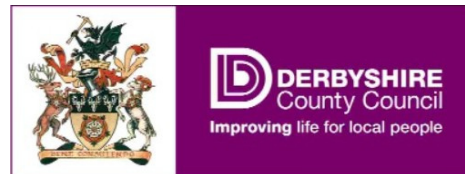


Public Statement from Derbyshire County Council



Since becoming a signatory to the [Nottingham Declaration](#) in 2000 Derbyshire County Council has undertaken the following in response to the voluntary commitments we made to help tackle the causes and consequences of climate change.

1. Getting our own house in order

- We have calculated the Council's own carbon footprint which was 95,000 tonnes of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) in the year 2009 to 2010.
- Our Carbon Management Plan has a target to reduce our carbon footprint by 3% per year over a 5-year timescale (15%) in all, which is calculated to save money in reduced energy bills.

Specific actions we have taken to reduce our corporate carbon footprint include:

- Completing the collation of in-house carbon dioxide emissions from buildings, street-lighting, fleet and business mileage for the NI 185 database¹.
- Joining the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme and setting targets to reduce our carbon emissions by 3% per year.
- Joining the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment which is a carbon trading programme designed to bring down carbon emissions from participating organisations.
- Gaining external funding and matching it with county council funds to spend £400,000 on in-house energy efficiency measures and renewable technologies.
- Developing a carbon-costed and financially-costed climate change action plan which includes taking action to reduce carbon emissions for example from buildings, business travel and street lighting.
- Introducing pool cars to replace private car use for county council business travel – early returns show this has led to a cost saving of around £150,000 per million miles travelled and a reduction of around 30% in CO₂ emissions where pool cars are used.
- Replacing the county's vehicle fleet in line with the introduction of new European Standards for CO₂ emissions from vehicles.
- Developing the Derbyshire Car-Share scheme and encouraging people to use the scheme which is linked to the National Lift Share scheme. The county council's closed network for staff, which has a total of 356 members has delivered an estimated total saving (all users) of £200,460; 898,800 miles driven and nearly 300 tonnes of CO₂.
- Rolling out a programme of fitting motion and light level sensors to the county council's lighting systems to automatically switch off lights when they are not needed.

¹ NI 185 is a national indicator on which the county council is required to report. NI 185 requires a reduction in CO₂ from local authority operations.

- Installing power perfectors to optimise voltage in our buildings ensuring that electrical systems and equipment run more efficiently reducing electricity demand and carbon dioxide emissions.
- Building several primary schools or school extensions, including features such as ground and air source heat pumps, photovoltaic cells, rainwater harvesting, grey water recycling and natural ventilation. Schools with such features include:
 - Abercrombie Primary School, Chesterfield.
 - Herbert Strutt Primary School, Belper.
 - Hady Primary School, Chesterfield.
 - Walton and Holymoorside Primary School, Chesterfield.
 - Woodville Junior School in South Derbyshire.
- Providing county fleet vehicle drivers with fuel-efficient driver training as part of the compulsory driver training programme.
- Setting up and running the Energy Monitoring and Targeting Scheme for all county council buildings and schools and making sure all properties are included on the scheme. This scheme monitors electricity, fuel and water usage within buildings.

Our next steps are to:

- Take a full part in the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment from 2010 onwards, where carbon emissions will initially cost £12 per tonne (estimated initial cost is £1,140,000). The county council could be fined if it emits more CO₂ than planned.
- Develop a range of courses on sustainability as part of the Adult Education Programme such as 'Carbon Management at Work' (qualification course) and 'The Derbyshire Eco-centre and a taste of sustainable building'.
- Carry out further improvements to lighting in our buildings by installing automatic lighting controls.
- Carry out a staff awareness raising programme on energy efficiency.
- Appoint Eco-champions around the authority, to be responsible for encouraging more sustainable staff behaviour on energy use, business travel, and re-use and recycling of resources.
- Provide training for school and county council caretakers to promote energy efficiency in schools and county council buildings.
- Identify best practice including developing life cycle plans to measure and reduce carbon emissions in relation to the county council's highways asset management scheme. We will do this in conjunction with our 3CAP² partners.
- Increase the use of telephone-conferencing and video-conferencing facilities to reduce the need for staff to travel to meetings to discuss county council business.

² 3CAP is the Three Counties Alliance Partnership consisting of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire county councils who are working in partnership to bring contract and procurement cost savings to each council and to bring the benefits of project sharing in relation to the transport network.

- Develop a corporate waste database to monitor, measure and improve outcomes relating to waste resources throughout operations at the county council, including improving the county council's recycling rate.
- Set up a procedure to calculate accurate carbon emissions information for each business case for future projects and initiatives within the county council.
- Replace the county council's central computing system to improve speed, efficiency, reduce energy use and lower costs.
- Install half hourly gas and electricity meters to all of our main buildings to enable automatic meter readings, improve energy monitoring and reduce staff travel required to read energy meters.
- Investigate heat pumps, biomass and off-grid heating technologies to replace electric, oil and coal heating in appropriate locations to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions.
- Complete the building of the Eco-Centre for the county council's Adult Education service which will be linked to the College of the Peak, offering courses on sustainability, sustainable building techniques and climate change.
- Use a major new initiative called **Changing the Way Derbyshire Works (CWDW)** to reduce the county council's carbon emissions and build its resilience to future climate change by integrating service delivery in a more efficient and coherent way with a focus on:
 - Beginning smarter business travel, to improve efficiency and reduce carbon emissions linked to the Staff Energy Awareness Programme.
 - A rationalisation of the county council's office and depot accommodation which could cut our carbon emissions significantly.
 - Improvements to the county council's core personnel and financial systems to increase efficiencies and save time.
 - Better procurement of contracts, services and consumables to increase efficiencies and reduce CO₂ emissions.
 - Using more energy efficient ICT equipment and introducing procedures to reduce the energy use of our electrical, electronic and technical operating systems such as: rolling out a programme of replacing old computer monitors across the authority with low energy flat screen monitors; replacing the mainframe computer with a smaller, more energy efficient and larger capacity system.

2. Preparing for the impacts of climate change.

Planning to adapt to climate change is one of the key priorities across Derbyshire and is included in the Local Area Agreement as NI 188³. We have researched the impacts of severe weather on our services over the past 10 years and carried out assessments of the risk from future climate change on our services up to the 2080s.

In response we have, so far, done the following:

- Played a key role in setting up the Derbyshire Strategic Flood Board, involving all major partners and stakeholders in Flood Risk Management.

³ NI 188 is a national indicator on Planning to Adapt to Climate Change.

- Begun to consider climate change related risks, such as severe weather events, with our partners, particularly the emergency services, in the Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum.
- Begun working with Parish Councils to develop local emergency plans to enable local action to take place during emergencies, as appropriate.
- Run a number of Flood Fairs across the county to raise awareness and promote flood protection products, especially in vulnerable areas.
- Ensured that our storage depots have adequate fuel supplies, following extreme weather warnings.
- Provided community risk registers for each district area in Derbyshire on our website. These list potential impacts arising from extreme weather. The registers are now updated on a yearly basis (previously updated on a 5-yearly basis).
- Increased the number of staff at the county council's Call Derbyshire contact centre and introduced recorded messaging for non-essential calls to assist communication during extreme weather in Derbyshire.
- Begun co-ordinating information on surface water flooding across the county so it can be accessed by our public sector partners, to provide a more effective and cheaper solution to problems in advance of the Flood and Water Bill.
- Improved the information held on 80% of Derbyshire's road gullies to better prioritise problem areas and reduce maintenance to develop a more effective and targeted approach to surface water management of the highways.
- Carried out an inventory survey of county council highway assets, to enable better design and response to enquiries and problems with items such as gullies, kerbs, traffic islands etc. The use of a Geographic Information System (GIS) here is likely to reduce the need for site visits and reduce unnecessary travel.
- Taken part in a ground-breaking initiative with our 3CAP partners to assess the impact of climate change on policies and standards relating to the highway network. This will help us meet targets on this work as well as align maintenance, repair and inspection activities across the sub-region, saving money and resources in the long term.
- Offered our staff sustainability training with a focus on climate change to raise awareness of the issues at the county council.

In the future we will:

- Produce an action plan by March 2011 to address risks to our services posed by climate change.
- Support and provide leadership for the Derbyshire Partnership Forum⁴ (county-level Local Strategic Partnership) to help identify and address the highest risks posed by climate change across Derbyshire.

⁴ The Derbyshire Partnership Forum (DPF) is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Derbyshire, consisting of over 50 organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors committed to improving local services by working together. The long term vision of these partner organisations is to 'ensure that everyone in Derbyshire enjoys an improved quality of life, both now and in the future'.

- Review the county council's property asset plan to include how to respond to the challenges which climate change may bring.
- Develop the Staff Travel Plan to include measures to reduce the county council's carbon emissions for both business travel and commuting to work by encouraging alternative options to the use of the private car.

3. Providing civic leadership on climate change to the wider community

With our Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) we have made climate change one of our key priorities in the Local Area Agreement (LAA)⁵ by adopting national indicators: NI 186 – Reducing per capita CO₂ emissions in the local authority area and NI 188 – Planning to Adapt to Climate Change. Together with central Government and our public sector partners we are committed to a 9.02% reduction in CO₂ emissions in Derbyshire from 2008 – 2011.

To do this we have:

- Set up a county level group to coordinate our efforts with other local organisations. These organisations are also committed to reducing their carbon footprint and those in the community, through a number of county-wide initiatives designed to assist this process.

Specific actions we have taken include:

- Working with the district/borough councils in Derbyshire to increase the recycling rate across the county from 37% to 41% between 2008 and 2009. The intention is to reach 55% by 2020.
- Employing an officer to run the county's Eco-schools scheme which has 300 registrations: 241 Bronze Awards, 148 Silver Awards and 41 Green Flag Awards to date. Derbyshire is currently 11th in England for the number of awards received since September 2009 and 12th for Green Flags as a proportion of schools registered. An Eco-schools conference takes place annually within the county. In 2010 the focus is on the International Climate Challenge.
- Considering climate change issues as part of our plans for dealing with the counties rubbish in the future.
- Promoting the Carshare Derbyshire scheme across the county which is part of the National Liftshare Scheme.
- Working together with other councils in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and the Peak Park within the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP)⁶ to share knowledge and raise awareness of actions we can take to reduce carbon emissions in our daily work and in local communities.
- Working to deliver public services to best serve social and climate change objectives. This will see the county council using its property and education premises investment programmes to support more vibrant and sustainable communities in Derbyshire.

⁵ The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a 3 year agreement between Government and the local area to deliver an agreed set of priorities which is carried out by the LSP.

⁶ The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership consists of all 20 local authorities in the two counties, including the Peak District National Park Authority. All partners work together on sustainable energy and climate change issues.

- Taking part in the 'Everybody's Talking About Climate Change' initiative to raise awareness across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (LAEP) about climate change and what we can do to reduce our carbon emissions. The initiative has focused on public sector staff, community and voluntary groups, schools, businesses and individuals.
- Achieving our target of having school travel plans in 100% of county council run schools and 98% of independent schools. Recent returns show the number of pupils travelling to school in cars reduced from 29% to 28% during 2008/9.

4. Making it easier and cheaper for residents to do their bit for climate change

Specific actions we have taken include:

- Setting up a scheme to lend more than 800 electricity monitors to residents through county libraries. The monitors are helping households to save around £60- £70 a year and up to 0.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide per household.
- Increasing access to footpaths and bridleways to reduce congestion and improve cycling and walking within the county.
- Running flood fairs around the county to raise awareness of flooding and the actions people can take to reduce the risks to themselves and their properties.

We will also:

- Work with the county library service to ensure that a full range of climate change information, including booklets, leaflets and DVDs are available for loan by the general public.
- Work to reduce congestion and improve public transport, cycling and walking by promoting sustainable travel to workplaces, schools and council offices.
- Build on the 9.87% increase in bus journeys taken in Derbyshire since 2004 with initiatives such as the Goldcard (over 60s) and B_line (under 19s) travel cards.

5. Working with others to make a bigger difference

- We are a key and active member of the Derbyshire Partnership Forum (the county-wide LSP) and have set up the Climate Change Sub-Group to help us co-ordinate our efforts with other local authorities and public sector organisations. These are the Derbyshire Police, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Derbyshire County PCT, NHS Trusts, the Environment and Highways Agencies and the Voluntary and Community Sector, to address the challenges of climate change.
- We are also a key member of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) along with the other 19 local authorities in the two counties and seek to work together on sustainable energy and climate change issues.
- We also hope to set up initiatives with local businesses in 2010 to help them reduce their carbon emissions, in conjunction with the district councils and business support organisations such as the Derbyshire Chamber.

6. Gaining recognition for our efforts

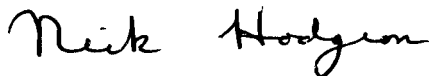
- The county council's Environmental Services Department has achieved and maintained a certificated environmental management system since 2002 (ISO 14001) recognised as a European standard, which improves the environmental performance of the department.
- The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership has achieved national recognition as an exemplar of best practice on local authorities working together on sustainable energy and climate change issues.
- Along with our Three Counties Alliance Partnership (3CAP) partners of Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire we were Highly Commended by the Institute of Civil Engineers, East Midlands, Merit Awards 2009 for the work we have carried out and summarised in the report on 'The Effects of Climate Change on 3CAP's Highway Network Policies and Standards'.
- We have received numerous nominations, commendations and finalist status for the Derbyshire Fly-tipping campaign; the project has been recognised as best practice by the Department of Communities and Local Government and has been nominated for Best Sustainability Communications Campaign in the Environment and Energy Awards 2010.

For further details see: www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Signed by:



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Cllr Andrew Lewer
Leader of the Council



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Nick Hodgson
Chief Executive

14/07/2010

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Date