

A Climate Change Framework and Action Plan for York (2010-2015)



**Taking action
together to
tackle climate
change in York**

SUSTAINABLECITYYORK

WITHOUT WALLS
building a future for york



Tackling climate change in York

Human activity such as burning fossil fuels to heat our homes or sending waste to landfill is producing harmful greenhouse gases which are contributing to a warming of our climate.

Throughout history the climate on Earth has changed. But leading scientists now agree that atmospheric concentrations of the major greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – have increased significantly since pre-industrial times because of human activities. Average temperatures have also increased in the UK since 1659: summers have become hotter and drier; winters wetter and milder. Scientists' models suggest that this climate trend will continue.

Dispelling climate change myths

Is the climate really warming?

The first decade of this century has been, by far, the warmest decade on the instrumental record. 1998 was the warmest individual year but together the last ten years have been the warmest period in the 160-year record of global surface temperature.*

Human action has nothing to do with it?

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in the atmosphere have gone up 38 per cent, to 387 parts per million, since pre-industrial times. Rising levels of greenhouse gases are directly linked to human activity like burning fossil fuels and clearing forests. There is a clear link between more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and global warming.*

Not all scientists agree

Not true. The overwhelming majority of climate scientists now agree that human-induced climate change poses a huge threat to the world.*

It's too late

No, it's not. If we want to avoid dangerous climate change, the scientific community says we need to stop the world getting more than two degrees warmer than pre-industrial times. We have the technologies we need to create a low-carbon world – we just need to go for it now. It will cost much less to go low carbon than it will to let climate change happen.*

Did you know?

In York in 2008 our carbon emissions amounted to just over 1.2 million tonnes. The emissions originated from three major sources - 440,000 tonnes of CO₂ from our commercial and industrial sector, 435,000 tonnes of CO₂ from our homes and 310,000 tonnes from our cars and other modes of motorised transport. On average, per person we emitted just over six tonnes of CO₂ in 2008: enough carbon to fill about three double decker buses.*

*Source: adapted from ACT ON CO₂ visit:
<http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/home/climate-change-the-facts/10-facts-you-should-know-climate-change.html>

Did you know?

Over 40 per cent of CO2 emissions in the UK come directly from what individuals do – for example, using electricity in the home and driving cars. That means we can all make a difference. If every home installed 270mm loft insulation, it would save 3.8 million tonnes of CO2 – the same as the annual emissions of around 650,000 homes.*

Uncontrolled, these changes to our climate are predicted to have a major impact on our local communities and environment. We could see increased local flooding, structural damage to buildings and loss of wildlife, putting increased pressure on the emergency services, transport networks and the economy.

The good news is that it's not too late. The UK has challenging targets for reducing emissions by 2050, but it will only meet those targets if everybody – individuals, government and businesses – take action together.

Action in York

Work has already begun across the city to tackle climate change through a number of initiatives and campaigns supporting energy saving, renewable energy, recycling and sustainable transport.

Here are just a few things going on:

Saving energy

Residents are being offered advice on saving energy, installing renewable energy in their homes and what financial support is available to help them. This is through a partnership with the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre for York, North Yorkshire and the Humber.

Greener buildings

All new buildings in the city are built to high environmental standards and, where feasible, generate energy from renewable sources on site. Examples include the council's award-winning EcoBusiness Centre and EcoDepot.

Greener transport

There are lots of campaigns and schemes taking place across the city encouraging residents to walk and cycle more. York was a Cycling City from 2008-2011, working with partners to make it easier for people to cycle with better cycle routes and facilities, confidence building training and awareness raising projects. City of York Council has recently been successful in its bid for funding from the government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund, and will use this money (£4.6m) to fund other initiatives to encourage residents to take public transport, drive wisely and fuel-efficiently, and lift share.

Reduce, reuse and recycle

Residents are encouraged to reduce, reuse and recycle as much of their waste as possible through a variety of services and initiatives including household recycling collections, green garden waste collections, recycling banks and household waste recycling centres.

Greener communities

Various green community campaigns are carried out across York to help local communities combat climate change. The Sustainable City Education Programme is supporting schools and communities to tackle climate change; the Hotspots project tackled fuel poverty in homes; and the York Green Neighbourhood Challenge is working with community groups to reduce the amount of carbon they emit.

By altering the way we do things in our homes and businesses, we can all reduce the amount our daily actions contribute to climate change.

Cutting your carbon footprint could also save you money

Loft insulation

Houses lose a quarter of their heat through the roof, so lagging your loft to the recommended depth of 270mm will save on your heating bills every year.*

Cavity wall insulation

Houses lose a third of their heat through the walls. Installing cavity wall insulation only takes a couple of hours and is easily done by the insulator from outside the house and could save up to £115 every year on your fuel bills. If you have solid walls, these can also be insulated.*

Draught excluders

Fitting draught excluders where there are gaps could save £20 per year.*

Double glazing

If your house does not yet have double glazing, installing it could save up to £80 a year.*

Businesses

Business can also save money and carbon. Visit the York Environmental Business Support website www.york.greenerbusiness.org.uk/articles/regional/home

Working Together

City of York Council and the Without Walls Partnership (WoW) – a group of organisations striving to improve quality of life for people in the city known officially as the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) – have committed to tackling climate change in York and have created a climate change framework and action plan to help residents, public bodies and private businesses to tackle climate change through a series of coordinated actions.

The Climate Change Framework (2010-2015)

A Climate Change Framework was developed and approved in 2010 to ensure York, over time, accelerates actions to reduce carbon emissions. This document describes what actions are already taking place across the city and highlights key areas to be driven forward in the future to tackle climate change. It also:

- commits the city to a 40 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 (based on a 2005 baseline) and an 80 per cent reduction by 2050 (based on a 1990 baseline)
- commits the city to making full use of the potential for low carbon, renewable, localised sources of energy generation across York
- highlights ten key areas for the city to focus on and progress now and in the future.

*For more advice, visit the ACT ON CO2 website <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/home/what-you-can-do/In-the-home/Reduce-your-CO2-emissions.html>

For more details, please see the full Climate Change Framework (2010-2015) which can be downloaded from the City of York Council website: www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/climatechange/ or copies can be requested from the council (see page 7 for contact details).

combination of two specific action plans. One plan focuses on mitigation – actions that will reduce emissions from across York, and the other on adaptation – actions that will help York to prepare and adapt to the predicted effects of a changing climate.

The plans will be refreshed every three years to reflect progress and new priority actions and initiatives.

The Climate Change Action Plan (2010-2013)

The Climate Change Action Plan for York will deliver programmes of coordinated action across the city to meet the Climate Change Framework's targets and ambitions.

The Climate Change Action Plan for York is a

How will these documents help?

Both the Framework and Action Plan will help the city make progress towards creating the following:

1 Sustainable Homes

The city will begin to dramatically reduce CO2 emissions from domestic properties by accelerating city-wide programmes and educational campaigns to increase the use of energy-efficient appliances and measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation in existing homes and in all new homes.



2 Sustainable Buildings

The city will begin to reduce CO2 emissions from non-domestic buildings by accelerating city-wide programmes and educational campaigns to increase the use of energy-efficient appliances and measures in existing buildings and in all new buildings.



3 Sustainable Energy

The city will begin to understand and make full use of the potential for low carbon, renewable, localised sources of energy generation, and will begin to reduce York's reliance on fossil fuels for energy generation in the city's buildings.



4 Sustainable Waste Management

The city will continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste and will continue to minimise waste and reuse and recycle resources.



5 Sustainable Transport

The city will continue to implement measures to help people make smarter, sustainable travel choices, supported by a comprehensive, low emission, transport network.



6 Sustainable low carbon economy

The city will have accelerated programmes and educational campaigns that support businesses and organisations to reduce carbon emissions and waste across their operations, fleet and workforce.



7 Low carbon lifestyles

York residents will be well-informed and living a greener, more sustainable lifestyle saving energy in their homes, reducing, reusing and recycling waste, walking and cycling and using public transport more, growing their own food and buying local produce.



8 Sustainable planning, agriculture and land use

Planning in York will help create an environmentally-friendly city with a diminishing ecological and carbon footprint. The natural environment will be protected and enhanced and play a key role in reducing the impact of climate change.



9 Sustainable WoW (Without Walls Partnership)

WoW will drive forward carbon reduction and climate change adaptation actions across the partnership and the wider communities of York.



10 Preparing for climate change

The city will continue to investigate and communicate the likely future impacts of climate change in York to ensure our businesses and communities are better prepared and protected.



In order to achieve York's 40% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020 we will need to save approximately 676,000 tonnes of CO2 in York. This equates to saving about half of all the CO2 emitted in total across York in 2005.

Please see the Climate Change Action Plan for York (2010-2013) for a full account of all the planned actions to be carried out. This can be downloaded from the City of York Council website: www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/climatechange/ or copies can be requested from the council (see page 7 for contact details).

What do we need to do now?

Over the next few years City of York Council and partners need to undertake several research and feasibility projects to identify sites, partners and funding for:

- ▶ possible low carbon/zero carbon Combined Heat and Power (CHP) schemes across appropriate sites in York
- ▶ other low carbon/renewable schemes such as large-scale and medium-scale wind generation
- ▶ citywide/area based domestic energy efficiency and renewable energy installation programmes
- ▶ citywide roll out of replacement transport fuels such as electricity.

We also need residents and businesses to take action too.

- ▶ Find out your carbon footprint at www.actonco2.com. Its really simple and will help you to work out what actions you can take to reduce your carbon footprint. Here are some ideas to help you in your home:
- ▶ Turn appliances off when not in use
- ▶ Insulate your roof and walls
- ▶ Use energy efficient appliances like light bulbs
- ▶ For advice on saving energy or to find out about how you could generate your own energy from renewable sources call your local Energy Advice Centre for free on 0800 512012
- ▶ Reduce the number of short trips you make in the car
- ▶ Walk, cycle or take a bus instead of using your car
- ▶ If you need to go by car, car share where possible
- ▶ Recycle using your kerbside collections and reduce your waste by buying goods with minimum packaging
- ▶ Compost your own kitchen and garden waste

Businesses

Visit the York Greener Business support website at www.york.greenerbusiness.org.uk/articles/regional/home. This site is full of ideas and contacts that can help you to save money, water, waste and energy in your business.

For more ideas download a leaflet on creating a sustainable York which is full of advice and guidance on low carbon living. This is available from most City of York Council reception desks, libraries, and on the City of York Council's website www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/climatechange/ and the Without Walls website at www.yorkwow.org.uk/sustainable-wow/

How will we know how we're doing?

Initially, the Framework will be reviewed every five years while the Climate Change Action Plan will be reviewed every three years. The Environment Partnership Board of the Without Walls Partnership will monitor the Action Plan annually, and provide a publicly available progress report every two years.

Taking action together to tackle climate change in York

It is everyone's responsibility to take action to combat climate change. Residents and businesses can play a vital role in tackling climate change here in York. This Framework and Action Plan will help coordinate citywide action and ensure York reaches its short term and long term CO2 emission targets.

By publishing the Climate Change Framework and Climate Change Action Plan, the Without Walls Partnership and City of York Council aim to set the standard for future action to alleviate the effects of climate change, raise awareness among local people about the likely impacts of a changing climate, and work with the residents and businesses to develop a more sustainable York.

For residents and businesses in York these documents, over their duration, will help them all to live and work in a York that looks more or less the same but is sustainable, low in carbon emissions and adapted to a changing climate.

A place where they:

- live and work in energy-efficient buildings with smaller fuel bills
- drive less and walk and cycle more
- use renewable sources of energy in buildings and or power cars and buses
- create less waste, recycle and compost more
- are better prepared for a changing climate

Contact us

For more information on tackling climate change in York contact City of York Council's Sustainability team on:

General enquiries

Tel: 01904 551550

Email: sustainability@york.gov.uk

Post: City of York Council, City Strategy,
9 St Leonard's Place, York YO1 7ET

or visit

www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

 **01904 551550**