

National Indicators relating to Climate Change

NI186: Per capita CO2 emissions in the Local Authority area	
Indicator details	A measure of carbon dioxide emissions arising from housing, businesses/ public organisations and transport use in the Wyre Forest district.
Monitoring	CO2 data for the Wyre Forest district is provided annually by DEFRA. WFDC to monitor actions in the district to reduce emissions.
Local Area Agreement Targets	Year 1: 3% reduction from 2005 levels (18,000 tonnes in Wyre Forest) Year 2: 6% reduction from 2005 levels (36,000 tonnes in Wyre Forest) Year 3: 9% reduction from 2005 levels (54,000 tonnes in Wyre Forest) Reductions are to come from a mixture of national measures (e.g. due to new central government legislation) and local measures. WFDC will be accountable for reductions from local, and not national, measures.
The current situation in Wyre Forest	In 2005 (the LAA baseline year), emissions in Wyre Forest were 6.19 tonnes per head, split as follows: Domestic sector 39%; industry and commerce 36%; transport 25%. Work is already underway to try and reduce emissions. For example, The Wyre 65 scheme offers free loft and cavity wall insulation for householders aged 65+ in the district (living in properties in council tax band A-E). Since the scheme began in 2007, around 520 measures have been installed so far. This should save approximately 250 tonnes of CO2 and £50,000 on energy bills per year. There are currently plans to reduce the age limit and remove the council tax band restriction in order to expand this scheme. However, DEFRA recently released CO2 data for 2006, showing a 1.2% <i>increase</i> from 2005 in Wyre Forest, making the LAA targets even more challenging.
What more needs to be done?	Much more can be done to reduce emissions in Wyre Forest. There is much that the council can do much to lead by example in reducing its own emissions, e.g. from its own buildings, through the single site process, and its operations. However, no single organisation will be able to carry out all of the work required - it will require a concerted effort by a whole range of partners.

NI187: Tackling fuel poverty	
Indicator details	Measures the % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low and high energy efficiency rating in the district.
Monitoring	Annual survey to be carried out by the Worcestershire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on behalf of the Council.
LAA Targets	The first survey for this indicator will be carried out in 2008. This will enable the setting of a baseline and targets for the remainder of the LAA.
The current situation in Wyre Forest	The Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Group works to try and address fuel poverty, for example by operating a referral scheme to train front line staff to recognise the signs of fuel poverty and help people access relevant assistance. There are currently plans to carry out a thermal imaging flyover to identify the heat loss of households in the district. This will be overlaid with vulnerability data, to provide a heat loss map of vulnerable households, allowing targeting for improvement measures to improve their energy efficiency.
What more needs to be done?	Fuel Poverty is known to have increased in recent months due to rising fuel prices. The National Housing Federation, for example, predicts that a quarter of UK households will be pushed into fuel poverty by the end of 2009, with average household electricity and gas bills expected to reach £1,400. Again, increased effort will be needed to address this issue and bring about the economic, health and environmental benefits that tackling fuel poverty can bring.

NI188: Planning to Adapt to Climate Change	
Indicator details	<p>This is a process indicator which gauges the level of progress by a Local Authority in assessing and addressing the risks and opportunities of a changing climate. Progress is measured on a scale of 0 to 4:</p> <p>Level 0 - Process of assessing potential threats & opportunities across LA estates & services underway.</p> <p>Level 1: Public Commitment & prioritised risk-based assessment.</p> <p>Level 2: Comprehensive risk-based assessment & some prioritised actions.</p> <p>Level 3: Comprehensive action plan and prioritised action in all areas.</p> <p>Level 4: Implementation, monitoring and continuous review.</p> <p>Examples of the types of evidence required for each level are also available.</p>
Monitoring	Self assessment by the authority. The Audit Commission will assess the robustness of the assessment through the Comprehensive Area Assessment process.
Local Area Agreement Targets	<p>Baseline – all Local Authorities at level 0</p> <p>Year 1 - all district & County Councils at minimum level 1</p> <p>Year 2 - all district councils at minimum level 1, with County Council at level 2.</p> <p>Year 3 - all district councils at minimum level 2, with County Council at level 3.</p>
The current situation in Wyre Forest	<p>Whilst some actions have been carried out at each level, no one level has been completed as yet. A detailed assessment of flood risk in the district has been carried out; however the Council has not yet carried out a risk assessment considering the whole range of possible climate change impacts.</p> <p><u>Impacts of Climate Change in the Wyre Forest</u></p> <p>A detailed Worcestershire Climate Change Impact Study has been carried out. This looked at:</p> <p><i>Changes in Worcestershire’s climate over the last century</i> - including a 0.6C temperature rise and a 30 day increase in the growing season since the 1900s, with winters becoming much wetter relative to summers.</p> <p><i>Predicted future changes over the next century</i> - predictions depend on future emissions (the higher the emissions, the more extreme the changes are likely to be) but include: average summer max temp to increase 3.6- 6.1C by the 2080s; winter rainfall to increase 13-23% by the 2080s, summer rainfall to decrease by up to 12% by 2020s & up to 50% by 2080s, more short duration extreme weather events such as storms and floods.</p> <p><i>The potential impacts of climate change on various sectors, such as:</i></p> <p><u>Built environment</u>- e.g. overheating of buildings and increased frequency of flooding, with implications for planning policy and design.</p> <p><u>Public services</u>- e.g. increased food poisoning cases/pests, rising air pollution, pressure on drainage systems.</p> <p><u>Industry & Commerce</u> e.g. increased demand for local tourism/ outdoor leisure services, insurance issues.</p> <p><u>Natural environment/ public open spaces</u> e.g. plant adaptability (drought tolerance), grass cutting regimes.</p>
What more needs to be done?	Examples of actions which could be carried out to meet the targets include carrying out a Local Climate Impacts Profile to establish the impact of weather events on the Council over recent years and carrying out a risk assessment based upon predictions for future climate change.

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Appendix A

NI185/194 : Percentage reduction in CO2 and air pollutants from Local Authority operations	
Indicator details	This requires the Council to monitor and reduce CO2, nitrous oxides (NOx) and Particulate Matter (PM10) emissions from the energy used at its sites and fuel used by its fleet and for business mileage.
Monitoring	Internal monitoring, based on fuel bills, business mileage claims etc.
Local Area Agreement Targets	Not included in the Local Area Agreement, although the council's CO2 emissions form part of the overall district emissions (see NI186 above).
The current situation in Wyre Forest	Various measures have been carried out to improve energy efficiency at Kidderminster Town Hall, including the installation of energy saving light fittings and lamps, lighting sensors and radiator valves. Modern heating controls and ventilation has been installed in the adjoining Hub.
What more needs to be done?	Measures to reduce emissions as part of proposed move to a single site.

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