

West Lothian Council

Climate Change Strategy 2015 - 2020



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Foreword from the Chief Executive

West Lothian Council along with our Community Planning Partners is committed to improving the quality of life for people in West Lothian, and making this the best possible place to live, work and do business. One of the biggest challenges we have to address in order to deliver this commitment is the impact of climate change.

As stated in the West Lothian's Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023

"Changes in the climate could threaten both the built and the natural environment with significant impacts on communities, the local economy and service delivery. Community Planning Partners, businesses, organisations and communities have a vital role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the effects of climate change."

The Climate Change Strategy marks a firm commitment from the council to take action on climate change locally. It provides a framework for the council's actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the unavoidable impacts of changing weather patterns through the period 2015 to 2020.

Efforts to lessen the impact of climate change can also bring opportunities, such as cost savings from reduced energy bills and making better use of our resources, new business and employment opportunities, supporting healthier, more sustainable lifestyles and making our communities more resilient. The strategy aims to make sure West Lothian is well placed to benefit from these opportunities.

No single person or organisation can tackle climate change alone, so we are asking our partners, businesses, community groups and individuals to embrace the changes that must take place. There are many small changes we can all make that together will help secure a better future for everyone in West Lothian.



Graham Hope
Chief Executive, West Lothian Council

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Changes to the world's climate system are clear and the impacts this will have on our environment, economy and communities will be significant without making changes to the way we work, move around and live. If greenhouse gas emissions are reduced early and rapidly, the extent of climate change will be mitigated. If emissions continue unabated, the implications grow more severe, posing even greater risks. In view of the threat and risks of inaction, it is essential that public bodies put climate change strategies in place and act sustainably to address climate change in Scotland.

This Climate Change Strategy identifies the key areas that need to be addressed in order to meet the challenges and take advantage of opportunities associated with climate change. It sets out a vision and six priority outcomes defining the council's approach to adaptation (living with change) and mitigation (to minimise further impacts). The activity themes identified within the strategy also contribute directly to achieving a number of the priority outcomes of the West Lothian Community Plan and converged Single Outcome Agreement and the council's Corporate Plan. Details of how the activities themes will be delivered, along with timescales, targets and resource requirements, will be set out in action plans which will be reviewed annually.

1.2 Strategic Context and Vision

The economic downturn has placed severe public expenditure constraints on council funding, combined with increasing fuel and energy costs and environmental levies such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC EES). Many of the activities identified within the strategy will help realise carbon and cost savings both now and in the future. The strategy will also support the reform of public services detailed in the council's Corporate Plan and Community Plan outcomes by promoting a culture of resource efficiency both 'in house' and amongst our partners and the wider community. The council's vision for tackling climate change is:-

'A resource efficient, low carbon council working in partnership with and supporting the West Lothian community to mitigate the worst effects of climate change and create a resilient and more sustainable future.'

Although this is the first formal Climate Change Strategy, a considerable amount of work is already underway as illustrated in the council's annual reports on the implementation of Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, and through the modernisation agenda. The first Carbon Management Plan was published in 2009, and programmes to improve energy efficiency, reduce business mileage, implement low carbon and renewable technologies, increase recycling, and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill have contributed to year on year reductions in our carbon emissions. An

updated Carbon Management Plan 2015-2020 sets out the council's target for reducing its 2020/21 emissions by 20% relative to a 2013/14 baseline.

Activities identified within the strategy will continue to drive change by, for example, addressing our energy sourcing and use, waste production and disposal, travel and transport, and the purchasing of goods and services. At a time of intense pressure on resources the expanding green economy also presents an opportunity to set a positive agenda. For example, the use of renewable and low carbon technologies can stimulate jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels with associated harmful carbon emissions, reduce energy bills, and create an income to the council through government initiatives such as the Renewable Heat Incentive (income from producing heat from renewable or low carbon sources) and Feed-In-Tariffs (income from producing electricity from renewable sources and feeding it in to the national grid).

Much of the work described above relates to mitigation or reduction of emissions. Not as much work has been done in terms of adaptation to a changing climate. West Lothian's vulnerability to climate change will be established through a risk assessment process, and addressed through flood risk management planning processes and the preparation and implementation of an Adaptation Action Plan. The capability of council buildings and essential infrastructure to withstand more extreme weather will also be assessed, and a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) for West Lothian had been prepared to inform this process.

1.3 The Need for Action

In 2013 the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the greenhouse gas that drives climate change, exceeded 400 parts per million in the earth's atmosphere for the first time in recorded history and in March 2015 that level was recorded as the average for the entire month. Human activity has caused CO₂ concentrations to rise by 120 parts per million since pre-industrial times, and about half of the cumulative man made CO₂ emissions between 1750 and 2010 have occurred in the last 40 years. At Kyoto in 1997 governments agreed that stabilizing CO₂ at 450 parts per million, resulting in a projected temperature rise of 2°C would be manageable. More recent findings, including the fifth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) conclude that 450 parts per million is in fact a dangerous level of CO₂ and 2°C a high risk level of warming.

Accumulated levels of CO₂ in the earth's atmosphere continue to increase, indicating that future interventions will need to be very significant if catastrophic climate change is to be averted in the second half of the 21st century. While there are signs of emissions slowing in Scotland, it is not yet proportionate to the scale of change required for us to play our part in averting potentially catastrophic levels of future climate change. Action is urgently needed now to reduce our demand

for energy, reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to prepare for the direct and indirect local impacts that a changed climate will have in the decades beyond 2020.

Data published by the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) provides CO₂ emission estimates at local authority and regional level covering industry, commercial, domestic and road transport emissions. The figures from 2005 to 2012 (Table 1 below) indicate that emissions slowly decreased across West Lothian as activity, particularly in the industrial and commercial sector declined due to the recession. The most recent data for 2012 indicates that this activity may be picking up, which will lead to a corresponding increase in emissions.

The 3.8% increase in 2012 can also be attributed to an increase in domestic energy consumption, which has been linked to the prolonged period of colder weather experienced in 2012. West Lothian's per capita emissions are higher than the national average (at 7.4 tonnes CO₂ per capita in 2012). This is mainly due to the densely developed character of West Lothian, combined with the large number of disparate rural communities (e.g. the Breich Valley). West Lothian also has a rapidly growing population, and more homes and businesses will mean rising transport demand along with increasing consumption and waste.

Table 1: Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Carbon Dioxide Emission Estimates for West Lothian 2005-2012.

| Year | Population | Industry and Commercial (kt CO ₂) | Domestic (ktCO ₂) | Transport (ktCO ₂) | Total (ktCO ₂) | Per person (ktCO ₂) |
|------|------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2005 | 165.0 | 553.0 | 440.2 | 415.3 | 1,446.6 | 8.8 |
| 2006 | 167.1 | 558.5 | 435.5 | 413.7 | 1,443.8 | 8.6 |
| 2007 | 169.5 | 533.3 | 434.0 | 428.9 | 1,430.8 | 8.4 |
| 2008 | 171.4 | 532.2 | 433.1 | 411.9 | 1,408.8 | 8.2 |
| 2009 | 173.0 | 461.5 | 390.9 | 400.2 | 1,283.0 | 7.4 |
| 2010 | 174.1 | 537.2 | 416.2 | 397.3 | 1,376.3 | 7.9 |
| 2011 | 175.3 | 465.6 | 370.4 | 390.1 | 1,249.6 | 7.1 |
| 2012 | 176.0 | 483.9 | 405.4 | 386.4 | 1,297.0 | 7.4 |

1.4 West Lothian's Changing Climate

The council recognises that the threat and reality of climate change is both international and local. The direct impacts in West Lothian will not be as severe as in some coastal areas, or in developing countries where the effects of drought, food shortages, flooding and land loss will be profound. This will inevitably impact on us all through supply chain impacts and increased demand for limited resources. However, the effects of a changing climate are already beginning to be seen in West

Lothian with increasingly frequent severe weather events requiring responses from the council, the emergency services and our Community Planning Partners.

Even if all greenhouse gas emissions were stopped now, past and current global emissions mean that some level of climate change will still occur. The council has prepared an LCLIP to assess the impact of past weather events on council property and service delivery. The UK Climate Projections 09 (UKCP09) provides recent trends and future climate information designed to help organisations plan for adapting to a changing climate (see Appendix 1). Details of the UKCP09 projections for West Lothian over the next 100 years are provided in Table 2 overleaf. The main changes of importance to West Lothian include an overall rise in temperature, a decrease in summer rainfall and an increase in winter rainfall. There will also be an increased likelihood of experiencing extreme weather events.

Table 2: Met Office UKCP09 climate projections for West Lothian based on a medium emissions scenario (see <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23161>).

| UKCP09* Projected changes in summer and winter temperature and precipitation for West Lothian (Grid 805 - Medium Emissions) | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| | | 2020s | 2050s | 2080s | Trend |
| Winter | mean temperature | 1.2°C (0.5°C - 2.0°C) | 2.0°C (1.0°C - 3.0°C) | 2.6°C (1.4°C - 4.1°C) | <i>warmer</i> |
| | precipitation | 5% (-2% - 14%) | 12% (-2% - 24%) | 15% (2% - 32%) | <i>wetter</i> |
| Summer | mean temperature | 1.5°C (0.6°C - 2.5°C) | 2.5°C (1.2°C - 4.1°C) | 3.7°C (2.0°C - 5.8°C) | <i>warmer</i> |
| | precipitation | -6% (-17% - 7%) | -14% (-28% - 1%) | -17% (-34% - 0%) | <i>drier</i> |

1.5 Climate Change Legislation

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (the Act) sets mandatory targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050 to support the transition to a sustainable low carbon economy, and defines annual emission targets from 2010-2050. The targets cover carbon dioxide (CO₂) and five other key greenhouse gases which are methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride. The Act requires that a public body must, in exercising its functions, act:

- in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the Act's (national) emissions targets;
- in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme; and
- in a way that it considers the most sustainable.

Of particular relevance to the council and most partner organisations in West Lothian is the guidance on the duties placed on all public bodies under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act published in 2011. The guidance recommends public bodies embed climate change action in all core corporate and

business planning processes and report on their progress annually. The scope of the duties are summarised in the guidance as:

- All public bodies within the definition in the Act are required to comply with the climate change duties.
- Public bodies are encouraged to take a broad approach when complying with the duties and include all direct, indirect and influenced emissions.
- Climate change action should address (the three aspects of the duty) mitigation, adaptation and acting sustainably and be embedded across all departments via corporate planning.
- Understanding of how to most effectively address climate change is developing quickly. Public bodies should use evidence-based policy-making techniques and learn from the good practice of others. Public bodies should ensure they understand the principles of climate change action, keep up to date with emerging thinking, and seek to engage their staff at all levels in promoting cultural change.
- Public bodies should know the national targets and trajectory and think about how they can assist in meeting these. They should also know whether they are within the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme.
- Major players should keep abreast of the high-level strategic framework and relevant policy documents.

The ways in which the council will discharge these duties are detailed within the activity themes of the Climate Change Strategy and, where appropriate, in the associated action plans. Climate change issues and sustainability will also be considered in all council management plans, strategies and action plans where appropriate, and will be considered in policy and decision making processes.

1.6 Strategy Development

The Climate Change Strategy has been prepared to ensure that activities to tackle climate change contribute to the achievement of the outcomes identified within the council's Corporate Plan and in the West Lothian Community Plan *Planning for 2020* and Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2013 - 2023.

“The council is committed to working with its partners on mitigating and adapting to climate change and promoting sustainable development. This will be achieved through a range of activities relating to:- waste - minimising the amount of waste that is sent to landfill and increasing recycling; transport -promoting sustainable and active modes of transport and increasing access to sustainable transport; sustainable use of resources-reducing energy use through the introduction of renewable technology and energy efficiency measures in buildings and encouraging behavioural change to reduce energy consumption; and, measures to adapt to both current and future changes in the climate.”

West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement *Achieving Positive Outcomes* 2013-2023

This Strategy commits the council and West Lothian's community planning partners to meeting a number of targets that aim to mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing emissions and ensuring that West Lothian is well prepared for changing weather patterns. The council aims to meet these targets by committing to the following national and council objectives:-

- Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027 - The Second Report on Proposals and Policies – sets out specific measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to meet Scotland's ambitious statutory targets.
- Climate Ready Scotland: The Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014 -2019 – details the Scottish Minister's objectives, policies and proposals to tackle the climate change impacts to Scotland.
- Low Carbon Scotland: Behaviours Framework – outlines what the Scottish Government will do to drive and support the move to low carbon living in the lead-up to the first key climate change target in 2020.
- 2020 Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland – establishes a target for the equivalent of 100% of Scotland's electricity demand to be supplied from renewable sources by 2020. Targets are also set for an increase in renewable heat generation, as well as an increase in community and local ownership of renewable energy schemes.
- Towards Decarbonising Heat: Maximising the Opportunities for Scotland: Heat Generation Policy Statement – sets out how low carbon heat can reach more householders, business and communities and how Scotland can reduce the energy used for heat, diversify sources of heat, provide increased security of heat supply, greater local control and reduce the pressure on household energy bills.
- 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity - A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland – sets out how agencies, including SNH, SEPA, FCS and local authorities, will work together to restore ecosystem health.
- National Planning Framework 3 – sets out the Scottish Government's development priorities over the next 20 to 30 years in the context of working towards a low carbon Scotland.
- Scottish Planning Policy – sets out the planning policy context which the council will need to comply with, including climate change considerations.
- Scotland's Climate Change Declaration and West Lothian's Year 6 Report – as a signatory the council has pledged to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to projected climate change impacts. The Declaration also contains a strong commitment to sustainable development.
- Delivering Better Outcomes – the overarching aim of this project is to drive more efficient and effective use of the Council's assets and resources.

The approach adopted in developing this strategy ensures that it provides sound governance and a framework for ensuring that climate change is addressed in all relevant council strategies, policies,

management and action plans. This will enable the council, along with community planning partners and the wider community, to turn the aspirations of this document into reality.

1.7 Scope and Ownership of the Strategy

Due to the wide scope of climate change and climate change related activities, every service area within the council will be required to assist delivery of the strategy alongside community planning and other partners. The Head of Planning & Economic Development is the owner of the Climate Change Strategy and has responsibility for climate change activity at a corporate level. In support of the Head of Planning & Economic Development's role, each service area has a lead officer with the following areas of responsibility:

- Setting, monitoring and reviewing the actions and interim targets for mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.
- Reporting the activities of the Climate and Sustainability Working Group to service areas including through management and team meetings.
- Ensuring that climate change and sustainability understanding and action is embedded in all core corporate and business planning processes across the council.
- Prioritising the implementation of climate change actions and projects and removing obstacles to successful implementation.
- Reviewing and championing plans for the financial provision of climate change projects.
- Promoting a culture of low carbon and sustainable behaviour within the council as a whole and amongst staff at all levels.
- Supporting the council's budget strategy through reducing the cost and impact of the council's use of resources, including water, energy, and transport fuel.

Heads of Service have ultimate responsibility for climate change actions and targets within their service area although they may delegate their responsibility to a direct report to ensure that day to day management responsibilities are clear and that delegated decision making is undertaken at the appropriate level. The responsible officers are as follows:

| Climate Change Lead Officers | |
|---|---|
| Area | Responsible Officer |
| Corporate, Operational and Housing services | Head of Corporate Services, Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services, Head of Operational Services |
| Education, Planning and Area Services | Head of Schools with Education Support, Head of Education Quality Assurance, Head of Area Services, Head of Planning and Economic Development |

| Climate Change Lead Officers | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Area | Responsible Officer |
| Community Health and Care Partnership | Head of Social Policy, Head of Health Services |
| Finance and Estates | Head of Finance and Estates |

The governance of the Climate Change Strategy is summarised as follows:

| Governance | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| Group | Governance/Scrutiny Role | Reporting Frequency |
| Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group (CCSWG) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Responsibility for the direction and scope of the Climate Change Strategy (CCS) and associated action plans. ■ Monitoring performance on the environment outcome of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). ■ Monitoring performance and progress on targets and initiatives relating to the CCS. | Quarterly |
| Procurement Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring performance on sustainable procurement including progress on the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan. The Head of Service for Planning and Economic Development is the council's nominated Sustainable Procurement Champion. | Quarterly/ As Required |
| Risk and Audit Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring climate risks as identified in the council's Corporate Risk Register and actions to mitigate the risks. | Quarterly |
| Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Steering Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Responsibility for the direction and scope of the CCS and input to action plans where appropriate. ■ Monitoring performance against the environment outcome of the SOA. | Quarterly |
| CPP Partnership Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Approval of the CCS. ■ Monitoring performance against the environment outcome of the SOA. | Annually/ As Required |
| The Capital Asset Management Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Responsibility for the direction and scope of the CCS and associated action plans. ■ Monitoring the council's progress against the strategy's outcomes, actions and activities and approving the annual review. | Annually |

| Governance | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Group | Governance/Scrutiny Role | Reporting Frequency |
| Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consideration of the CCS and associated action plans. ■ Consideration of climate change reports including the annual Scottish Climate Change Declaration report. | Annually/ As Required |
| Council Executive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Approval of the CCS and associated action plans. ■ Approval of climate change reports including the annual Scottish Climate Change Declaration report. | Annually/ As Required |
| Scottish Government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Approval of the council's Sustainability Report and Scottish Climate Change Declaration report. | Annually |

The Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group (CCSWG) has responsibility for identifying and ensuring delivery of the council's climate change outcomes, and assessing, informing and influencing progress on actions and targets. The CCSWG also functions as the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) thematic forum and is responsible for taking forward the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) in relation to the environment. All performance indicators under the environment outcome in the SOA are governed through the CCSWG. Performance against the outcome is reviewed at meetings, and reported back to the CPP Steering Group by the lead officer. The CPP Board also receive and scrutinise the performance reports. The lead officer for the group is the Head of Planning and Economic Development.

2 Council Priorities

2.1 Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement

West Lothian's Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement is the overarching strategic plan for West Lothian, and provides a framework for every strategy and plan produced by the council and partner organisations. The West Lothian Community Planning Partnership recognises the importance of tackling climate change as one of the priority outcomes identified in West Lothian's 2013 – 2023 Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) *Achieving Better Outcomes*.

The SOA identifies areas for action to deliver a better quality of life for the people of West Lothian and tackle inequalities. It sets out how the council and partners will work towards improving outcomes for the local people in a way that reflects local circumstances and priorities, within the context of the Government's 15 National Outcomes. Action on climate change, the environment and sustainability is an integral part of delivering all the outcomes of the SOA, and is specifically addressed under Outcome 8.

This Climate Change Strategy comprises the council's response to the national and West Lothian-wide priority of tackling climate change and should be taken account of in all future planning and policy work undertaken by West Lothian's partners, including in the development of partner strategies.

Preparing for the impact of climate change will require investment in adaptation on the part of businesses, organisations and households, so that they can cope with the climate as it changes and be well placed to take advantage of new opportunities.

The council and partners will have to work together to achieve the outcomes of the strategy - showing strong commitment and leadership. We will have to recognise and support the assets and aspirations of individuals and communities, while being open to doing things differently.

2.2 Corporate Plan

In consultation with the local community, partners, stakeholders and staff, the council has set out eight priorities in the current Corporate Plan 2013-2017 *Delivering Better Outcomes*. These priorities, along with three enabler themes, represent all the vital activities that the council will undertake in order to achieve better outcomes for West Lothian. Climate change can be linked with nearly all of the council's priorities and enablers. Community safety is also closely linked to the risk of extreme weather events and flooding, however this is currently addressed through different channels.

Figure 1 overleaf illustrates where the Climate Change Strategy will *directly* contribute to the council's priorities and enablers.

| Council Priorities | Climate Change Strategy |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Delivering positive outcomes and early intervention for early years | ✓ |
| 2. Improving the employment position in West Lothian | ✓ |
| 3. Improving attainment and positive destinations for school children | ✓ |
| 4. Improving the quality of life for older people | ✓ |
| 5. Minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality | ✓ |
| 6. Reducing crime and improving community safety | |
| 7. Delivering positive outcomes on health | ✓ |
| 8. Protecting the built and natural environment | ✓ |

| Enablers | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Financial planning | ✓ |
| Corporate governance and risk | ✓ |
| Modernisation and improvement | ✓ |

Figure 1: West Lothian Council Corporate Plan Priorities and Enablers and areas where the Climate Change Strategy will directly contribute.

To ensure that the Climate Change Strategy contributes to the council's aim of making West Lothian the best possible place to live, work and do business, six priority Climate Change Strategy outcomes (CCS Outcomes) have been identified which will also support delivery of council priorities and Community Plan outcomes:

- Outcome 1: A low carbon council – reducing the council's own carbon footprint.
- Outcome 2: A resource wise West Lothian – resources are used more efficiently (energy, waste and water), area wide emissions are reduced and communities and businesses are well positioned to maximise the benefits of a sustainable, low carbon economy.

- Outcome 3: Sustainable transport and active travel – measures in place to help people make smarter, sustainable travel choices, supported by a low emission transport network.
- Outcome 4: A resilient natural environment – natural ecosystems are sustainably used and strengthened.
- Outcome 5: A well-adapted West Lothian – services, communities and places are adapting to cope with climate change impacts (including land use, buildings and infrastructure).
- Outcome 6: Sustainability and behaviour change: sustainability is at the centre of policy and decision making and a culture of sustainable behaviour and resource efficiency is embedded within the council and promoted more widely.

The council's priorities will be supported by the CCS Outcomes in the following ways:

| Council Priority | Supporting Strategy Priorities |
|--|---|
| 1. Delivering positive outcomes and early intervention for early years | <p>CCS Outcomes 2, 4 and 6 will support this council priority by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Encouraging outdoor play. ■ Helping children to think about biodiversity and their impact on the planet. ■ Encouraging parents to take a more pro-active approach to their environmental management at home – saving money and increasing awareness. ■ Creating a sense of community through environmentally focused approaches. ■ Linking with nurseries to encourage learning about environmental approaches and changes being made within their own nursery environment. |
| 2. Improving the employment position in West Lothian | <p>CCS Outcomes 1, 2 and 6 will support this council priority by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Supporting increased opportunities for West Lothian based businesses to diversify into renewable and low carbon technologies and in turn create more jobs within the local area. This can also impact on skills as businesses will up-skill their workforce leading to a better skills set, higher wages, increased opportunity etc. ■ Encouraging the creation of new businesses in the environmental sector. In turn helping these businesses grow and encouraging job creation. ■ Promoting an education and training sector that provides the knowledge and skills that the transition to a low carbon economy requires. ■ Providing training opportunities for young people. |
| 3. Improving attainment and positive destinations for school children | <p>CCS Outcomes 1 and 6 will support this council priority by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introducing renewable technologies to schools buildings |

| Council Priority | Supporting Strategy Priorities |
|--|---|
| | <p>providing children with an opportunity to learn about green and low carbon energy technologies and their impact on sustainability and carbon emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providing specific training and support to deliver eco-school and sustainability activities related to the Curriculum for Excellence. ■ Encouraging school children to look at careers in the environmental and renewables sectors (Scottish Enterprise estimate that jobs in Scotland's low carbon sector could grow by 4% per year to 2020, rising to 130,000). |
| 4. Improving the quality of life for older people | <p>CCS Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 5 will support this council priority by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lowering carbon emissions and other pollutants leading to improved air quality which will help reduce the impact of chronic health issues. ■ Promoting and supporting energy efficiency measures which will positively impact on fuel poverty and quality of life. ■ Promoting the development of low carbon heat which will provide increased security of heat supply and reduce the pressure on household energy bills. ■ Identifying mechanisms to protect the most vulnerable groups, including the elderly, from the adverse impacts of climate change. |
| 5. Minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality | <p>CCS Outcomes 1, 2 and 6 will support this council priority by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promoting and supporting energy efficiency measures which will positively impact on fuel poverty and quality of life. ■ Promoting the development of low carbon heat which will provide increased security of heat supply and reduce the pressure on household energy bills. ■ Improving the quality of social housing. ■ Communicating energy and resource efficiency messages. ■ Helping reduce fuel poverty. ■ Tackling environmental inequalities. |
| 6. Reducing crime and improving community safety | <p>CCS Outcome 5 will support this council priority by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Implementing measures to protect the most vulnerable communities from the adverse impacts of climate change, including increased risk of flooding. ■ Increasing community resilience through targeted support, access to information and resources. |

| Council Priority | Supporting Strategy Priorities |
|---|---|
| 7. Delivering positive outcomes on health | <p>CCS Outcomes 2, 3, 4 and 5 will support this council priority by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lowering carbon emissions and other pollutants leading to improved air quality which will help reduce the impact of chronic health issues. ■ Encouraging active travel ■ Contributing to healthier local environments more widely understood and supported by communities |
| 8. Protecting the built and natural environment | <p>CCS Outcomes 4 and 5 will support this council priority by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensuring the built environment (places, buildings and essential infrastructure) is resilient to climate change impacts. ■ Protecting and strengthening the natural environment including habitats and species. |

2.3 Delivering Better Outcomes

The Delivering Better Outcomes project is a key component of the council's modernisation programme to ensure the efficient use of resources and deliver savings across the whole council. A number of initiatives are being progressed which aim to, for example, reduce energy use across the council estate and embed a culture of resource efficiency. The project also involves working more closely with other public, voluntary and community partners to help create better services and reduce costs.

3 Strategy Outcomes

3.1 Outcome Benefits

Delivering the outcomes of the West Lothian Climate Change Strategy can also bring a range of benefits for the council, partners and the wider community.

| Wider benefits | |
|------------------------------|--|
| For the council and partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Financial and non-financial savings (RES estimate savings of £2.9 billion in Scotland alone from making more efficient use of our resources) ■ Supports informed decision and policy making ■ Compliance with legal requirements ■ Reduced risk of non-compliance and challenge ■ More efficient working, making best use of resources ■ Recycling and preparing waste for re-use reduces costs for the council, generates an income and stimulates business ■ Increased collaborative working- making best use of skills and knowledge ■ Funding opportunities for climate change related projects, such as Horizon 2020. Large scale projects also have potential to reduce costs significantly (e.g. district heating in council buildings) ■ Income generated from renewables such as solar PV on council owned buildings and cost savings from reduced grid electricity consumption |
| For householders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Financial savings (reduced energy bills) ■ Less exposure to global oil and gas markets and increasing prices ■ More affordable heating ■ Supports healthier lifestyles ■ Helping to reduce risk to well-being and home security |
| For businesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Financial savings (reduced energy bills) ■ Increased efficiency / productivity ■ Economic opportunities in sectors such as low carbon technology, renewables and the rural economy, tourism and recreation ■ New market opportunities and increased sales (e.g. waste bi-products - linked to the circular economy) ■ Competitive advantage ■ Reduced risk |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| For council tax payers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Better value for money with less energy wasted ■ Reliable council services which are resilient to changes in climate ■ Infrastructure improvements (e.g. sustainable transport options to reduce congestion and improve access to jobs and services) |
| For the local environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Healthier ecosystems ■ Cleaner air ■ Species and habitats resilient to the changing climate ■ Promotes the redevelopment of brownfield land providing opportunities in close proximity to goods and services ■ Encourages the sustainable design of new buildings |
| For visitors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A desirable tourist destination |
| For future generations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A stable and secure future less exposed to risk |

3.2 Outcome 1: A Low Carbon Council

Purpose

West Lothian Council is a major employer and a major consumer of resources including energy, waste, transport fuel and water, so there is significant scope to build on achievements to date in cutting carbon emissions, implementing renewable and low carbon technologies, making more efficient use of resources and saving money. As well as leading by example, this will provide better value for money for tax payers and can also improve working conditions for staff. Our first priority is therefore building on work already underway to achieve a low carbon, resource efficient council.

The council has therefore committed to a 20% reduction in its overall carbon footprint based on a revised 2013/14 carbon footprint baseline. The detail of how this will be achieved is set out in the revised Carbon Management Plan for 2015 – 2020. The major sources of the council's direct carbon emissions include:

- Council owned operational buildings – such as council offices, schools, care homes, museums, libraries (the council's housing stock is not included as the council has no control over heating and lighting for individual properties).
- Waste services – street cleaning, household waste collection, waste management and recycling.
- Travel and transport – business travel and fleet including pool cars.
- External lighting – such as streetlighting, traffic signs and seasonal lighting.
- Water – supply and treatment.

The council also spends a significant amount each year undertaking capital projects and buying in goods and services. Delivering efficient, sustainable procurement is crucial to delivering our carbon reduction targets and is a council priority. Carbon and financial savings can be realised through lower operating costs, better management of demand, and the purchasing of products that are more efficient in their use of energy, water and material resources.

Activities

The main activities to undertaken from 2015 to 2020 are:

- Implementation of the Carbon Management Plan for the period 2015 to 2020 including specific targets and projects identified to support their delivery.
- Review and update the council's Sustainable Procurement Action Plan.
- Develop and implement a sustainable procurement policy for all council procurement which bases procurement decisions on whole life costs, energy efficiency and primary resource sustainability and provide staff training to enable this.

- Ensure that climate change and sustainability is considered and addressed in the management of all council assets including properties, roads and related assets, information technology assets, fleet, housing and open space.
- Continue to monitor CO₂ emissions for council properties and services.
- Ensure that all council employees adopt practices that will aid energy and resource conservation and continue to implement staff awareness programmes.
- Set minimum standards for sustainable construction, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation in existing buildings (including schools) and in all new buildings.
- Continue to explore potential sources of external funding to finance energy conservation and renewable energy generation projects.
- Continue implementation of renewable and low carbon energy technologies in council owned properties.
- Explore the potential for renewable and low carbon energy technologies on council owned land.

Performance

Performance indicators and actions will monitor progress for the life span of the strategy, and will be reported to and monitored by the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group and Council Executive. Examples of the indicators and actions relating to corporate CO₂ emissions are:

| Performance – Outcome 1: A Low Carbon Council | |
|--|---------------------|
| Example Performance Indicator / Action Name | Responsible Officer |
| Total annual carbon emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e) from non-domestic buildings, transport, external lighting, waste and water. | Energy Manager |
| Energy cost per m ² | Energy Manager |
| Water cost per m ³ | Energy Manager |
| Energy generated as a result of installation of renewables and low carbon technology. kWh of heat produced (cumulative). | Energy Manager |
| Energy generated as a result of the installation of renewables and low carbon technology. kWh of electricity produced. | Energy Manager |

3.3 Outcome 2: A Resource Wise West Lothian

Purpose

The council has an important role as a community leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the region (and other local air quality pollutants) and encouraging the efficient use of our resources. West Lothian has a higher than average carbon footprint per person compared to other local authority areas. Businesses, organisations, community planning partners, communities and individuals all have an important role to play in reducing emissions and adopting healthier, more sustainable lifestyles. The council will continue to monitor emissions across West Lothian, and work with partners and local communities to implement a range of measures which promote the efficient use of energy and water and waste minimisation.

Activities

The main activities that will be undertaken from 2015 to 2020 are:

- Continue to implement the actions contained in the council's Renewable Energy Strategy for the West Lothian Council Area.
- Provide a supportive framework for the development of renewable and low carbon technologies through the LDP, including district heating and the utilisation of waste heat.
- Support businesses and local communities to capitalise on the increased investment in renewable and low carbon technologies including assistance with training requirements and new job creation.
- Take a partnership approach to providing clear resource efficiency messages.
- Develop programmes to accelerate the uptake of energy saving measures in the council's social housing stock.
- Continue to engage with homeowners to promote home energy efficiency measures, Scottish Government grants and renewable energy installations.
- Work with partners to sustainably manage and improve West Lothian's water resource through river catchment plans, sustainable urban drainage schemes (SUDS) and other measures to improve water conservation and quality.
- Promote the uptake of locally sourced and locally grown food including through the expansion of allotment sites through the West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) and in line with council policy.
- Expand woodland cover within West Lothian as a means of increasing carbon sequestration and reducing net carbon emissions following the guidance provided in the Edinburgh and Lothians Forestry and Woodland Strategy (Sections 3 and 5).
- Ensure that any woodland losses to development are compensated by new planting within Edinburgh and the Lothians so that the net contribution of trees and woodland to carbon sequestration is maintained and increased.

- Fully implement the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal when considering applications for planning permission that involve the loss of trees and woodland.
- Continue to monitor air quality across West Lothian and, where possible, implement measures which are beneficial for both air quality and mitigating climate change.
- Work towards zero waste targets through the implementation of the Resource and Recycling Strategy and the Education and Awareness Strategy.
- Expand and promote recycling facilities and services and explore opportunities for setting up shared recycling projects for SME's.
- Develop programmes and educational campaigns that support businesses and organisations to reduce CO₂ emissions and waste across their operations, fleet and workforce and promote a low carbon, circular economy including the re-use of waste materials.

Performance

Performance indicators and actions will monitor progress for the life span of the strategy, and will be reported to and monitored by the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group and Council Executive. Examples of the indicators and actions relating to resource efficiency are:

| Performance – Outcome 2: A Resource Wise West Lothian | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Example Performance Indicator / Action Name | Responsible Officer |
| Tonnes of CO ₂ emissions per capita for the West Lothian District. | Energy Manager |
| Average NHER energy rating (all tenures) according to the Scottish Housing Condition Survey. | Special Projects Co-ordinator |
| Percentage of households in West Lothian offered the opportunity to participate in and install energy efficiency measures through the Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland: Area Based Schemes. | Special Projects Co-ordinator |
| Percentage of the council's housing stock meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standard | Special Projects Co-ordinator |
| Percentage of household waste recycled | Waste Strategy Officer |
| Percentage of municipal solid waste recycled | Waste Strategy Officer |
| Percentage of material prepared for reuse | Waste Strategy Officer |

3.4 Outcome 3: Sustainable Transport and Active Travel

Purpose

West Lothian is host to a number of major motorway links and road transport links, which contributed around 1,297 kilotonnes of CO₂ in 2012 based on the latest data from DECC. As well as the benefits brought about by increased mobility, there are serious problems associated with this increased car use, including increased carbon emissions and other detrimental effects on the environment and air quality, traffic congestion, safety for all road users, and the encouragement of more sedentary lifestyles (and therefore public health). The council will continue to implement measures to help people make smarter, sustainable travel choices, supported by a sustainable, low emission transport network.

Activities

The main activities that will be undertaken between 2015 and 2020 are:

- Achieve an interim target of reducing general council fleet mileage by 33% by the end of the financial year 2018 and establish a target for an additional reduction by 2020/21.
- Review of the Local Transport Strategy for West Lothian and prepare an Active Travel Strategy, to provide the framework for future improvements and support sustainable travel choices for residents, employees and visitors.
- Implement the council's Green Transport guidance for all council employees and elected members.
- Develop behavioural change programmes, education and training trips that will increase the number of people walking, cycling, taking public transport and car sharing across West Lothian, and in particular the journey to school.
- Address vehicle idling and optimise traffic management to minimise vehicle queuing.
- Work with the Energy Saving Trust and partners to encourage more efficient driving, reduce the need to travel and explore sustainable travel alternatives.
- Work with partners to expand and promote the network of electric vehicle charging points across West Lothian, and encourage the installation of electric vehicle charging points through the LDP.
- Identify the essential infrastructure and other transport measures required to mitigate the impacts of projected growth from employment and housing (and associated transport emissions) in West Lothian.
- Undertake a transport appraisal of all development sites allocated through the LDP process and ensure sites are in the most sustainable locations as possible close to transport networks and well served by pedestrian and cycle routes.
- Promote active travel and reduced car dependency through the spatial strategy and policies in the LDP, including proximity to services.

Performance

Performance indicators and actions will monitor progress for the life span of the strategy, and will be reported to and monitored by the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group. Examples of the indicators and actions relating to sustainable transport and active travel are:

| Performance – Outcome 3: Sustainable Transport and Active Travel | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Example Performance Indicator / Action Name | Responsible Officer |
| Percentage of Citizens Panel members who walk or cycle to work. | Policy Officer |
| Percentage of primary school children travelling actively to school. | Customer & Performance Manager |
| Percentage of secondary school children travelling actively to school. | Customer & Performance Manager |
| Percentage of council staff travelling actively to work. | Sustainable Behaviour Assistant |
| Service mileage reduction. | Fleet Co-ordinator |
| Total annual CO ₂ emissions fleet. | Fleet Co-ordinator |
| Total annual CO ₂ emissions pool cars. | Fleet Co-ordinator |
| Total annual CO ₂ emissions business mileage. | Fleet Co-ordinator |

3.5 Outcome 4: A Resilient Natural Environment

Purpose

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing our natural environment. The unprecedented rate of human-induced climate change threatens plants and animals that are unable to adapt quickly enough to its effects. This is happening now in West Lothian, and how we choose to respond will affect not only individual species and our distinctive landscapes, but also our lifestyles, our economy and our culture. The council will work with partners and the wider community to implement measures which will ensure our natural resources are managed sustainably and natural ecosystems are protected and strengthened.

Activities

The main activities that will be undertaken from 2015 and 2020 are:

- Review the actions identified in the West Lothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Make use of the Integrated Habitat Network tool to identify priority areas of habitat in West Lothian.
- Develop a coordinated blue and green network for West Lothian to act as a central source of information and communications regarding sustainable living and wider natural environmental issues.
- Work with partners to protect and strengthen West Lothian's natural habitats such as peatlands and other wetlands, native woodlands and species-rich grasslands which support carbon storage, help species adapt to climate change and encourage low impact outdoor recreation.
- Provide the context to support the protection of existing woodland and other important habitats through the spatial strategy and policies in the LDP.
- Encourage the incorporation of green infrastructure in new development including SUDS, living walls and green roofs.
- Work with partners to implement the aims of the Edinburgh and Lothians Forestry and Woodland Strategy to expand the region's woodland resource, build a strong, sustainable economy, promote a high quality environment and secure resilience to climate change and enhance quality of life for communities
- Implement the actions for West Lothian contained in the Edinburgh and Lothians Woodland Strategy Area Action Plan 2013 – 2017.
- Ensure the provision of new woodland is included in the West Lothian Local Development Plan.
- Contribute to the delivery of River Basin Management Planning objectives as part of the Water Framework Directive.
- Promote the importance of water quality improvement on ecosystem health.

- Support the creation of ponds and wetlands with local community groups.
- Support communities to manage habitats.
- Encourage good quality green space and path networks through the council's Open Space Strategy and Local Development Plan.
- Continue to encourage local communities to be much more involved in managing green spaces such as around schools, community centres and where they live.

Performance

Performance indicators and actions will monitor progress for the life span of the strategy, and will be reported to and monitored by the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group and Council Executive. Examples of the indicators and actions relating to the resilience of the natural environment are:

| Performance – Outcome 4: A Resilient Natural Environment | |
|---|--|
| Example Performance Indicator / Action Name | Responsible Officer |
| Percentage of water bodies in West Lothian achieving high or good overall status. | Climate Change Policy Officer (data provided by SEPA) |
| Greenspace in West Lothian. | Citizens Panel Quality of Life Survey |

3.6 Outcome 5: A Well-Adapted West Lothian

Purpose

Changes in the climate could threaten the built and the natural environment with significant impacts on local communities, the economy and service delivery. The Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme emphasises the importance of adequate, planned adaptation to current and future changes in the climate to ensure the resilience of communities and natural and economic systems. Climate change will also increase risks to human health such as greater exposure to air pollution, floods, hot and cold spells, ultraviolet radiation, food, water and insect borne diseases and changes to pollen seasons.

Community Planning Partners, businesses, organisations and individuals have a vital role in ensuring that council services, communities and places are adapting to cope with climate change impacts (including land use, buildings and infrastructure). The council has prepared a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) which includes input from key council staff and partners on the impacts of past weather events on services. The LCLIP sets out detailed recommendations and will provide a useful basis for understanding and preparing for future impacts.

Activities

The activities that will be undertaken from 2015 and 2020 are:

- Prepare an Adaptation Action Plan for the period 2016 to 2021.
- Undertake a comprehensive risk based assessment of the council's vulnerabilities to weather and climate, both now and in the future.
- Continue to develop and implement Winter Weather Contingency Plans.
- Continue to manage an 'Emergency Weather Fund'.
- Develop local, targeted campaigns to raise awareness of the potential impacts of climate change and the responsibilities of communities and individuals.
- Plan to reduce the impact on, and ensure continuation of, care for the most vulnerable groups in West Lothian (such as the elderly and geographically remote) during heat waves and floods.
- Continue to promote weather related health protection information and advice to council employees, partners and the wider community.
- Promote communications from the Acting Chief Medical Officer (main portals for public information are www.readyscotland.org and www.nhsinform.co.uk) to all council staff, such as 'Safe Summer in Scotland'.
- Implement small scale, low cost, and sustainable adaptation measures where possible.

- Support the creation or enhancement of sustainable drainage systems, natural wetlands, flood attenuation areas, and other similar measures to assist in reducing flooding and to deal with surface water runoff from new and existing developments.
- Seek funding for the promotion of flood protection studies and projects based on the priorities set out in the council's Local Flood Risk Management Plan.
- Encourage trees in urban areas provide to provide shade and alleviate flooding.
- Monitor the erosion of paths and trails and increase maintenance.
- Ensure that new buildings and infrastructure are sited in areas that minimise exposure to flood risk.
- Locate new transport infrastructure in a way which avoids susceptibility of roads to landslides and flooding.
- Make leisure and tourism destinations more resilient by ensuring they are accessible by active travel modes.

Performance

Performance indicators and actions will monitor progress for the life span of the strategy, and will be reported to and monitored by the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group and Council Executive. Examples of the indicators and actions relating to climate change adaptation are:

| Performance – Outcome 5: A Well-Adapted West Lothian | |
|--|---------------------|
| Example Performance Indicator / Action Name | Responsible Officer |
| Preparation of Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for 2015 to 2020. | Energy Manager |
| Corporate Risk Register- Adverse Impact of Climate Change. | Energy Manager |

3.7 Outcome 6: Sustainability and Behaviour Change

Purpose

Public bodies have a duty under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to act in the way we consider most sustainable. Sustainability is also a core, underpinning principle of the West Lothian Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement to ensure that the decisions we make meet the needs of today and safeguard the environment for the future. This means putting sustainability at the centre of policy and decision making, in order to optimise and balance economic and social well-being and environmental protection. Making changes in the way we do things and adopting more sustainable behaviours and attitudes will also be critical to delivering the outcomes of the strategy.

Activities

The main activities that will be undertaken from 2015 and 2020 are:

- Review council policies, procedures and planning processes to ensure that climate change considerations and sustainability are addressed consistently across the council and demonstrate compliance with the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties.
- Prepare a Sustainable Construction Policy for the council with standards for resource efficiency, including energy, waste and water and lead by example in the use, design and construction of council buildings.
- Develop programmes to accelerate the uptake of energy saving measures in the council's social housing stock.
- Develop staff training, including e-learning modules and Corporate Induction materials, in climate literacy and sustainability such as the Empower tool on the council's intranet home page.
- Promote sustainable behaviours and resource efficiency by publicising best practice and leading by example, providing appropriate infrastructure, through regulation and by using incentives, campaigns and supportive community engagement.
- Continue to implement the council's Green Impact and School Switch Off programmes to encourage sustainable behaviours and resource efficiency in the work place, within schools and more widely (active travel, energy conservation etc) linked to the council's Celebrating Success awards.
- Assist businesses to adopt sustainable procurement practices and principles.
- Continue to support the council's expanding network of Green Champions.
- Aim to identify those individuals and communities that experience environmental inequalities and take positive action to reduce these.
- Where appropriate take enforcement action in line with existing legislation where other interventions have not resolved a problem.

Performance

Performance indicators and actions will monitor progress for the life span of the strategy, and will be reported to and monitored by the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group and Council Executive. Examples of the indicators and actions relating to sustainability and behaviour change are:

| Performance – Outcome 6: Sustainability and Behaviour Change | |
|---|--|
| Example Performance Indicator / Action Name | Responsible Officer |
| Energy efficiency and behaviour change | Energy Manager |
| Sustainable Procurement Action Plan | Corporate Procurement Manager |
| Sustainability Framework Assessment score assigned to West Lothian Council | Corporate Procurement Manager |
| Percentage of schools achieving Eco-Schools Scotland accreditation at Bronze, Silver and Green | Customer & Performance Manager Schools |
| Perceptions of the environment in West Lothian | Citizens Panel Quality of Life Survey |
| Perceptions of climate change | Citizens Panel Quality of Life Survey |
| Attitudes towards recycling and waste reduction | Citizens Panel Quality of Life Survey |
| The percentage of customers who rated the content of training relating to the delivery of sustainable procurement as good or excellent. | Corporate Procurement Manager |
| Sustainable Procurement Supplier Engagement and Partnership Events | Corporate Procurement Manager |
| Percentage of secondary school children travelling actively to school. | Customer & Performance Manager |
| Percentage of council staff travelling actively to work. | Sustainable Behaviour Assistant |

4 Delivering the Strategy

4.1 Corporate Strategies, Management and Action Plans

The Climate Change Strategy does not seek to replicate work already going on, but rather draw together and focus attention on the key areas where the council needs to do more, to achieve an enhanced cross-service response and to maximise best value. A number of specific action plans have been identified within the activity themes which will help achieve the outcomes of the Climate Change Strategy. However, successful delivery will also depend on integration with and the implementation of all other council and partner strategies, management and action plans. The key linkages within the council are:

- Corporate Asset Management Strategy and Category Asset Management Plans
- The West Lothian Local Development Plan and associated Supplementary Guidance
- Flood Risk Strategy and Flood Risk Management Plan
- Economic Strategy
- Renewables Strategy
- Open Space Strategy
- Corporate Procurement Strategy
- Resource and Recycling Strategy
- Waste Education and Awareness Strategy
- Local Housing Strategy
- Service Area Management Plans
- West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan
- Regeneration Action Plans

4.2 Corporate Policies

The table below details the policies which will support the delivery of strategy outcomes.

| Corporate Policies | | |
|--|---|---|
| Policy Heading | Headline Policy | Supporting policy and explanation |
| Corporate commitment to address climate change issues. | The council is committed to reducing its own emissions in line with Scottish Government targets. The council is also committed to working with others to achieve similar reductions across West Lothian and to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. All council staff will contribute to this commitment | The council will meet its commitments through this climate change strategy. Actions to deliver the strategy will be delivered through business planning processes and will be co-ordinated by the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group. This and forthcoming policies contribute towards meeting the |

| Corporate Policies | | |
|---|--|--|
| Policy Heading | Headline Policy | Supporting policy and explanation |
| | on equal terms. | outcomes of the SOA and council priorities. |
| Personal commitment to energy conservation. | The council requires all of its employees to adopt practices that will aid energy conservation. All employees are required to switch off electrical equipment, including personal computers, monitors and lighting when not in use. Where facilities for the recycling of office waste are provided, employees are required to make use of them. | Employees will be made aware of these responsibilities through their job descriptions, inductions and awareness raising. Any necessary training will be made available and performance in this respect will be monitored through performance review processes. A network of Green Champions will supported to champion environmental awareness in council buildings. |
| Personal commitment to resource efficiency. | The council requires all of its employees to adopt practices that will aid the efficient use of resources. All employees are required to comply with temperature guidelines and to print only when necessary and minimise the use of paper. | Employees will be made aware of council policies and targets relating to energy use and resource efficiency, such as the Corporate Temperature Policy, Mail and Print Policy, the Green Transport guide, the Policy on Driving at Work and the West Lothian Council Drivers Handbook. |
| The monitoring of CO ₂ emissions in respect of all council buildings (electricity, gas, fuel oil, water supply and treatment), external lighting, vehicles, waste and business travel. | The council will monitor energy use in all of our buildings. The energy consumption of all council buildings will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Energy Manager and annually by the Climate Change Policy Officer. | The energy consumption of the majority of council buildings is measured accurately through Smart Meter systems. |
| | The council will monitor the energy from all external lighting, including streetlighting, traffic controls and seasonal lighting. The electricity use of all external lighting managed by Operational Services will be submitted annually to the Climate Change Policy Officer. | The energy consumption of external lighting is measured accurately by Operational Services. |
| | The council will monitor the fuel consumption of our vehicle fleet and staff business mileage. The fuel use of all council vehicles managed by Operational Services will be submitted annually to the Climate Change Policy Officer. | All drivers are required to record mileage at each fuel purchase so that fuel use can be monitored. Business mileage claims will be required to specify fuel type. Systems will be put in |

| Corporate Policies | | |
|--|--|---|
| Policy Heading | Headline Policy | Supporting policy and explanation |
| | | place to record air and rail business miles. |
| The adoption of standards for energy efficient streetlighting. | Energy efficiency standards for street lighting will be adopted in the West Lothian Local Development Plan. | Developers will be required to meet energy efficiency standards for streetlighting in West Lothian. |
| The adoption of energy efficiency and emissions standards as criteria to be used in the procurement of goods and services. | Sustainable Procurement Policy refresh. | The council is committed to maximising the benefits delivered from Sustainable Procurement through its procurement activities and those contracts awarded to achieve value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits, not only to the procuring organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment. |
| The specification of fleet vehicles with respect to fuel consumption and emissions. | The council will adopt new engine and low emission technologies in council fleet vehicles. | The council is committed to improving the efficiency and performance of its fleet vehicles. |
| Controls on car-based business mileage and air travel. | The council has made a commitment to reduce the number of business miles incurred annually by 33% by 2018/19 to reduce carbon emissions and costs. | The council operates a transport hierarchy which promotes active travel, the use of public transport and council owned pool cars before personal car use. Details are set out in the council's Green Transport guide. |
| Energy efficiency standards and energy management in existing council buildings. | <p>The council will implement a phased programme to improve energy efficiency standards and energy management in our existing buildings, in conjunction with the Capital Asset Management Programme.</p> <p>Where it can be shown that within a period of ten years an energy efficiency measure will generate savings sufficient to meet its costs, a business case will be prepared.</p> <p>All operational buildings are to achieve a</p> | Existing council buildings vary in fenestration, insulation values, systems installed, the type of fuel consumed and tariffs applied. The aim is to identify practicable cost effective solutions, fit for purpose without compromising acceptable internal environmental conditions. |

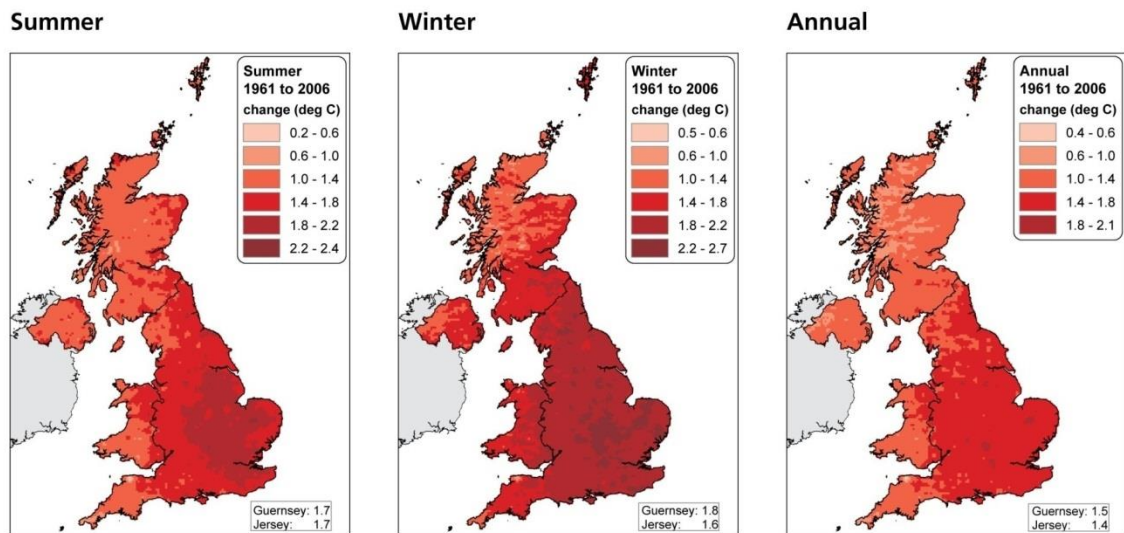
| Corporate Policies | | |
|--|---|--|
| Policy Heading | Headline Policy | Supporting policy and explanation |
| | minimum Energy Certificate rating of E where reasonably practicable in terms of physical works and economic justification. | |
| Sustainable construction, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation standards for new buildings. | <p>A Sustainable Construction Policy will be implemented for all building contracts.</p> <p>Guidance on sustainable design is provided in the council's Residential Design Guide supplementary planning guidance.</p> | <p>The council's assets are managed sustainably to ensure they are available to support service delivery in the long term. The Sustainable Construction Policy will make the standards required clear.</p> <p>Developers will be required to meet design standards set out in the West Lothian Local Development Plan.</p> |

4.3 Performance and Review

A suite of performance indicators and actions are in place to monitor progress on climate change objectives and targets. Performance indicators and actions will be reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose to monitor progress on actions for the life span of the strategy. Progress will be reported to and monitored by the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group, Community Planning Partnership Board, Capital Asset Management Board, Modernisation Board, Environment PDSP and Council Executive as appropriate.

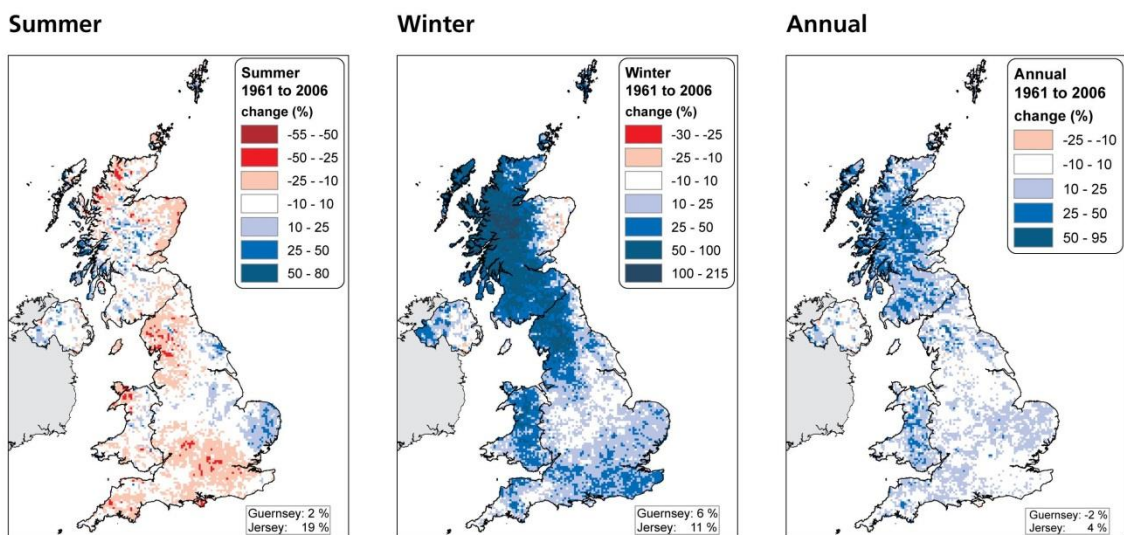
A Sustainability Report and the Council's Climate Change Declaration report are also submitted annually to the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN). Statutory reporting under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 on Public Bodies Climate Change Duties is expected to commence in 2015/16. Annual progress reports will be submitted to Scottish Government.

Appendix 1: Met Office UK Climate Projections (UKCP09)



Change in average daily mean temperature (°C) from 1961 to 2006

Figure 1: UKCP09 recent trends for the UK showing changes in temperature from 1961 to 2006 including increases in summer and winter temperatures.



Change in average total precipitation (mm) from 1961 to 2006

Figure 2: UKCP09 recent trends for the UK showing changes in average total precipitation from 1961 to 2006 including wetter winters in most areas of Scotland.

West Lothian Council

Climate Change Strategy 2015-2020

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March 2015

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