



# LEICESTER

## shining example



Building in Europe Local Intelligent Energy Forums



>>The City of Leicester is situated in the East Midlands of England. It lies on the River Soar at the edge of the English National Forest and covers an area of over 7,300 hectares. The City has a population of 280,000 and is currently, by population, the 10<sup>th</sup> largest city in England. It is a multi-racial city, with over a third of the population being of ethnic minority origin and a large student population is associated with its two universities. Leicester city is responsible for about 2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

### Abstract

The City of Leicester has long held a key role in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Leicester Energy Strategy was produced in 1994, which addressed both energy supply and demand. In 2003, Leicester Partnership and Leicester Environment Partnership, in conjunction with Leicester City Council, produced a Climate Change Strategy for the City. This includes a target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 50% by 2025 based on 1990 levels. It is designed to complement Leicester's Environment Strategy, which sets out 7 key areas for action: raising awareness, pollution, transport, resource efficiency, waste, biological diversity and green space. Leicester City Council is one of a select group of local authorities in the UK to subscribe to EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme). The Council also has an ambitious target to increase its use of renewable energy from 0% to 20% by 2020. Community initiatives that promote sustainability within the City include "cycle-city", "bikes-for-all", home energy efficiency grant schemes, park-and-ride, recycling facilities, energy advice for homes and businesses, and promotion of Fair Trade produce. In 2005, Leicester City Council was awarded Beacon Status for Sustainable Energy, giving the city national recognition for the excellent progress we have made. However, Leicester also recognised the need for a coherent Climate Change Action Plan, and in 2007, the Plan was accepted by the Cabinet of Leicester City Council. Leicester's Climate Change – What's Your Plan Forum has been established to help drive forward this action plan.

## OUR FORUM

### Basic facts

The Leicester Forum is called “**Climate Change: What’s Your Plan?**” (CCWYP) and was set up to monitor, and help ensure that the environmental and climate change goals set out in Leicester’s Climate Change Action Plan are achieved. In particular, CCWYP aims to reduce climate change by encouraging everyone in Leicester to plan how they will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide they produce. CCWYP is also encouraging businesses to do the same and develop their own Climate Change Action Plans. CCWYP has its own dedicated web page on Leicester City Council’s website: [www.leicester.gov.uk/whatsyourplan](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/whatsyourplan).

CCWYP was established in 2006, as a direct result of the BELIEF project. BELIEF provided the impetus and structure that was required to initiate the formation of CCWYP. It is an initiative that encourages personal and corporate action on climate change, and it brings together organisations from across Leicester to influence the environmental policies and practices of the city and other local organisations. Current partners include local authority departments, Leicester Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership), Leicester Energy Agency, environmental protection groups, universities, business support organisations and the local media. Partners representing companies, architects, utilities, residents associations and housing associations have also been invited. It is important that the local business sector is represented on CCWYP as this sector is often “hard to reach” on energy and environmental issues.

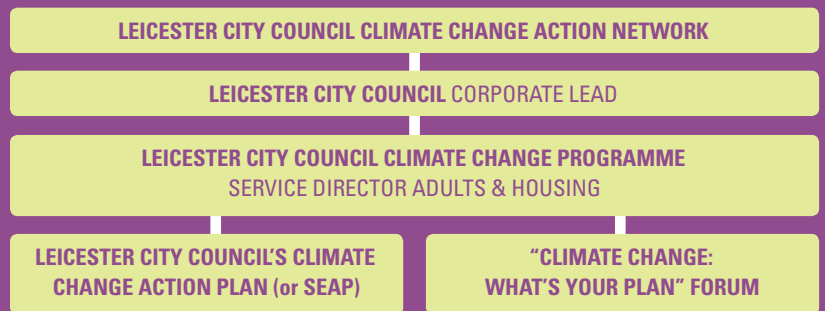
### Working method

Leicester City Council is responsible for arranging and hosting CCWYP meetings, which are held approximately every month. The meetings are chaired and facilitated by the Service Director for the Adult and Housing Department at Leicester City Council. In addition, Leicester City Council provides administrative support, including hosting the CCWYP web page. Agenda items are generally either suggested by Leicester City Council, or fol-

low the interests of CCWYP members. They also follow the key issues and objectives set out in the Climate Change Action Plan. As a partnership, it aims to take decisions through consensus. Where this cannot be achieved, decisions are taken by majority voting. Decision-making and participation in initiatives is voluntary and based on the commitment of individual CCWYP members. Progress with the implementation of the action plan is being monitored.

### Benefits for members

CCWYP provides a structured way for members to influence policy and action on climate change at a local level within Leicester city. The diagram below illustrates this.



CCWYP members share their practical experience of implementing sustainable energy, waste and transport projects and benefit from a more co-ordinated approach to the provision of environmental services. Members are able to problem solve, discuss any progress made, exchange ideas, and promote work undertaken by their respective organisations. It is also hoped that CCWYP will act as a platform to bring in funding for sustainable energy and environmental schemes from national and European Union sources. CCWYP has formulated a comprehensive marketing strategy and campaign in order to ensure that the Forum is established as a main focus within Leicester city for action on climate change and is easily identifiable. To this end, the CCWYP “brand” is being developed, and this will enable all Forum members to work under a common umbrella.



# OUR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN



## Objectives

Leicester city has a target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 50% by 2025 based on 1990 levels. Leicester City Council's own EMAS (Eco Management and Audit Scheme) target is to increase the council's use of renewable energy from 0% to 20% by 2020. The Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) also sets the following targets:

- » A carbon dioxide impact assessment should be made for all new or replacement buildings.
- » All Council buildings that replace existing ones should, as a minimum, aim to produce 50% less emissions than the ones they replace.
- » All new developments should aim to be "carbon neutral".
- » All proposals to relocate existing functions or provide new services must not adversely affect EMAS targets on emissions arising from vehicle fleet, customer mileage, staff business mileage and staff commuting.

## Activities (2007 onwards)

- » Report on the predicted impact of installed measures that reduce our consumption of gas, electricity and water.
- » Appoint Energy Advisor to work with all Council staff on use of energy in buildings.
- » Cabinet to adopt Travel Plan for the whole of Leicester City Council.
- » Review of waste and identification of interventions needed to reduce biodegradable waste going to landfill.
- » Report for Cabinet on potential for wind turbines in the City, on potential to expand existing CHP scheme and on opportunities to encourage local biomass sources.
- » Report on policy options for the council on becoming Carbon Neutral including an assessment of "offsetting".
- » Consider mechanisms to encourage partners and other organisations throughout the City to create and implement their own climate change action plans. The CCWYP Forum has an essential role in this activity.
- » Identify a methodology to monitor transport emissions.
- » Create an Energy Advice Agency for Schools

The Action Plan was prepared by members of the CCWYP Forum: the Environment Team and the Service Director for Adult and Housing at Leicester City Council.

## Financial aspects

Two funding bids are being put forward as part of the budget setting process for 2007/08 to 2009/10. A service development bid of £100,000 (€144,000) has been included in the Regeneration and Culture Departmental Revenue Strategy in Leicester City Council. If approved it will fund:

- » An officer to manage the Better Buildings Project (to promote sustainable construction).
- » A Climate Change Officer to prepare Part 2 of the Action Plan (adaptation) and ensure implementation of Parts 1 and 2.
- » The commissioning of specialist advice on the cost and benefits of extending Leicester City Council's existing Combined Heat and Power Schemes.
- » A bid to set up an Energy Advice Agency for Schools is being considered as part of the Education Capital Programme. If approved, this agency would offer a technical service to Governing Bodies to implement energy measures.

The "Climate Change: What's Your Plan" campaign needs further funding from Leicester Partnership. More investment is required from all the members of the partnership if the City is to have any major impact on commercial and other private sector organisations and travel.



## Achievements

By 2006 the Council had reduced its overall emissions by an estimated 25%, based on 1990 levels. The Council contributes roughly 3% of City emissions and schools a further 1%. If current EMAS targets are met the Council will achieve its target. However, renewed effort is needed to sustain the early successes as energy consumption has started to rise. If the targets are to be met successfully all proposals for service improvements assess the impact on CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions within their business case to avoid perverse effect on EMAS targets. There must also be a step change in the rate of improving the council's existing buildings. Other key achievements made to date include:

- » 280 sites with Intelligent Metering (gas, electricity and/or water).
- » Adoption of Leycroft Road Travel Plan, Leicester City Council's first internal Travel Plan.
- » City of Leicester Local Plan, 2006 which includes policies that promote Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Combined Heat and Power.
- » Adopted «Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document» and created the Leicester Better Buildings (LBB) Project to help the Planning Service and those involved in construction projects.
- » City Combined Heat and Power (CHP) scheme.
- » Energy efficiency improvements in homes and businesses.
- » Car-sharing scheme ([www.leicestershare.com](http://www.leicestershare.com)) designed to reduce daily travel costs, help reduce congestion and improve air quality.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Make sure that climate change is addressed at the **highest level of policy making**.
- » Make use of existing Forums and networks **to share best practice and ideas**, and avoid duplication of work.
- » **Create a common brand or logo** that is easily identifiable and that will enable Forum members, other local organisations and citizens to work collectively under a common umbrella to tackle climate change.
- » Develop an effective, targeted **marketing campaign**.
- » Don't use jargon and negative language to describe climate change. Research has shown that **people respond better to positive messages** that empower local action.
- » **Identify achievable projects** that deliver real savings in greenhouse gas emissions.
- » Focus on **changing attitudes** to climate change as well as **promoting pro-environmental behaviour**.
- » Look for **innovative ways of sourcing energy requirements** from locally produced renewable energy.
- » Ensure that new developments are built to **high standards of energy efficiency**.
- » **Establish an Energy Services Company (ESCO)** to supply heat and power to homes and businesses.




## Further information

Leicester Energy Agency,  
c/o Leicester City Council  
2-4 Market Place South  
UK-Leicester LE1 5HB  
Contact: Stewart Conway  
Tel: +44 (0)116 299 5128  
[www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk) and  
[www.leicester.gov.uk/whatsyourplan](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/whatsyourplan)

BELIEF website [www.belief-europe.org](http://www.belief-europe.org)



With the support of

Intelligent Energy  Europe

Official Partner

Legal disclaimer: The sole responsibility for the content of this shining example lies with the authors. It does not represent the opinion of the Community. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

© 2007 BELIEF