



Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Jenny Moreton
Principal Health and Sustainability Officer
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Open

Climate Change Strategy Annual Action Plan

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides a progress update on the Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan 2009/10 and seeks endorsement of the Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan 2010/11.

2. Background

2.1 The Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009/10 were adopted by Council on 20th May 2009.

2.2 The Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy was written to align with the Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy, setting the direction for delivering the county strategy within the district.

2.3 The strategy and action plan are based around three main topics:

- Raising awareness about the issue of climate change.
- Reducing Climate Change Gas Emissions in Wyre Forest.
- Adapting to the impacts of climate change in Wyre Forest.

2.4 Council further strengthened its commitment to tackling climate change at its meeting on 24th February 2010, by agreeing to sign up to the 10:10 campaign.

3. Key Issues

3.1 The Earth's climate is changing. The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows that the role of human activities in warming the climate system is now clearer than ever, and the world is already committed to further warming from past emissions alone. The global net effect of human activities since the pre-industrial era has been one of warming, substantially greater than natural warming or cooling effects such as solar changes and volcano activity over the same period. Earth has warmed by 0.74°C over the last century; around 0.4°C of this warming has occurred since the 1970s. Mean global temperatures are likely to rise between 1.1 and 6.4°C above 1990 levels by the end of this century, depending on our

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emissions. This will result in a further rise in global sea levels of between 20 and 60cm by the end of this century, continued melting of ice caps, glaciers and sea ice, changes in rainfall patterns and intensification of tropical cyclones.

- 3.2 A study into the impacts of climate change in Worcestershire, commissioned by the Worcestershire Partnership, revealed that the county's climate has also changed over the last century. For example, Worcestershire's annual temperature has risen by 0.6°C since the 1900s and we have seen an increased intensity of rainfall events. The county's climate is expected to carry on changing, with continuing changes in our temperature and rainfall patterns and increased frequency of short duration extreme weather events, such as storms and floods, predicted. As an example, the 2007 floods cost Worcestershire over £150 million, with many Wyre Forest households and businesses affected. Whilst a single such event cannot be attributed to climate change, the frequency of flooding events is expected to increase.
- 3.3 The extremity of further climate change, locally and globally, is likely to depend on future levels of emissions of climate change gases. The more we do now to reduce emissions, the less extreme the expected impact. The main human influence on global climate is emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂). DEFRA provide data on CO₂ emissions for each Local Authority area. In the Wyre Forest district, CO₂ emissions are split as follows:

Sector	CO2 emissions (2005- LAA baseline year) (tonnes per year/ % of total)	Main sources of emissions
Domestic	239,000 tonnes 39%	Electricity, gas and other fuels used to heat & power Wyre Forest's housing stock.
Industry & Commerce	218,000 tonnes 36%	Electricity, gas and other fuels used to heat & power Wyre Forest's business and public service providers.
Transport	150,000 tonnes 25%	Petrol and diesel used by transport on the roads and railways of the Wyre Forest.

Source: DEFRA.

- 3.4 The 2008-11 Worcestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA) includes a number of targets to tackle climate change issues. The Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy has been reviewed and updated to take these into account. The Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy sets out how this work is being taken forward within the district.

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- 3.5 The Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy covers the period 2009-11, to coincide with the Local Area Agreement and Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy. An annual action plan sets out how the strategy is to be delivered.
- 3.6 Appendix 1 provides a report on progress on delivery of the 2009/10 Climate Change Action Plan
- 3.7 Appendix 2 sets out the Climate Change Action Plan for 2010/11. The County received a green flag from the Comprehensive Area Assessment in 2009 for it's work on Climate Change and will be audited again through the CAA process in 2010. It is therefore important to continue good practise in tackling climate change issues through the delivery on the action plan.

4. Options

- 4.1 The Committee may wish to:
- Endorse the Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2010/11
 - Put forward alternative or additional proposals.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Internal discussions have been held with relevant officers, e.g. the Environmental Working Group.

6. Related Decisions

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy

8. Implications

- 8.1 The Action Plan requires cross-directorate and partnership working.
- 8.2 Resource issues have been identified has part of the Climate Change Action Plan 2010/11.

9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on the Climate Change Strategy/ Action Plan in January 2010.

10. Wards affected

- 10.1 All Wards are affected by work to tackle climate change within the District.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan 2009/10 Progress report
- 11.2 Appendix 2 Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan 2010/11.

12. Background Papers

[Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy](#)

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/community-and-living/sustainability/what-is-wcc-doing.aspx>

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