

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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meeting date: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
title: Environmental Action Plan  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principle author: TIM LYNAS – PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR

1 PURPOSE

To ask members to consider the adoption of the enclosed Environmental Action Plan.

Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – An exceptional environment and quality of life for all.
- Community Objectives – Social, economic and cultural well being.
- Corporate Priorities - To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.
- Other Considerations – None

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Ribble Valley Borough Council has recently adopted Lancashire County Councils Climate Change Strategy.
- 2.2 In order to play our part in this strategy we have developed our own Environmental Action Plan.
- 2.3 The environmental impact of the Council's operations is assessed under National Indicator 185. This includes the CO2 emissions related to both the operations of the Councils buildings and work related transport.
- 2.4 The baseline figure for 2008 / 2009 was calculated and submitted at the start of the 2009 / 2010 financial year.
- 2.5 The Council is coming under increasing pressure to reduce our operational costs. Adopting energy saving measures as part of a wider environmental action plan will reduce bills and increase the efficiency of the organisation.
- 2.6 The Council is also being encouraged by auditors to demonstrate best practice environmental management systems. While the enclosed action plan goes some way to doing this it should be noted that this is a

draft version and that the action plans and baselines still need to be developed.

3            OPTIONS

3.1            The members are being asked if they wish to approve and adopt the Environmental Action Plan.

4            RISK ASSESMENT

- Resources – The action plan will help us to improve our efficiency and reduce our operational costs.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The policy will reduce our environmental impact.
- Political – none.
- Reputation – none.

5    RECOMMEND THAT COMMITTEE

5.1            Approve the draft version of the Environmental Action Plan.

John C Heap

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Enclosed: Environmental Action Plan



# Ribble Valley Borough Council Environmental Action Plan 2010 - 2013



**March 2010**

**DRAFT**

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# FOREWORD

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Our planet is changing, Ribble Valley must prepare for this change and together we must all take action to reduce our contribution to climate change. Like many global problems action at a local level, no matter how small, is vitally important. Individuals and organisations together can have a great influence. Combating climate change is recognised as a major issue for all of us as it will continue to have effects on people, places, economies, society and the environment.

For this reason, the Government sees local authorities playing a lead exemplar role in tackling climate change. The government has passed a Climate Change Bill making its 80% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction target by 2050 legally binding. To deliver on this commitment the importance of local authority climate change work will only increase now and in the future.

The purpose of this plan is to raise awareness of the issues surrounding climate change and explain how Ribble Valley Borough Council can reduce its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, setting out how we will achieve this through working closely in partnership with other local organisations, businesses, active communities and other regional bodies.

By taking early action to both address and adapt to the expected impacts of climate change we not only contribute to national and global targets, but our communities can also benefit from an improved environment.

Ribble Valley Borough Council has shown its commitment to tackle climate change by signing the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy to proactively tackle climate change in the Ribble Valley Borough.

Action on climate change will benefit every individual who lives, works and visits the Borough.

# INTRODUCTION

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## ***What is Climate Change?***

Ribble Valley Borough Council recognises that climate change will bring challenges and opportunities. Action is needed now, both to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in order to help reduce more serious changes in the future (often referred to as mitigation), and to help us to prepare for those impacts of climate change that are already unavoidable (adaptation).

The term 'Climate' refers to the average weather experienced over a long period (typically 30 years). Natural and human factors both have and are affecting global climate change. Natural causes include interactions between oceans and the atmosphere, changes in the Earth's orbit and volcanic eruptions. Human influences on climate change are releasing greenhouse gases – like Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and Methane. These gases absorb energy radiated from the Earth's surface, altering the atmosphere and changing global temperatures. DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) state that the Earth has warmed by 0.74°C over the last hundred years, with around 0.4°C of this warming occurring since the 1970's.

The Stern Review 2006 on the Economics of Climate Change (Office of Climate Change, UK - Our activities - Stern Review) made a simple conclusion that the benefits of strong, early action on climate change far outweigh the long-term costs. Ignoring climate change will eventually damage economic growth and it will be difficult or impossible to reverse these changes if actions are not taken to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The warming up of the UK will be accompanied by wetter winters and drier summers, along with drier springs and autumns, which will lead to a reduction in average annual rainfall of between 10 and 20%.

## ***Why do we need to reduce our emissions?***

The accepted conclusion among scientists is that unless considerable reductions are made in greenhouse gas emissions soon, this could limit how effectively the impacts of climate change can be managed, and whether global warming can be controlled. Significant warming with substantial impact is already unavoidable. It is important to prevent global warming reaching the "tipping point". This is when polar ice caps, and frozen tundra melt, fundamentally changing ocean currents and releasing additional greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that will dangerously accelerate warming.

The Climate Change Bill puts into law targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 60% by 2050 and 26-32% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

## ***National Context/External Links and Drivers***

The Environmental Action Plan has been produced in the context of the international imperative to reduce carbon emissions and the requirements of local government set out within the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006. Local Area Agreements and the initiatives, including the Climate Change Bill make it vital for the Council to embed the wider climate change agenda within all its work. Ribble Valley Borough Council has shown its commitment to tackle climate change by signing the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy.

## ***Global Impact***

Globally, climate change will impact on sea levels, possibly leaving an additional 72 million people at risk from storm surges. Crops and productivity will alter with those in the most marginal farming areas being

the most vulnerable to drought. Crop production will be altered depending on how climate change alters soil and growing conditions in particular regions.

Diseases associated with the tropics, such as malaria could increase by 45-50% if the temperature rises by 3-5 degrees celsius.

Asthma and other respiratory diseases would become more acute and prevalent. The elderly and children would also be more vulnerable to extreme heat.

Ecosystems will be affected. Mountain glaciers will retreat, forest cover decline and desert conditions become more extreme.

### ***Climate Change in Ribble Valley***

Data is not available for the Ribble Valley. The table below shows possible climate change scenarios within the North West. This will have impacts on agriculture; businesses including local councils; householders and the physical environment. For example, the loss of trees in storms and damage to the landscape and buildings as a result of floods.

Figure 1: Climate Change in the North West of England

Climate change in the North West of England			
	2011 - 2040	2041 - 2070	2071 - 2100
<b>Change in average annual temperature</b>	0-1 c	1-2 c	1-4 c
<b>Change in maximum summer temperature</b>	0-1 c	1-3 c	2-6 c
<b>Change in summer rainfall</b>	5-15% decrease	10-30% decrease	15-30% decrease
<b>Change in winter rainfall</b>	5-10% increase	10-20% increase	15-30% increase
<b>Change in winter snowfall</b>	20-25% decrease	30-60% decrease	40-100% decrease
<b>Change in summer and autumn soil moisture content</b>	0-10% decrease	10-25% decrease	20-40% decrease
<b>Change in sea level</b>	Not available	7-36cm increase	7-67cm increase

*Source: Climate Change and Visitor Economy Challenges and Opportunities for England's North West*

In the context of Ribble Valley, the most significant effects will be:

- Greater flooding risk associated with increased surface water runoff and pressure on drainage systems
- Fluctuations in rainfall and temperatures mean that agriculture and biodiversity may also be badly affected
- Wetter weather and temperature fluctuations may mean more failed crops as well as damaged habitats such as washing out of bird nests
- An increase in pest and disease spread
- The potential for more exotic species

- Increased vulnerability of upland livestock are likely to occur over the next 50 years and new land management practices may be required to adapt to climate change, changing the type of farming and the landscape it produces
- Due to the increased summer temperatures and drier soil conditions this could lead to increases in primary and secondary fires in the district and subsidence
- Climate change could cause damage to infrastructure by melting rural roads (leading to inaccessible rural areas)
- Increased demand on water resources
- Increased local tourism leading to congestion on small rural road networks
- The affect on mental and physical health due to the increasing temperatures

Although much guidance focuses on the negative impact of climate change, the district could benefit from a longer growing season, increased crop yields, agricultural diversification and increased tourism. This is by no means certain so mitigation and adaptation should be addressed first before taking advantage of any opportunities that may arise as a result of climate change.

### ***Aspects of the Council's work that may be directly affected by climate change***

- Emergency Planning - for example, increases in one off events requiring use of community buildings for emergency accommodation as the result of flooding.
- Spatial Planning - designing in climate mitigation and adaptation matters. Considering shortage of water in summers and excess water in the winter.
- Built environment - risks of subsidence – will need to ensure that foundations are “future proofed” to deal with extremes of ground moisture levels. Increase in dangerous buildings and trees, through storm, flooding and weakened foundations. Increases in retro fitting of buildings to deal with extremes of temperatures. Wet weather leading to increases in dampness and adverse living conditions.
- Public Buildings - may require retro fitting to deal with extreme heat, increase effectiveness of water management i.e. rainfall, surface water, damp issues.
- Public Car Parks - increased flooding in winter and requirement for shading in the summers.
- Grounds maintenance - increased growing season requiring revised grass mowing patterns. Drought conditions in summer require change in planting. Wetter winters require different winter planting. Planned water management. Parkland - impact on native trees.
- Environmental Health - increases in food poisoning due to warmer conditions. Increases in dust conditions requiring hosing down of areas, increase in flooding with public health impacts.
- Community Safety - hot summers likely to result in large groups of people being outside in the summer evenings with possible neighbourhood nuisance issues.
- Waste services - collections of waste to offset public health issue of decaying waste.
- Business support - encourage businesses to adapt to new markets.
- Tourism - greater opportunity for tourism.
- Other incidental impacts will require changes to the Council's activities.

# CARBON FOOTPRINT



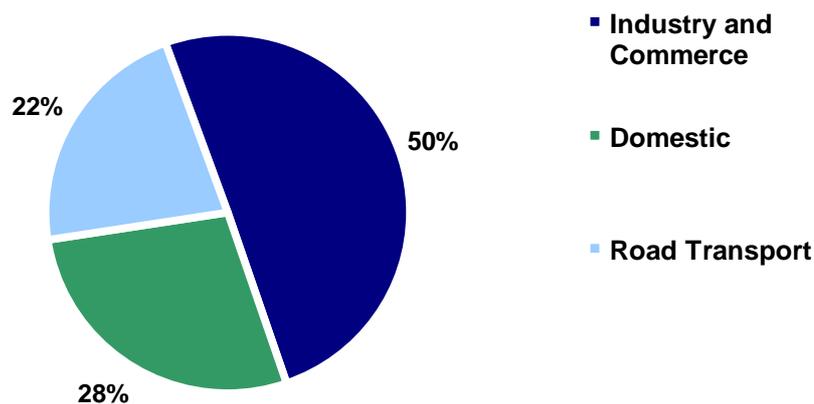
## *Ribble Valley Borough's Current Carbon Footprint*

A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact that an individual, organisation or areas activities have on the environment, and in particular climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives, for example burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation.

Recently DEFRA published Ribble Valley's footprint for 2007. This is 556,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted in 2007, compared with 577,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted in 2006. This is a 21,000 tonnes reduction (or 3.6%) in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This also equates to a 5% (500 tonnes) reduction in per capita emission, which means as the districts population increased the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduced.

The DEFRA methodology for calculating carbon footprints is based on three sectors (industry and commerce, domestic and road transport). Figure 1 indicates DEFRA's 2007 Ribble Valley Borough's carbon footprint and the percentage breakdown shows industry and commerce as the largest generator of CO<sub>2</sub> due to the large number of these businesses in the borough.

Figure 2: DEFRA 2007 Ribble Valley's Carbon Footprint

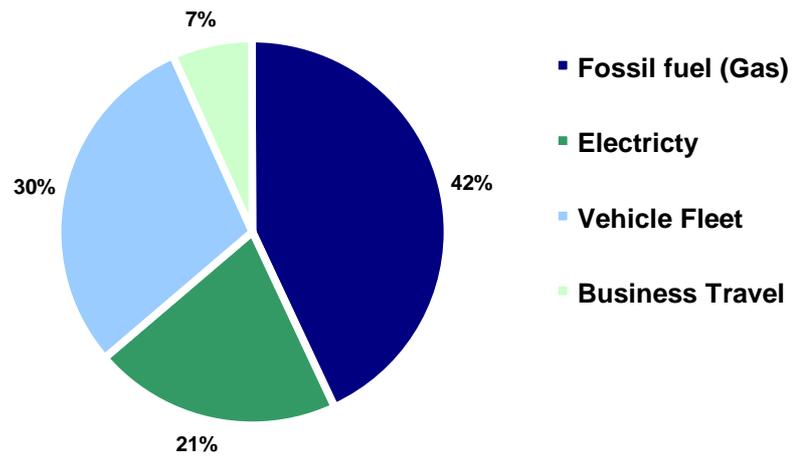


The Council has agreed to help meet the Local Area Agreement target for NI 186 - per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Local Authority area. DEFRA's calculations for 2005 has been used as the baseline and this showed 7.3 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita across the County, which equated to 11.9 tonnes per capita in Ribble Valley. The Lancashire Partnership agreed a 6% reduction over the three years 2008/09 – 2010/2011. Equating to a saving of 0.714 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita and 41,769 tonnes for the borough. The Environmental Action Plan will help reduce the borough's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well as additional CO<sub>2</sub> reduction related actions.

## *Ribble Valley Borough Council's Current Carbon Footprint*

Ribble Valley Borough Council's carbon footprint is 1,523 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. In 2009 we undertook an assessment of the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This included the gas and electricity used in our buildings, an in addition the use of vehicles associated with refuse collection, as well as staff business mileage.

Figure 3: Ribble Valley Borough Council's 2008 Carbon Footprint (NI 185)



The total emissions from this assessment have been used as a baseline against which future performance can be measured. It allows the Council to work towards continuous improvement in order to reduce our carbon footprint. Our target is for a 5% year on year reduction in our carbon emissions.

# THE ISSUES

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## ***Sustainable Development***

Sustainable development is defined as meeting the needs of the present day without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It encompasses all considerations: environmental, social and economic. Dealing with climate change is a major part of achieving sustainable development, but there are other environmental issues; Pollution of air, water or land, depletion of natural resources, and loss of biodiversity. This kind of environmental degradation must be dealt with otherwise the ability of future generations to meet their needs will be compromised.

## ***Planning***

The planning system is the most powerful tool local authorities have for ensuring development will be sustainable in a changing climate. National planning guidance allows local authorities to adopt policies that require developers to reduce the environmental impact from the construction and operation of their projects. The way in which developments are regulated, planned and built and the way in which resources are used to do this, can determine whether or not they are sustainable. Simply by re-evaluating how and where we construct we can reduce emissions and adapt to some of the impacts of climate change.

The Government acknowledges that Planning has a key role to play in helping to tackle Climate Change. The White Paper *Planning for a Sustainable Future* (May 2007) focuses on the shift to low carbon and renewable forms of energy supply and ensures new development (through its location and design) is resilient to the impact of climate change.

A *Planning Policy Statement on Planning and Climate Change* (December 2007) sets out the Government's national policies on how planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change and take into account the unavoidable consequences. It states that in developing Local Development Frameworks, Local Planning Authorities should provide a framework that promotes and encourages renewable and low-carbon energy generation and encourage the delivery of sustainable buildings.

## ***Biodiversity***

The changing climate is beginning to have an impact on UK ecosystems and this impact is expected to increase and accelerate in future, threatening the conservation of biodiversity. Nationally 90% of wetlands have been lost, as well as 98% of our wildflower meadows in the last 100 years or so, both of which would act as carbon sinks (and flood alleviation devices in the case of wetlands).

Within England, the following pressures were identified as particularly important in the context of climate change:

- Habitat destruction.
- Change in management practices
- Non-native species
- Air pollution
- Over exploitation

Without plants and animals we would not be able to survive e.g. pollination of crops by bees. The success of each species is essential to the health and well being of the whole planet. Changes in climatic variability may lead to the loss of rare species that have taken millions of years to evolve.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) states that the UK has lost 100 species in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and as a result The UK Government has pledged to take action.

The UKBAP was published to maintain and enhance Biodiversity and guides local government to publish a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

The Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) ([http://www.lancspartners.org/lbap/biodiversity\\_action\\_plans.asp](http://www.lancspartners.org/lbap/biodiversity_action_plans.asp)) identified that there are 14 UKBAP priority habitats in the district and 11 habitats of conservation concern. The LBAP also identified 29 species that are considered to be under threat locally.

Ribble Valley is fortunate to have Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) within its boundaries. This unique area of natural beauty needs preserving and protecting from the impacts of climate change in the future and all the organisations that are responsible for protecting this rural landscape need to co-ordinate their activities to optimise their effectiveness in reducing the impacts of climate change. The Forest of Bowland AONB has its own Green Action Plan.

The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan describes the special qualities of the area which contribute to the national significance of the landscape. It identifies the major trends and opportunities for the area and presents a vision for the Forest of Bowland AONB in 2014 (the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its formal designation). The document provides a policy framework and identifies a 5-year programme of actions (April 2009 - March 2014) to help guide the work of the AONB partnership organisations towards achieving the purpose of the plan - to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural beauty of the Forest of Bowland landscape. Thirteen percent of the AONB is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its habitats and geological features.

Within Ribble Valley there are a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interests (SSSI's).

The Government wants to see biodiversity valued, safeguarded and enhanced and local authorities have a key role to play in conserving biodiversity. Therefore the Government has introduced a National Indicator (NI197) to improve local biodiversity. This indicator measures the performance of local authorities on biodiversity by assessing the implementation of positive conservation management of local sites (for example Sites of Special Scientific Importance and local wildlife sites). In 2008/09 the Lancashire figure was reported at 16.44% with a target for 2010/11 of 24%.

### ***Carbon Reduction Commitment***

The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) will be a mandatory "cap-and-trade" scheme for the public and private sector. This cap and trade scheme is looking to incentivise organisations that reduce their carbon emission. Covering over 5,000 organisations including councils as well as health, businesses, police and others, the government aims to achieve savings 1.2 million tonnes of carbon by 2020 from business and public sector organisation.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment starts in April 2010 with an introductory phase of the scheme and the cap being introduced in 2013.

The qualifying threshold for the CRC is based on the amount of half-hourly metered electricity used. If an organisation uses of 6,000 mWh per annum then they have to take part. Ribble Valley Borough Council does not have any half-hourly meters. Therefore in April 2010 we will be able to issue a disclosure of information to this effect. The Council currently uses 601,401 kWh per annum.

## ***Peak Oil***

Peak oil is defined, as the moment at which global oil production will meet its maximum level, and then go into sustained decline. Estimates of when peak oil will occur vary, but the common consensus among experts is that this tipping point will be before 2020. Over 60 of the world's 98 oil producing countries have 'peaked' in terms of oil production and another 14 could peak within the next decade. With UK oil production in decline for a decade now, the Governments must put in place safeguards not only against energy price increases, but also against outright scarcity of fuels.

The Supply of fossils fuels is limited and energy demand worldwide continues to increase, the US government's energy statistics agency, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) has predicted that World energy consumption will grow by 50 % between 2005 and 2030.

In its World Energy Outlook for 2008 the International Energy Agency (IEA) forecasted that 64 million barrels a day of extra oil production needs to come on stream by 2030 if projected demand is to be met. The world's energy comes from a variety of sources, but the single biggest source (37 % of the total) is oil.

As a rural district, Ribble Valley could potentially be at great risk from increasing oil prices (due to increased oil demand), as residents of the borough rely heavily on private transportation to enable them to go about their lives and many rely on oil as their main source of energy. Implications for the borough council are even more significant, with prices for diesel, petrol, gas and electricity expected to soar.

## ***Managing Direct Emissions - Energy Management***

Energy is central to our everyday lives. We take it for granted that electricity is available to light our homes and offices, power our fridges, televisions and computers. Energy simply enables us to carry out everyday activities. Energy efficiency is vital to the Environmental Action Plan. Wasted energy or poorly managed energy provision, particularly through heating, can result in high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions being produced, loss of money and damage to the environment.

In terms of national and regional legislation and target, the Government's Energy White Paper and Climate Change Bill include the commitment to cut the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.

In Ribble Valley we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions through: reducing the amount of energy we utilise, being energy efficient, and using renewable energy suppliers. Reducing energy use is a particular issue at the moment, with security of future energy supplies being uncertain.

Ribble Valley Borough Council is reporting against National Indicator 185, which ensures we monitor our energy use more closely and set targets for Carbon reduction over the next two years. A target has been set at a 5% year on year reduction and the Council will be using the Environmental Action Plan to ensure targets are met.

Another National Indicator that Ribble Valley Borough Council is working on is NI 194, which looks into the NO<sub>x</sub> and PM10 emissions resulting from Council operations.

## ***Renewable Energy***

Less than 3% of the electricity used in the UK in 2004/05, came from renewable sources. The Government is committed to increasing this and has set a target of 20% of UK electricity to be generated renewably by 2020.

The Government Office for the North West and 4NW commissioned AEA Energy & Technology to produce a greenhouse gas emissions inventory study and a proposed greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the North West. A summary guide to the inventory was produced at the end of 2007. However it has now become clear that the methods and data sets used to create emissions inventories are still evolving, and it has also come to 4NW's attention that the inventory contained some technical inaccuracies. It has therefore been agreed that the North West would be better served by an updated Inventory. AEA has agreed to update the Inventory and to base it on the most recent data (relating to 2005), which DEFRA released in November 2007.

In parallel with the updating of the Inventory, 4NW has begun a study, which will model the potential ways in which the North West can achieve significant carbon savings. This piece of work will reflect national targets and other studies, which have identified carbon saving initiatives, technologies and behavioural changes, but will identify measures particularly applicable to the North West and its sub-regions.

4NW, supported by key regional partners and stakeholders from across the region, has published a Sustainable Energy Strategy for the region. The Strategy reinforces relevant policies in the Regional Spatial Strategy, but importantly offers practical advice and information on taking these issues forward, particularly through the spatial planning system, but also taking account of the role that businesses, individuals and the public sector have to play. The Strategy also provides an important strategic context for the North West Climate Change Action Plan.

In Ribble Valley there are limitations for siting renewables within designated areas. With two thirds of the borough being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, sites for renewables need to be investigated comprehensively. The borough can contribute to the renewable energy targets through small-scale renewable energy installations such as hydro-power and woodfuel systems that are relatively unobtrusive and easy to accommodate within a protected area setting.

## ***Water Management***

The average household in England and Wales uses 150 litres/person/day (enough water for more than 500 cups of tea). Every day United Utilities collects, treats, stores and distributes around 2,000 million litres of drinking water to supply the needs of nearly seven million people and 200,000 business customers in the North West.

The provision and removal of water to domestic and non-domestic properties uses a significant amount of energy. About 2% of total energy used in the UK is used to treat water. This highlights how much we are dependent upon energy and this level of use is not sustainable in the long-term. The Government target for consumption of water is 130 litres/ person/day by 2030. Reduced consumption can be achieved easily through behavioural change and by adopting the following measures within homes and businesses.

- **Installing water efficient appliances** - which reduce water consumption like; dual flush systems and hippos for toilets, water efficient washing machines and aerated taps/ shower heads which mix air into the water jet and reduces the water flow.
- **Installing water meters** - it is generally agreed that water meters reduce the average water use within a household by 10% and save on average £37 a year.
- **Water harvesting** - water butts and whole building water harvesting systems collect rainfall and store it to be reused at a later date.

- **Reducing the amount of bottled water used** – it is estimated that in the UK we buy three billion bottles of water each year, with half a billion bottles flown or shipped in from overseas. A litre of tap water costs less than a penny and according to the Consumer Council for Water, an adult drinking the recommended eight glasses a day would pay £1 a year from the tap water compared to £500 for a mid-range mineral water. Drinking water from the tap will reduce the volume of bottled water in the borough (therefore helping to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) and reduce the amount of plastic bottles thrown away as waste.

## ***Waste Management***

In the UK over 25 million tonnes of rubbish is collected from households every year, that averages out at 500kg (half a tonne) of waste per person and this is increasing annually.

Most waste goes to landfill sites, which are fast filling up, and combined with the resulting greenhouse gases they create, the disposal methods of waste needs re-evaluating.

Effective waste management has a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In the UK, around 65% of household waste is sent to landfill sites or incinerators. Once there, all organic waste decomposes, releasing the powerful greenhouse gas Methane into the atmosphere. Though some sites flare the gas, others do not, and methane is twenty times more potent a greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub> and contributes 12% to greenhouse gas emissions nationally. For each tonne of biodegradable material, paper, card, food, garden and textile waste sent to landfill it is estimated that between 200m<sup>3</sup> to 400m<sup>3</sup> of greenhouse gas is produced, which contributes to global warming. To minimise the impact of waste on climate change we therefore need to focus on the following areas:

- **Reducing the amount of waste we produce** - waste reduction is the most effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions as it eliminates the need to deal with the waste in the first place. Whether it is a person being careful about shopping for food, or a manufacturer trying to find the most efficient production process, reducing waste saves energy, resources and costs.
- **Re-using waste** - before we recycle waste, we should investigate if it could be re-used, as this uses less energy than recycling. There are lots of groups nationally and within the area who are keen to encourage and facilitate this, from local furniture schemes and charity shops, to national and international internet groups like Freecycle.
- **Maximising our recycling** - recycling saves energy, resource use, and eliminates risk of environmental harm through disposal. Manufacturing goods using recycled materials rather than raw materials is more carbon efficient, even when the environmental cost of transport is taken into account.
- **Maximising home composting** - home composting produces significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than disposal to landfill. This is because waste rotting in a landfill does so without the presence of oxygen so produces methane. Home composting also eliminates the need to transport waste.

Figure 4: Waste Hierarchy



Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill not only reduces the production of methane, it is also important because if we do not recycle we are using up the world's valuable resources, many of which cannot be replaced.

The waste strategy for the Lancashire Waste Partnership, of which Ribble Valley Borough Council is a partner, is to encourage waste minimisation, increase recycling and composting and to divert the remaining waste away from landfill by investing in alternative waste treatment technologies.

## ***Flooding***

### **Actions from Pitt review**

Sir Michael Pitt (2007) review contains 92 recommendations. Some examples of these recommendations that concern Ribble Valley are: local authorities should lead on the management of local flood risk, with the support of relevant organisations and local authorities should assess and, if appropriate, enhance their technical capabilities to deliver a wide range of responsibilities in relation to local flood risk management.

### **Flooding in Ribble Valley**

The historic town of Clitheroe and the villages, Whalley and Ribchester are situated on the River Ribble/Calder system. From time to time localised flooding has occurred within Ribble Valley and the likelihood is, that events may become more frequent and possibly more severe.

In Ribble Valley, the Environment Agency has undertaken flood risk modelling and has identified 4 Flood Warning Areas which are at a higher risk of flooding from the River Ribble system. The areas are:

- Clitheroe ( Low Moor : Map Ref L9 )
- Ribchester ( Map Ref L5 )
- Whalley ( Map Ref: L 21 ) and
- Clitheroe ( Mearley Brook : Ref L9 )

Events over the past few winters have demonstrated that exceptional storms can cause flooding even on hill slopes, when the drainage system is simply overwhelmed by the amount of water it is expected to carry. In addition, when the ground is saturated even small additional amounts of rainfall will find it difficult to drain away from gardens and enclosed spaces.

However, the Council has no legal responsibility to provide assistance to residents during times of flood, but the Council has provided emergency assistance on an ad hoc basis dependent upon available resources and local knowledge and experience of the situation. The Council will provide engineering

advice on ways residents can alleviate the risk of flooding to their properties if requested and issue general guidance to all properties in the area of their roles and responsibilities under the Land Drainage Act 1991. The Council will provide, if possible, during times of severe flooding, engineering advice on site to assist with the use of resources and control the situation where appropriate. The Council will assist with the dissemination of Environment Agency flood warnings where appropriate. The Council will keep the necessary equipment at their depot to carry out the above functions, or have facilities to get access to the appropriate equipment rapidly. Very serious flooding resulting in the need for evacuation of houses, provision of temporary accommodation and the like is covered by the Council's District Emergency Plan.

The Ribble Valley Borough Council web site contains links to Environment Agency floodplain maps, which give an overview of local rivers and watercourses, and a series of hotline numbers to report a flood or receive up-to-date information. It also offers advice on how to prepare for a flood and protect properties from the worst effects of flooding, make insurance claims and deal with contractors, and offers specific advice for landowners.

### **How is flooding being tackled in Ribble Valley**

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is an important planning related document, which the Council will use to guide future development away from flood prone parts of the Borough. The SFRA is a requirement of all Local Authorities under national Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) Flood Risk and Development. It summarises the current situation regarding national, regional, sub-regional and local flood-risk related spatial planning policy as it affects the Borough directly and indirectly. It describes the current state of various flood related strategies, reports and policy documents, produced by a variety of bodies, including significantly the Environment Agency, that will affect the Borough in the near medium and long term. It deals in some detail with the most important policy document, PPS25 Development and Flood Risk. It also brings together a variety of other flood related information and will form a part of the evidence lying behind future flood risk policy in the Borough within the developing Local Development Framework Core Strategy and will inform the selection of future development sites in guiding development away from areas of high flood risk.

### ***Transport***

Emissions from vehicles account for a significant proportion of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions, but emerging Government strategies and new technologies should enable us to tackle this issue and make transport greener.

The Government's 'Powering Future Vehicles' Strategy has a key objective that 10% of new UK vehicles will be low carbon – using less than 100kg per kilometre of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent by 2012. The Department for Transport published 'Making Smarter Choices Work' in 2005. This highlighted the role that local government can play in encouraging communities to consider their transport options, and choose alternatives to single occupancy vehicle journeys where practical.

Nationally and locally the transport sector is the most difficult area to address in terms of climate change. This is because mobility is so central to present lifestyles. Initiatives such as increased home working with the advent of wireless technology and promotion of public transport will need consideration.

Figure 5: Transport hierarchy

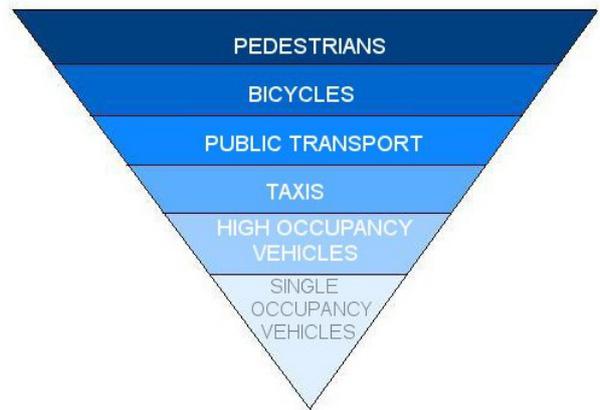


Figure 6: Efficient modes of transport

A Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2010 (LTP2) has been written by Lancashire County Council to identify the transport issues across the county, including remote rural areas. The Plan has seven key objectives. These are to:

- reduce road casualties
- improve access to jobs and services
- improve air quality
- improve the condition of transport infrastructure
- reduce delays on journeys
- increase journeys by bus and rail
- increase active travel.

### **The issues in Ribble Valley**

Ribble Valley is the largest district in Lancashire in terms of area, but the smallest in population - around 58,500. It covers over 244 square miles, most of which are within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Ribble Valley has three urban centres in Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley. Many of these villages have changed very little over the years and bring a unique set of transport issues with them.

The Borough can claim one of the lowest levels of unemployment in the country and boasts one of the best standards of living in the North. Not surprisingly in such a prosperous and rural district, car ownership is the highest in Lancashire.

Ribble Valley faces the issues associated with its rural nature, namely poor accessibility, high dependence on the private car and a meagre public transport network. Traffic congestion is not a widespread problem, but there is conflict between pedestrians and traffic in shopping centres.

Public transport plays a vital role in many parts of the dispersed community. Despite the high level of car ownership, 15% of households do not possess a car. Great care is required to identify and meet the travel needs of the people who have neither a car nor access to conventional bus services, and services in such a rural area are costly to operate.

Figure 7: Car Ownership in Households %

	No Car	One Car	Two Cars	Three plus Cars	Cars/Household
Ribble Valley	15	44	33	5	1.39
Lancashire	25	45	24	6	1.12
North West	30	44	22	4	1.02
England & Wales	27	43	24	6	1.11

In all but two of the Lancashire districts, the proportion of people travelling less than 5km to work is well above the national average. However, in Fylde and Ribble Valley, Lancashire's two most prosperous districts, the proportion falls to 35% and 34% respectively. Ribble Valley has a long history as a commuter dormitory, but also has a particularly high proportion, 13%, of people working at or from home. Nevertheless, 23% of journeys to work are under 2km and 34% are under 5km. Many more of these could be transferred to foot and bicycle.

Figure 8: Journey to Work by Mode %

	Working from home	Metro, light rail or tram	Train	Bus or coach	Motor cycle	Car driver	Passenger	Taxi	Bicycle	On foot	Other
Ribble Valley	13.0	0.0	0.7	2.2	0.9	64.5	5.7	0.2	2.0	10.5	0.5
Lancashire	9.0	0.1	1.0	6.3	1.0	59.4	8.0	0.8	2.4	11.5	0.5
North West	8.4	0.6	1.9	8.6	0.9	58.4	7.5	0.8	2.3	10.3	0.5
England & Wales	9.2	3.0	4.1	7.4	1.1	55.2	6.3	0.5	2.8	10.0	0.5

### Key Schemes for Ribble Valley

There has been regular consultation and participation with the Local Strategic Partnership as well as meetings between Ribble Valley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to develop schemes to meet the LTP objectives. The key schemes for Ribble Valley are:

- Ribble Valley Multi-Modal Transport Study
- Ribble Valley Rural Transport Improvements
- Community Links in Ribble Valley
- Countryside Access in Ribble Valley
- Active Travel in Ribble Valley

The table below lists the five key schemes and their impact on the four shared transport priorities.

Figure 9: Ribble Valley Transport Schemes - Summary of Key Schemes in Ribble Valley and their expected impact

Scheme	Scheme Area	Impact Area	Modes Affected	Shared Priority			
				Congestion	Accessibility	Safer Roads	Air Quality
<b>Ribble Valley Multi-Modal Transport Study</b>	Ribble Valley	Ribble Valley and neighbouring districts	All modes	Study will recommend appropriate measures to meet all these objectives			
<b>Ribble Valley Rural Transport Improvements</b>	Ribble Valley	Ribble Valley	Bus and Rail	Car journeys transferred to bus will reduce traffic flows	Easier access to work, education, healthcare and leisure	Car journeys transferred to bus will reduce traffic flows and improve safety	Car journeys transferred to bus will improve air quality
<b>Community Links in Ribble Valley</b>	Ribble Valley	Ribble Valley	Demand Responsive Bus, Dial-a-Ride, Bus and Scooter	Reduced travel to reach services	Easier access to health and education opportunities and local produce	Reduced travel to reach services	Reduced travel to reach services
<b>Countryside Access in Ribble Valley</b>	Ribble Valley	Ribble Valley	Walking, Cycling and Horse riding	Car journeys transferred to walking and cycling will reduce traffic flows	Easier access for residents and tourists to the countryside and active travel	Quiet Roads and off road paths will improve safety for walkers, cyclists and riders	Car journeys transferred to sustainable modes will improve air quality
<b>Active Travel in Ribble Valley</b>	Clitheroe, Longridge and Ribble Valley	Clitheroe, Longridge and Ribble Valley	Walking and Cycling	Car journeys transferred to walking and cycling will reduce traffic flows.	Increased access to schools and services on foot and by cycle.	Safer access to schools and services on foot and by cycle.	Car journeys transferred to walking and cycling will improve air quality.

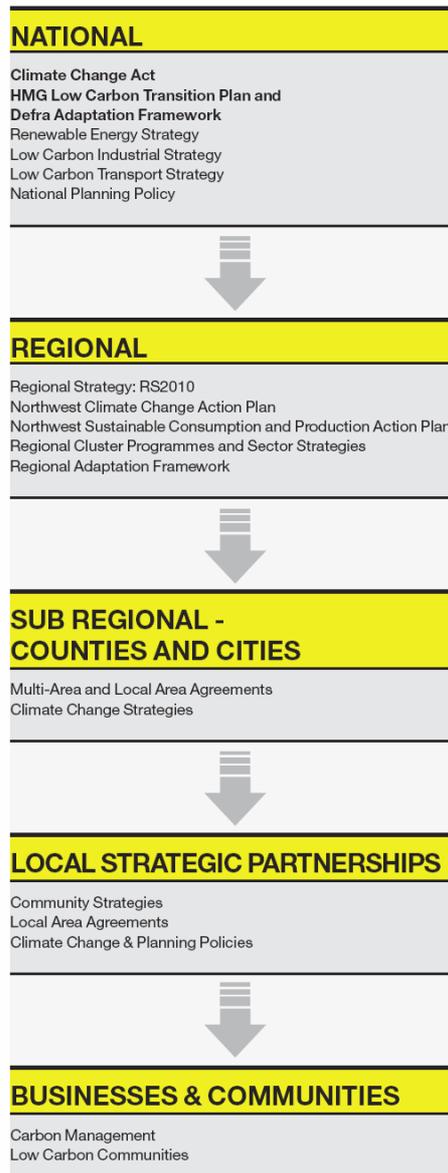
# WHAT CAN THE COUNCIL DO?



## *How does our Environmental Action Plan link with national, regional and sub-regional strategic objectives?*

The plan is set against a background of an evolving international agreement, an ambitious national policy agenda, and a challenging new regional strategy.

Figure 10:



## *How does the Environment Action Plan link with the Council's key priorities and strategic objectives?*

The Environmental Action Plan is an overarching document that should impact on all the Council's activities and services. It is a direct result of Corporate Strategy Objective: To contribute to minimising the impact of Global Warming. There is also a link to the following Strategies:

- The Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2013 – Environment theme
- The Corporate Strategy

- The ICT strategy
- Lancashire Waste Management Strategy
- Waste Awareness and Education Strategy
- The Procurement Strategy

### ***Strategic Objectives***

The Plan aims to raise awareness of the issues surrounding climate change and to reduce Ribble Valley Borough Council's and the areas contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions and its natural resources. It sets out how this will be achieved through working closely in partnership with local organisations, businesses and with active communities.

The Council has a statutory obligation under the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 to fulfil its responsibilities in relation to energy efficiency, increasing the use of microgeneration (the generation of zero or low-carbon heat and power by individuals, small businesses and communities to meet their own needs), reducing carbon emissions and the reduction in the numbers of households in fuel poverty. Councils are required to provide leadership in combating climate change.

Ribble Valley Borough Council is well placed in its three roles as a service provider, community leader and as an organisation to reduce its carbon emissions, and to act as an exemplar of best practice locally for businesses, and the wider community.

It must not only reduce carbon emissions within the Borough, but also ensure that by acting strategically the adverse impacts of climate change are planned for and circumvented wherever possible. Planned investment now will make cost savings in the future.

Where there will be positive impacts, such as an increase in domestic tourism in the summer, Ribble Valley will need to be ready to exploit the new market.

Businesses will need to be flexible. For example, put work practices in place to lessen the impact of disruption to the transport infrastructure from flooding in the winter. Businesses will also have to be positive and see opportunities for creativity, new markets and new methods of operating.

Some impacts of climate change are already unavoidable. They will influence the Council's activities and have cost implications. New climate change performance indicators have been included in the Local Area Agreement. Therefore reductions in emissions and adapting to climate change are central to the Council's role and function.

While the Council does not currently qualify for the Carbon Reduction Commitment. It is likely in the medium term that as the thresholds are reduced that the Council will be required to trade in carbon emissions. If this is the case the Council will have to buy carbon credits at the start of each financial year and will be entered into a league table related to our performance.

This Environmental Action Plan sets out how the Council should reduce carbon emissions in the short term with long-term objectives and also how it should consider the possible impacts of climate change in its service delivery.

The Council is already taking on board some of the climate change messages in some aspects of its work. However, this is often undertaken in a piecemeal fashion often as the result of external national indicators and targets, or as a result of specific areas of work.

Many of the efficiency savings that the Council is already working towards will reduce carbon dioxide emissions as an unintended consequence. For example, efficiency savings related to the use of the Council's website and contact centre reduce the emissions of the Council (stationery etc...) and of customers (transport emissions).

Ribble Valley is performing well in some aspects of its service delivery. For example, its waste recycling services have improved and it is committed to promoting energy efficiency savings in the domestic sector.

In common with other local authorities and businesses, carbon emissions have not, until recently, been considered a factor in the Council's day-to-day activities and service planning.

It is important to set out a clear framework so that ALL the Council's activities and employees have the reduction of carbon emissions and adaptation to climate change as a key priority.

This Environmental Action Plan will be revised annually. Its initial objective is to meet the 5% year on year reductions in the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It will however, set out a framework for embedding climate change into the Council's decision making, community leader and service functions.

It will also complement the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy. This has been produced in partnership with the County Council, the Lancashire authorities, the Environment Agency and other stakeholders. The Lancashire Climate Change Strategy includes actions to reduce emissions based on detailed research, sponsored by the North West Development Agency, on which sectors generate the most carbon emissions in the county.

It is important that Ribble Valley's Environmental Action Plan does not duplicate other agencies' strategies as this will lead to confusion and a poor service. It is intended that it will add value to them. Our objectives are:

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with gas and electricity use by reducing demand, improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of low carbon or renewable sources of energy
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with transport, including those from the Council's own fleet vehicles, staff and Elected Member business travel and staff commuting
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with resource consumption, by reducing waste and increasing recycling, making more efficient use of resources, and through more environmentally-aware procurement
- To assess the likely impacts of climate change at a local level and implement appropriate adaptation measures
- Wherever feasible in the course of Council business to influence others in the wider community to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change

***So far we have (this list is not exhaustive):***

- Produced a Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Ensured that all the Council's electricity is sourced from renewable sources (Green Energy).
- Switched our fleet vehicles to run on bio-diesel.
- Recycled the Council's waste paper alongside that of the community.
- Ensured we purchase recycled and FSC paper products.
- Ensured that the Council's energy usage is a key determinant of IT procurement.

- Established a baseline of electricity and gas consumption from Council buildings and provided a number of actions to considerably reduce use energy usage and make financial savings.
- Prioritised global warming as part of the Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership within the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Publicised significance of climate change, sources of grant funding and information on climate change through the Council's website
- Provided educational advise on waste minimisation in schools
- Provided free energy saving light bulbs to members of staff during awareness raising sessions.
- Achieved rates for recycling and composting waste.
- Increased the amount of grants to vulnerable households to improve the energy efficiency of homes
- Offered training/educational sessions on climate change, its impacts and minimisation to members and employees – Green Tuesday and Small Change, Big Difference.
- In 1992 we installed a TREND control system on the boilers in the Council offices, the civic centre, the swimming pool, and the museum.
- Installed motion sensors in the Council Offices to control the lighting in the offices (the Council took this forward thinking approach in 1997).
- Installed movement sensors to the flushes and wash hand basin taps in the toilets.
- Installed mini fluorescent light fittings in the Council office toilets (in 2004). At the time this again was a forward thinking approach.
- Installed new high efficiency boilers in the Council Offices (in 2004).
- Undertaken a rolling programme of installing high frequency light fittings in the Council offices (between 2004 and 2009). When these were upgraded it included bagged insulation in a new suspended ceiling system.
- Received a green apple award for our Slaidburn public toilet (2005). The property was judged to be an example of best practice with a low impact on the environment.
- Installed time clocks on the water coolers in the Council offices (in 2006.)
- Installed high efficiency boilers at Ribblesdale Swimming Pool (in 2007). The fuel source was changed from oil to gas leading to greater efficiency.
- Installed 'lumisaver' low energy dimming light fittings in the Council offices car park and the civic suite (in 2009).
- Undertaken draft proofing of the timber-framed windows in the Council offices (in 2009).
- Ensured that we use organic horse manure on all flowerbeds.
- Ensured that all unused pre-printed paper is 'recycled' by making it up into scrapbooks.
- Proposed reducing the number of committee cycles, which as an unintended consequence will reduce the amount paper used.
- Encouraged the use of local food produce at the Clitheroe Castle Café through the tender process.
- Ensured we have certificates of safe disposal for all IT equipment.

- Ensured we have certificates for the reuse of print consumables.
- Ensured that all fertiliser that is used is environmentally friendly (used on the Bowling green).
- Ensured that all weed killer used is environmentally friendly.

## HOW CAN WE MEET THE TARGET?

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The target can be met by ensuring that reducing carbon emissions is embedded in all the Council's activities. The immediate target is to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions directly attributable to the Council by 5% year on year. This should be seen as a minimum and further long-term reductions planned for with the possibility of becoming a carbon neutral council in the future.

The Council, in partnership with the Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership, is committed to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within Ribble Valley from 11.9 tonnes per capita in 2005 by 6% to 11.186 tonnes by 2011. The Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership will develop, with the Council and other partners, its own complementary Climate Change Strategy.

The tables below set out a number of existing actions and targets to which the Council is already working or planning to work to, which will impact on carbon dioxide emissions.

This Environmental Action Plan has three interrelated areas:

- Ribble Valley Borough Council as an organisation - climate change is to be embedded in all the Council's internal activities
- Ribble Valley Borough Council as a service provider - climate change is to be embedded in all the Council's external activities
- Ribble Valley Borough Council as a community leader - the Council will continue to provide clear community leadership by leading through example in the fight against climate change, encouraging businesses and residents to address climate change.

### ***The Council as an organisation/employer***

Ribble Valley Borough Council is responsible for at least 0.3 per cent of the borough's emissions and it employs around 270 people. The Council needs to set its own house in order in relation to carbon emissions and its preparedness for the impacts of climate change.

The first thing it must do is to understand how much energy and water it uses, the numbers and length of journeys made by both staff and visitors and to consider the sustainability of its procurement process.

Sustainable procurement is a common factor across all three themes and will play a vital role in supporting the Council's Environmental Action Plan. It is defined as a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits to society and the economy, while minimising damage to the environment. The Council is taking steps to ensure that sustainable procurement principles are becoming embedded in how we conduct our business.

Our Environmental Action Plans (below) clearly demonstrate the Council's commitment and determination to ensure that the targets set nationally are achieved. These will be revised and monitored annually. Much of the climate change agenda is to ensure that everyone is aware of how they can make a positive contribution to reducing emissions and lessening the impacts of global warming. Large impacts can be made by relatively minor adjustments such as ensuring computers and printers are switched off at night, or by ensuring that climate change considerations are written into future contracts.

Training and communication are vital to ensure that staff understand how their actions impact on climate change; how the unavoidable impacts will affect Ribble Valley and the work of the Council; and to deal with these impacts in as cost efficient and effective way as possible.

Figure 11: Organisation/Employer Action Plan

Objective: Reduce our energy use				
Action	Comments	Targets	NI	Responsibility
Renew Display Energy Certificates (DEC) annually to provide a benchmark on energy reduction		Annually	NI 185	Principal Surveyor
Regularly hold SWITCH OFF campaigns to raise awareness	Already held successful Small Change, Big Difference day and implementing rolling section in Backchat	Annually	NI 185	Principal Surveyor
Implement an Energy Management Policy to monitor the Council's bills and meter reading	We need to ensure actual meter readings are provided instead of relying on estimates	Ongoing	NI 185	Principal Surveyor
Implement more energy efficient IT equipment, printers, photocopiers etc...	Currently undergoing a Print Audit which will help to identify future action	Ongoing	NI 185	IT Manager and Procurement Officer

Objective: Reduce, reuse and recycle					
Action	Sub-actions	Comments	Targets	NI	Responsibility
Reduce, reuse and recycle paper and other materials within council buildings	Encourage staff to print/photocopy double sided where possible	Currently undergoing a Print Audit which will help to identify future action		NI 185	Waste Management Officer and Procurement Officer
	Replace existing desk top printers with multi functional printing devices to reduce the need for small inefficient office printers and enable double sided printing	Currently undergoing a Print Audit which will help to identify future action		NI 185	IT Manager and Procurement Officer

Objective: Reduce, reuse and recycle					
Action	Sub-actions	Comments	Targets	NI	Responsibility
	Implement a robust paper reduction and recycling target		Reduce the number of reams of A4 white paper used per annum from 2725 by 10%		
	Investigate further whether a baseline can be established for the amount of recyclable paper that the Council produces	This has been previously investigated			Waste Management Officer
	Investigate any potential reduction in the paper used as a result of supporting committee meetings				Administration Officer
Reduce our use of water	Implement a Water Management Policy in order to monitor the Council's bills and monitor usage	Work is ongoing to provide baselines for usage at the pool, depot and council offices	Target to be established based on the baseline		Principal Surveyor and Procurement Officer
	Implement equipment to reduce water consumption				
Conduct an Internal waste audit to identify waste efficiencies			March 2011	NI 185	Waste Management Officer and Principal Surveyor

Objective: Reduce transport emissions				
Action	Comments	Targets	NI	Responsibility
Consider the efficiency of all new fleet vehicle purchases		Ongoing	NI 185	Street Scene Manager
Encourage members and officers to reduce the impact of car use	Green Tuesday was a successful event – consider regularly re-running	Annual	NI 185 and NI 186	Principal Surveyor

Objective: Reduce transport emissions				
Action	Comments	Targets	NI	Responsibility
Consider changing the Mayoral car to an energy efficient model		Due to be changed in 2011	NI 185	Chief Executive
Implement a Fuel Management Policy in order to monitor the Council's fuel bills and monitor usage	Currently developing a baseline of fuel used per fleet vehicle over the last 12 months	Due to be undertaken in March 2011	NI 185	Procurement Officer
Consider operating a pilot of shut off switches on fleet vehicles		During the next 12 months		Street Scene Manager and Procurement Officer

Objective: Sustainable procurement				
Action	Comments	Targets	NI	Responsibility
Investigate the purchase of eco-friendly cleaning products	To be undertaken as part of the procurement policy	March 2011		Procurement Officer
Investigate further the purchase of fair trade and local products	Consider offering tasting sessions on fair trade products to gain staff buy-in	March 2011	NI 186	Procurement Officer
Review the Procurement Policy to ensure environmental issues are considered		March 2011		Procurement Officer
Introduce the consideration of life costing of products before purchasing	To be undertaken as part of the procurement policy	March 2011		Procurement Officer
Explore joint procurement with other districts on environmental products and services	This already takes place with the Procurement Hub and Yorkshire Purchasing organisation	Ongoing		Procurement Officer

## *The Council as a service provider*

Climate change challenges how the Council will provide its services in the future. All the Council's strategies, projects and policies will need to take into account its future impacts and costs.

How the Council interacts with its service users can influence carbon emissions, for example an interaction via the website not only results in financial savings but also cuts incidental carbon emissions.

The Council's statutory planning function, and its role as a provider of parks, open spaces and public car parking directly influences the Borough's built and natural environment, including the ability to promote energy efficiency, low carbon generation and providing an environment that will be able to withstand and exploit (if possible) the forecast long term changes.

The Council has a role in encouraging energy efficiency in housing and can provide help for businesses to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

The Council can also influence the numbers of short journeys taken by car by making walking and cycling more attractive, which links to the wider health agenda.

Recent local research in South Ribble and Preston has shown that cycling has the greatest potential to replace local journeys by car.

Our waste services are a high profile service, which have a positive impact on reducing emissions through successful recycling.

Given the wide range of services and activities that the Council is involved in there is a great opportunity to communicate how it is approaching the issues of climate change when promoting itself.

Unfortunately, it is likely that the emergency planning function of the Council will be called on more often as a result of the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

The table below sets out in detail the actions planned.

Figure 12: Service provider action plan

<b>Objective: Protect the environment</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Sub-actions</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>NI</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the borough	Protect and enhance the local environment	Protect and enhance the local environment		Development Control Officer / Countryside Officer
Review the potential for appropriate habitat creation on council assets	Ongoing work with partner organisations. If funding allows undertake a review of habitats	Promote habitat creation		Countryside Officer
Review current management regimes on council owned land and implement changes that would benefit biodiversity	Ongoing work with partner organisations. If funding allows undertake a review of biodiversity	Promote biodiversity		Countryside Officer

Objective: Waste management				
Action	Comments	Targets	NI	Responsibility
Comply with Lancashire County Council Waste Management Strategy	Ongoing partnership working with LCC	Full compliance	NI 191 and NI 192	Waste Management Officer
Implement through education and awareness activities and campaigns, to reduce the amount of residual waste produced per household	Ongoing educational work with local schools and residents	Increased reuse and recycling	NI 191 and NI 192	Waste Management Officer

Objective: Save energy				
Action	Sub-actions	Targets	NI	Responsibility
Promote renewable energy	Proactive outwards facing initiatives to raise profile of grants	Increase uptake		Quality of Life Officer
Ensure that all resident that are eligible for home energy grants are targeted	Proactive outwards facing initiatives to raise profile of grants	Increase uptake	NI 187	Quality of Life Officer

Objective: Water management				
Action	Sub-actions	Targets	NI	Responsibility
Reduce water usage	Encourage the uptake of water meters for domestic properties to enable residents to monitor their own usage and to try to minimise what they use			Quality of Life Officer

Objective: Water management				
Action	Sub-actions	Targets	NI	Responsibility
	Promote the use of tap water in an effort to reduce the amount of bottled water consumed each year			Quality of Life Officer

Objective: Reduce transport emissions				
Action	Sub-actions	Targets	NI	Responsibility
Use the Energy Savings Trust free Transport advice to improve efficiency in the Council's fleet	Enquire of the Energy Saving Trust		NI 185	Street Scene Manager
Conduct a review of cycling provision to identify opportunities for employees and visitors	Partnership working with Transition Towns Clitheroe		NI 185	Principle Surveyor / Community Sports Facilitator
Conduct a review for car sharing to identify opportunities for employees and visitors	Map employees travel routes to highlight any overlaps	Promote car sharing and increase uptake	NI 185	Principle Surveyor
Promote sustainable transport	Education around the transport hierarchy to encourage staff to make good decisions		NI 185	Principle Surveyor

### ***The Council as a community leader***

The Council is identifying the significant environmental risks it faces and developing plans with partners to mitigate and manage them.

The majority of the Council's work will take place in partnership with the Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership. In addition, it must take every opportunity to take a leadership role in supporting the joint objectives of the water, energy, business industries, and community and voluntary organisations as well as the local health authorities to adapt to climate change.

It is important that the Council leads the way in best practice approaches to the management of its environmental impact, particularly as it expects increasing amounts from developers within the planning process.

The table below sets out examples of this role in more detail, in particular in relation to opportunities working with the business sector in improving its practices.

Figure 13: Community leader action plan

<b>Objective:</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Sub-actions</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>NI</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Promote partnership, community and business lead regeneration activities throughout the district	Improved partnership working	Increased business lead environmental regeneration		Rural Regeneration Officer
Ensure that Forward Planning Site development briefs and supplementary planning guidance documents are in line with best practice environmental management	Minimise the impact of development and promotion sustainable construction methods	Improved environmental management		Forward Planning Manager
Ensure that determination of planning proposals, applications and built conservation issues are dealt with in line with best practice	Minimise the impact of development and promotion sustainable construction methods	Improved environmental management		Building and Development Control Manager

# HOW WILL RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEASURE ACTIONS ON THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?



## *Ribble Valley Borough Council's Climate Change National Indicators*

The Council is required to monitor its performance against the following National Indicators. This will allow the authority to monitor its annual Carbon emission (**NI185**), and those for the district (**NI186**), as well as monitor performance against a number of other climate change related issues.

The relevant climate change indicators are:

- **NI185** – Carbon dioxide emissions reductions from local authority operations;
- **NI186** – Per capita reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the local authority area;
- **NI187** – Tackling fuel poverty – percentage of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating;
- **NI188** – Planning to adapt to climate change.
- **NI189** – Flood and coastal erosion risk management
- **NI191** – Residual household waste per household
- **NI192** – Household waste reused, recycled or composted.
- **NI194** – Level of air quality – reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> and primary PM10 emissions through local authorities estate and operations.
- **NI197** – Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites

The Council has agreed a 5% year on year reduction in Carbon dioxide (NI185) and a 6% reduction per capita in carbon dioxide emissions across the district by 2011 compared to 2005 levels (NI186).

PI Code	Short Name	2008/09	2009/10		2010/11	Current Performance
		Value	Value to date (Qtr 3)	Target	Target	
<b>NI 185</b>	CO2 reduction from local authority operations			5.0%	5.0%	?
<b>NI 186</b>	Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area	28.4			6.0%	?
<b>NI 187(i)</b>	Tackling fuel poverty – % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating: (i) Low energy efficiency	7%		6%	6%	?
<b>NI 187(ii)</b>	Tackling fuel poverty – % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating: (ii) High energy efficiency	24%		25%	26%	?
<b>NI 189</b>	Flood and coastal erosion risk management	40%				?
<b>NI 194</b>	Air quality – % reduction in NO <sub>x</sub> and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations			5.0%	5.0%	?
<b>NI 194b</b>	Air quality – % reduction in NO <sub>x</sub> and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations - Emissions of PM10			5.0%	5.0%	?

PI Code	Short Name	2008/09	2009/10		2010/11	Current Performance
		Value	Value to date (Qtr 3)	Target	Target	
NI 197	Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented	15%		21%	24%	
NI 188	Planning to Adapt to Climate Change (level)	1		2	3	
NI 191	Residual household waste per household (kg)	536	397	551	414	
NI 192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	37.87%	41.03%	38.20%	53.7%	

## CONCLUSION

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The Council is well placed to take a central role in reducing its carbon emissions, influencing others to reduce theirs and to ensure that the impacts that will happen will have the least effect as possible.

To do this, climate change must be a central aspect of the Council's work. Its members and officers must be fully aware of the threat and given a framework and training which allows decisions to be made that reduces its impact on the environment and prepares it for potential future local and global climate changes.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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- Carbon trust - [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk) - 0800 085 2005
- Ribble Valley Borough Council – [www.ribblevalley.gov.uk](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk) - 01200 425111
- Defra (National Indicators) - [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/indicators.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/indicators.htm)
- Direct.Gov - [www.direct.gov.uk/actonco2](http://www.direct.gov.uk/actonco2)
- Energy Saving Trust - [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) - 0800 512 012
- United Utilities - [www.unitedutilities.com](http://www.unitedutilities.com) - 0845 746 2200
- United Utilities (Water Meters) - [www.unitedutilities.com/Allaboutwatermeters.htm](http://www.unitedutilities.com/Allaboutwatermeters.htm)



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