

A low carbon city

Climate Change – Leicester's Programme of Action

Update – September 2013

Introduction

It is now a year since we launched our Climate Change Programme of Action. I am pleased to report that we are making good progress on the actions we set out to do last year.

As a council we have led programmes to make our council houses more energy efficient, planted more trees and encouraged people to adopt healthier travel patterns.

No single organisation can make Leicester a low carbon city. I would like to thank all our partners for the actions they have taken over the last 12 months. In particular I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new partners and to invite other organisations to pledge their support to this programme.



Cllr Rory Palmer

Deputy City Mayor with executive responsibility for climate change and public health

This is an exciting time for Leicester. A year into our programme the combined heat and power station is now operating successfully and looking to expand. Energy efficiency and renewable energy measures have been carried out to homes and businesses. Electric vehicle charging points have been introduced and thousands of people have been engaged in reducing their carbon, at home, through the transport choices that they make or through recycling their waste.

Recent university research has shown Leicester to be a leading city in tackling climate change. Newcastle University ranked 30 local authorities' plans and found Leicester's to be the most comprehensive outside London. Government figures show that carbon emissions in Leicester have fallen by a third since 1990.

However, there are still many opportunities to both reduce our greenhouse gas emission and adapt to the changing climate: opportunities to share experience with other cities in the UK and internationally. These include creating new jobs in the growing area of servicing a low carbon city.

I encourage you to read the new programme of action and get involved.



Professor Paul Fleming

Chair of the Environmental Experts Group of the City Partnership and Director of Sustainable Development at De Montfort University

About this document

In this document we have set out our immediate priorities for action over the next 12 months. We also take a look forward to the key milestones we want to achieve by 2015.

The scale of the action is enormous and this plan can't really include everything we will be doing. But it does illustrate the wide and varied programme of activity that will be taking place over the next 12 month period.

At the end of the document you will see a list of organisations that have signed up to this approach. We recognise that only by working in partnership with key organisations will we be able to tackle such a massive agenda as climate change. The good news is that the list of organisations keeps on growing and we continue to welcome more organisations to participate and sign up to the programme.

We have tried to ensure that this action plan is presented in a way that is easy for everyone to understand. But we do appreciate that some will wish to see more detail—that's why we have also produced a technical appendix. This provides information on our carbon footprint, targets and the key measures needed to move Leicester to a low carbon economy that is more resilient to the predicted impact of climate change. If you would like a copy of the technical appendix, please follow the links at the end of this document.

Themes

If we are to tackle climate change, we need to look at many different aspects of life in Leicester – both as individuals and as organisations.

So, not surprisingly, there are many links between the actions outlined in this document and other action plans being developed by the City Mayor's administration. For example, by encouraging businesses to adopt energy-efficient processes and reduce waste we can increase business efficiency and promote a healthy economy. Likewise, by encouraging people to walk more, we can help to promote the health benefits of an active lifestyle.

Listed below are the themes that relate to the broad approach being taken by the City Mayor and his executive team. Each of the colour-coded actions listed on the following pages contributes to achieving at least one of these wider themes.



A strong and democratic council

Only with strong leadership and a long-term strategic vision will we be able to deliver huge cuts in carbon, as well as ensuring that the city is resilient and prepared for the inevitable future effects of climate change.



Leicester: a place to do business

A strong, vibrant economy in Leicester is one where businesses use energy and resources efficiently and where we have all taken steps to ensure we are resilient to the future impacts of climate change. We also need an economy where innovative environmental technologies are supported and 'green' sector companies are encouraged to expand.



Our neighbourhoods and communities

Leicester's neighbourhoods can demonstrate sustainability on a practical level – and we can support our citizens in adopting sustainable lifestyles by providing better transport options, green space, community centres and opportunities to grow food locally.



Getting about in Leicester

Leicester actively supports cycling and walking as well as improvements to public transport that will allow people better access to different parts of the city.



Leicester: a healthy and active city

We are encouraging our citizens to adopt more active and healthy lifestyles by cycling and walking more and by growing more food locally. Improving our green spaces and reducing the numbers of cars travelling into and through Leicester will result in better air quality in the city.



Our children and young people

Leicester has a young population and the impact of climate change will be felt even more keenly by this – and future – generations. So we are educating and involving our young people in climate change issues so they can take an active part in developing and implementing solutions to the challenges ahead.



The built and natural environment around us in Leicester

We need to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings as well as creating renewable energy options. We also want to see new developments designed and constructed so that they operate with minimum energy requirements and are resilient to climate change. Our natural environment can also help us to build resilience to climate change.



Providing Care and Support

Within the provision of care and support for our young and old in the city, we will consider efficient use of resources and how these services can be delivered in a sustainable manner. As people exercise more choice over their own provision of care we will seek to raise awareness about how energy efficiency and sustainable transport can be maximised.

Achievements

(the story so far...)










Government figures show that Leicester's emissions of carbon dioxide have fallen by about a third since 1990. Our first plan selected 80 actions to track over the next 12 months. This didn't include everything but did illustrate the wide and varied programme of activity taking place.

Here are some highlights of achievements made so far. These actions are being delivered by a partnership of organisations including local businesses, community groups, public organisations and educational establishments. It is this partnership approach which will ensure that we can work together to achieve our ambitious carbon reduction targets for the city.














In the last 12 months we have...

- Switched on the new city centre district heating scheme providing low carbon heat to a number of civic buildings, libraries, community centres, schools and the University of Leicester through 7km of newly laid pipework
- Completed a programme of 1,160 solar panel installations on council houses
- Installed 8 new electric car charging points bringing the total number of charging points in the city to 16
- Installed external wall insulation on 1,452 homes
- Engaged with over 500 households in the Square Mile Area and carried out 8 community engagement events to help reduce peoples fuel bills
- Engaged more than 20,000 people in led cycle rides through the Ride Leicester programme
- Provided mobile bike parking at over 20 festivals and events
- Carried out community engagement to raise public awareness in flood risk areas and offer advice and training to help people to deal with flooding incidences as they arise.
- Recycled 327 bikes through Bikes for All
- Planted 3,000 trees through the Big Tree Initiative
- Run the 'Green' comedy stand-up show, Comedy in the Dark and planted a Comedy Wood to offset carbon emissions from the Leicester Comedy Festival






In the next year we will.....

1. Investigate further opportunities for **expansion of the District Heating system** 
2. Deliver a **planned programme of carbon reduction** for the next 5 schools - Babington, Ellesmere, English Martyrs, Millgate and Keyham Lodge - in the **Building Schools for the Future Programme**, Leicester's biggest ever investment in schools 
3. Open the new **Crown Hills Community College and the City of Leicester College**, both of which are **Carbon 60 schools** which means that their carbon emissions have reduced by at least 60% compared to the 2002 building regulations 
4. Work with the Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership to develop and implement **low carbon and climate change adaptation investment strategies** for European Structural Funds 
5. Require major new developments in the city to **generate 18% of their energy demands through onsite renewable energy technologies** 
6. Establish an **Energy Company Obligation (ECO) partnership for the city to deliver energy efficiency improvements for housing in Leicester**. Once established, the first project will be to install solid wall insulation in 442 properties in South Braunstone 
7. Implement **energy efficiency measures for vulnerable low-income households** through the Health Through Warmth Project, ECO (Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation) and NHS funding 
8. Complete the 2nd year of the SAP 75 Initiative which will **increase the energy efficiency of the least efficient council housing stock** to a higher standard. This will include measures such as boiler replacements, loft insulation and double glazing 
9. **Invest £150,000 in upgrading the waylighting around housing developments** in Leicester to new LED technology to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions 

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10. **Assist 75 small businesses to improve their energy efficiency** and provide up to £50,000 to support the implementation of energy saving measures through the work of the Leicester Energy Agency 
11. Research whether smartphone technology can **inspire staff to save energy at work** through a partnership project between Leicester City Council and De Montfort University 
12. Run the **Green Light festival** to celebrate and showcase sustainable living in Leicester 
13. Open the **new Sports Complex at Regent College** which incorporates low carbon technologies such as air source heat pumps and solar panels 
14. Deliver a programme of energy efficiency upgrades such as window replacement to continue to **reduce the carbon footprint of Regent College** 
15. Demonstrate **low carbon building techniques** by starting the construction of a barn from straw bales at Saffron Acres 
16. Encourage over **15,000 hours of volunteering and deliver local food education** sessions to 250 school children through the Saffron Acres project 
17. Install **cycling facilities at both Centrebus sites** to encourage staff to cycle to work, including the provision of a shared staff bike 
18. Encourage **staff and students at Leicester College to reduce energy use** onsite by running the Big Switch Off campaign this winter 
19. Run the inaugural year of the **Environmental Technologies Centre at Leicester College**, providing training courses in different renewable technologies to students and businesses in Leicester 
20. Install **solar photovoltaic panels on 3 buildings in De Montfort University's city centre campus** to provide zero carbon electricity to the university 
21. Commence plans for the **redevelopment of the Fletcher Buildings at De Montfort University** which aims to achieve high energy efficiency and sustainability along with the creation of a new community green space in the city 
22. Run the fifth **Green Impact and Student Switch Off campaigns at De Montfort University** to reduce the energy used by both staff and students 

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- 23. Embed **Education for Sustainable Development within the curriculum at De Montfort University** as part of the Green Academy Project working in partnership with the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), National Union of Students (NUS) and the Higher Education Academy 
- 24. Investigate installing a new **Building Management System and upgrading loft insulation at the Leicester Tigers' Welford Road Stadium** as part of an on-going programme of energy efficiency improvements 
- 25. Use the experience of previous successful projects to investigate **upgrading lighting at Highcross Leicester** to new LED technology which would result in both energy and carbon savings 
- 26. **Provide coach travel, through Leicester Shire Promotions, for people wishing to attend the Kings Tour** visiting both Leicester and Bosworth Battle Field from the park and ride hubs; not only reducing individual car journeys in the city but also reduce congestion 
- 27. Gain **accredited Eco Centre status at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre** by developing and implementing an action plan to reduce carbon emissions by involving the whole centre in saving energy and water, minimising waste and using sustainable travel 
- 28. Start the construction of the **UK's first higher education Passivhaus** development for the new Medical Sciences Building at the **University of Leicester**
- 29. The **University of Leicester will publish its new Carbon Management Plan** setting the ambitious target of reducing the university's carbon footprint by 60% by 2020 based on 1990 levels














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30. **Develop a new Air Quality Action Plan** for the city by the end of 2014 to identify options for achieving substantial improvement in air quality 
31. Develop design solutions to **minimise vehicle emissions** in new 20mph zones in the city 
32. **Pedestrianise areas in the Old Town district of Leicester**, not only reducing traffic and congestion but also provide a better environment for cycling and walking in the city 
33. Publish the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on **Parking Standards and Travel Plans in Leicester** helping new developments to incorporate sustainable travel options into their planning proposals 
34. **Complete the Aylestone Road/Lutterworth Road corridor project** for buses users, pedestrians and cyclists using £2.56m of the Better Bus Area funding that will complement the joint Leicester City Council/Leicestershire County Council funding of £2.5m 
35. Finalise and implement plans to **refurbish and expand the Haymarket Bus Station** 
36. Build on the success of the electric charging point schemes installed in Newarke St, Dover St and Birstall Park & Ride car parks and identify match funding to **install at least 8 new electric charging points** in the city through the Plugged in Places Project 
37. Provide four **accredited Greener Safer Driver courses** to businesses in Leicester 
38. Work with East Midlands Trains to install a high capacity secure **cycle parking hub at Leicester Railway Station** 
39. Develop a business case, and source funding, to **replace traffic signal lights in Leicester with LED technology** to reduce energy use and improve efficiency 
40. Involve over 25,000 people in organised cycling activity events through our **Summer of Cycling programme**. This will include the sixth Ride Leicester Festival as well as Skyride which will incorporate the second elite level city centre cycle race 
41. Create an overarching **Travel Plan for visitors to the historical heart of the city** including: the new King Richard the Third Visitor and Conference Centre, Leicester Cathedral, the Magazine, Leicester Castle and St Mary de Castro Church etc. 
42. Involve over 2,000 participants in **free rides in the city** led by qualified ride leaders 

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43. Create an **Area-Wide Travel Plan for the Abbey Lane area** of the city to promote sustainable options for all users to the new Innovation and Technology Park, Railway Museum, the new Abbey Lane ASDA supermarket development and Belgrave Business Park 
44. Investigate trialling of a **city car club** for residents and businesses in Leicester using low emission vehicles 
45. Develop a **free Travel Plan Pack for new businesses** moving to the city to help them achieve the benefits of sustainable travel 
46. Encourage more travel by bus in the city through developing a **real time bus information system** to improve service reliability and provide accurate information to passengers 
47. Provide a safer environment for walking and cycling in neighbourhood areas of the city by **implementing a programme of 20mph zones** 
48. Provide **grants of up to £5000 to local businesses to encourage staff to use sustainable transport options** such as cycle parking, bike training and shuttle buses between sites through Leicester's FIT for Business programme 
49. Run the **Leicester Shire Cycle Challenge and the Walking Challenge** to inspire friendly competition to get residents, businesses and employees to take up walking and cycling as an everyday activity to reduce emissions and increase health 
50. Complete the **£100,000 programme of new cycle and pedestrian route signage**, maintenance and promotion 
51. Deliver the **Cycleworks bicycle maintenance course** at the Adult Education Centre (with Future Cycles) 
52. Encourage children in primary and secondary education to use alternatives to motorised transport through the **Walk to School and Bike It programmes** 
53. Implement the **Get Walking Keep Walking campaign, run by the Ramblers Association**, to help businesses and the community create a lasting legacy of walking in the city by training walk leaders and developing new routes in the city 
54. Deliver **cycle training for adults and develop led rides through the national cycling charity CTC** for existing and new groups of bicycle users 
55. **Support businesses in Leicester to use sustainable transport options** through the Braunstone based charity B-Inspired, by providing cycle training to staff, advice on company cars and information on how to reduce business travel by car 

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Fresh Fish

Fresh Fish











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FORE RIB LUG
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AND INSURED
GARDENS 21 50g
AND 250g













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LIVE SEAL

1/2 50g

- 56. **Improve the energy management in 50 public buildings** in Leicester and provide energy efficiency advice through the Smart Spaces project 
- 57. **Divert 74% of Leicester's household waste from going into landfill**, including 44% recycled or composted 
- 58. **Increase the participation in city recycling schemes** though door-to-door promotion of waste reduction options 
- 59. Commence the construction of a **new household waste recycling facility** in Leicester 
- 60. Replace **18,000 of the city's existing sodium street lights with new LED lights** complete with central management system to allow the authority to dim the lighting, reducing the amount of energy used by street lights, improve efficiency and reduce costs 
- 61. Commission **new high quality workspaces** in the city to high environmental standards 
- 62. Complete the construction of the **new timber and glass pavilion-style Indoor Market**; using sustainable timber resources and creating a low energy building for the city's fish and meat traders 
- 63. Install new **energy efficient LED lighting at Newarke Street and Haymarket car parks**, saving over 100 tonnes of carbon per annum and paying for themselves in 3 years through electricity cost savings 
- 64. Install a **high capacity rainwater harvesting system** at the new vehicle storage depot at Evington Park which will recycle rainwater for use in the park's polytunnels 
- 65. Help Leicester schools to reduce energy use and carbon emissions by starting the **roll-out of the SCORE programme** 

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66. Use **Leicester's Surface Water Management Plan** to consult with the public on developing a local flood risk management strategy for the city 
67. Develop a programme of **community engagement plans to raise awareness in flood risk areas**, building on the success of work carried out in the Tudor Road area of the city and offer advice and training to help people to deal with flooding incidences as they arise 
68. Undertake further work to show the **impact of surface water flooding** and river flooding in flood risk hotspots in the city 
69. Publish a **Green Infrastructure Strategy** to demonstrate how sustainable management of our natural environment can deliver benefits to residents such as improved air quality, reduced flood risk and increased biodiversity 
70. Publish guidance for developers to demonstrate how sustainable urban drainage can **reduce the risk of surface water flooding** in the city 
71. Run the **annual Bioblitz campaign** - an outdoor, family event to record as many different species as possible, within a certain time frame, and to encourage the public's interest and knowledge of their local biodiversity 
72. Achieve **Green Flag Awards at 12 of the city's parks** which includes an assessment of the environmental sustainability at each site 
73. **Develop a Food Plan** to start implementing the Leicester Food & Drink Charter – through a strong alliance with food businesses, community projects, education and health services 
74. Work with other leading cities, as a founding member of the **Sustainable Food Cities Network**, to share experience and ideas in promoting healthy, environmentally responsible food produced in a thriving local food economy 
75. Explore potential for using Green Deal / ECO schemes to support **training and employment opportunities for energy efficiency installers in the city** 
76. Run the **Riverside festival**, celebrating the Riverside area of Leicester, which incorporates an Eco Village where people can learn environmentally-friendly skills along with the principals of a low carbon lifestyle 
77. Encourage more **organisations to pledge support** to Leicester's Climate Change Programme of Action 

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By 2015, we will...

- ✿ be generating 5 megawatts of electricity from the Leicester district energy scheme
- ✿ have delivered our design targets for carbon dioxide emissions in the Building Schools for the Future programme
- ✿ have held a Low Carbon Summit for Leicester's business community
- ✿ have an established Business Green Deal partnership delivering energy improvements for businesses
- ✿ have used our collective influence to push SMART meters across the city
- ✿ have an established and active Green Deal partnership that will be delivering improvements to home energy
- ✿ have increased bus patronage to 43 million for the central Leicestershire area
- ✿ be promoting research and action into alternatively-fuelled vehicles
- ✿ have reduced the number of 'single occupancy' vehicles commuting into the city to less than 50%
- ✿ have halved street lighting emissions to around 5,000 tonnes of CO₂, compared to the 2008/9 baseline figure
- ✿ have 70 businesses using travel plans within the central transport zone
- ✿ be working towards a higher household waste recycling target
- ✿ have increased land under food production in the city
- ✿ have a Leicester tree strategy in place to manage the city's tree canopy
- ✿ be implementing a flood risk management strategy and an agreed programme of flood risk management projects
- ✿ have wider community awareness and improved understanding of the impact of climate change in Leicester
- ✿ be delivering a partnership communications programme on climate change
- ✿ have homes built at Ashton Green as a minimum to the government's code level 4 for carbon emissions, with some exemplar properties built to considerably higher standards

Find out more about how you can join us

Organisations and individuals are invited to get more involved and to pledge their support to this plan by following the online links below or by contacting the Environment Team at Leicester City Council.

Further information in support of this document, is contained in the Technical Appendix (September 2012) and Carbon Reduction Road Map (August 2011)

Tel: **0116 454 2110**

Email: **environment@leicester.gov.uk**

Greener Leicester website:
www.leicester.gov.uk/greenerleicester



The following organisations have already pledged their support to the plan...

