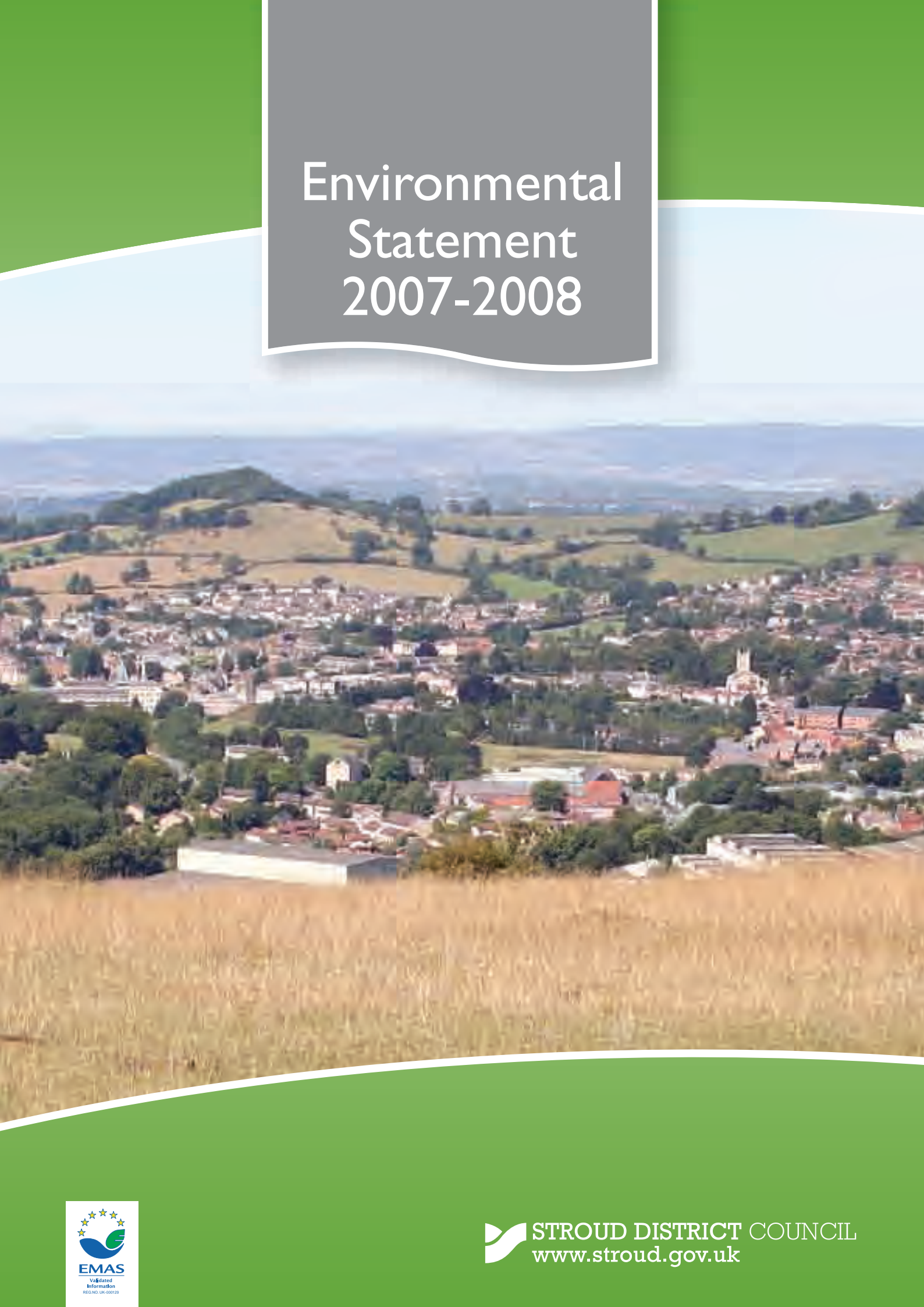


# Environmental Statement 2007-2008



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*This Statement has a number of references to other reports and information that can be obtained through websites. If you are unable to access any of the additional information please get in touch with the Policy Team on **01453 754289**.*

Last year we reported that we had adopted a new 20-year Environment Strategy. Overall our environmental performance has improved and this document acts as our first annual progress report and also our EMAS Environmental Statement.

The single greatest challenge for humanity today is to stop climate change and this is why we have placed the environment high on our agenda.

With the past year dominated by reports of rising fuel prices and the economic downturn, it is no surprise that residents placed the environment as a top priority. The need to save energy and money has never been greater.

Following a major consultation exercise with the community, we have spent a long time getting our strategy right to ensure that we have the best and most effective ways to tackle the problems we face. We have invested in tackling climate change, waste and recycling and our public spaces.

We strive for continual improvement and have demonstrated this by some of our activities and successes. Our residents tell us that the disposal of waste is one of their major concerns; so much work has been done to develop new ways to deal with household and business waste.

Putting climate change at the heart of our policy making and operations, we will continue to identify, manage and monitor our activities that have a direct impact on the environment.

We hope you enjoy reading this report and share our pride in what has been achieved during 2007/08.



**Councillor  
Libby Bird**  
*Cabinet Member  
for Environment*



**Councillor  
Joe Forbes**  
*Cabinet Member for  
Community Safety*



**Councillor  
Barbara Tait**  
*Cabinet Member  
for Planning and  
Climate Change*

# A Track Record of Good Environmental Performance

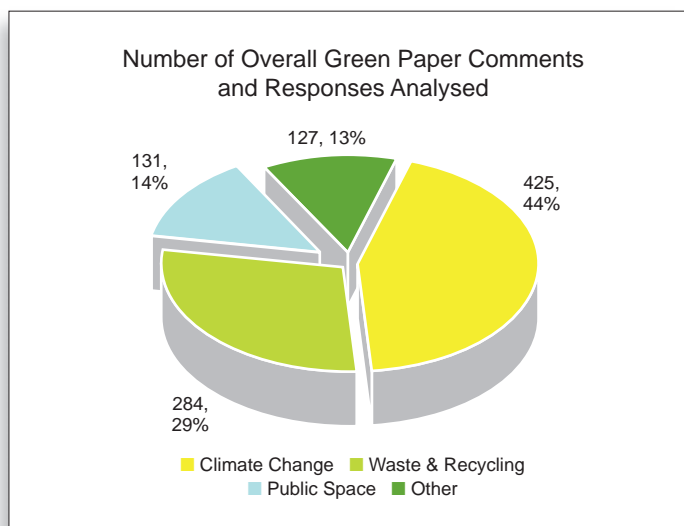
1. The council has been registered under the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) since 1999; it was one of the first councils to achieve this European standard. EMAS, which is only awarded after an external and independent assessment, has allowed us to demonstrate our continuing commitment to improving our environmental performance.

If you would like to know more about the Stroud district, the council or our Environmental Management System then please refer to Appendix 1.

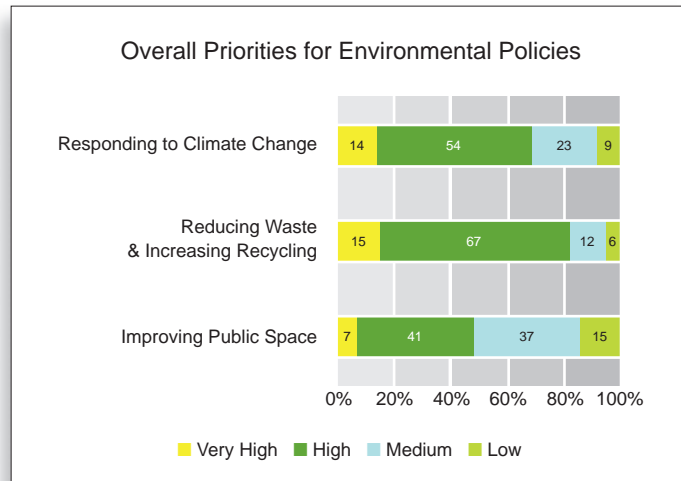
## A NEW APPROACH

2. During 2005 it became clear that we needed to make a step change in our performance if we were going to respond to public demands for more action on the environment, in particular reducing waste to landfill, tackling climate change and improving the quality of public spaces.
3. During 2006 the council undertook an extensive programme of consultation to get to the bottom of what local people wanted. We stimulated the debate through our Environment Green Paper ([www.stroud.gov.uk/greenpaper](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/greenpaper)) and we also used our annual budget survey to further test the priorities of local people ([www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/public\\_consultation.asp](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/public_consultation.asp)). The results from both are summarised in Figures 1a and b.

**Figure 1a: Relative Environmental Priorities revealed by the Green Paper Exercise and SDC Household Budget Survey**



**Figure 1b:**



4. What came through very strongly was that the environment was the top priority for local people, scoring higher than affordable housing and community safety. The 2006 and 2007 household budget surveys revealed that 69% and 68% of local people respectively thought that the environment was important or very important. The complementary survey of businesses showed 78% in 2006 and 83% in 2007 felt the same way. When you dig deeper, waste and recycling and climate change responses dominate the concerns of local people. In 2007 we also asked householders and businesses whether they were satisfied that we were improving the local environment. 63% of businesses and 75% of householders agreed that we were.

## A NEW ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

5. We used the results of our consultations to develop a new 20-year Environment Strategy ([www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/environment.asp](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/environment.asp)). The council adopted this in February 2007. We have sought to make sure that our new Strategy and Action Plans are consistent with and integrated into our Environmental Policy and Environmental Management System (see below). The EMS is a key delivery and reporting mechanism for the Environment Strategy and will provide the basis of our annual progress report (this document) and will also double as our EMAS Environmental Statement.
6. A re-review of the significant aspects register was undertaken in 2007. The purpose of the review was to re-assess the significance of council activities and re-structure the register to take account of the environmental priorities expressed in the newly released 20-year Environment Strategy. This review influenced our 2008/2009 Environmental Programme, which, for the first time, showed EMS targets and objectives, related specifically to the key objectives of the Environment Strategy as shown in the following table.

# A Track Record of Good Environmental Performance

TABLE 1:

Environmental Strategy Priority	EMS Objective
ESP1. Sustainable Consumption and Production - More for Less	OBJECTIVE: 3. To reduce the amount of waste generated by the council and the public, and the impact of waste on the environment and increase the proportion of waste re-used or recycled OBJECTIVE: 5. Encourage the purchase of the least environmentally damaging products and services by Stroud District Council
ESP2. Climate Change and Energy - Confronting our Greatest Threat	OBJECTIVE: 1. Reduce overall energy consumption, whilst at the same time particularly reducing consumption from non-renewable sources OBJECTIVE: 2. Minimise water use from the council's own operations
ESP3. Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment - Clean, Green and Safe	OBJECTIVE: 7. Ensure through the council's policies and initiatives, that local biodiversity is protected and enhanced OBJECTIVE: 8. Minimise pollution within the district, through monitoring, education and enforcement
ESP4. Creating Sustainable Communities - From Local to Global	OBJECTIVE: 4. Minimise the risk of pollution and encourage the purchase of the least environmentally damaging products and services related to the management of transport by the council
ESP5. Keeping the Council and Local Community Focused on Environmental Limits - Let's Not Forget How Important the Issue Is	OBJECTIVE: 6. Ensure the requirements of the EMS are fully integrated with the corporate planning process in Stroud District Council

7. The Council's 4-year Corporate Delivery Plan ([www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/policy/cdp.asp](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/policy/cdp.asp)) and Medium Term Financial Plan have also been aligned with the Strategy. Indeed in the 2006/07 budget round we made an additional £1.5m available over the medium term to support the delivery of our Environment Strategy; £700,000 on climate change response, £525,000 on waste and recycling and £225,000 on public spaces. We say more about how this resource is being spent throughout this document.

## ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY PROGRESS IN YEAR 1

8. The remainder of this document is structured to reflect the five priorities within the Environment Strategy, which are:

1. **Sustainable Consumption and Production – More for Less**
2. **Climate Change and Energy – Confronting our Greatest Threat**
3. **Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment – Clean, Green and Safe**

4. **Creating Sustainable Communities – From Local to Global**

5. **Keeping the Council and the Local Community Focused on Environmental Limits – Let's Not Forget How Important the Issue Is**

9. Each of the priorities is made up of a number of **areas of focus** and supporting **immediate priority actions**. To allow the impact of our actions to be monitored, each priority is underpinned by a number of long-term **aspirations for the community** (i.e. outcomes we would like to see achieved but that we cannot deliver in isolation) and **performance targets** for the council (i.e. things we can deliver directly). As such you may find it helpful to read this document in conjunction with the Strategy.

10. Where necessary, actions or data not originally available in the development of the Strategy have also been reported. Further progress information is given in Appendix 2, which summarises our EMAS action plans.

# Sustainable Consumption and Production

## More for Less

11. At the heart of this priority is the need to achieve more for less; breaking the link between economic growth and environmental degradation. To do this we will need to build on people's growing awareness of environmental concerns, helping them to demand and choose new products and services with lower environmental impacts. This includes encouraging and supporting local business to deliver these wherever possible. Details on what the council is doing to improve its own operations to reduce waste can be found under Priority 5.
12. We identified **3 areas of focus** within the priority:
- *Playing our part in influencing consumption patterns, in particular by making sure that citizens and consumers have access to appropriate advice. The initial emphasis will be on energy efficiency / micro generation and waste / recycling*
  - *Establishing a new waste strategy, with increased emphasis on reducing waste at source and making use of it as a resource*
  - *A new commitment to sustainable procurement, where our aim will be to become a centre of recognised good practice*

Progress with the **immediate priority actions** for each is set out below.

### PLAYING OUR PART IN INFLUENCING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS – WHY IS THIS SIGNIFICANT?

13. Everyone produces waste and while waste cannot be eliminated, we can reduce its environmental impact by preventing waste wherever possible. This includes the procurement of goods and services and making more sustainable use of the waste that is produced – reuse and recycle. The council has a duty to collect waste from 49,000 homes in the district and even though these households produce less waste on average than other households in Gloucestershire, we are always looking to improve on this. Details on what the council is doing to improve its own operations to reduce waste can be found under Priority 5 and Appendix 2.
14. As well as work to influence energy consumption we have continued to market the benefits of recycling by being part of the 'Recycle for Gloucestershire' campaign (for more information [www.recycleforgloucestershire.com](http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com)). We have also undertaken some bespoke advertising in the local press. The Stanleys' Waste Trial, which is discussed opposite, has helped us to better understand what is required in marketing terms if we are to create more 'committed recyclers'.



### ESTABLISHING A NEW WASTE STRATEGY.

15. In March 2008 the council signed up to the Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (JMWS), with a number of conditions concerning the choice of the final treatment option for residual waste. The council does not believe that a mass burn incinerator, which is one of the options considered by Gloucestershire County Council, is appropriate for the district (for more information on this see [www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/joint\\_strategy/index.html](http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/joint_strategy/index.html)).
16. Since November 2007 we have been trialling a new approach to waste collection with 1800 households in the Leonard Stanley and King's Stanley area. The 'Stanleys' Waste Trial' reversed the current collection regime introducing weekly collection of dry recyclables and food waste and fortnightly collection of landfill waste. The trial will be evaluated in the autumn of 2008 and decisions about if and how to roll it out across the whole district will be made during the budget process.
17. During the year we have supported the local business community in developing 'Y-Waste', a new company helping local businesses to recycle commercial waste.

# Sustainable Consumption and Production More for Less

1

18. Where resources allow we continue to provide talks to local schools on recycling. SWEA also manages projects that seek to improve the provision of education about energy sustainability in primary, secondary and further learning institutions. SWEA is part of Gloucestershire's Environmental Education Partnership and the SW Learning for Sustainability Coalition and is helping to influence education providers locally. The council have been fully supportive of the activity in this area. Further information about the project work can be found at [www.swea.co.uk](http://www.swea.co.uk)

## A NEW COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

19. A review of all major contracts was completed in April 2007. A number were deemed to be significant in terms of their environmental impact and financial volume. These six consist of the two responsive housing maintenance contracts for the south and north of the district and the building cleansing, grounds maintenance, refuse and recycling and street cleaning contracts. Reports have been prepared by consultants on how these contracts could achieve better environmental performance when they are re-let.

20. In March 2008 further work was commissioned to establish a standard set of environmental clauses to be included in our contracts. This work should be completed in the summer. In addition a 'Green' Procurement Toolkit has been produced that should help all staff consider the requirements of the Environmental Strategy in every purchasing decision. This will form part of the new financial regulation pages on the intranet which will be put in place during 2009.

21. A complete update on all actions contributing to Priority 1 can be found in Appendix 2.

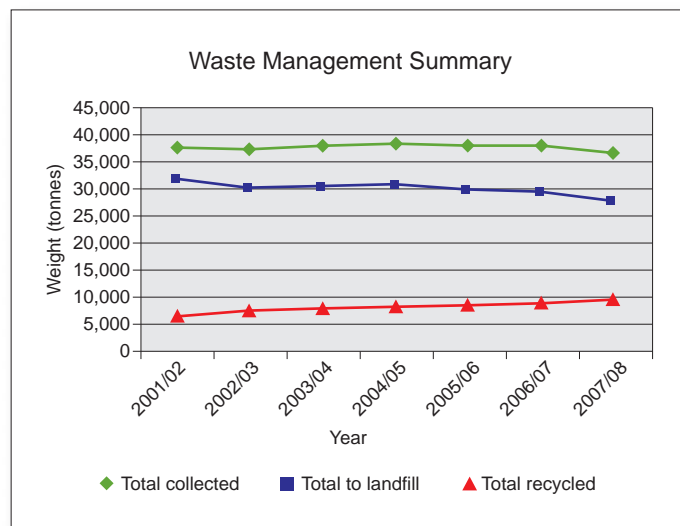
22. Our More for Less **aspiration for the community** is to see at least a 1% per annum reduction in the proportion of household waste collected that is disposed of to landfill and to see upward of 50% recycled and composted by 2019/20.

23. Figure 2 shows the total tonnage of household waste collected since 2001 along with the amounts of this recycled and disposed of to landfill. We are lucky that our residents continue to be amongst the lowest producers of domestic waste in the country; in 2007/08 each resident produced 332.9 kg of household waste. Between 2006/07 and 2007/08 the amount generated per person reduced by 11.2 kg or 3.24%. The council encourages home composting and has sold 1419 composting bins during 2007/08.

24. If you use Figure 2 to compare the 2001/02 position with that in 2007/08 then over the 9 years:

- Waste collected has increased by 3.7%
- The amount land filled has decreased by 9.6%
- The total recycled has increased by 42.5%

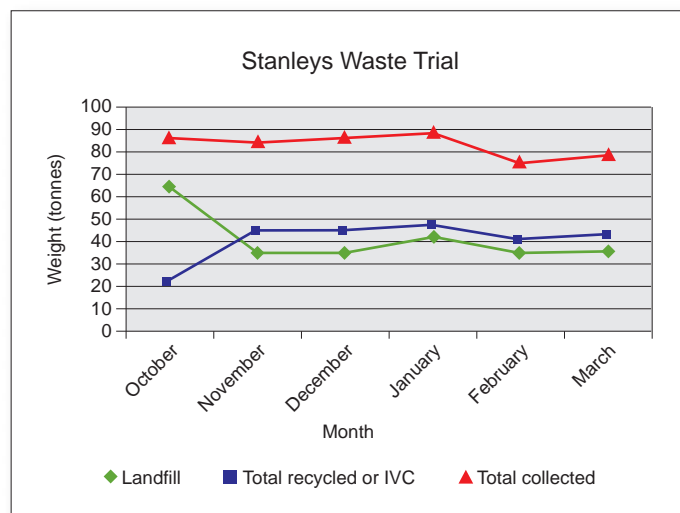
Figure 2: Waste Management Summary



25. The current recycling rate, including food waste composting for the first time, is 26.1%. This level of performance has been achieved without collecting green waste and we believe that encouraging home and community composting of this waste is the right thing to do in a large rural area.

26. Figure 2 helps show the direct impact that the council has had through its recycling services and the indirect influence exercised through the promotion of and support for home and community composting. The increase in the waste collected is consequently lower than might be expected given the national trends for waste growth. The community aspiration of 1% per annum reduction has been achieved with a 4.08% reduction in landfill between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Figure 3: Stanleys Waste Trial



# Sustainable Consumption and Production

## More for Less

27. To help understand this it is worth saying more about the outcomes to date from the Stanleys' Waste Trial. Figure 3 shows the initial impacts of the trial and how the 'gap' between landfill and recycling has been closed with around a 55% recycling rate being achieved. Although encouraging, these early results need to be viewed with caution as the impact of any seasonal variations needs to be understood before final judgments can be made on success.
28. Our **performance target** for the council is to provide all households in the district with the opportunity to access convenient and easy-to-use collection services, enabling the recycling and composting of at least 70% of domestic waste. The evaluation of the Stanleys' Waste Trial, which will take place in the autumn of 2008, will be crucial in determining how this will be done and over what timescales.
29. More generally overall, satisfaction with the waste service in 2006/07 was the same as in 2003/04 at 87 per cent and is within the best 25 per cent of all councils nationally. Satisfaction with recycling deteriorated to 75% from 80% placing us in the 2nd quartile. This mirrored national trends and confirms the results from the Green Paper consultations, which revealed people wanted kerb-side collection of cardboard and all plastics (not just bottles). In March 2008 an evaluation of satisfaction with the Stanleys' trial was undertaken with residents being asked to rate the system on a scale running from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). The response rate was around 37% and 96% rated the new arrangements as '3' or more and 86% '4' or more, with the food waste recycling attracting the highest ratings (97% and 92%).
30. The costs of our waste collection service are considered to be good by the Audit Commission.

# Climate Change and Energy – Confronting our Greatest Threat

## 2

### PUTTING CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO – WHY IS THIS SIGNIFICANT?

31. Climate change is the greatest long-term challenge facing the human race. The scientific evidence is now overwhelming and we have to accept that significant change is now inevitable. Since 1990, global temperatures have risen by 0.2C and atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations have increased from 354 parts per million to over 380 parts per million and are still rising. If the anticipated growth in emissions is left unchecked, global average temperatures could be as much as 5.8C higher by the end of this century, with a devastating impact on our economy and natural world. It is also recognised that reserves of fossil fuels are depleting and the use of alternative energy sources must be sought to match increasing demand.
32. The UK is committed to reducing the country's greenhouse gas emissions. We share the national ambition and want to go further and faster if we can. Our goal is to help deliver the move to a low carbon economy and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 60% by 2050, with real progress shown by 2020. We must set a good example and will encourage others to follow it.
33. We identified **2 areas of focus** within the priority:
  - *Putting climate change at the heart of our policy making and operations*
  - *Establishing a Climate Change Delivery Plan that starts the process of moving towards a low carbon economy and adapting to climate change*

Progress with the **immediate priority actions** for each area of focus is set out below.

### PUTTING CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

34. The Leader and Chief Executive signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change on February 26 2007. The requirements of the declaration have been built into our Strategy, action plans and Environmental Management System. More details on the declaration can be found at [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/nottingham\\_declaration](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/nottingham_declaration)
35. In February 2007 the council entered into a one-year contract worth £130k, with Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA). This was designed to provide sustainable energy services to households, businesses, community buildings managers and the council. In doing this we have created a 'one stop approach' to energy efficiency and micro-generation advice for local people and interests.

36. During 2007 / 08 a full Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) compliant tender process was run to let a further contract worth £500k from April 1 2008. SWEA, in partnership with Global to Local Ltd, were successful in securing this two-year contract. If you would like more detail on the above then SWEA have produced a detailed Year 1 progress report, which can be accessed at [www.stroud.gov.uk/info/sdccc\\_p\\_annualreport07\\_08.pdf](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/sdccc_p_annualreport07_08.pdf) Some of the highlights for the domestic sector, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and community buildings are summarised later under Priority 2.

### ESTABLISHING A CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY PLAN

37. The council has implemented a number of actions directly and has also worked through SWEA to help local people reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These actions are described below under 5 headings:
  - *New build*
  - *Improving the existing housing stock*
  - *Small and medium sized enterprises*
  - *Community buildings*
  - *Climate change adaptation*

### NEW BUILD

38. At its September 2007 meeting, ([www.stroud.gov.uk/cgi\\_bin/meeting\\_docs/public/2007-2008/minutes-public/cl-20-09-07-minutes.pdf](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/cgi_bin/meeting_docs/public/2007-2008/minutes-public/cl-20-09-07-minutes.pdf)) council adopted Supplementary Planning Advice that seeks at least a 10% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions through the installation of on-site renewable installations in major developments. In support of this, training has also been provided to members of the Development Control Committee and Planning Officers. Along with separate training for building control officers this will also help make sure we are able to encourage and ultimately enforce developments in accordance with the phased reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions expected under Part L of the building regulations.
39. Nearly 100 new affordable homes were offered to people on Stroud District Council's housing waiting list in 07/08 the majority of which were part-funded by Housing Corporation grant subsidy. In order to qualify for such funding, new affordable homes had to meet the Eco Homes 'very good' standard. In future years, grant-funded affordable homes will need to meet at least Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3, meaning that not only are the homes more environmentally friendly, but those living in them are likely to experience lower running costs and improved levels of comfort and satisfaction.

# Climate Change and Energy – Confronting our Greatest Threat

## IMPROVING THE EXISTING HOUSING STOCK

40. During the year, SWEA undertook a number of activities for us to help householders reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, including:

- A study into whether it was possible to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the existing housing stock by 60% (the 40% House Project) was completed in the summer of 2007. The report is available at [www.swea.co.uk/target2050](http://www.swea.co.uk/target2050) and showed that the target reduction could be achieved but would require significant investment
- The study led to the development of an exemplar home project designed to showcase how 60% reductions could be achieved across the local housing stock. 227 enquiries were received from local people in a call for volunteers, 176 finally applied, 40 were short-listed and surveyed (using NHER) and 23 selected for the full programme, which was launched in April 2008
- The Target 2050 branding and marketing plan was launched in the autumn of 2007 [www.swea.co.uk/target2050.shtml](http://www.swea.co.uk/target2050.shtml)



41. In addition to the above Target 2050 work, there have been three additional energy related activities within the domestic sector. The delivery of the local **Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC)** providing home visits, energy surgeries and media-related activities. In total the EEAC established contact with 1,129 households throughout Stroud district, from which 619 properties received energy efficiency improvements from the **Warm & Well** and **Warm Front** programmes.

42. The measures implemented through these programmes are set out in Figure 4 and will see in excess of 30,200 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> saved over the lifetime of the installations in Stroud homes. The continued delivery of the **WISE** programme also provided support to hard to treat homes and 20 measures have been installed (see Figure 5) in 18 homes at a cost of £66,267, with more than 50% of this cost being sourced from either client contributions or external grants. In the future we expect to make wider use of these non-standard measures in order to cut carbon emissions by 60% and to tackle fuel poverty fully.

Figure 4: Warm & Well and Warm Front Installations

Measure	Number Installed
Full Loft Insulation	126
Loft Insulation Top Up	316
Cavity Wall Insulation	282
Draught Proofing	15
Partial Draught Proofing	10
Hot Water Tank Jacket	72
Replacement Boiler	36
Central Heating System	3
Radiator Valves	6
Compact Fluorescent Lamps	734
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,600</b>

Figure 5: Number of Installations through the WISE Homes Programme

Measure	Number Installed
Dry Lining	4
External wall insulation	1
Sloping Ceiling insulation	6
Heating	2
Solar	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>

43. Under the Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA) (for more details see [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=12808](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=12808)) we are a lead partner for the Warm and Well Scheme “stretch” target to install cavity wall, loft insulation and central heating measures more quickly in the county. We are well on track to meet the 2010 LAA target and Stroud district households are benefiting directly. Last year was our best year to date with 722 measures installed in 578 homes.

# Climate Change and Energy – Confronting our Greatest Threat

## 2

44. The most recent Home Energy Conservation Act report we submitted estimated the overall improvement in housing energy efficiency from 1 April 1996 to 31 March 2007 as 19.32% and we have improved more than one in ten private sector households through our energy schemes to date.
45. To pass the Decent Homes Standard, homes must be warm. Last year 88% of vulnerable households coming into the Warm and Well scheme failed this standard. We helped most of these become 'decent' with just energy efficiency measures.
46. We continue to be proactive in the countywide Affordable Warmth Partnership. During 2008 we will work with partners to report on the number of people receiving income based benefits living in homes (all tenures) with a low or a high energy efficiency rating and to set an improvement target for this in the LAA.
47. Investment in our own housing stock has slowed because of the financial position of our Housing Revenue Account. The result is that improvements in the energy efficiency of council housing, as measured through the SAP rating, have slowed. Also, most of the low cost insulation measures have been carried out. The average SAP could still be improved with some changes to heating fuel and appliances but even a large investment in this would give only a very small increase in the average SAP. As at March 2008 the average SAP rating was 60.6 (SAP 2005 routine).

### SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMES)

48. During the year SWEA delivered the following:
  - 94 SMEs were reached through promotional activities
  - On site energy surveys delivered for 10 companies by the end of March 2008, with a further 8 planned
  - 5 seminars delivered to businesses across the district
49. The energy efficiency of our own housing stock was discussed in paragraph 47. Despite the financial pressures on the HRA, we are already considering ways in which we can reduce carbon emissions from council homes, other than by installing basic energy efficiency measures (e.g. distributing light bulbs). We are trialling ground and air source heat pumps and during 2008 we want to find out whether a local "energy services company" (ESCO) could be established to generate and provide renewable energy to local households, including council tenants.
50. We have also met all of the requirements placed on us to enforce the Integrated Pollution Control and Prevention Control Regime with the result that we have successfully controlled the environmental impact to air, land and water of emissions arising from industrial activities.

### COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

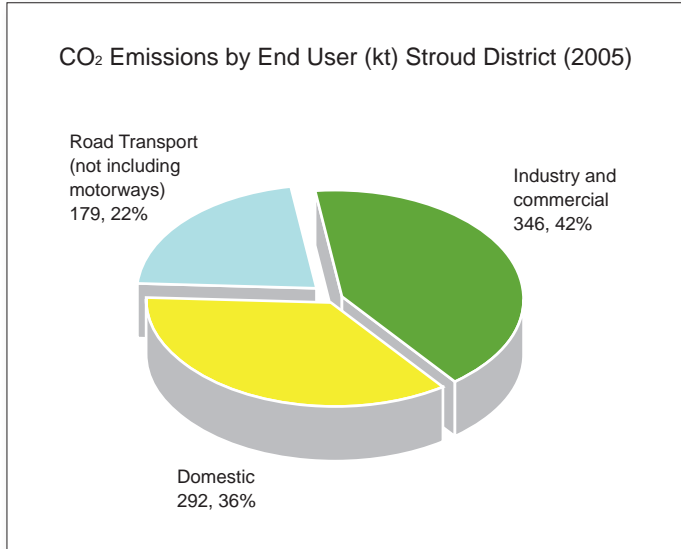
51. During the year SWEA delivered the following:
  - 11 community halls received energy audits, a report with recommendations and development support
  - 3 halls previously surveyed received development support
  - 5 halls have funding confirmed for sustainable energy measures including a 14kW ground source heat pump, 12kW solar PV, efficient lighting schemes, double glazing and secondary glazing and loft insulation
  - Funds worth £84,000 have been committed by the council and match funding worth £99,000 has been accessed or applied for.

### CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

52. From a climate change adaptation point of view a Strategic Flood Assessment Model of the River Frome Catchment has been completed in partnership with the Environment Agency and is being used to plan development in the Stroud Valleys. Through the Local Area Agreement the council supported Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust in developing the Gloucestershire Nature Map, which is designed to help wildlife adapt to climate change ([www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=18196](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=18196)) and will be reflected in our new land use plans, including the Core Strategy.
53. We have also acted as the secretariat to the Local Strategic Partnership's 'Global Changes Think Tank'. This group is considering the twin perils of climate change and Peak Oil and how local people, interests and organisations will need to adapt in the future. More details on this can be found at <http://community.stroud.gov.uk/general.asp?pid=34&pgid=1532>
54. A complete update on all actions contributing to Priority 2 can be found in Appendix 2.
55. Our first climate change **aspiration for the community** is to see total carbon dioxide emissions from all sources reduced by 60% by 2050.
56. It is difficult to accurately calculate emissions from the district. However, the Government has introduced a new National Indicator (NI) designated '186', which deals with per capita emissions of carbon dioxide at a local level ([www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/ni186.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/ni186.htm)). This is supported by data calculated for each local authority area in the country and the preliminary figures for the Stroud district can be found below (Figure 6). The absolute amount from the 3 main end uses shown in Figure 6 is 817kt CO<sub>2</sub>, equating to 7.44 tonnes per capita, the lowest amongst the 4 rural districts in the County – Cotswold is the highest at 10.5 tonnes. This is also below the Gloucestershire average of 7.71 tonnes. The current data is for 2005 and the Government hopes to reduce the reporting lag over time.

# Climate Change and Energy – Confronting our Greatest Threat

**Figure 6:**



57. Estimating community savings stimulated by our activities is also difficult. SWEA has done this for its activities and we have done similar for our own domestic work. Figure 7 summarises the impact of a number of domestic work areas. In some cases these are definite savings in that measures have actually been installed; in other cases they are predictions of savings if all measures identified are installed. In terms of the latter the proportion of measures installed will be monitored and the CO<sub>2</sub> figures adjusted accordingly over time. We hope to develop this approach for all CO<sub>2</sub> reduction programmes.

**Figure 7: CO<sub>2</sub> Savings from Key Domestic Programmes**

Project	Measures Installed*	Annual CO <sub>2</sub> savings (tonnes)	Lifetime CO <sub>2</sub> Savings (tonnes)
Target 2050 Exemplar	233	120	3,029
Warm & Well	1,596	879	30,283
WISE	20	16	479
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>33,790</b>

(\*These are measures installed under WISE and Warm and Well, and anticipated measures for installation within T2050)

58. Our second climate change **aspiration for the community** is to see 22 mega-watts (MW) of renewable energy generating capacity installed in the district by 2020.

59. RegenSW is the renewable energy agency for the south west of England and keeps a record of installed renewable energy (made up of electricity and heat generating technologies) throughout the region. An interactive map for the region that can be broken down by county, district and installation can be found at: [www.regensw.co.uk](http://www.regensw.co.uk). The Gloucestershire position at March 31 2007 can be found at: [www.surveys.energysw.com/PDF/Glouc.pdf](http://www.surveys.energysw.com/PDF/Glouc.pdf). It is also summarised below for electricity (Figure 8) and heat (Figure 9).

**Figure 8: Renewable Electricity Installations in Gloucestershire by March 31 2007 (excludes domestic)**

District	Number of grid connected renewable electricity projects	Installed capacity renewable electricity (MW)
<b>Stroud</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2.61</b>
Gloucester City	4	5.37
Tewkesbury	1	1.84
Cotswold	2	0.05
Forest of Dean	2	0.007
<b>Total (Glos)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9.86</b>
<b>Total (Region)</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>136.79</b>

**Figure 9: Renewable Heat Installations in Gloucestershire by March 31 2007 (excludes domestic)**

District	Number of renewable heat projects	Installed capacity renewable heat (MW)
<b>Stroud</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.66</b>
Gloucester City	2	0.67
Tewkesbury	3	0.13
Cotswold	2	0.02
Forest of Dean	2	0.01
<b>Total (Glos)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1.49</b>
<b>Total (Region)</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>27.85</b>

60. The annual survey of installations is currently being re-done by RegenSW and the council along with Severn Wye Energy Agency have helped compile a return for the district. This is set out in Figure 10 but is subject to verification. If confirmed it would see the total amount of installed renewable energy capacity rise by about 1MW to 4.23MW.

# Climate Change and Energy – Confronting our Greatest Threat

# 2

**Figure 10: Renewable Energy Installations in the Stroud district 2007/08 (provisional return to RegenSW).**

Project description	Renewable energy type	Installed capacity (MW)
Archway School, biomass boiler	Heat	0.5
Cotswold Chine School, biomass boiler	Heat	0.4
Domestic solar thermal panels (7 properties)	Heat	0.014 (total)
Ground source heat pumps, (7 Council properties at Coaley)	Heat	0.035 (total)
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.949</b>

61. We have sought to encourage future renewable energy supply in the following ways:
- Through our planning role, supported the proposed installation of renewable heat on the Littlecombe Development at Dursley. This includes 450 homes being connected to a 4MW biomass district heat system and 200 homes being fitted with solar water heating panels
  - Through our planning role, supported Crest Nicholson’s proposals to include a range of renewable electricity and heat installations at the Hunts Grove development
  - Encouraged Sainsbury, through the planning process, to install a biomass boiler for heating at its new Dursley store
  - Installed Ground Source Heat Pumps supplying renewable heat to 7 council properties in Coaley (see also Figure 10)
  - Undertaken feasibility studies on installing photo-voltaic (PV) arrays at Ebley Mill and PV and solar water heating panels at Dursley Pool
  - Progressed a planning application for a hydro-electricity plant at Ebley Mill. This has taken longer than expected due to the need to undertake additional biodiversity studies, flood modelling and survey work. There are also a number of land ownership issues still to be resolved that will influence the design and output of any final solution
  - Provided preliminary advice (e.g. on the planning policy framework) to a number of renewable energy developers interested in siting commercial scale installations in the district

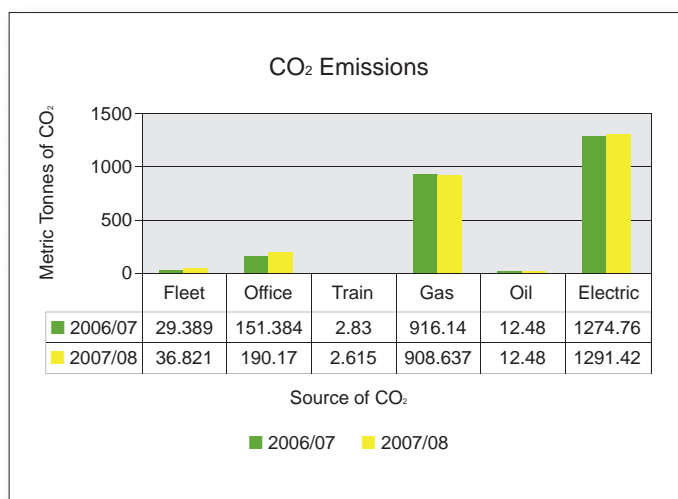
62. Our **performance target** for the council is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from our direct operations (electricity, heating and transport) by a minimum of 3% per annum.

63. In response we have continued to invest in energy efficiency and introduced a staff awareness raising campaign known as MY Energy. The implementation of the following steps will hopefully reduce our electricity consumption by up to 30% per year:

- Established a network of energy champions who have carried out regular audits of electrical equipment around our sites and encouraged staff to turn equipment off when not in use
- Installed a voltage optimiser at Ebley Mill
- Replaced the lighting systems in Ebley Mill and Dursley Pool, both of which were end of life and replaced them with energy-efficient T5 tubes and motion and daylight dimming sensors
- ‘Virtualised’ our server estate, which in practice means we now run only 6 main IT servers rather than 50 plus
- Let a new contract for the provision of photocopiers and printers with more energy and resource efficient models now being used
- Started installing ‘Ecometers’ in our buildings to provide real time data on our electricity and gas use.

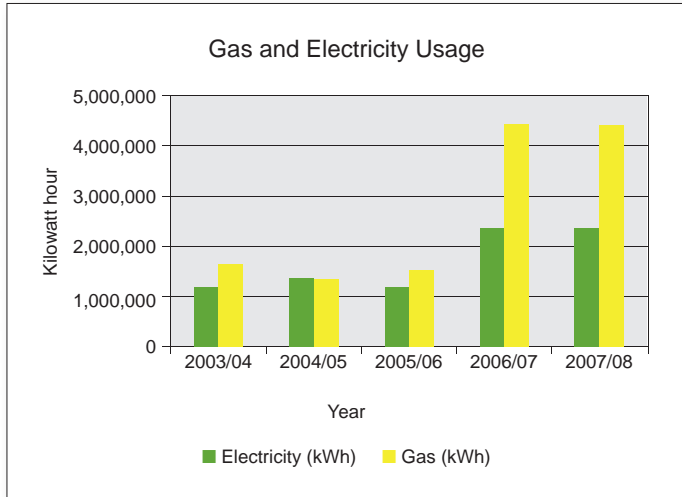
64. The council has recently calculated its first ‘experimental’ carbon footprint for 2006/07 (Figure 11). This shows emissions from our direct operations (excluding contractors) amount to 2387 tonnes for 2006/07 and 2439 tonnes for 2007/08. It should be noted that as council electricity is purchased from a climate change levy-exempt source and can be considered to have zero carbon emissions associated with it, this reduces the actual figure in 2006/07 to 1112 tonnes. The gas and electricity usage in figure 11a shows a dramatic increase, due in part to the decision to include utilities from contracted-out Stratford Park Leisure Centre. The council will be looking at a number of measures to reduce its energy consumption further.

**Figure 11: Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>**



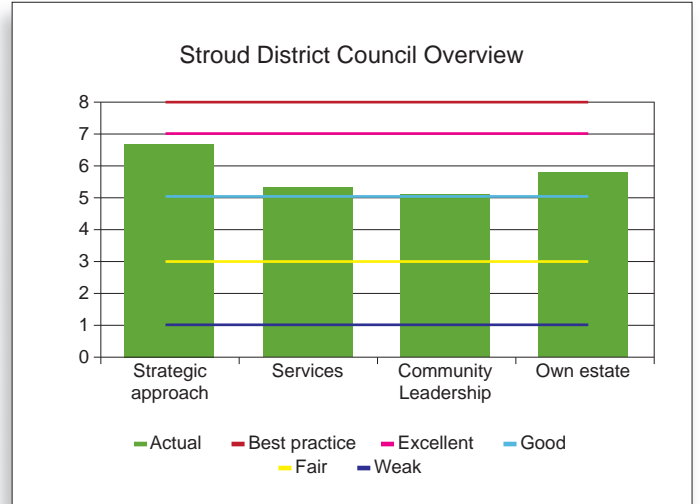
# Climate Change and Energy – Confronting our Greatest Threat

Figure 11a: Gas and Electricity Usage



65. We will be developing our carbon footprint over the next 6-8 months through participating in the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme and the Local Government Information Unit's Carbon Trading Council's initiative.

Figure 12:



66. During the year the council was also invited by the Energy Savings Trust (EST) to form part of its key account management programme. This has involved the EST undertaking a review of our performance in terms of sustainable energy. A detailed report is available at [www.stroud.gov.uk/cgi\\_bin/meeting\\_docs/public/2008-2009/Reports Public/Cab%20290508%20Ag9b%20Environ%20startegy%20-%20year%202%20report.pdf](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/cgi_bin/meeting_docs/public/2008-2009/Reports%20Public/Cab%20290508%20Ag9b%20Environ%20startegy%20-%20year%202%20report.pdf) and a summary of our overall performance is given below in Figure 12. An action plan arising from the recommendations of the EST was presented to the May 2008 Cabinet meeting.

# Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment – *Clean, Green and Safe*

PRIORITY

3

67. As part of this priority we need to enhance those parts of our district that are most degraded and ensure a decent environment for everyone, as this is vital to the existence and development of our communities. In particular we will focus on working in partnership at the right levels in order to improve our public and green spaces.

## WHY IS THIS SIGNIFICANT?

68. Stroud district is fortunate to contain a wide range of habitats (such as woodlands and rivers) and species of animals and plants. The west of the district borders the Severn Estuary which is a Site of Special Interest (SSSI). About half the district is within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and there are 163 areas recognised as sites of nature conservation interest. Stroud is responsible for helping protect green space through planning and the management of commons and woodlands. Many other council activities will have an effect on biodiversity both directly through management practices such as parks management and land drainage, through to indirect impacts related to the types of goods and materials purchased, policies developed and the way that services are delivered.

69. We identified 1 area of focus within the priority which was to build on our successful Green Spaces Strategy and establish a new plan for delivering public and natural spaces, which are clean, green, accessible and safe – enhance the biodiversity and reduce pollution. Progress with the **immediate priority actions** for each area of focus are set out below.



70. The 10th **Neighbourhood Warden** started in November 2007. At its Budget meeting in January 2008 the council agreed funding for the final two Neighbourhood Wardens, who will be appointed during 2008/09. By employing 12 Neighbourhood Wardens we will be able to provide district-wide coverage. We also completed a review of the service during 2007 and an improvement plan arising from this was adopted by Cabinet at its March 13 2008 meeting. This has clearly identified the need for a greater focus on tackling public space problems. (see: [www.stroud.gov.uk/cgi\\_bin/meeting\\_docs/public/2007-2008/reports-public/Cab%20130308%20Ag%201%20neighbourhood%20wardens.pdf](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/cgi_bin/meeting_docs/public/2007-2008/reports-public/Cab%20130308%20Ag%201%20neighbourhood%20wardens.pdf)).

71. During 2007/08 we have done work to better understand public space issues within the district. In particular:

- *The review and reclassification of street cleansing zones and standards*
- *A district wide 'Grot Spot' Audit carried out by the Neighbourhood Wardens.*

72. Consultations with local communities about the results from these are currently underway and due to be completed during 2008/09.

73. Our Strategic Head of Regeneration & Culture has taken on senior management responsibility for the new Biodiversity Duty. Future asset condition surveys will include a biodiversity assessment and this will help ensure that by 2009 all council property is being managed to maximise biodiversity. Work to establish wildlife friendly green spaces and corridors has been integrated into the Gloucestershire Wildlife Map already referred to.

74. 100% of all new homes were built on brownfield land (i.e. previously-developed land), exceeding the target of 70% and continuing the positive trend from previous years.

75. Delays in the Cotswold Canals restoration project generally have hindered attempts to make sure that biodiversity is a key aspect of the Canal Area Action Plan. If the project goes ahead this is still an outcome we will seek and in any event we will make sure that biodiversity and the Gloucestershire Wildlife Map is given appropriate weighting in our new Core Strategy and Local Development Framework documents.

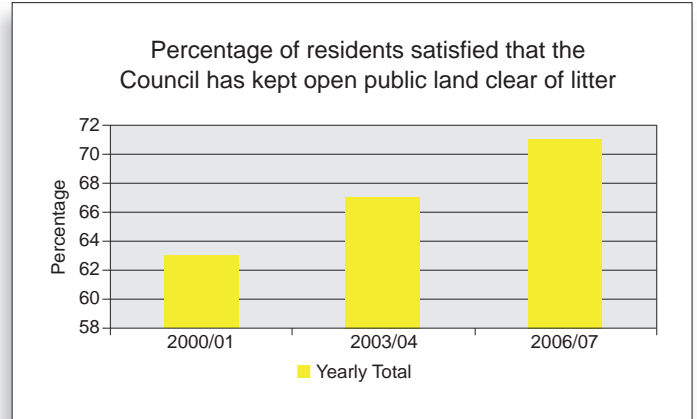
76. We have also undertaken a number of other 'Clean, green and safe' actions during the year:

- *Continued our CHIP & PIN initiative designed to help local people clean up their neighbourhoods*
- *Established in November 2007 a Corporate Enforcement Team to tackle 'Grot Spots'. This is under the leadership of the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and the Head of Community Safety*
- *Started to better understand and improve the end-to-end times for the removal of abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping*
- *Taken the relevant powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act and revised our enforcement policies accordingly*

# Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment – Clean, Green and Safe

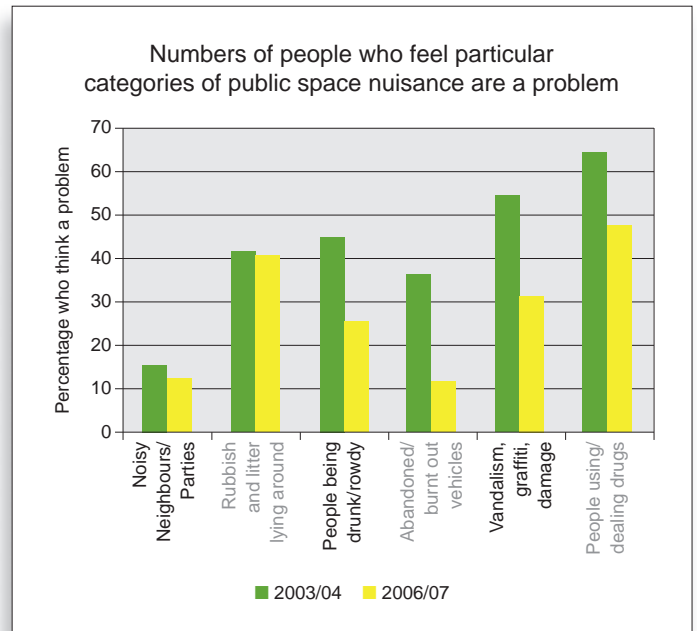
- 77. Once the new on-street parking enforcement arrangements have bedded in fully we will look to use our enforcement team to undertake further enviro-crime enforcement work in relation to such matters as littering and dog fouling. This is likely to start during 2009 following the current round of public space consultations with local interests (as described above). In 2007/08 we took 4 successful prosecutions against dog owners who permitted their dogs to foul on public land.
- 78. A complete update on all of the actions contributing towards Priority 3 can be found in Appendix 2.
- 79. Our first Clean, Green and Safe **aspiration for the community** was to see a 15% reduction in BCS (British Crime Survey) Comparator crime between 2005 and 2008. The second was to see a 5% reduction in the fear of crime over the same period.
- 80. The Safer Stronger Communities Partnership (SSCP), which oversees these aspirations, has delivered a decrease of 5.9% in crime and a 2.4% reduction in the fear of crime over the 3-years. Future actions have been set out in the new 3-year SSCP Strategy ([www.stroud.gov.uk/info/crime\\_and\\_disorder\\_strategy\\_08\\_11.pdf](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/crime_and_disorder_strategy_08_11.pdf)).
- 81. Our third **aspiration for the community** was for every community to have identified and agreed management plans for the most important public and green spaces by 2010. Many communities already have management plans in place for public spaces they control. As described above we are currently reviewing with local people the management of those spaces where we have control or some influence over outcomes.
- 82. Our fourth and final 'Clean Green and Safe **aspiration for the community** is to see general satisfaction with the quality of public spaces increasing annually until 2012.
- 83. In terms of public spaces it is clear that general satisfaction with the cleanliness of public land is good and improving but that 'grot spots', which manifest in a number of ways (e.g. litter, fly-tipping), are of concern to local people.
- 84. Satisfaction with standards of cleanliness is measured nationally and has increased by around 12% since 2000 and currently stands at 71% (Figure 13). This places the council in Quartile 2 nationally (i.e. above the 67% average but below the 73% top quartile entry point). The 71% would have been in the top quartile had it not been for the low satisfaction levels in Dursley, which were 10% lower than the next lowest: Gloucester Border (70% satisfaction), Stroud Central (76%), Stroud North (76%), Stonehouse (76%), Dursley (60%), Wotton-under-Edge (78%) and Berkeley (70%).

Figure 13:



- 85. The numbers of people who thought that a number of key public space issues were a problem generally fell between 2003/04 and 2006/07 (Figure 14). The exception was 'rubbish and litter lying around' which fell only marginally and was considered to be a problem by about 40% of people. This data was again taken from the national satisfaction survey, in particular the section that dealt with anti-social behaviour and confirms the view that 'grot spots' were more of a concern than general cleanliness.

Figure 14:



86. Our first **performance target** for the council was to achieve national top quartile position for Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 199. This measures a range of cleanliness standards including the proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) that are assessed as having (1) combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level; (2) from which unacceptable levels of graffiti are visible; and, (3) from which acceptable levels of fly posting are visible.
87. The latest year for comparative figures is 2006/07. Against (1) above the council achieved 12% which places it in Quartile 3. The top quartile entry point is 7%. Against (2) the council achieved 5% which places it in Quartile 4. The Top Quartile entry point is 1%. Against (3) the council achieved 0% which places it in the Top Quartile. As revealed by Figures 13 and 14, there is a mixed picture of good performance on some issues and not on others.
88. Our second performance target was to achieve national top quartile performance for the percentage of residents expressing satisfaction with standards of cleanliness. The results for this have been described in Figure 13.

89. These results have been confirmed during 2006/07, by ENCAMS on behalf of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. ENCAMS carried out a local environmental quality survey. This provided a strategic overview of public space standards across all relevant land uses (e.g. cleansing standards, highway infrastructure, street furniture, litter bins, bus stops, landscaping). The results can be compared with national benchmarks in terms of the percentage of headline public space elements that in overall terms were assessed as 'good', 'satisfactory', 'unsatisfactory' or 'poor' (Figure 15). This shows that the Stroud District is above the national average in terms of public space elements, which are considered to be satisfactory or good.

**Figure 15: Percentage of headline public space elements falling into various categories.**

Overall Quality Standard	06/07 Stroud District	06/07 National
Good	34%	26%
Satisfactory	18%	21%
Unsatisfactory	41%	47%
Poor	6%	5%

90. Our third **performance target** was to see district-wide coverage of Neighbourhood Wardens and as described above this will be achieved during 2008.
91. Our fourth and final **performance target** was to see 70% of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point at which we are legally entitled to do so. In 2007/08 60% were removed within 48 hours. Our performance is limited by the current county-wide contract and this will be reviewed and revised when the new contract is let in 2010.

# Creating Sustainable Communities - From Local to Global

92. We want to help create communities which are places where people want to live for the long term. On environmental issues in particular, this will require giving communities a say in the decisions that affect them and finding joined-up solutions to locally identified problems.
93. **Why is this significant?**  
As a rural district we have high dependency on the car, as public transport is limited. Stroud District Council does not have the responsibility of public transport or the highways; this is a function of Gloucestershire County Council. However, Stroud, like all councils requires staff to travel in order to deliver council services. Services such as our waste collection and street cleaning obviously lead to a lot of vehicle miles, but other services such as environmental health, development control and planning also require staff to travel.
94. We also have a central role to play as the planning authority in delivering the Environment Strategy and the Government's vision for sustainable communities. We identified **one area of focus** within the priority which was to place the achievement of sustainable communities at the heart of our Local Development Framework.
95. One of the key challenges for us will be to work with others to find practical ways of reducing the amount of car travel required by residents to access services. We are therefore continuing to invest in delivering services to local people in ways that reduce the need of them to travel e.g. the website and community based staff and this is reflective in the increase in kilometres travelled by staff.
96. A number of unplanned-for events, in particular a planning inquiry on a major development site, has delayed our progress in developing the new Core Strategy in line with the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme. By March 2008 we were about 4 months behind and we hope to catch up by the first part of 2009.
97. The delivery of the Stroud Transport Interchange is dependent on decisions to be made by others, including Network Rail and the county council. While the district council had made some budgetary provision towards the scheme, the remaining funding was to come from Section 106 contributions and the county council. Neither funding source has materialised. While the interchange has not been delivered, the route remains protected.
98. Community led proposals have continued to be supported and in October 2007 we awarded £169,822 to 16 local environmental groups as part of our annual grant giving round.
99. Work has started on reviewing our Regeneration Strategy and this is being taken forward in parallel with the development of the new Core Strategy. Our Green Travel Plan has been reviewed and a new staff survey is being conducted in June 2008, during Green Travel Week. The findings from this will inform a new plan that will be published towards the end of 2008. A complete update on all actions contributing to Priority 4 can be found in Appendix 2.
100. Our aspiration for the community is to see district-wide coverage of Town and Parish Plans as these represent a key evidence base for the new Local Development Framework documents, helping us to plan for the long-term. At March 31 2008: 25 parishes had produced plans or market town health checks; 10 were developing them; 3 were interested in producing plans; and, 14 were not interested.
101. Our **performance target** for the council was to deliver the Core Strategy in accordance with the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme. As already stated, at March 31 2008 we were about 4 months behind schedule with this work.
102. There are a number of other performance measures that shed light on the council's overall performance including terms of creating sustainable communities. During our autumn 2007 budget survey we asked householders how satisfied they were with their local area as a place to live. 93% said they were fairly or very satisfied, a big improvement on the 80% achieved in 2006. Respondents were also asked how satisfied they were that the council is working to make the area a better place to live. Most people (65%) were satisfied that we were doing this with the results being similar to 2006.
103. We have also been successful in protecting green field sites from development. In 2007/08 100% of new homes were built on brown field sites, continuing the trend from previous years.

**Figure 16: Number of Kilometres travelled by Staff and Members**

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Number of Km	833,560	814,151	800,892	758,178	721,721	729,432	743,126
CO <sub>2</sub>	230.9	225.5	221.85	210.02	199.92	151.36*	154.20*

\*Assuming 0.2075kg CO<sub>2</sub> per Km – Defra conversion factors 2007, average car fuel unknown

# Keeping the Council and the Local Community Focused on Environmental Limits - Let's Not Forget How Important the Issue Is

104. We want to ensure that we continue to be focused on environmental limits over the next 20 years and beyond and that we take every opportunity to continually improve our performance in a way that is relevant to the demands of local people.

## WHY IS THIS SIGNIFICANT?

105. We identified one **area of focus** within the priority, corporate planning, which was to make sure that consideration of environmental limits is built into everything that we do and that we continue to understand what the demands of local people are. To deliver this we identified **eight immediate priority actions** and progress on these actions are set out below.

106. Corporate planning, like procurement, can have an extensive potential range of environmental impacts, arising both from the council's own impacts and indirectly in the community as a whole. In 2007 the independent Climate Change Panel (see Figure 17) met for the first time. The Cabinet responded at its January 2008 meeting, adopting the Panel's recommendations (see [www.stroud.gov.uk/cgi\\_bin/meeting\\_docs/public/2007-2008/reports-public/Cab%2010108%20Ag8%20Climate%20Change.pdf](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/cgi_bin/meeting_docs/public/2007-2008/reports-public/Cab%2010108%20Ag8%20Climate%20Change.pdf)).

**Figure 17: Membership of the Stroud District Climate Change Panel**

Name	Organisation
Roger Budgeon	Green Shop
Reverend Barry Coker	Local Strategic Partnership
Mike Hillard	Environmentalism
Colin Hygate	Green Fuels Ltd
Helmut Lusser	Global to Local Ltd, Sustainability Consultancy ( <i>Chair of Panel</i> )
Catrin Maby	Severn Wye Energy Agency
John Meadley	Governor at King's Stanley School
Dr Simon Pickering	Ecologist & Cotswold Water Park
David Thompson	Crest Nicholson
Dale Vince	Ecotricity
3 members	Stroud Youth Council

107. As stated earlier we have maintained our EMAS registration during the year. We have continued to train and develop elected members and staff on environmental matters. Elected members are offered an environment strategy session as part of their induction programme. This year SWEA has helped maintain a focus on climate change, in particular helping to train members of Development Control Committee. Environmental awareness is also included in the induction session for new staff. More generally the council is running the 'MY Energy' campaign to raise awareness. More specific environmental training needs are identified through the appraisal process.

108. As members of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) we have helped and supported the development of a draft Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Consultations are on-going through the summer of 2008 and the interim SCS will be adopted in the autumn (see <http://community.stroud.gov.uk/lsp> for more details). In support of and following on from this a State of the Environment report will be published during 2009. As a contribution to an Intelligent Energy Europe project we have worked with the Stroud District LSP to encourage member and other local organisations to sign a Climate Change Declaration ([www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham)).

109. The developing Core Strategy (see paragraph 96) is currently being subjected to Strategic Environmental Assessment (see [www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/localplan/sustainability\\_appraisals.asp](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/localplan/sustainability_appraisals.asp)). We have used our annual budget survey of households and businesses to test levels of satisfaction with our environmental performance and environmental quality within the district. Some of the results have been referred to in this document and can be found at [www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/public\\_consultation.asp](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/public_consultation.asp).

110. We continue to adapt and update our strategy and plans to ensure that we continue to address critical issues in the most proactive way possible. To help with this we intend to carry out another Green Paper consultation exercise during 2010/11.

111. A complete update on all actions contributing to Priority 5 can be found in found Appendix 2.

# Glossary

- **BCS (British Crime Survey) Comparator** – Crime are the crimes that the Police are measured on in terms of volume of crime. This includes (residential burglary, personal robbery, vehicle crime, theft person (snatch and pickpockets) theft of pedal cycles, criminal damage and assaults (wounding – the more serious and common assault the more minor)
- **BVPI** – Best Value Performance Indicator is a government measurement and measures for continuous improvement in service and is compared nationally
- **Gloucestershire BAP** – Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan
- **DCLG** – Department for Communities and Local Government
- **EMAS** – Eco Management and Audit Scheme
- **EMS** – Environmental Management System
- **HAPS** – Habitat Action Plans
- **HECA** – Home Energy Conversation Act. As part of the Act the council has a responsibility to produce a plan that will lead to the reduction of energy use in both our housing stock and the private sector housing stock
- **HRA** – The **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)** Business Plan is an important strategic document which sets out the council's spending and service delivery plans for council homes
- **HIP** – Housing Investment Programme. A programme to deliver new affordable housing, tackle private sector renewal, and maintain and repair council housing
- **IVC** – In-Vessel Composting (IVC) is a managed process in which biodegradable waste is broken down by naturally occurring micro-organisms with oxygen to produce a stabilised residue known as compost.
- **LPI** – Local Performance Indicator. A local measurement to show continuous improvement.
- **LSP** – Local Strategic Partnership. A non-statutory, multi agency partnership which matches the district council boundaries. The LSP brings together senior representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, which have a diverse wealth of local knowledge and expertise. Its purpose is to improve the quality of life for local people by encouraging effective partnership between those people who can directly and indirectly bring about change.
- **NACE** - The NACE code system is the European standard for industry classifications and was introduced in 1970. In 1990 a revised version became applicable. NACE stands for “Nomenclature Generale des Activites Economiques dans l'Union Europeenne” (General Name for Economic Activities in the European Union). From 2008 this will change and be based on “International Standard Industrial Classification of all economic activities” (ISIC) of the United Nations.
- **RAMSAR** - The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- **SAP rating** - Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) Rating - SAP provides a simple means of reliably estimating the energy efficiency performance of dwellings. SAP ratings are expressed on a scale of 1 to 100 the higher the number the better the rating. Thus SAP is similar to the fuel consumption of a car under standard driving conditions.
- **SAPS** - Species Action Plans
- **Section 106 Agreements (S.106)** are legal agreements between local authorities and developers, which are linked to a planning permission. Section 106 agreements aim to balance the extra pressure from development, with improvements to the surrounding area, in order that a development makes a positive contribution to the local area.
- **SMT** – Strategic Management Team
- **WEEE** - Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). The WEEE Directive aims to prevent WEEE arising, to encourage reuse, recycling and recovery of WEEE and to improve the environmental performance of all operators involved in the lifecycle of electrical and electronic equipment, especially those dealing with WEEE.

## Background on the District, Council and Environmental Management System

### PROFILE OF STROUD DISTRICT

Stroud District is a largely rural area covering 175 square miles in the south of Gloucestershire, with a population of approximately 109,000. Three quarters of the district's residents live in or around the area known as the Five Valleys (that focus on Stroud town), and at Cam, Dursley and Wotton-Under-Edge.

The eastern half of the district is part of the Cotswold Hills, which is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and over 2,800 hectares of land is protected for its nature conservation value. These areas cover a wide range of habitat types from beech woodlands to natural limestone grasslands. To the west of the Cotswolds escarpment there is the low-lying landscape of the Severn Vale. The Severn Estuary and much of the foreshore in the district is a protected wildlife habitat under the RAMSAR Convention, in addition to its designation as a Special Protection Area, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Candidate Special Area of Conservation

Water plays an important role in the natural environment. The district is bordered by part of the 42 kilometres of Severn Estuary coastline to the west and is accessible to the open sea via Sharpness Docks. The Vale formed by the River Severn is very low lying and there are extensive areas susceptible to flooding. The catchment of the Severn includes the Rivers Frome, Cam and Little Avon. These rivers, and their tributaries, flowing down from the Cotswolds escarpment provide an abundance of rich natural habitats and impressive landscape features. In addition the man-made canals running through the district are important landscape and wildlife corridors. The canal habitats will be further protected and enhanced during the current restoration of the Cotswold Canals.

### THE COUNCIL

Stroud District Council is classified under the NACE code 75.1 (due to change to 84.1 in 2008) - the *Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community*.

It provides services such as environmental health, planning, social housing, leisure and community safety. Household waste collection and recycling services are the responsibility of the council and contracted out to Veolia. The council does not provide social services, education, transport provision, waste disposal (as distinct from collection) or highways as these are Gloucestershire County Council functions.

We have 51 councillors covering 30 wards and these are elected by thirds over a 4-year period. The Conservative Party has overall control and the Leader and Cabinet govern the business of the council, with individual councillors within the cabinet taking lead responsibilities for one of eight portfolios:

- *Leader*
- *Deputy Leader of Council and Housing*
- *Planning and Climate Change*
- *Regeneration & Tourism*
- *Leisure and Culture*
- *Housing*
- *Environment*
- *Community Safety and Licensing*
- *Business Support & Finance*

The business of the Cabinet is scrutinised by two Overview and Scrutiny Committees: Strategic and Performance and Audit. Opposition group members chair both and they review decisions made by the Cabinet, monitor performance and investigate matters of concern to local people. Additional committees cover licensing and regulation, development control and standards. Stroud District Council employs approximately 589 staff and this equates to 397 full-time equivalents.

### CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN (CDP)

Our CDP is a 4-year rolling plan, which is reviewed and revised annually. It sets out the council's vision, principals, priorities and key actions. More information including quarterly progress reports can be found at [www.stroud.gov.uk/applications/ecdp\\_live/index.aspx](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/applications/ecdp_live/index.aspx)

Environment is a central element of the CDP and appears in a number of ways, as described below.

### WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS OF LOCAL PEOPLE?

Local people tell us that they are concerned about a wide range of matters that affect their quality of life. In particular they want us to:

#### Regeneration

- *help local communities to develop the economic and social vitality of their towns and villages*
- *support the development of key sectors – tourism, creative industries, environmental technology / services*
- *create support services, including planning, which encourage new and existing businesses to invest in the district*

# Appendix I

## Environment

- send as little waste to landfill as possible and recycle more
- help the community to tackle the already unavoidable consequences of climate change
- deliver public spaces and buildings, which are perceived to be cared for, clean, green and safe

## Affordable Housing

- improve affordability within the existing housing stock
- provide more new affordable homes
- maximise the number of existing homes made decent

## Community Safety

- reduce crime and the fear of crime
- tackle anti-social behaviour and promote preventative work with young people

## Healthy Living

- improve access to local health and social care facilities
- improve the health of our communities including reducing smoking and drinking and enhancing mental health

Local people also want us to improve the quality and efficiency of the council's own operations so that we are always best placed to deliver on their priorities. To achieve this, we will put the citizen **first** and:

- improve the customer experience of and satisfaction with our services and activities
- free up resources to reinvest in priorities and keep council tax increases low
- create a flexible workforce which is able to meet the changing demands of local people and national government

## VISION

Overall, the above priorities highlight that the council has a strong leadership role, hence our vision, is to be seen as:

**“Leading a community that is making Stroud District a better place to live, work and visit for everyone”**

## PRINCIPLES

It is also clear that local people increasingly recognise that creating “a better place” will require the engagement and participation of everyone in their respective roles – householder, worker, business leader, politician, community activist, motorist, consumer and so on. We want to engage with all stakeholders and encourage them to contribute all that they can to make the district a better place. To be successful we know that our community leadership and decision-making will have to be underpinned by three guiding principles. These are to:

- ensure a strong, healthy and just society: to meet the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities,

*promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion and create equal opportunity for all*

- respect the environment: to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life remain available for future generations
- promote good governance: actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people's creativity, energy and diversity

## AREAS OF FOCUS

Whilst we are business-like and efficient in the eyes of most householders and businesses, we do not have access to unlimited resources. We have carefully considered the aforementioned competing priorities of local people and have concluded that there are **FIVE** universal areas of concern for us to concentrate on over the 4-years of this plan:

- sending as little waste to landfill as possible, including recycling more
- helping the community to minimise its carbon footprint and adapt to the consequences of climate change
- creating public spaces and buildings, which are perceived to be cared for, clean, green and safe
- providing more affordable homes
- helping local people to find local solutions to long-term local problems, including the safeguarding of key district health services

To deliver on these areas of focus and maintain Council Tax increases at reasonable levels, we will need to continue to identify at least **3% efficiency savings** per year. This does not mean that we believe that other services will have to suffer just that we will continue to make them concentrate on delivering what local people demand in more efficient ways. This will help free-up resources to reinvest in areas that matter to the vast majority of people locally. As such we will also be focusing on making sure that all of our services are meeting the demands of local people in the most **business like and efficient** ways possible.

## ENVIRONMENT GREEN PAPER AND STRATEGY

In July 2006 the council published an Environment Green Paper (see [www.stroud.gov.uk/greenpaper](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/greenpaper)). This consultation paper aimed to involve all stakeholders in the district in the development of a new long-term Environment Strategy. Residents, councillors, parish and town councils, businesses, partners, community groups and council staff were all consulted for their views on what our priorities should be. In all we had nearly 1,000 suggestions and comments from around 500 correspondents.

Our response was to develop a 20-year environment strategy and shorter-term supporting delivery plans, which are consistent with the principles of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy 'Securing the Future'. Stroud's Environment Strategy was adopted in March 2006 and we have focused on those things that will help us 'live within environmental limits'. We have tried to make sure that our long-term aspirations are grounded in challenging and achievable short-term actions that are relevant to local people. At the heart of our strategy are five priorities for action, which will guide our work over the coming years:

1	Sustainable Consumption & Production - More for Less
2	Climate Change and Energy - Confronting our Greatest Threat
3	Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment - Clean, Green and Safe
4	Creating Sustainable Communities - From Local to Global
5	Keeping the Council and Local Community Focused on Environmental Limits - Let's Not Forget How Important the Issue Is'

## Environmental Strategy Priority

ESP1. Sustainable Consumption & Production - More for Less

ESP2. Climate Change and Energy - Confronting our Greatest Threat

ESP3. Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment - Clean, Green and Safe

ESP4. Creating Sustainable Communities - From Local to Global

ESP5. Keeping the Council and Local Community Focused on Environmental Limits - Let's Not Forget How Important the Issue Is'

## LINKING THE NEW ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY AND THE EXISTING EMS

We have sought to make sure that our new strategy and action plans are consistent with and integrated into our Environmental Policy and Environmental Management System (see below). The EMS is a key delivery and reporting mechanism for the Environmental Strategy in future years therefore, the Environmental Statement will provide the basis of our annual progress report against our strategy.

A re-review was undertaken in 2007. The purpose of the re-review was to re-assess significance of activities and re-structure the register to take account of the environmental priorities expressed in the newly released 20-year Environment Strategy.

The re-review influenced the 2008/2009 environmental programme, which, for the first time, showed EMS targets and objectives, related specifically to the key objectives of the Environment Strategy as shown in the following table.

## EMS Objective

OBJECTIVE: 3. To reduce the amount of waste generated by the council and the public, and the impact of waste on the environment and increase the proportion of waste re-used or recycled

OBJECTIVE: 5. Encourage the purchase of the least environmentally damaging products and services by Stroud District Council

OBJECTIVE: 1. Reduce overall energy consumption, whilst at the same time particularly reducing consumption from non-renewable sources

OBJECTIVE: 2. Minimise water use from council's own operations

OBJECTIVE: 7. Ensure through the council's policies and initiatives, that local biodiversity is protected and enhanced

OBJECTIVE: 8. Minimise pollution within the district, through monitoring, education and enforcement

OBJECTIVE: 4. Minimise the risk of pollution and encourage the purchase of the least environmentally damaging products and services related to the management of transport by the council

OBJECTIVE: 6. Ensure the requirements of the EMS are fully integrated with the corporate planning process in Stroud District Council

# Appendix I

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The council is committed to improving its environmental performance and has adopted EMAS – Eco-Management and Audit Scheme. This environmental management system relates to all its activities. The policy was first adopted in 1996 and it is a statement of the environmental commitments of the council.

Stroud District Council has direct powers and responsibilities in planning and land use, environmental health, waste management, housing, leisure and economic development. It is also a significant resource user and employer. It therefore has a major effect on the local environment. The council is aware of the leading role it plays and will therefore use its powers responsibly to both encourage and, where necessary enforce good environmental practice.

The council commits itself to continually improve its environmental performance, beyond the requirements of current legislation or regulation. In this respect it will specifically endeavour to:

- *Encourage the reduced consumption of natural resources and energy*
- *Operate a purchasing policy that avoids the use of environmentally damaging products, packaging and services, and encourages others to do likewise*
- *Maintain and improve the health and welfare of the public*
- *Prevent environmental pollution arising from its own operations and use its powers to minimise the impact of others within the district*
- *Balance the need to enhance the built environment with measures which reduce the environmental impact of development, and promote a balanced transport policy*
- *Safeguard and enhance natural habitats and species and preserve and enhance the nature and character of the countryside*
- *Reduce the volume of waste generated both by the council and within the district (where appropriate exceeding government targets)*
- *Provide information and support to both the public and staff to encourage interest in environmental matters*

In order to achieve this, the council will operate an environmental management system that will be integrated into the corporate management framework and which will:

- *Apply to all activities undertaken by the council, including contracted out services as new contracts are negotiated*

- *Set objectives and implement action programmes in order to minimise the negative environmental effects and increase the positive effects of the council's activities*
- *Publish, at appropriate intervals, a statement of the council's environmental performance that include mechanisms for consultation with both regulatory bodies and the public*

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS)

The environmental policy provides a framework for the council to improve its environmental performance. To help us implement the environmental policy and help improve our impacts on the environment wherever possible we have established an Environmental Management System (EMS) to meet the requirements of the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and the international standard ISO 14001.

The EMS helps us to identify the important impacts we have on the environment, identify possible improvement measures and to put in place working practices to ensure we can maintain the EMS through the years and monitor our performance. Stroud District Council first achieved registration to EMAS in March 1999. This is our 9th Environmental Statement. The last full statement was in 2006/2007 with subsequent smaller interim annual statements. An independent verifier has checked all the statements to ensure compliance with the EMAS scheme.

The Environmental Management System links where it can to existing management systems within the council. As part of the EMS we undertook a review of our impact on the environment and a set of eight improvement objectives were developed - Energy Management, Water Management, Waste Management, Biodiversity Management, Pollution Management and Corporate Planning Procurement Management and Transport Management. With the advent of our new Environment Strategy each of these objectives has been assigned to a strategy priority.

An environmental programme of improvement activities was established under each of the objectives. In order to ensure the environmental programme is achieved and the EMS maintained and monitored, the activities in the environmental programme are encompassed in individual service plans. These service plans are monitored and audited on a regular basis. The assessment of environmental training needs has been incorporated into the annual staff appraisal system set up as part of the council's qualification for Investors in People.

## PRIORITY I: Sustainable Consumption & Production - More for Less






Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
1. Expand the operation of the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (via Severn-Wye Energy Agency) to provide dedicated one-stop energy and micro-generation advice to Stroud district residents, businesses and operators of community buildings	One-stop shop approach formalised and operational by January 2008	Completed	Contract signed. Feasibility phase commenced. SWEA successfully tendered for next phase. Marketing materials available for domestic and business sectors, expressions of interest invited from community sector. <i>Schemes about to be implemented</i>	
2. Improve understanding of the impact of waste produced by the council and the community on greenhouse gas emissions	Carry out research and report findings April 2007 – March 2008	Completed	Following an investigation into the types of waste produced by the council, a waste/recycling contract was set up to increase the types and amounts of office waste recycled	
3. Undertake a marketing campaign aimed at better communicating what can be recycled in the district and increasing the percentage of householders who classify themselves as 'committed recyclers'	Started. By September 2007 develop a high profile marketing campaign which is connected to Recycle for Gloucestershire but which targets local households, communities and businesses	Completed	Marketing campaign completed and currently being implemented	
4. Participate in the development of the Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy which will set the overall direction for waste management in the district through to 2020	Council to be invited to adopt the Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy	Ongoing	Currently being considered by Cabinet for adoption	
5. Test a new waste collection system during 2007 and consider options for rolling this out across the entire district	Start: Sept 07 Complete: April 09 Target by 2010: All households in the district will have convenient and easy-to-use collection services, enabling them to recycle and compost at least 70% of their rubbish		The Stanleys waste trial has progressed. Trial currently running successfully and on course to meet objectives	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track Target not achieved Target ongoing

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# Appendix 2

## PRIORITY I: Sustainable Consumption & Production - More for Less

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
6. Review all our contracts to identify 5 with most significant environmental impacts and identify the outcomes we want to achieve when they are next renegotiated. Our focus will be on carbon dioxide and waste reduction and the development of standard green procurement procedures. This will ensure that these 5 contracts or areas of spend contain the necessary best practice environmental performance requirements	Contract Review	Completed	Global 2 Local completed a review of major contracts. Responsive Maintenance and Multi-service Contract completed in February 2007	
7. To develop guidance for staff regarding environmental performance considerations in all specifications for the procurement of all goods and services	'Quick wins' Environmental Guidance developed by 08/06. The guidance is general and should be followed by any member of staff procuring goods or services	Completed	Draft Green Procurement guidance produced in March 2008 by G2L and circulated	
8. To ensure that by 2009 all council property is being managed to maximise biodiversity	Biodiversity Management plans developed for significant Council properties by 2009, to help implement SAPS and HAPS in district		Projects completed include all commons and woodland managed by the council	
9. Maintain at least 90% of office waste paper being recycled	Ongoing	Ongoing	New recycling scheme through Y Waste now under way	
10. To reduce the amount of non-recycled (residual) waste produced at Ebley Mill by 15% on 2005 baseline by 2009	Ongoing to 2009	Ongoing	Achieved December 2007 figures	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

## PRIORITY 1: Sustainable Consumption & Production - More for Less


Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
11. All specifications for major building works over £50k in council buildings to contain requirement to maximise recycling of building waste, with evidence sought from contractors	Ongoing from April 2005	Achieved		
12. Encourage purchase of locally produced products and services	Assess the number of purchases made from organisations in Gloucestershire by May 2007. Then set specific performance targets	Not achieved	The target was too broad. This action will be redefined but is subject to resources being available	
13. Start to convert all Neighbourhood Warden vehicles to LPG or use Biodiesel (as appropriate). Link with Priority 4 – 2, council's Green Travel Plan	Within 100 days of 27/02/07	Ongoing	2 petrol vehicles have been converted to LPG. Biofuel for other Community Safety vehicles has been investigated. Following meetings with local supplier it has been decided to hold back at present as the benefits of using biofuel against transportation of the fuel to the pump would appear to be negligible	
14. Make contact with all schools in the district pursuing Eco-Schools status to see if there are things we can do to help their work			Since the target was set the Glos Environment Education Partnership has been set up, and is taking the lead	
15. Confirm that 'green' measures will be included in the new Sainsbury's supermarket in Dursley and Hunts Grove development	Within 100 days of 27/02/07		Permission granted subject to legal agreement	



**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

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# Appendix 2

## PRIORITY 1: Sustainable Consumption & Production - More for Less

Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
I 6. Specification for council housing major works, reinstatement and day-to-day maintenance should require re-use and recycling of building waste wherever possible		Achieved	Specification clauses rewritten by Housing Contracts Manager to improve clarity of SDC requirements	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

## PRIORITY 2: Climate Change and Energy - Confronting Our Greatest Threat






Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
1. Sign the Nottingham Declaration during 2007 and in doing so commit to the obligations it contains  <i>Link with EP 3 - 9</i>	To reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from council's direct operations (electricity, heating and transport) by a minimum of 3% per annum 2008 - 3% CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from the council's direct operations (compared to 2006/07 baseline)	Achieved	Nottingham Declaration signed.	
		Ongoing	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions being monitored.	
2. Install renewable energy systems (for either heat and/or electricity) in council buildings and on sites owned by council	Evaluate potential for PV at Ebley Mill and Dursley Pool by end 2007. Detailed design study for Ebley Mill Hydro by end 2007. Decision on implementation by 2008. Work with Gloucestershire Wood Fuels Ltd to assess short, medium and long-term potential to install wood chip boilers for heating on SDC sites	Ongoing	Hydrogeneration have been commissioned to produce design study and submit planning application. Impact assessment reports currently underway. Further survey work being undertaken before flood modelling can be completed. Funding obtained from EST for flood modelling report.  Currently undertaking: energy appraisals of all general fund buildings and detailed feasibility of options to provide renewable energy schemes to general fund buildings	
3. Diversify our purchasing of renewable electricity	Review opportunities for wind energy in the area – especially on council owned land	Ongoing	Being reviewed	
4. Provide comprehensive staff training on energy and water saving at work through further development of "My Energy" project being piloted by Gloucester City and Gloucestershire County Council with SWEA	April 2007 – March 2009	Achieved and ongoing	Energy champions appointed, project launched, energy audits being carried out.  Ecometer information display for reception being developed	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

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# Appendix 2

## PRIORITY 2: Climate Change and Energy - Confronting Our Greatest Threat

Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
5. Take part in developing the local wood fuel supply chain (chips and pellets) so that people have access to a clean, locally manufactured, renewable energy resource for heating	Review grant funding	Ongoing	Wise Homes grant funding increased for wood chip/ pellet boilers	
6. Invest £400k up to 2010 to help 450 households achieve or make significant moves towards achieving the '40% house' model (i.e. reducing domestic CO <sub>2</sub> emissions to the practicable minimum through energy efficiency and micro generation)	To increase the numbers of households achieving the '40% house' to 10% by 2020 and 100% by 2035	Ongoing	OEJU contract tendered for further two years of project. SWEA successful and awarded contract  20 Exemplar Households selected	
7. Deliver more energy efficiency advice and awareness raising activities to reach more people	Sign up to upgraded Service Level Agreement with Glos. Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) by Feb 2007	Achieved	Service Level Agreement signed	
8. Increase amount of sustainable energy advice and measures delivered in privately rented homes	Further develop Rent Warm Rent Well Project and WISE Homes Projects for 2007 onwards.  Prepare to link marketing to the introduction of Energy Performance Certificates in June 2007 (open market sales) and 2009 (rental transactions)	Achieved	Issue highlighted in landlords newsletter in May.  Issue raised at Countywide Landlords forum in October	
9. Expand collection of home energy data (private sector) to assist community action and to better target resources	Review content of private sector housing HECA database		More time efficient survey methodology now being used	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

## PRIORITY 2: Climate Change and Energy - Confronting Our Greatest Threat



Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
10. Update the HECA Strategy, which addresses in detail the quantity, type and cost of the home energy efficiency measures required or possible in the district	Review results of 2006 Local House Condition Survey (private sector), content of HECA database, energy data held on public sector stock and identify remaining data requirements.  Commission surveys/ reports as required	Ongoing	Government review of the future of HECA underway and new National Indicators will have an effect upon future of strategy. Awaiting outcome	
11a. Further develop advice services, marketing and incentives for renewable energy systems in existing homes  And  11b. Increase take-up of specialist energy saving measures in the least energy efficient and coldest homes ("hard to treat" homes)	Prepare to link advice work to the introduction of Energy Performance Certificates from June 2007.  Further develop Rent Warm Rent Well Project and WISE Homes Projects for 2007 onwards	Ongoing	Linked to SWEA contract.  Bid being prepared for submission to GOSW for additional private sector renewal funding for 2008/9 for a feasibility study on expanding the Warm & Well scheme approach to hard to treat measures. Due to difficulties with funding this year GOSW have deferred bidding round until 2009/10	
12. Increase the number of homes with improvements made to heating systems and thermal comfort resulting in increased affordable warmth and improvements in private sector decency standards for all	(i) Number of measures (cavity wall, loft insulation and central heating) installed via Gloucestershire Warm and Well scheme (ii) Number of householders advised on energy efficiency (iii) Number of private sector homes occupied by vulnerable people made decent		Improved energy efficiency of 380 homes achieved	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track ✓ Target not achieved ✗ Target ongoing ~

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# Appendix 2

## PRIORITY 2: Climate Change and Energy - Confronting Our Greatest Threat

Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
13. Expand energy efficiency advice programme for council tenants	<p>Continue to participate in SHARE Forum (SDC officers and tenant reps) during 2007-08. Tenant reps help design service. Negotiation of energy efficiency advice service level agreement with Glos. EEAC dedicated to needs of council tenants. Tenant reps involved in implementing service.</p> <p>Prepare to link advice work to the introduction of Energy Performance Certificates in June 2007 (open market sales incl. Right to Buy and from 2009 (all rental transactions), relevant to any introduction of choice based lettings)</p>	Achieved	Through the SHARE Forum and Tenants Energy Network (TEN) and our representation there have been various examples of energy advice for tenants e.g. energy advice in KeyNotes, and leafleting with the distribution of low energy light bulbs to all tenants in Summer 2007	
14. Involve council tenants in long term energy management policy for council homes	<p>Continue to participate in SHARE Forum (SDC Officers and Tenant reps) during 2007-08. Programme training for Tenant Reps and council staff in sustainable energy during 2007-08. Involve tenants in review of available energy data 2007-08. Establish outcomes wanted from policy and negotiate actions to be taken between 2007-11, by 2008</p>	Achieved	<p>At least 3 tenants have attended the SHARE Forum.</p> <p>Training combined with Cotswold DC (Tenants Representative). Also 3 x site visits for Maintenance Focus Group members to the Energy Advice Centre in Cherington - achieved. At least 3 tenants have attended the SHARE Forum</p>	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

## PRIORITY 2: Climate Change and Energy - Confronting Our Greatest Threat


Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
15. Increase opportunities for vulnerable people to receive both basic advice on home energy issues and basic advice on money and benefits, at the same time, from both energy advice and money advice providers	Agree programme of Warm and Well briefings for: Benefits staff, Stroud Valleys Credit Union staff and volunteers, Stroud-area CAB staff and volunteers, Stroud-area Pension Service home visit staff, Stroud Care and Repair staff & Stroud-area Village Agents	Ongoing		
16. Work more closely with the Primary Care Trust to target groups who suffer from illness linked to a cold home	Continue to programme Warm and Well Scheme flu jab clinic promotions.  Consider role of "health forecasting" projects via Stroud Health & Wellbeing Partnership and Glos. Affordable Warmth Partnership	Ongoing		
17. Work more closely with the Primary Care Trust to target groups who may be at risk from heat waves	Consult with e.g. Gloucestershire Disabled Facilities Grants Forum and others on cooling equipment issues. Consider coordinated response between partners through Stroud Health & Wellbeing Partnership	Not yet implemented	Leaflets need to be developed for those at risk but this is not the role of the DFG forum	
18. Work with around 10 parishes in the district to develop local energy action plans and provide support for implementation of the plans	Obtain funding to implement the 'Parish Power Project'  (Feasibility study completed in 2006 by SWEA, SDC, CDC, GCC, GRCC and parishes)	Funding obtained	Schemes underway	
19. Make planning policies more explicit about requirements for on-site renewable energy generation in new developments of various types and sizes	Interim Planning Statement during 2007.  Supplementary Planning Guidance during 2008.		Supplementary Planning Advice adopted by Council in September 2007. This superseded the requirement for an interim statement	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

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# Appendix 2

## PRIORITY 2: Climate Change and Energy - Confronting Our Greatest Threat

Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
20. Install pilot renewable energy systems in council homes and report on barriers to achieving more installations (e.g. Solar water heating, ground source heat pumps, micro wind turbines, wood pellet stoves/boilers)	<p>Continue to participate in SHARE Forum (SDC Officers and Tenant Reps) during 2007-08.</p> <p>Involve council tenants in identifying and developing projects.</p> <p>Commission projects incl. monitoring system.</p> <p>Produce report on barriers to achieving further installations</p>	Achieved	<p>Technology recommended is ground source heat pumps to 6 dwellings.</p> <p>Project costed and grant aid from Powergen identified.</p> <p>Tenants' Energy Network (TEN) established.</p> <p>Ground Source heat pumps fitted in 7 council homes in Coaley</p>	
21. Make advice and support for community-led renewable energy projects more widely available	<p>Engage with future development of Community Renewables Initiative for Gloucestershire (currently funded to March 2007).</p> <p>Obtain funding to provide advice to village hall and community building management groups on measures and grant schemes to improve environmental performance.</p> <p>Identify pilot communities interested in co-operative, community level action on renewable energy generation and agree ways council might facilitate new projects</p>	Achieved	<p>Expressions of interest invited to take part in pilot phase of Environment Strategy.</p> <p>Community buildings now in process of being improved with grant aid</p>	
22. To work with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust during 2007 to understand and plan for the potential climate change impacts on the district's natural environment	To have jointly developed a Natural environment climate change management plan by end 2007	Completed	As part of the Gloucestershire Nature Map	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

## PRIORITY 2: Climate Change and Energy - Confronting Our Greatest Threat

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
23. To complete Strategic Flood Assessment Model of the Frome river catchment that will help the council and Environment Agency plan future built development in light of climate change	Complete during 2007	Achieved	Capita Simmonds model completed. Ongoing discussions on data to be used in modelling. Funding obtained from EST for modelling hydropower installation	
24. Develop watercourse management plan for Stroud Valleys	Develop watercourse management plan for Stroud Valleys	Achieved	Scheme launched at meeting with Parish Councils	
25. Help business to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems	Obtain funding to provide energy survey and advice service to small businesses. Set up countywide scheme to provide initial advice and easy access to installers so that more small and medium sized businesses install renewable energy systems. Adopt Interim Planning Statement on on-site renewable energy generation in new development (incl. commercial). Engage with major employers in the district and investigate possible carbon offset partnerships		Supplementary Planning Advice adopted by Council in September 2007	
26. Agree targets for decreasing carbon emissions in Council buildings for 2007/08 and 2008/09 by no less than 3% in each year and implement relevant projects	5% reduction on 2005 energy consumption by October 2007	Ongoing	Linked with I	
27. Water conservation programme in council controlled property	Establish baseline and report annually. Investigate water saving devices	Ongoing	Water usage is being monitored monthly. Investigating a number of potential schemes such as waterless urinals	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 




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# Appendix 2

## PRIORITY 2: Climate Change and Energy - Confronting Our Greatest Threat







Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
28. Water use reduction at Dursley Pool	New plant at Dursley. Once installed establish baseline annual use	Ongoing	Some reduction has already been made, however a full year needs to be calculated to give a true reading on the consumption. Further work is being investigated by building maintenance in order to reduce further	

## PRIORITY 3: Protecting Our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment - Clean, Green and Safe

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
1. During 2007 and 2008 to work with local Parish Councils and identify the most important public spaces in the district and ensure that these are being appropriately managed	From 2007 to end of 2008 list of most important public spaces produced	Ongoing	Currently in progress to produce list from all available plans	
2. Maintain national top quartile performance for the proportion of relevant land and highways for management of litter, fly tipping and graffiti (BVI 99)	During 2008-2011 maintain national top quartile performance for the proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) that is assessed as having: (i) combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level, (2) from which unacceptable levels of graffiti are visible; and, (3) from which unacceptable levels of fly posting are visible	Ongoing	Baseline data now gathered for review of street cleansing service to move to full consultation in January 2008	
3. Establish a baseline of the proximity of urban 'wild-life friendly' green spaces and corridors to local neighbourhoods	During 2007/08 Wildlife Corridor Map of district produced.	Not achieved	A Nature Map for Gloucestershire has been produced and the need for further work at the local level is being reviewed	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

## **PRIORITY 3: Protecting Our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment -** *Clean, Green and Safe*

<b>Environmental aspect</b> <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	<b>Improvement target and action</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>On target?</b>
4. Further develop Neighbourhood Warden Scheme	Appoint the 10th Neighbourhood Warden by May 2007 and provide district-wide coverage (12 in total) by 2008	Achieved	The recruitment process for a 10th NHW has now been completed. The successful applicant commenced duties on the 7th January 2008 and is presently attending a comprehensive training programme before patrolling duties commence	
5. Removal of Abandoned Vehicles (BV 218a)	Target: By 2008, 80% of abandoned vehicles to be removed within 24 hours from the point at which the council is legally entitled to remove the vehicle	Actual = 60%	A further review of ABVs is due shortly to improve on future performance	
6. Produce Biodiversity in Stroud leaflet in partnership with grant aided biodiversity organisations, to inform people of key sites and species, and what they can do to help biodiversity	Leaflet produced by end 2007.  Overall Target: to help implement HAPS and SAPS within Stroud		Leaflet produced	
7. Increase the general satisfaction with the quality of public and green spaces using our annual budget survey of households		Completed	Survey completed and results reported to Cabinet Dec 07	
8. Increase number of new homes built on brownfield sites (BV106)	70% of all new homes built on brownfield land	Achieved	100% of all new homes were built on brownfield land	
9. Record quarterly usage of electricity, gas, oil and water to minimise waste Link with EP2 - I	To minimise use and reduction of carbon footprint	Ongoing	Being recorded	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

# Appendix 2

## PRIORITY 4: Creating Sustainable Communities - From Local to Global



Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
1. To progress the council's Core Planning Strategy in line with the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme, with the intention of incorporating policies which clearly reflect the climate change agenda by August 2008	Policies incorporated by August 2008. LDS timetable achieved	Ongoing	Ongoing, but subject to GOSW approval of LDS	
2. Further develop the council's Green Travel Plan (travel to work and travel for work).  Link with Priority 1 – 13.  Community Safety vehicles' conversion to LPG/ Bio diesel	Travel for work: assess potential for use of bio-fuels and other alternative fuels for council vehicles by end 2007. Car-share database. Awareness campaign demystifying/encouraging public transport for particular local work journeys started by end 2007	Achieved	Promotion of 'Green Travel Week' in June proved successful with around 60 members of staff taking part. The Car Share database is currently in development as an e-map system, working in partnership with IT. Targets within the strategy will be renewed later in the year following evaluation of current GTP project work and staff consultation	
3. Continue to work with partners to deliver the Stroud Transport Interchange		Ongoing	Work in progress and discussions with relevant agencies	
4. Deliver a canal corridor that acts as a 'green transport' route with suitable provision for cyclists and walkers		Not achieved	Work has been delayed due to British Waterways' withdrawal from the Canal Regeneration Partnership. The council is considering the future options	
5. Give employees access to the Government's Tax-Free Bike Scheme		Achieved	The Tax-Free Bike Scheme has been successfully established, working in partnership with SDC's Community Safety Service. Promotion of the scheme is pending formal approval by the council	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

## PRIORITY 4: Creating Sustainable Communities - From Local to Global

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
6. Raise awareness of the Tax-Free Bike Scheme for other employers in the district		Achieved	Wider promotion of the Tax-Free Bike Scheme across the district will take place once SDC's scheme is in full operation	

## PRIORITY 5: Keeping the Council and Local Community Focused on Environmental Limits - Lets Not Forget How Important the Issue Is

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
1. During 2007 establish an independent Climate Change Panel to advise the council on the issue and evaluate its performance	Establish an independent Climate Change Panel	Achieved	Panel first met in December 2007	
2. Produce a bi-annual State of the Environment Report based on the Audit Commission's nationally agreed basket of local sustainable development indicators	Produce report	Achieved	Report produced for Cabinet July 07	
3. Carry out another 'Green Paper' consultation exercise and adopt a revised Strategy for the council during 2010/11		Achieved	Report produced for Cabinet July 07	
4. Work with the Local Strategic Partnership to develop a vision of an environmentally sustainable district, embed this within its Sustainable Community Strategy and use the Local Development Framework and Local Area Agreement process to deliver key aspects		Ongoing	Community Strategy consultation launched Dec 07 until Feb 08.  Further joint consultation work with the LDF team in new year	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 

Continued overleaf >>>






# Appendix 2

## **PRIORITY 5: Keeping the Council and Local Community Focused on Environmental Limits - Let's Not Forget How Important the Issue Is**

<b>Environmental aspect</b> <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	<b>Improvement target and action</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>On target?</b>
5. All new planning documents will have Strategic Environmental Assessment applied		Ongoing	2 assessments completed during 07/08	~
6. Using our annual budget survey of households and businesses to test levels of satisfaction with our environmental performance	Using our annual budget survey of households and businesses to test levels of satisfaction with our environmental performance	Achieved	Budget survey undertaken: 75% of residents and 63% of businesses agreed that the council is working to improve the environment	✓
7. Develop monitoring programme for oil traps in each council owned car park to ensure oily water effectively managed/removed		Ongoing	Work in progress and discussions with relevant agencies	~
8. Gain Duty of Care documentation for pest carcasses	Overall target – to maintain legislative compliance		Completed and being maintained	✓
9. Assess compliance with Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone depleting substances) Regulations SI 2002/528. (Facilities Management need to liaise with Building Maintenance to agree how to action this for kitchen areas and air conditioning units)	Overall target – to maintain legislative compliance	Ongoing	Initial meeting held and further action needed	~
10. Develop a corporate waste register to ensure that all duty of care documentation for removal of waste is in place for all council activities	Develop a corporate waste register	Achieved	Completed and being maintained	✓
11. Ensure that IT equipment is disposed of in accordance with the WEEE regulations		Achieved	All equipment is disposed of in a compliant way	✓

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track ✓ Target not achieved ✗ Target ongoing ~

## **PRIORITY 5: Keeping the Council and Local Community Focused on Environmental Limits - Let's Not Forget How Important the Issue Is**

<b>Environmental aspect</b> <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	<b>Improvement target and action</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>On target?</b>
12. Secure Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) status for the 7th year in succession	Secure accreditation	Achieved	Accreditation audit undertaken in October. Passed to PR for design and printing	
13. Publish the latest EMAS Environment Statement	Publish statement	Achieved	Statement published	
14. Hold a (retrospective) 'First 100 Days' event to launch the actions for the next 100-days			This has been superseded by the 'Zero Carbon' conference due to be held in 2008/2009	
15. Provide a website detailing the progress of our Environment Strategy	Provide a website	Ongoing	Work in progress: delayed due to staff changes	
16. Continue to improve data on Stock Condition database and Asbestos Register through type 2 surveys	Undertake surveys	Achieved	190 Stock Condition surveys and 306 type 2 Asbestos Surveys	

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:** Target achieved or on track  Target not achieved  Target ongoing 



## **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE NEXT STATEMENT**

We will submit our next interim Environmental Statement by October 2009. It will cover the period from April 2008 to the end of March 2009.

## **NAME OF ACCREDITED VERIFIER**

This statement has been verified independently and all the information in it checked. This means that you can be confident that you are receiving accurate information about our environmental performance.

**Date Statement validated: 25th February 2009**

Our accredited verifier is:  
Bureau Veritas Certification Ltd,  
Accreditation Number: UK-V-0003,  
2nd Floor Tower Bridge Court,  
224-226 Tower Bridge Road,  
London,  
SE1 2TX

## **CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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# Environment Policy Planning

## **Environmental Policy**

Provision for legal compliance.  
Commitment to continual improvement  
of environmental performance

## **Planning**

Includes all elements covered in  
environmental review.  
Compatibility of scope

## **Implementation**

Employee involvement.  
Compliance of suppliers and contractors

## **Checking and corrective action**

Audit cycle of 3 years or less.  
Coverage of EMS and environmental performance

## **Management Review**

## **Certification**

Approved accreditation scheme

