

Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership 25 January 2013

Climate Local Commitment

Introduction

- 1 The last meeting considered a report recommending that the Environment and Waste Partnership consider signing Climate Local. The Local Authority Working Group was invited to present options for further development to the next meeting of the Partnership in January 2013, along with an assessment of resource requirements, with a view to signing Climate Local as “Climate Local Oxfordshire”. subject to availability of resources.
- 2 This report provides additional information about current local authority activities, and confirms that signing Climate Local does not require any additional resources. It therefore recommends that the Environment and Waste Partnership sign the Climate Local commitment.

The potential benefits to the Partnership of signing Climate Local

- 3 As reported to the last meeting, signing Climate Local is an opportunity to raise the profile of our work in Oxfordshire by sharing practice with other local authorities and partners at a national level, and to benefit from additional resources and support – new web-based resources, a new online Community, and opportunities for peer learning.

Resource implications

- 4 Participation in Climate Local would not require new targets to be developed. The Climate Local process, summarised in Annex 1, reflects closely the work of the Environment and Waste Partnership, in which good practice is shared and published, and regular progress reports are submitted to the Oxfordshire Partnership.
- 5 The next step after signing Climate Local is to set out our commitments within 6 months. It is proposed that these are drawn from the Oxfordshire 2030 priorities, which have already been agreed by the Partnership, and are largely local authority work and/or partnership programmes and projects which are being implemented within existing resources or have received external funding. Any new projects proposed as potential Climate Local Commitments would indicate resources required and potential sources of funding.
- 6 Annex 3 provides a summary of current work which is resourced by local authorities. It also includes a number of projects which have recently received external funding. The summary does not include waste or biodiversity projects; these are also within the remit of Climate Local, and it is proposed to add these at a later date. The waste commitment can be met by the existing OWP joint waste strategy and annual action plan.

Recommendations

- 7 That, in recognising that there are no additional resource requirements, the Environment and Waste Partnership agree:
- a) to sign Climate Local, as “Climate Local Oxfordshire”;
 - b) as stage two of the process, to agree within six months the commitments to be included and reported on.

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Annex 1 Climate Local Process

1. Climate Local replaces the Nottingham Declaration, which was launched in 2000 and signed by most UK local authorities including those in Oxfordshire. The aim of Climate Local is to help drive and support council action to reduce carbon emissions and develop resilience to the effects of a changing climate and extreme weather. Climate Local has strong central government backing and is a key part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the LGA and government.
2. Signing up to Climate Local involves a four-stage process:
 - i. **Sign up/refresh:** the first stage is to sign the commitment (shown in Annex 1) as a local authority or group of authorities, who will then be added to the list of signatories on the website.
 - ii. **Declare targets and action:** the next step is to set out – within 6 months, the commitments the partnership intends to make.
 - iii. **Share learning and experiences:** once signed up, the partnership will be expected to share practice with other organisations, communities and stakeholders.
 - iv. **Report on progress:** the partnership will be asked to share progress on commitments once a year.
3. Climate Local can be signed by individual authorities or groups of authorities.

Annex 2: Climate Local Commitment

Climate Local Oxfordshire:



Our commitment to taking action in a changing climate

We recognise that our councils have an important role to help our residents and businesses to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on climate change. These include saving money on energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, supporting new sources of energy, managing local flood-risk and water scarcity and protecting our natural environment.

We will progressively address the risks and pursue the opportunities presented by a changing climate, in line with local priorities, through our role as:

- Community leader – helping local people and businesses to be smarter about their energy use and to prepare for climate impacts;
- Service provider – delivering services that are resource efficient, less carbon intensive, resilient and that protect those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts;
- Estate manager – ensuring that our own buildings and operations are resource efficient, use clean energy, and are well prepared for the impacts of a changing climate.

In signing this commitment, **we will:**

- **Set locally-owned and determined commitments** and actions to reduce carbon emissions and to manage climate impacts. These will be specific, measurable and challenging;
- **Publish our commitments, actions and progress**, enabling local communities to hold us to account;
- **Share the learning from our experiences and achievements** with other councils; and
- **Regularly refresh our commitments and actions** to ensure they are current and continue to reflect local priorities.

[Date]
[Name of council or group of councils] Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership
[Signature of Chair of Partnership]
[Signatures of Members of Partnership]

Annex 3: Environment Partnership – key work programme and projects

1. Current programmes

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Project description	Reduce energy/carbon emissions from local authority estate.
Target/outcome	Average 3% annual reduction in CO2 emissions per local authority against 2010/2011 baseline – to 2014, in line with Oxfordshire 2030 2011 refresh.
Current work	All local authorities are implementing energy/carbon management programmes and share good practice regularly at Partnership meetings.
Link to Oxfordshire 2030	Priority 3: Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in Oxfordshire.
Resources	Funded within local authority – revenue and capital programmes

Promoting weather/climate resilience

Project description	Embed resilience to weather across local authorities, partner organisations and business.
Target/outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide advice to business, and share good practice through the Partnership. Ensure resilience to weather is considered in the programmes of other thematic partnerships and county wide partnerships.
Current work	Emergency responses to severe weather events – co-ordinated through Emergency Planning and the County Severe Weather Plan, have improved significantly, as demonstrated during recent flood and snow events. Ongoing work is to embed resilience into longer term planning and programmes. Following abolition of NI 188 Indicator “climate change adaptation planning”, this work is not being followed through in some local authorities. Normally there is more emphasis on mitigating flood risk.
Partners/ Stakeholders	Local authorities and other public sector organisations, Environment Agency (Climate Ready programme), business, low carbon/community groups, local flood groups, Local Resilience Forum
Link to Oxfordshire 2030	Priority 2: Ensure Oxfordshire organisations and communities are preparing for the longer term impacts of climate change.
Resources	Funded within local authority – revenue and capital programmes.

2. New projects which have recently bid for or received funding.

Collective switching A collective energy purchasing and switching scheme for domestic energy consumers

Lead authority(s)	Cherwell District Council
Project objectives	<p>Develop an energy switching scheme (gas, electric and green tariff) for Oxfordshire residents in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce fuel poverty and provide energy advice • Increase the affordability of green energy • To get a better deal on energy prices for Oxfordshire residents.
Partners/ Stakeholders	Local authorities in Oxfordshire
Link to Oxfordshire 2030	Priority 3: Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in Oxfordshire
Resources	The funding bid to DECC was unsuccessful. However the Cherwell scheme will go ahead within existing resources, and it is hoped that other local authorities will also participate, as reported in a separate paper to this meeting.

OxFutures fund: To accelerate the pace of investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in the public estate across Oxfordshire

Lead authority(s)	Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council
Project objectives	<p>Set up the OxFutures Fund to aggregate projects to levels attractive to private sector funding and to support community energy efficiency projects across the county. The overall project - Oxfordshire Total Retrofit - is led by Oxford City Council, partnered by Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>At least £5.5m private sector funds committed or invested in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the public estate within three years with ambitions for greater levels of investment over time aspiring to:</p> <p>Enable investment in 2.9MW of renewable energy projects and 19,600MWh of energy demand reduction on the public estate across the City and County within three years (13.6m euro investment).</p>
Partners/ Stakeholders	Low Carbon Hub, District Councils, Oxfordshire County Council
Link to Oxfordshire 2030	Priority 3: Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in Oxfordshire
Resources	Funded by grant from the Intelligent Energy Europe fund total value €1.3m

Green Deal : enable and promote uptake of the Green Deal

Lead authority/agency	USEA, and West Oxfordshire District Council, with Low Carbon Hub
Project objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate sustainable demand for Green Deal through existing consortium of Local Authorities forming a Community Interest Company (CIC) to be a local Green Deal Provider. Build a local, sustainable and economically active supply chain engaging local business, training installers, <p>Promoting community involvement through Low Carbon Hub</p>
Partners/stakeholders	USEA, Low Carbon Hub; all Oxfordshire local authorities - in co-ordinating role; other local authorities across USEA area: 18 areas covered in total.
Link to 2030 objectives	Priority 3: Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in Oxfordshire
Resources	<p>The following funding bids submitted to the DECC Green Deal Pioneer Places competition were successful;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USEA/ WODC (as described above): £600,000 Eco Bicester project: £282,000 Oxford City Council/ Energy Saving Co-op bid: £310,000 <p>Work needs to be completed by the end of March.</p>

Affordable warmth - Warm Homes Healthy People Project

Lead authority	Oxfordshire County Council and NHS Oxfordshire
Project objective	To provide practical and financial help to households vulnerable to fuel poverty to stay warm and keep this winter.
Partners/stakeholders	Cherwell DC, WODC, Vale and South District Councils, USEA, Age UK, Citizens Advice Bureau and Oxfordshire Community Foundation
Link to 2030 objectives	Priority 3: Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in Oxfordshire
Resources	A successful funding bid was made to the Department of Health for approximately £150,000.

3. Projects we are exploring and propose to do in the future if resources are available

Water: Water demand is predicted to become unsustainable in South East England by 2020. Oxfordshire councils aim to address this by implementing water saving initiatives throughout their own operations.

Lead authority(s)	South Oxfordshire District Council
Project objectives/outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased priority to be given to water conservation work in partnership to accelerate and implement water AMR implement retrofit and behavioural water conservation measures in council estates
Project Partners/Stakeholders	All local authorities in Oxfordshire; Thames Water; Environment Agency; local community groups/low carbon groups
Link to Oxfordshire 2030	Priority 2: Ensure Oxfordshire organisations and communities are preparing for the longer term impacts of climate change. Priority 3: Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in Oxfordshire
Resources	Proposals for external funding will be developed if appropriate
Next steps/further action	Meeting with South Oxfordshire Sustainability and Thames Water

Biomass: Combine biomass arisings eg from parks and woodland, including arisings from local authorities, and use as fuel source

Lead authority(s)	South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council
Project objectives/outcomes	Support establishment of a local supply chain which enables a higher proportion of timber/biomass arisings from Oxfordshire woodlands and parks (including local authority arisings) to be used as a local fuel source.
Project Partners/Stakeholders	All local authorities in Oxfordshire; local community groups/low carbon groups; TOE2 woodfuel programme and partners eg Woodland Group; TVEnergy and TVbioenergy.
Link to Oxfordshire 2030	Priority 2: Ensure Oxfordshire organisations and communities are preparing for the longer term impacts of climate change. Priority 3: Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in Oxfordshire Priority 4: Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the county
Resources	None currently available. A funding proposals needs to be developed and potential sources identified.
Next steps/Action	Meet with local organisations including TVEnergy and TOE2 to assess current activities with view to identifying potential project.