Association

carbon
saving each year
ing schemes

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Getting going

Local authorities can implement many of the recommended measures right now using existing powers and finance. Many of these measures will pay for themselves over time; grants will support some of them; and new measures such as feed-in tariffs will encourage renewable energy.

But to do it on the scale required will require different funding mechanisms and more resources.

Innovative funding

So Friends of the Earth is campaigning for more money and less hassle for councils to do things like improve public transport, insulate more homes and install green energy.

We want to see improved access to finance for local authorities and measures that will help the authority invest to save, or invest for a return – for example by setting up an energy services company.

Duty calls

Climate change is such an urgent issue that most councils will see the need to engage – but some will struggle more than others.

We are also calling for a new duty on councils that fail to act on climate change.

What you can do

Find out more about the campaign at www.getseriousaboutCO2.com, where you can also pledge your own support.

As a local organisation Friends of the Earth is campaigning in your area, asking the community – your voters – to support our approach.

Two hundred thousand people came together to back Friends of the Earth's The Big Ask campaign, and in 2008 we got a world-first climate change law legally committing the UK to cut its emissions by 80 per cent. Friends of the Earth is working with local people to ensure those carbon cuts are made everywhere, including locally. We're also pushing for a strong and fair global agreement on climate change, and to make one of the most polluting industries – meat and dairy – more planet-friendly.

“Tackling climate change must be at the centre of local government’s vision for their communities. It is not another priority amongst the many that compete for local government leaders’ attention. It is now clear from the evidence that it is the single priority which overrides all others, now and for the foreseeable future.”

Local Government Association's climate change commission 2007

This campaign is supported by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and Environmental Protection UK

Making life better for people by inspiring solutions to environmental problems

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www.getseriousaboutCO2.com

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