

# Environmental Statement 2006/2007





This Environmental Statement concludes another successful year for the council in terms of driving up our environmental performance. It culminated in February 2007 with the adoption of a new 20-year Environment Strategy, which will help us make a step change. In particular we have committed to introducing a waste collection system that will be capable of recycling 70% of domestic waste, working with householders and businesses to reduce the district's carbon footprint and taking more effective action to improve the quality of our public spaces.

These are big decisions and we know that if we make the wrong choices now then future generations will live with a changed climate, depleted resources and without the green space and biodiversity that contribute both to our standard of living and our quality of life.

More positively, we know that if we make the right choices we will deliver a future that is fairer and where we can all live within our environmental limits.

This is an agenda for the long-term. There is no magic wand that we or anyone else can wave to make sustainable behaviour and activity the norm overnight. We will only succeed if we go with the grain of what individuals and businesses want, and channel their creativity to confront the environmental challenges we face.

In consultation with local people we have spent a long time getting our strategy right and our environmental management system helps us make sure that care for the environment is an integral part of policy making from the start, rather than dealing with the consequences of neglect down the line.

I hope you enjoy reading this statement and will share my pride in what we have been able to achieve during 2006/07.

**Councillor Libby Bird**

*Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs*

*“I am pleased to introduce this 8<sup>th</sup> Environmental Statement outlining our commitment to continually improve our environmental performance.”*



# Profile of Stroud District

**S**troud 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 Stroud town, and in 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 proposed 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, 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 within the district. These rivers, and their tributaries, which flow 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

The council itself is a district council within the county of Gloucestershire. 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. We do not provide social services, education, transport provision or highways as these are 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 seven portfolios:

- Deputy Leader of Council and Planning
- Regeneration & Tourism
- Health & Wellbeing
- Housing
- Environment, Rural Affairs & Licensing
- Community Cohesion
- Finance and Corporate Services

The business of the cabinet is scrutinised by two overview & scrutiny committees: strategic and performance & 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 regulation, development control and standards.

Stroud District Council employs approximately 589 staff and this equates to 397 full-time equivalents.





# Strategic Planning

## 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, principles, priorities and key actions. More information including quarterly progress reports can be found at:

<http://www.stroud.gov.uk/doc/policy/cdp.asp>

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

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'.**

To be successful we know that our community leadership and decision-making will have to be underpinned by 3 principles, which are to:

- **Ensure a strong, healthy and just society:** *To meet the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion and creating 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*

We also know that we need to use our limited resources wisely and focus these on issues that matter most for local people and this has helped shape our priorities:

- **Regeneration**
- **Environment** – *with a focus on:*
  - *Sending as little waste to landfill as possible including recycling more*
  - *Helping the community to tackle the already unavoidable consequences of climate change*
  - *Delivering public spaces and buildings, which are perceived to be cared for, clean, green and safe*
- **Affordable housing**
- **Community safety**
- **Healthy living**

## 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 5 priorities for action, which will guide our work over the coming years:

- 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 local community focused on environmental limits - 'Let's not forget how important the issue is'**

# Environment Strategy Priorities

## LINKING THE NEW ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY AND THE EXISTING EMS

Although the strategy was adopted at the end of the 2006/07 period covered by this statement we have sought to make sure that our new strategy and action plans are consistent with and integrated into our Environmental Policy (see Appendix 1) and environmental management system (Appendix 2). The EMS is a key delivery and reporting mechanism for the Environmental Strategy and in future years therefore, the Environmental Statement will provide the basis of our annual progress report against our strategy.

To help with this integrated reporting it is important to show the linkage between the EMS objectives and the Environment Strategy priorities. The below table shows which EMS objective relates to which Environment Strategy priority.

A re-review of the significant aspects in 2007/08 will help to more closely align the Environmental Strategy Priorities to the significant environmental aspects together with the EMS objectives and improvement programme.

Our performance, in terms of the 5 Environment Strategy priorities (and the related EMS Objectives), are discussed in the following sections.

Environment Strategy Priority	EMS Objective
<b>ESPI. Sustainable consumption &amp; production</b> - <i>'More for less'</i>	<b>OBJECTIVE: 3.</b> To reduce the amount of waste generated by the council and the public. The impact of waste on the environment and increase the proportion of waste re-used or recycled <b>OBJECTIVE: 5.</b> Encourage the purchase of the least environmentally damaging products and services by Stroud District Council
<b>ESP2. Climate Change and Energy</b> - <i>'Confronting our greatest threat'</i>	<b>OBJECTIVE: 1.</b> Reduce overall energy consumption, whilst at the same time particularly reducing consumption from non-renewable sources <b>OBJECTIVE: 2.</b> Minimise water use from council's own operations
<b>ESP3. Protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment</b> - <i>'Clean, green and safe'</i>	<b>OBJECTIVE: 7.</b> Ensure through the council's policies and initiatives, that local biodiversity is protected and enhanced <b>OBJECTIVE: 8.</b> Minimise pollution within the district through monitoring, education and enforcement
<b>ESP4. Creating sustainable communities</b> - <i>'From local to global'</i>	<b>OBJECTIVE: 4.</b> 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
<b>ESP5. Keeping the council and local community focused on environmental limits</b> - <i>'Let's not forget how important the issue is'</i>	<b>OBJECTIVE: 6.</b> Ensure the requirements of the EMS are fully integrated with the corporate planning process in Stroud District Council

# Sustainable Consumption and Production More for Less

**A**t the heart of this 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, and the importance of their roles as citizens, consumers, community leaders, politicians and business owners. We need to help local people and organisations to demand and choose new products and services with lower environmental impacts and wherever possible encourage and support local business to deliver these.

**Our two main areas of focus are waste management and procurement.**

**What are some of the things we have done in the last 12 months?**

## CORPORATE ISSUE: WASTE MANAGEMENT

**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.

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Programme to increase the amount of office paper being recycled rather than thrown away	Maintain /increase the tonnage of office waste paper being recycled	16.8 tonnes were recycled during 2006/07	Though the number of tonnes has dropped, this is all the paper waste that was produced. In previous years services have converted paper records to electronic databases and this reflects in the high level of waste paper produced	
Set all photocopiers/ printers for double sided printing as default (unless there is a specific operational reason that makes this not possible)	100% of printers set to double-sided as default		Unable to default as individual PCs determine the print output but it is strongly encouraged	





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




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# Sustainable Consumption and Production More for Less

## CORPORATE ISSUE: WASTE MANAGEMENT

**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.

Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Reduce risk of environmental damage from handling and disposal of pest control chemicals	1) Hazard data sheets for all relevant pest control chemicals stored or used in council buildings. Ensure pest control chemicals only used by qualified personnel. Stock control sheets continue to be maintained for all chemicals stored on site 2) 100% of chemical waste and packaging disposed of correctly 3) Ensure Ebley Mill registered as producer of hazardous waste and that all pest control chemical and packaging waste disposed in accordance with regulations and correct duty of care documentation maintained		The audit determined that there were some deficiencies in the management of hazardous waste consignment notes <i>This is being rectified</i>	
Ensure all sites for which SDC is responsible and which produce hazardous waste are registered	All sites identified and registered by 02.04.06		Target achieved	
Hazardous waste consignment notes and related duty of care documentation kept up to date and readily accessible at all registered sites (including Dursley Pool)	100% of hazardous waste documentation retained, up to date and site accessible		The audit determined that there were some minor deficiencies in the management of hazardous waste consignment notes – incorrect codes <i>This is being rectified</i>	
Confirm that all managers of sites that produce hazardous waste and those responsible for disposal of waste are aware of their responsibilities regarding hazardous waste management	100% of managers of sites that produce hazardous waste to confirm to corporate facilities manager that they are aware of their responsibilities relating to management of hazardous waste		Target achieved	

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

# Sustainable Consumption and Production

## More for Less

PRIORITY

1

### CORPORATE ISSUE: WASTE MANAGEMENT

**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.

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Domestic waste collection, disposal and recycling contract	100% of all required duty of care documentation is up to date	Target Achieved		✓
Disposal/composting of green waste arising from grounds maintenance contract	All grounds maintenance contracts require that all box mower green waste is composted (farm composted) or mulched on site	Target Achieved		✓
Specifications for major building work in council buildings should require re/use recycling of building waste wherever possible	All specifications for major building works over £50k in council buildings to contain requirement to maximise recycling of building waste	Target Achieved	Review the financial level	✓
Reduce general office waste (cardboard, cans, plastic etc)	Continue to reduce volume of waste being disposed of from Ebley Mill and not recycled	Ongoing	During 2006-07 we continued to investigate opportunities. As a consequence several initiatives have been launched that we believe will have a significant effect in reducing waste sent to landfill. The impact of these will be reported in the next statement.	~
All necessary waste transfer notes, duty of care documentation and evidence of disposal site licence is up to date	100% of required records are correctly documented	Ongoing	Some minor discrepancies identified in duty of care records during our audit <i>This is being rectified</i>	~
Specification for council housing major works, reinstatement and day to day maintenance should require re/use recycling of building waste wherever possible	All specifications for major reinstatement works over £50k in council housing to contain requirement to maximise recycling of building waste	Target achieved	Template contract now includes recycling criteria	✓

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

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# Sustainable Consumption and Production More for Less

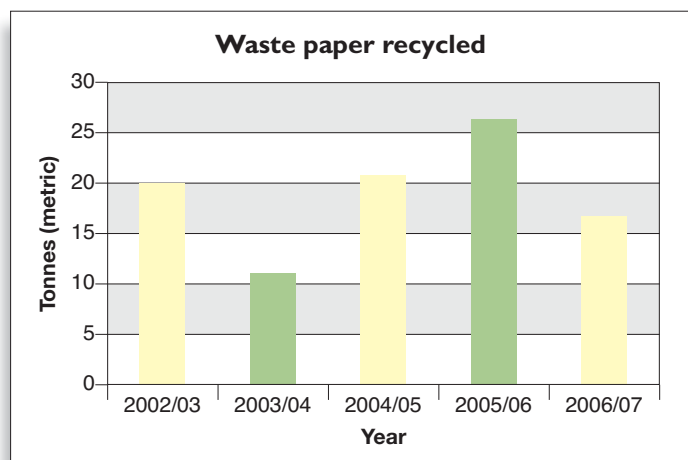
## CORPORATE ISSUE: WASTE MANAGEMENT

**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.

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Ensure IT disposal is WEEE compliant and meets any duty of care requirements	Ensure IT disposal is WEEE compliant and meets any duty of care requirements	Target achieved		✓
Reduce risk of environmental damage from handling, use and disposal of swimming pool chemicals at Dursley Pool	Hazard data sheets for all relevant pool chemicals stored or used in council operated swimming pools Ensure pool chemicals only used by qualified personnel	All targets achieved		✓
Street cleaning	Continue to undertake street cleaning and monitor customer satisfaction to maintain satisfaction rating Target = 70%	Achieved 71%	Satisfaction survey conducted in November 2006 by an external consultant, following government procedures (BV89)	✓
Pilot weekly kerbside collection of kitchen waste and other dry recycling materials to start in September 2006	The target will be to reach in excess of 30% recycling in the piloted area by Sep 2007	Pilot to start in Oct 2007	Results to be reported in 2007/08 statement	~

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

## COUNCIL WASTE PAPER RECYCLING



	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Trend
Waste paper recycled (tonnes)	20	11	20.88	26.46*	16.8	Negative**

\* Confishred 19.06 tonnes + Printwaste 7.4 tonnes

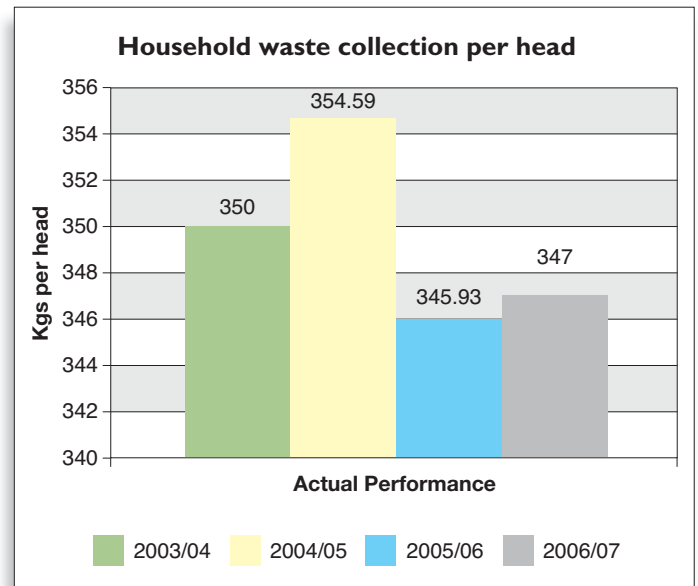
\*\* Though the number of tonnes has dropped, this is all the paper waste that was produced.

# Sustainable Consumption and Production

## More for Less

PRIORITY

1



### PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLED

	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Target	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual	Trend
% of household waste recycled (BV82)	21.5	20.82	22	20.88	21	21.91	22.5	23.5	positive

### HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION

	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Target	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual	Trend
Number of kilos (BV84)	346	350	350	354.59	358	345.93	343	347	negative

### SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NEXT?

- Test a new waste collection system during 2007 that will allow 70% recycling of domestic waste and consider options for rolling this out across the entire district.
- 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
- Help and support the business and education communities in the development of commercial waste recycling initiatives
- Introduce a new recycling system for the main council buildings that will allow a least 80% of normal office waste to be recycled

# Sustainable Consumption and Production

## More for Less

### PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT

#### Why is this significant?

The public sector buys a great deal of goods and services. The environmental impacts of procurement are obviously very extensive: from the sourcing of raw materials and the impact on biodiversity of extraction, to the energy and water efficiency of products, the emissions given off by products, packaging waste, the recyclability of goods and the amount of





recycled materials used in manufacture. Local authorities also procure services, and the way services are delivered can obviously lead to a wide range of direct and indirect environmental impacts.

Green public procurement is an increasingly important issue for local authorities worldwide.

#### What are some of the things we have done in the last 12 months?

### CORPORATE ISSUE: PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT

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

Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Improve environmental impact of Stroud's five most environmentally significant contracts (where legally possible to do so) or areas of spend	To include appropriate best practice environmental performance requirements in specifications for the five most significant contracts or areas of spend		Review undertaken by Global to Local	
Further develop 'green' procurement' procedures	To have standard green procurement procedures applied to all corporate procurement activities after 31/03/07 to ensure best practice environmental performance requirements are included in five most environmentally significant contracts or areas of spend		Green procurement toolkit produced	
Include environmental considerations in all contract documentation	100% of contracts set after 05/06 have specific environmental performance considerations included in Pre Qualification Questionnaire	Target achieved		
Use (Bank Automated Clearing System) BACS payment of invoices where possible to reduce paper usage	90% of all invoices paid by BACS	Ongoing	Achieved 86.4%	

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

# Sustainable Consumption and Production

## More for Less

1

**What are some of the things we have done in the last 12 months?**

### CORPORATE ISSUE: PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT

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

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Send remittance advice by e-mail wherever possible to reduce paper usage	80% of remittance advice sent by email by March 08	Work has not been progressed yet and unlikely to meet original target	A note is now printed on all remittance advices advising of availability of using emails in future. There has been little or no response. A more aggressive campaign will be required which will have a cost attached. We have no knowledge of how many we could expect to respond but may be quite low. Revise target to a cautious 20%	X
Encourage and promote the purchase of locally produced products or services of local companies, where there are no legislative restrictions, to reduce the impact of transport on the environment	Encourage purchase of locally produced products and services	Ongoing	To be included as part of the new catering contract	~

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

### SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NEXT?

- Review all of our key contracts, identifying those with the most significant environmental impacts and identify the outcomes we want to achieve when they are next renegotiated (with a focus on carbon dioxide and waste reduction)

# 2

## Climate Change and Energy Confronting Our Greatest Threat

Climate change is the greatest long-term challenge facing the human race. 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.

Our two main areas of focus are energy and water management.

### ENERGY MANAGEMENT

#### Why is this significant?

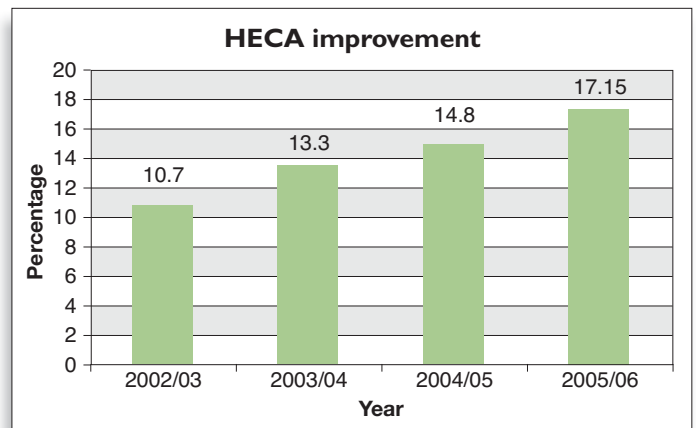
The scientific evidence is now overwhelming and we have to accept that significant change is now inevitable. Since 1990, global temperatures have risen by 0.2°C and atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations have increased from 354 parts per million to over 380 parts per million and are still rising. If the anticipated growth in emissions is left unchecked, global average temperatures could be as much as 5.8°C higher by the end of this century, with a devastating impact on our economy and natural world. It is also recognised that the reserves of fossil fuels are depleting and the use alternative energy sources must be sort to match an increasing demand.

Stroud District Council has a number of public buildings that it directly manages and is also a major landlord responsible for almost 5,300 homes. As part of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) we have 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. Since 2001 the council has purchased green energy and now all of our main sites\* use electricity from renewable sources. The energy used in council controlled buildings for heating, cooling, lighting and powering electrical equipment is 100% from renewable sources. Reducing the amount of energy used and sourcing alternative/renewable energy in council buildings not only saves money, but also reduces our carbon dioxide emissions. Stroud District Council signed the Nottingham Declaration in February 2007 and in doing so committed to the obligations it contains.

(\*i.e. excluding public conveniences, stairwells in council apartment blocks etc)

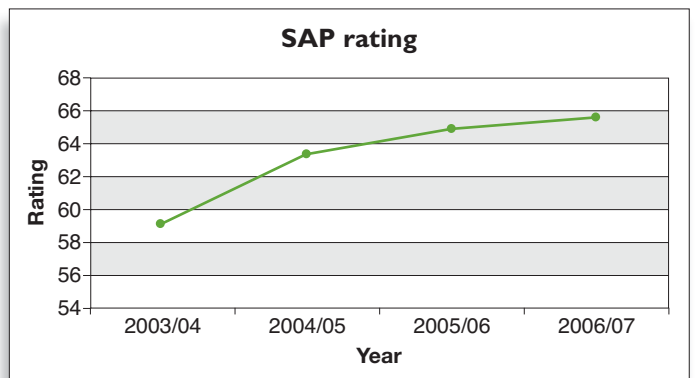
### BACKGROUND TO THE HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) required every UK local authority with housing responsibilities to prepare, publish and submit to the Secretary of State an energy conservation report identifying practicable and cost-effective measures to significantly improve the energy efficiency of all residential accommodation in their area; and to report on progress made in implementing the measures. The HECA Act set a target for all local authorities to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in domestic housing by 30% by 2010, based on the 1995 figure (Stroud's 1995 base figure = 6.60x10<sup>6</sup> giga joule). Stroud District Council's tenth progress report submitted in September 2006 for 2005/06 recorded a 17.15% improvement on the base line figure. The HECA figure of 17.15% has been used in this Statement, as the 2006/07 figures were not available at the time of producing this Environmental Statement.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF HOUSING

The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is an index of the annual cost of heating a dwelling to achieve a standard heating regime and runs from 1 (highly inefficient) to 120 (highly efficient). It is a measure of a dwelling's overall energy efficiency; it is dependent on both the heat loss from the dwelling and the performance of the heating system.



# Climate Change and Energy Confronting our Greatest Threat

PRIORITY

2

## AVERAGE SAP RATING OF LOCAL AUTHORITY OWNED DWELLINGS

	April 1996	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Trend
BV 63	28 (Baseline figure)	59.1	63.4	64.9	65.7	Positive

**N.B.** The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is an index of the annual cost of heating a dwelling to achieve a standard heating regime and runs from 1 (highly inefficient) to 120 (highly efficient). It is a measure of a dwelling's overall energy efficiency; it is dependent on both the heat loss from the dwelling and the performance of the heating system.

### What are some of the things we have done in the last 12 months?

#### CORPORATE ISSUE: ENERGY MANAGEMENT

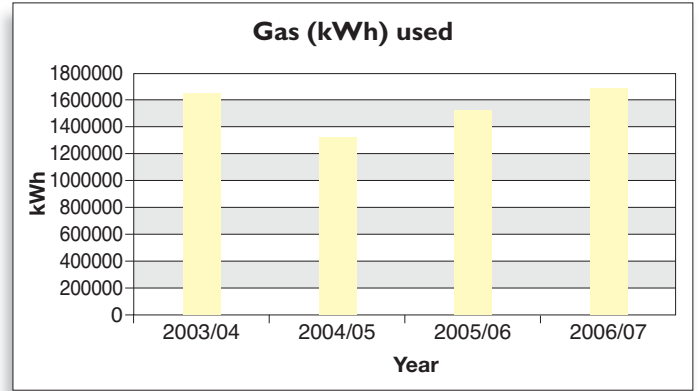
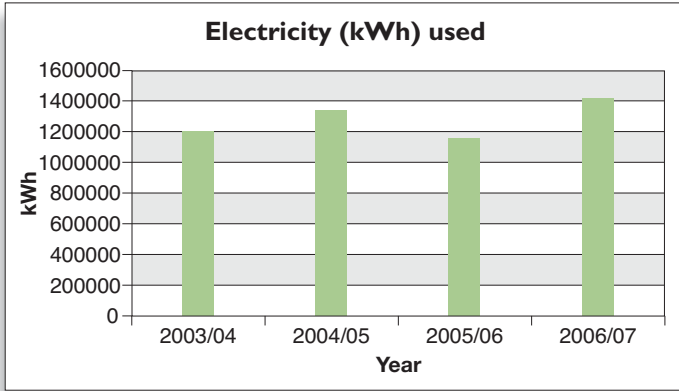
**OBJECTIVE: 1.** Reduce overall energy consumption, whilst at the same time particularly reducing consumption from non-renewable sources

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Implement energy reduction strategy for council buildings and to improve monitoring and reporting of energy use	Develop and implement an energy reduction strategy for council buildings that will help achieve a 5% reduction in energy use by 10/07	Ongoing	Strategy produced February 2006 Various measures are planned that will reduce energy consumption during 2007-08	✓
To apply for Rural Regeneration Funding that includes funding for water turbine at Ebley Mill and two other possible sites	If funding application successful, to have water turbine on site at Ebley Mill by end of 2007	Joint funding application with Cotswold Canals was successful for the final design bid	Next stage to apply for planning permission and undertake biodiversity and flood studies	✓
Council housing maintenance and repair work	All agreed HECA related targets (e-values, SAP ratings etc) are achieved. SAP target 66	SAP rating of 65.7, thus just missed the target of 66	Funding for council house maintenance and repair is restricted	✗
Maximise the number of alternative energy installations under the WISE homes scheme	A number of specific targets about installing the most environmentally beneficial options	Ongoing	Five renewable energy installations installed under WISE homes scheme in 2006/07	✓
Continue to manage the Private Sector Energy Schemes as part of overall HECA strategy	Housing Investment Programme (HIP) reported to government annually and HECA performance reported to council annually	HECA performance was 2.76% improvement from 04/05 to 05/06 (latest year for which data available) and a 17.15% cumulative improvement against the baseline	Overall 17.15% improvement of energy efficiency over the past 11 years	✓
Ensure that the most energy efficient IT equipment is purchased	100% of new monitors purchased are flat screen-low energy models; all printers are energy star rated	Target achieved	SDC purchase the most energy efficient equipment within the resources available	✓

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

# Climate Change and Energy Confronting our Greatest Threat

## TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION FROM 'DIRECT CONTROLLED' PREMISES



	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Trends
Electricity (kWh)	1,178,412	1,351,423	1,165,506	1,422,310	negative
Gas (kWh)	1,637,795	1,322,552	1,528,637	1,691,274	negative
Oil (litres)				4667*	
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (tonnes)	344.8	251	290	350	negative

\*The oil figure for previous years has been included in the gas figures but has not been included in the above graph for year 06/07  
 All CO<sub>2</sub> conversion factors are taken from Guidelines to Defra's GHG conversion factors for company reporting (updated June 07)  
 The figures exclude housing energy consumption and Stratford Park Leisure Centre as these are not directly controlled premises

### SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NEXT?

- Establish a carbon footprint for the council's operations
- Read the utility metres on a monthly basis
- Work with Severn Wye Energy Agency to establish a 'one stop' approach for advice on energy efficiency and micro generation
- Introduce Supplementary Planning Advice that will expect all new major developments to incorporate on-site renewable energy providing at least 10% reduction in estimated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Help local businesses and community facilities to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions
- Evaluate the potential for photovoltaic and solar-thermal installations at Ebley Mill and Dursley Pool
- Provide comprehensive staff training on energy and water saving at work through the "My Energy" programme
- Establish an independent Climate Change Panel to review council progress and advise on future direction

# Climate Change and Energy Confronting our Greatest Threat

## 2

### WATER MANAGEMENT

#### Why is this significant?

Water plays an important role in the natural environment, and water resources in the UK and internationally is a growing concern. There continue to be problems with availability and distribution. Climate change is leading to more extreme weather conditions including floods and droughts. The district is bordered by 42 kilometres of Severn Estuary coastline to the West, 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 council consumes water across a range of different activities from building cleaning and facilities management, through to swimming pools and the watering of parks and gardens. There can be significant impact on the built and natural environment from the need to maintain water infrastructure. The management of water supplies can also have both a positive and negative impact on biodiversity locally and internationally, depending on the management approach.

#### What are some of the things we have done in the last 12 months?

### CORPORATE ISSUE: WATER MANAGEMENT

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

Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Develop water use reduction targets and implementation strategy for Dursley pool	Water use strategy of plant replacement at Dursley pool implemented by 2008 subject to funding	Plant equipment was installed in December 2006	Baseline water usage figure to be established	
Delivery of Water Conservation Programme in council controlled property	Investigate the possible uses of grey water from Dursley	Not achieved	Delivery of water conservation programme in council controlled property: this target was not implemented due to re-allocation of resources	
Develop water use strategy in new and refurbished public conveniences	Implement water reduction targets	Not achieved	Target to develop water use strategy in new and refurbished public conveniences also not implemented due to re-allocation of resources	

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

### SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NEXT?

The 2007/08 EMS programme contains the following actions.

- To complete a 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
- Introduce a water conservation programme in council controlled property
- Make a final decision on whether to build a hydro-electricity generation plant to supply Ebley Mill

# Protecting Natural Resources & Enhancing the Environment - *Clean, Green & Safe*

**A**s part of this we need to recognise that it is essential we 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, including:

- creating attractive and welcoming parks, play areas and public spaces
- improving the physical fabric and infrastructure of places
- making places cleaner and maintaining them better
- making places safer and tackling anti-social behaviour
- improving access to the natural environment
- ensure the safety of private water supplies
- maintain robust resolution of all statutory nuisance complaints including dog fouling
- continue to monitor radiation, including Radon

Our two main areas of focus are biodiversity and pollution management

## BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

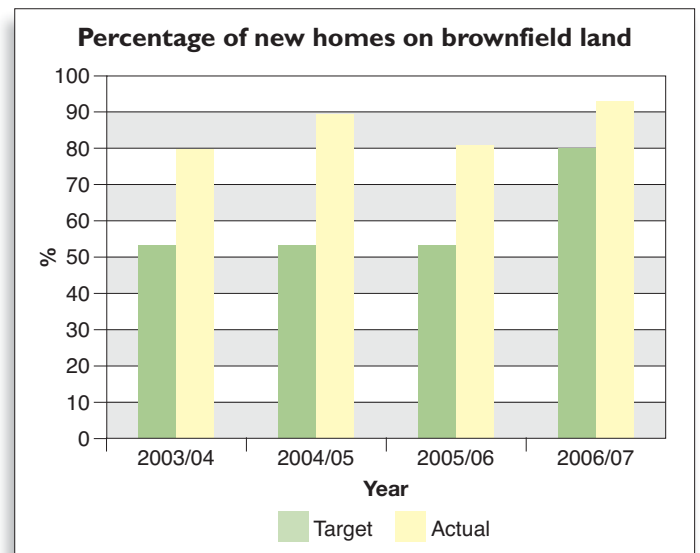
### Why is this significant?

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) and about half the district is within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

There are 163 recognised areas 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.

### What are some of the things we have done in the last 12 months?

## PERCENTAGE OF NEW HOMES ON BROWNFIELD LAND



BV 106	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Target	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual	Trend
% of new homes on brownfield land	53	80	53	89.22	53	81.36	80	93	Positive

# Protecting Natural Resources & Enhancing the Environment - Clean, Green & Safe



PRIORITY

3

**What are some of the things we have done in the last 12 months?**

## CORPORATE ISSUE: BIO DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

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

Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Increase people's awareness of biodiversity issues and improvement programmes in Stroud District Council, through producing awareness raising material.	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	On going	Target to increase awareness of biodiversity has been deferred to 2007-08	
Increase number of new homes built on brownfield land	BVPI 106. 60% of new homes built on brownfield land by 2008	Target for 2006/07 = 80%	Actual for 2006/07 = 93%	

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

## SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NEXT?

The 2007/08 EMS programme contains the following actions:

- Ensure that by 2009 all council property is being managed to maximise biodiversity
- 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

- To work with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and others to understand and plan for the potential climate change impacts on the district's natural environment

# Protecting Natural Resources & Enhancing the Environment - *Clean, Green & Safe*

## POLLUTION MANAGEMENT

### Why is this significant?



Pollution can take many forms and everyone is responsible for polluting the environment. The main forms of pollution are air, water, land and noise pollution. Air pollution caused by activities such as transport use, industrial activities and development activities. Water pollution caused by polluting materials flowing into watercourses or leaching into ground water. Some forms of pollution such as noise pollution or dust are felt immediately and locally. Others such as pollution contributing to climate

change is much more long term and global. Pollution can result in ill health and deterioration in environmental quality. In some cases the effects of pollution can be rectified, but in other cases the negative effect on the environment can be long term. Stroud District Council has a role to play in monitoring and controlling some forms of pollution in the district but also can potentially contribute to pollution as a result of the activities undertaken in providing council services.

### What are some of the things we have done in the last 12 months?

## CORPORATE ISSUE: POLLUTION MANAGEMENT

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

Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Continue to improve the rate that abandoned vehicles are removed <b>BV218b</b>	Improve the removal of abandoned vehicles within 24hours. Improve target = 40%	Target =40% Achieved = 69%	Review target for 2007/08	
Develop monitoring programme for oil traps in each council owned car park to ensure oily water effectively managed/removed	Programme to be developed by 05/2007	Ongoing	Car park infrastructure currently under review	

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

## SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NEXT?

- Continue to build as many new homes as possible on brownfield land
- Provide district-wide coverage of neighbourhood wardens (12) by 2008
- Introduce a new locality based public space clean-up initiative
- Work with local communities and agencies to better understand the distributions of 'grot spots', enviro-crime and anti-social behaviour in the district and make sure that these are being appropriately dealt with

# Creating Sustainable Communities From Local to Global

4

**W**e 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. We have a central role to play as the planning authority in delivering this strategy and the government’s vision for sustainable communities. In our community leadership role we will undoubtedly have to weigh up social, economic and environmental factors and this strategy will help us to make sure that we are increasingly conscious of environmental limits.

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 to access services. We already have a good record that we will seek to build on. We also have a Green Travel Plan, which we continue to implement,

although is overdue for review and revision. Similarly, we will continue to invest in delivering services to local people in ways that reduce the need to travel (e.g. website, community based staff).

Our main focus is transport management.

## TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

### 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 many vehicle miles, but other services such as environmental health, development control and planning also require staff to travel.

### What are some of the things we have done in the last 12 months?

#### CORPORATE ISSUE: TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

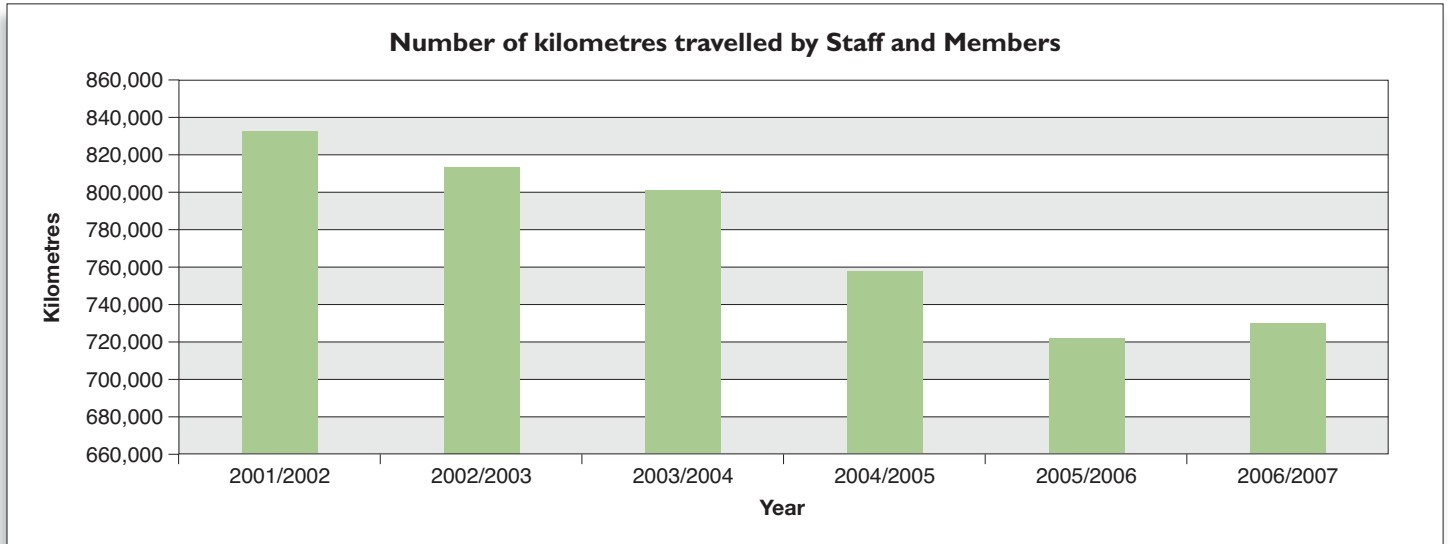
**OBJECTIVE: 4.** Minimise the risk of pollution and encourage the purchase of the least environmentally damaging products and services related to the management of transport by the council

Environmental aspect <i>(A council activity that affects this corporate issue)</i>	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
Continue to monitor staff and councillor car mileage centrally and report on annual mileage and resultant CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	Report mileage and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions every year as part of corporate environmental statement	The number of kilometres made by staff and member has increased to 729432km*	After a number of years with decreasing mileage this increase in kilometres is a surprise and needs further investigation	X
Development of Green Transport Plan	Promote more greener methods of travel	Ongoing	Promotion activities included ‘Bike to Work’, ‘Car Share Scheme’	~

\* the mileage figure indicated for business mileage does not include the fleet vans used by neighbourhood wardens, pest control officers etc (13 vehicles)

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

# Creating Sustainable Communities From Local to Global



## NUMBER OF KILOMETRES UNDERTAKEN BY STAFF AND MEMBERS

	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/07
Number of km	833,560	814,151	800,892	758,178	721,721	729,432
CO <sub>2</sub> emitted (tonnes)	230.9	225.5	221.85	210.02	199.92	151.36*

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

## SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NEXT?

- 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 address climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Review the current Regeneration Strategy to ensure that it continues to enable us to invest in and support the development of the local economy, particularly the provision of goods and services by local businesses
- Review and revise the Green Travel Plan

# Keeping Focussed on Environmental Limits Let's Not Forget How Important the Issue is

5

**W**e 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.

**Our main focus is corporate planning.**

### **Why is this significant?**

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 (due to the council's procurement practices, planning and community planning work etc). Just as critically, corporate planning will determine what environmental impacts are considered important for the organisation and how they are to be managed. EMAS is seen as an important corporate planning mechanism.

### **What are some of the things we have done in the last 12 months?**

#### **CORPORATE ISSUE: CORPORATE PLANNING**

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

Environmental aspect (A council activity that affects this corporate issue)	Improvement target and action	Progress	Explanation	On target?
To develop a consolidated Environment Strategy for the council	Report to council by end of 2006/07	Target achieved	Reported to council in February 2007	

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

#### **SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NEXT?**

- Work with the Local Strategic Partnership to develop a vision of an environmentally sustainable district, and embed this within its Sustainable Community Strategy
- Continue to develop and train elected members and staff so that they are able to deliver continuous improvement in environmental performance
- Use our annual budget survey of households and businesses to test levels of satisfaction with our environmental performance and environmental quality within the district



# Glossary

- **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
- **HAPS** - habitat action plans
- **HECA** – Home Energy Conversation Act
- **HIP** – Housing Investment Programme. A programme to deliver new affordable housing, tackle private sector renewal, and maintain and repair council housing
- **LPI** – Local Performance Indicator. A local measurement to show continuous improvement
- **LSP** – Local Strategic Partnership
- **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
- **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

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE NEXT STATEMENT

We will submit our next interim Environmental Statement by October 2008 It will cover the period from April 2007 to the end of March 2008.

## 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:** 15 January 2008

*Our accredited verifier is:*

Bureau Veritas Certification  
Accreditation Number: UK-V-0003  
Date of verification:  
2nd Floor Tower bridge Court  
224-226 Tower Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 2TX

## CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# 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*
- *include mechanisms for consultation with both regulatory bodies and the public*



## Appendix 2 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 8th Environmental Statement. The last full statement was in 2003/2004 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 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.

# 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



**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
[www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)

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Stroud  
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2002-2003  
*Crime Reduction in Rural Areas*  
2004-2005  
*Services for Older People*  
2007-2008  
*Emergency Planning*