

Climate Change Briefing Note

Current status of climate change policy in Dorset

Carbon Emissions for Dorset

Latest data on Dorset's CO2 emissions is for 2005, produced 2.97 million tonnes – 36% domestic, 32% road transport, 32% industry and commercial.

Mitigation addressed strategically by:

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Renewable Energy Strategy – addresses both heat and electricity. Dorset Energy Group responsible for taking forward priority action areas covering bioenergy; community renewables; building integrated renewables; planning policy and R& D projects.

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy – aims to significantly improve energy efficiency in domestic, business, public and community sectors locally. Strategy currently being developed and will be completed by end of '08.

Dorset (rural) and SE Dorset Local Transport Plans – provides strategic framework for delivering sustainable transport locally.

Dorset Municipal Waste Strategy – key focus of the strategy is to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill and reduce methane a potent greenhouse gas.

Regional Spatial Strategy contains wide ranging policies on tackling climate change in the region which are being translated into Local Development Frameworks.

Adaptation

Currently there is no strategic framework in place to tackle climate change adaptation in the County. Current issue specific initiatives include:

- SW Nature Map – looks at landscape scale restoration to conserve, create and connect wildlife habitats and enable them become more resilient to climate change
- Dorset Coast Forum have undertaken scenario planning to explore future impacts on the coast including sea level rise.
- Coastal and flood risk management – integral role of the Environment Agency

At County Council level

Mitigation

Carbon Management Action Plan – sets target of 11% reduction in carbon emissions by 2010. Includes emissions from the council's buildings, street lighting, vehicle fleet, business miles, staff commuting and waste.

Adaptation

Local Climate Impacts Profile – the County Council is piloting this tool developed by the UK Climate Impacts Programme to identify the impact of extreme weather events on the Council's services, and the adaptation responses required both now and in the future to enable services to become climate resilient.