

Playing our part in tackling climate change

Basingstoke and Deane's Climate Change Strategy

Everyone can play their part at home, at work and in the community to help cut the carbon emissions that are causing climate change.

The objectives of *Basingstoke and Deane's Climate Change Strategy* which will be achieved through a comprehensive action plan, are to:

- reduce carbon emissions in the council's own buildings,
- help the borough to prepare and plan for the inevitable impacts of climate change,
- ensure that climate change issues are considered in all the council's services and operations,
- reduce carbon emissions across the borough through partnerships and community involvement.



Rather than print copies of the action plan, we are publishing it online with copies printed out on request to cut the council's paper usage even further.

The launch of the strategy follows the council signing The Nottingham Declaration in May 2007, making a commitment to tackle the issues of climate change.

This leaflet explains what climate change is, highlights the local impact and sets out what the council is doing and how you can play your part.



*Basingstoke
and Deane*

What is climate change?

Climate change is the most serious environmental challenge facing us in the 21st century and the majority of scientists now agree that the activities of humans are having an effect on our climate and accelerating global warming.

Climate change is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Some of these gases are necessary as they help to keep the earth warm but scientists believe that human activity is increasing the concentration of these gases and making the world warmer. This means changing patterns of wind and rainfall resulting in more storms, hurricanes, floods and droughts. It will also affect our plants and the creatures that feed on them.



The greenhouse gas which is having the largest effect on our climate is carbon dioxide (CO_2). This is the gas produced by the burning of fossil fuels such as gas, coal, petrol and oil for electricity and heat and for transport.

How will Basingstoke and Deane be affected?

- Increases in average annual temperature.
- Health effects from heatwaves.
- More likelihood of drought.
- Greater frequency of stormy weather.
- Heavy rainfall causing more flooding incidents.
- Storm damage to roads and open spaces.
- More insect pests and plant diseases.
- Loss of wildlife and trees.

What is the council doing?

In May 2007, the council signed The Nottingham Declaration making a commitment to leading climate change action locally. Through the strategy action plan, the council will take climate change into account in all its work and areas of influence. This plan includes the council:



- working towards achieving a 12.5% reduction in carbon emissions from 1990 levels by 2012 – a national target - and setting further local targets in the future
- supporting the South East Climate Change Partnership – for more information see website at www.climatesoutheast.org.uk
- working with TV Energy on renewable energy/energy efficiency projects throughout the borough– for more information see website at www.tvenergy.org
- monitoring and improving water and energy consumption in the council's Civic Offices. All electricity supplied to The Civic Offices is already on a 'green tariff'
- providing energy efficiency advice to home owners – for more information see www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/homeenergy or call 01256 845304
- taking climate change issues into consideration by the council's Forward Planning Team and in the Local Development Framework, which will guide planning in the future
- protecting key wildlife habitats and landscapes
- keeping residents up-to-date with education and information campaigns to raise awareness of the issues
- improving recycling in the borough.

“Tackling climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and we need all of our community to take action.”

Cllr Elaine Still, Cabinet Climate Change Champion
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

What can you do?

- Ensure your home is insulated and draught proofed.
- Replace your light bulbs with low energy ones.
- Do not leave appliances on standby.
- Unplug your mobile phone charger when not recharging.
- Turn down your central heating thermostat by one or two degrees.
- Change your electricity supply to a 'green tariff'.
- Only use washing machines and dishwashers when you have a full load.
- Buy the most energy efficient appliance (A-rated).
- Buy locally produced food and goods wherever possible.
- Avoid products with lots of packaging and re-use bags for shopping.
- Use your car less by walking, cycling or car sharing.
- Check your tyre pressure regularly for efficient petrol consumption.
- Raise climate change issues in your workplace.



For a copy of the full Climate Change Strategy Action Plan and more information, visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/climate or call 01256 845620 or email lucy.martins@basingstoke.gov.uk

Climate change is a truly global problem, but we can all get involved. If we all make some changes this can make a huge difference.

