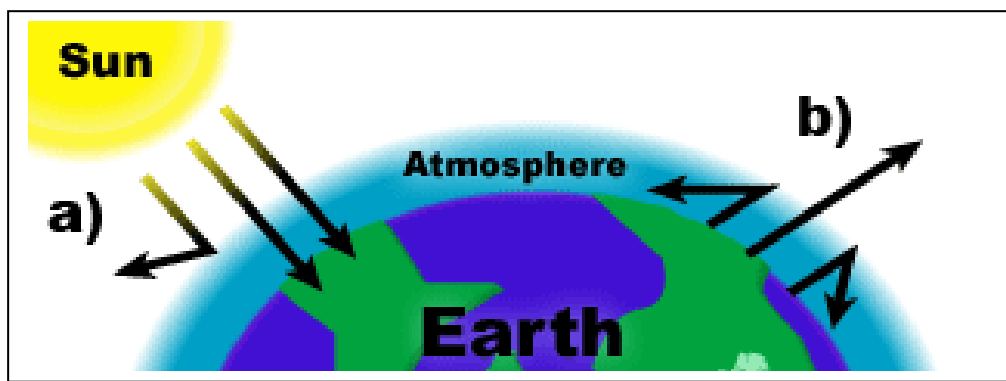


# **St Albans City & District Council Nottingham Declaration Action Plan 2008- 2025**

## Is climate change real?

Climate change, also known as global warming, is caused by the rise in average global temperature due to increasing levels of greenhouse gases<sup>1</sup> in the earth's atmosphere. This in turn is likely to cause a rise in sea-level, increase in surface ocean temperatures and changes to weather patterns.<sup>2</sup> If unchecked, these changes will radically alter our environment and will lead to the possible loss of life. There is overwhelming scientific evidence that human activity is the primary cause of change, the most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)<sup>3</sup>, a body which represents the authoritative scientific consensus on climate change, leaves us with little doubt that this is the case.

## The Greenhouse Effect



*Heat from the Sun (a) is trapped by the gases in our atmosphere (b)*

The reason that the scientists are so worried is that we are now adding to these greenhouse gases at a very fast rate - at twice the rate that the natural systems can remove them. As more and more of the sun's heat is kept within the climate system, the weather will become more and more extreme and unpredictable.

## What climate change means for us?

Across the globe, there will be more intense heat waves, droughts and more flooding. There may be severe problems for regions where people are particularly vulnerable to changes in the weather - food shortages and the spread of disease are commonly predicted<sup>4</sup>. The social, environmental and economic costs of climate change could be huge, as indicated in the recent Stern Review<sup>5</sup> on the economics of climate change. In the South East of England our climate will also be likely to change considerably within the next 50 years. For St Albans City & District this will mean much hotter and drier summers, milder and wetter winters and a higher occurrence of more extreme weather events and an increased risk of flooding in many areas<sup>6</sup>.

## Addressing Climate Change in St Albans

Success in dealing with climate change depends on us all taking the problem seriously. We need to build a sense of togetherness and have a co-ordinated plan in place to respond to this threat. Our aim, through this Strategy, is to;

- Show how St Albans City and District Council will reduce 'our' own consumption and tackle greenhouse gas emissions at a District level
- Encourage individuals and organisations within the District to reduce their resource consumption and emissions of greenhouse gases
- Plan to ensure that the District is prepared for changes in climate

This Strategy supports the board view that a target of a **3% reduction in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions year on year from 2006, for the district as a whole, to achieve a 60% reduction by 2025** is required to stabilise carbon emissions at a level which compares to existing UK government aspiration of a minimum 60 per cent reduction in carbon emissions from 1990 levels by 2050.<sup>7</sup>

However, the difficult truth is that in preparing this Strategy we have been unable to present any realistic reduction target in which we can achieve the 2025 target set out above, without a number of key national regulatory and policy changes. The main problem is that existing regulatory policies do not ensure that the costs of carbon emissions are taken into account in setting the price of most products and services. As a result, there are few financial incentives for business and individuals to take the kinds of actions required to cut carbon emissions on the scale that is necessary.

Therefore a key priority, beyond the actions outlined in the Strategy, is to work with national government to:

- Introduce a comprehensive system of carbon pricing and to create incentives for the take-up of carbon reduction measures.
- Rollout of decentralised energy systems such as small scale combined cooling, heating and power generation (CCHP) within the District
- Reduce the carbon intensity of the national grid through the significant promotion of large scale renewable technologies.

This Strategy, therefore, focuses on what can be achieved over the period from 2008 to 2025, but in the context of the type of changes that will be needed by 2025 and beyond by national and international governments.

## **Why reduce our use of fossil fuels?**

As well as its effect on climate change, there are a number of other very important reasons for us to reduce our use of fossil fuels and the CO<sub>2</sub> this produces:

- Reducing energy use by installing energy saving measures such as insulation will improve the thermal comfort of homes and save money on fuel bills. This is particularly important for vulnerable groups such as older people and the very young.
- The cost of fossil fuels is already increasing and is set to rise further as reserves decline. Making savings on energy saves individuals money and makes businesses more competitive.
- The UK is already a net importer of gas and, in 2006, we became a net oil importer four years earlier than expected, ending more than a decade of self-sufficiency. To reduce our need to import fuel from politically unstable countries, a mix of 'home grown' low carbon energy is essential, such as offshore wind, biofuel, solar, and wave & tidal power and, crucially, a major increase in the efficiency with which we use energy sources of any kind.
- Burning fossil fuels pollutes the atmosphere and causes health problems, such as asthma. The District has a number of areas where air quality falls below EC standards due to vehicle emissions.
- Reduced car use and the greater use of public transport would make our roads safer, reduce traffic congestion and improve access for all.

## **Adapting to change – a common sense approach**

It is now accepted that we cannot stop climate change but instead we should look to slow the rate at which it is happening. This will hopefully give nature and ourselves time to adapt to our changing environment.

Whether you believe climate change is being accelerated by human emissions of carbon dioxide or not, the facts are that our UK fossil fuel reserves are dwindling, sea levels are rising, British winters are getting milder and wetter, and summers hotter and drier. Each local authority will share national problems as well as experience its own localised impacts. Through prudent planning and proactive adaptation, St Albans City & District Council aims to turn these concerns into opportunities for improving the quality of life of its residents.

### How much do we consume?

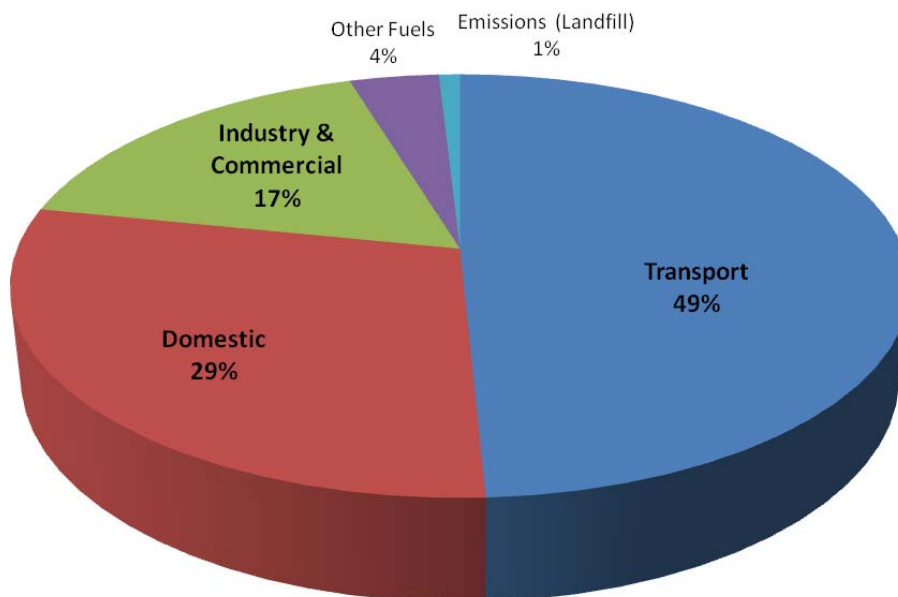
Our production of greenhouse gases is closely tied with our use of natural resources, so, one way to assess this impact is to look at the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with the consumption of goods or services by individuals. This gives us an individual 'carbon footprint' for each and every person within the District. For St Albans City and District, consumption-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are around 14 tonnes per person which is higher than the UK national average of 11.87 tonnes per person.<sup>8</sup>

### Our District 'Carbon Footprint'<sup>9</sup>

The District as a whole emitted well over 1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2005 – 06. Road transport has the highest 'carbon footprint', followed by energy use within the home and the fuels used to run industry, commerce and public buildings.

Sectors	Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> Produced
Transport (Road) – 'On the Move'	562,091.20
Domestic Households (Gas + Electricity use) – 'At Home'	330,580.00
Industry & Commerce (Gas + Electricity use) – 'At Work or School'	195,280.00
'Other' fuel sources	43,510.50
Landfilled Waste	10,237.43

### 2006 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions SADC



1,141,699.13 Million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>

## **Actions**

The actions set out in this Strategy have been developed following an extensive consultation period, community workshop and conference programme, best practice from partner organisations and authorities and national and international agencies. The Strategy sets out a number of actions within nine themes:

1. Education & Promotion
2. Sustainable Travel
3. Energy
4. Water
5. Waste & Recycling
6. Green & Ethical Purchasing
7. Land Use Planning
8. Partnership Working
9. Adaptation

The Strategy, although split over nine themes, will seek to address those 3 key areas within the District that contribute most to 'our' overall District carbon footprint, i.e. transport, domestic energy use and energy used in industry and commerce. The actions outlined in the Strategy, will seek to made carbon savings of 50 % related to the transport, 30 % from households and 20 % from commercial, schools and the public sector.

## **Management and Review of the Strategy**

This Strategy is an integral part of St Albans City & District Council agenda of reducing carbon emissions at a district wide level. It is key to the Council's commitment to reducing our 'own' carbon footprint, before we ask others to do the same.

The Strategy and targets will be updated annually by the St Albans Carbon Footprint Reference Group<sup>10</sup> and reported to St Albans City and District Council Cabinet for approval and outcomes reported to the public.

Governance of the Strategy will be the responsibility of the St Albans Carbon Footprint Reference Group who will oversee all aspects of the action plan and report progress to St Albans City & District Council Chief Executive's Board. The group will meet twice a year during the life of the action plan to oversee progress. A formal progress report on the year's action plan will be taken to Cabinet at the end of each year, where approval will be sort for the following year's action plan.

## Theme 1: Education & Promotion

Raising awareness and knowledge of climate change through education and publicity can bring about behavioural changes that will lead to St Albans successfully reaching its carbon reduction targets. For example, by publicising grants for insulation we can improve the energy efficiency of our residents' homes. Disseminating information on sustainable design to developers will enable them to design their buildings to cope with changes to our climate. Providing support mechanisms to schools and businesses will allow them to reduce the resources they use, and make cost savings.

Local authorities are uniquely placed to provide leadership to local communities, raise awareness and help change behaviour. However, without the support and willingness of local residents, community groups, businesses and partner organisations many of the actions set out in this strategy will prove ineffectual. It is our aim through this strategy to empower individuals and organisations to do their bit and make the difference through a variety of awareness raising activities.

Project No.	Project Title	Action/s	Outcome	Start date	End date	Resources	Lead Organisation
<b>E&amp;P 1</b>	'SAVE' (St Albans Values Energy) featuring Climate Change – Be Part of the Solution' <a href="http://www.bepartofthesolution.org.uk">www.bepartofthesolution.org.uk</a>	Provide a 'one – stop - shop' for information on how we can make changes in our lifestyles to reduce energy, waste, water and transport costs. Using websites, road shows, conferences, print and newspaper advertisements and one-on-one household visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web site launched by September 2008</li> <li>• 12 road shows attend per year</li> <li>• Minimum of 10 household visits per year</li> </ul>	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £3 k annual commitment	St Albans City and District Council (SADC) and the Local St Albans and District Strategic Partnership(LSP)
<b>E&amp;P 2</b>	'Cutting the Carbon' campaign for business and organisations within the District featuring 'How Green is your Valley' environmental toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make available training and awareness rising materials for organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,000 hardcopy toolkits distributed per year</li> </ul>	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £2 k annual	SADC, LSP & St Albans Chamber of Commerce

	and web site <a href="http://www.howgreenisyourvalley.org.uk">www.howgreenisyourvalley.org.uk</a>	on how to reduce their carbon emissions  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote a system of voluntary agreements with organisations on climate change committing them to an agreed carbon reduction target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Web site launched by January 2009</li> <li>A minimum of 10 organisations per year signed up to carbon reduction commitment</li> </ul>	2009	Ongoing	commitment  Approx. £2.5k capital commitment	
<b>E&amp;P 3</b>	'Eco – driving' courses	Provide information and online training course in partnership with the Department of Transport on how drivers can operate their vehicles in ways to minimise unnecessary fuel consumption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training materials published and made available on line</li> </ul>	2009	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £2 k annual commitment	SADC and DoT
<b>E&amp;P 4</b>	'Eco Schools'	Run environmental awareness campaigns for local schools and open day for head teachers. All schools would receive campaign materials	Increase the number of designated eco schools in the District	2009	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £3.8 k annual commitment	ST & Client Services

## Theme 2: Sustainable Travel

Carbon dioxide emissions from road transport account for nearly 50% of total emissions in St Albans and District. With two motorways running through the District it is difficult to have complete control over transport issues. However, within the City and outlying towns and villages we can make significant efforts to reduce not only the number of journeys taken by car, but also look at the fuel we use to run our vehicles.

During an average working day over 5 million vehicle kilometres are driven within and through the District. Most are accounted for by commuter travel, personal journeys, and the transportation of food and other consumables. These are the areas that need to be tackled as a priority. Through this strategy we aim to implement a number of projects and measures to promote and encourage more sustainable travel options.

Project No.	Project Title	Action/s	Outcome	Start date	End date	Resources	Lead Organisation
ST 1	Community based 'Car Sharing' website <a href="http://www.stalbanstravel.com">www.stalbanstravel.com</a>	Launch a car sharing database & travel information web site for the community within the District  Web site to be used by residents and business to find sharers for commuter and recreational journeys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Web site launched by June 2009</li> <li>Reduce the number of single person vehicle journeys travelled in the district</li> </ul>	2009	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £8 k capital investment & 2 k annual commitment	SADC, LSP and St Albans Chamber of Commerce (SACC)
ST 2	Parking concessions for environmentally friendly vehicles	Residents with any type of Eco Vehicle (electric, gas, fuel cell, hybrid) qualify for a 100% discount on the normal price of a resident parking permit, subject to proof of certain qualifying criteria	Scheme introduced in 2009	2009	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £5 -8 k annual commitment	SADC and NCP

ST 3	City Car Club	To establish a city-based car club for residents and business allowing access to 'hire' low emission vehicles in partnership with <a href="http://www.whizzgo.co.uk">www.whizzgo.co.uk</a>	To make available 10 vehicles and accompanying parking bays, extend scheme district wide	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £3 k annual commitment	SADC & Whizzgo
ST 4	'Quality Bus Partnership' agreement	Work with public transport providers to develop bus priority measures, improve timing of buses to coincide with train timetables and link together services to make it easier for the public to use	Partnership agreement signed	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  TBC	HCC, SADC and University of Hertfordshire
ST 5	'Mini' Park & Ride Scheme for St Albans City centre	Investigate establishing 'mini park & ride' scheme for St Albans City	Report commissioned and scheme introduced if possible	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  TBC	HCC and SADC
ST 6	Pedestrianisation	Undertake a review for the pedestrianisation of St Peters Street, St Albans	Review commissioned	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  TBC	HCC and SADC
ST 7	Green Travel Plan Co-ordinator Post	To support a funded post in partnership with University of Hertfordshire and the LSP. The post involves, for example, planning additional bus routes, developing the potential for car sharing between city centre employees, and looking at improved access for cyclists and those who walk to the city centre.	Implementation and management of sustainable transport projects and activities for the District.	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Annual budget for staffing cost £12,300 (SADC £5k, UoH £6,150 STCC £100, Hightown Pretorian £300, Rothamsted Research £750	LSP and University of Hertfordshire (UoH)

ST 8	Cycling Strategy	Campaign to encourage cycling through increased awareness and improved measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning and implementing new cycle routes</li> <li>- Providing additional cycle parking</li> <li>- Encouraging company cycle plans</li> </ul>	Implement the measures highlighted within Strategy	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £10 -15 k annual commitment	HCC & SADC
ST 9	Walking Strategy	Identify a series of key walking routes linking important destinations and develop proposals to make the routes more attractive through design, traffic management, lighting and signing	Routes identified and information published	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £7 k annual commitment	SADC & HCC
ST 10	'Travelwise'	Support the campaign to raise public and business awareness of sustainable travel, including walking, cycling and public transport.	Campaign launched. Reduction in traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	ST & HCC
ST 11	School Travel Plans	Work with schools on the development of school travel plans and the identification of safe walking routes to school and the provision of cycle training for students	All schools within the district having travel plans in place	2008	2010	Staff time	HCC & SADC
ST 12	St Albans Green Travel Plan	Adopt the targets and work programme from the Travel Plan for St Albans City and District Council.	Reduce work related car journeys by 10 % annually for staff and members	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £7.5 k annual	SADC

						commitment	
ST 13	Travel Plan Campaign	Work with organisations to develop travel plans for individual sites or offices within the District	Seek to reduce staff car use by 15 % for all organisations within the District annually	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	SADC & Herts County Council (HCC)

### Theme 3: Energy

We need energy to heat and light our homes and businesses, and we need it to manufacture the food and goods we consume. Most of our energy is generated by the burning of fossil fuels, such as gas, oil and coal, and the carbon that each contains is released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Wasted or poorly managed energy use can result in high CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions being produced; loss of money; and damage to the environment. By being more careful in the way we use energy and exploring cleaner alternative sources, emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> can be reduced whilst promoting sustainable development and wellbeing.

Project No.	Project Title	Action/s	Outcome	Start date	End date	Resources	Lead Organisation
E1	Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme	To implement the 5 year action developed in partnership with the Carbon Trust to reduce the direct carbon dioxide emissions from Council and Leisure Connection operations	To seek a 25 % reduction in carbon emissions	2008	2013	Staff time  Approx. £21 k annual commitment for 5 years	SADC and Leisure Connection
E2	Affordable Warmth Strategy	To develop and implement an action plan to reduce fuel poverty in vulnerable households in the district. In support of the government's Fuel Poverty Strategy and targets	Alleviation of fuel poverty in line with government targets	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £10 -15 k annual commitment	SADC & LSP

E3	HECA. Energy Conservation (Residential)	To provide an annual progress report on energy conservation measures for private sector housing in accordance with the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995.  Support programme to achieve the above	Achieve the HECA target of 30% improvement in energy efficiency in residential housing sector	2008	Apr 2011	Staff time  Approx. £5 k annual commitment	SADC
E4	Energy Conservation (Business, School and Public organisations)	To promote and work jointly with government agencies to encourage energy efficiency and promote low carbon energy production on-site	Increased energy efficiency and reduction of commercial carbon dioxide emissions	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	SADC
E5	The Warm Front Grant	Promotion of the Warm Front Grant scheme which provides up to £2,700 for household improvements in heating and energy efficiency. Means tested scheme.	A minimum of 150 homes per year to have taken up energy efficiency measures	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	SADC
E6	Warmer Homes Greener Herts	Promotion of the free advice service which provides householders with a database of loft and cavity wall insulation grant schemes in their area. The householder receives a recommendation based on price and service quality.	A minimum of 150 homes per year to have taken up energy efficiency measures	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	Milton Keynes Energy Agency
E7	Warm & Well Scheme	Offer of free cavity or wall insulation to home owners who are 70 and over and those residents on benefits	A minimum of 150 homes per year have taken up energy efficiency measures	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	Working Herts & SADC

E8	Insulating Radiator Panels Discount Scheme	Target 'hard to heat' dwellings. Radiator panels are provided free to households over the age of 60, or in receipt of a qualifying benefit. All other households can buy panels at a subsidised price.	A minimum of 150 homes per year to have taken up energy efficiency measures	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £3.5 k annual commitment	SADC
E9	Wind and solar technology demonstration projects council-owned buildings	Install renewable energy systems to demonstrate corporate commitment to sustainable development and carbon management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solar PV installed on St Albans City and District offices by June 2008</li> <li>Wind turbine installed at appropriate site by end 2009</li> </ul>	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. capital cost £63 K (Low Carbon Building programme (£30 k) and SADC (£33 K))	SADC
E10	Life in the Green Lane	Promote and market a scheme that enables district homeowners to install a solar hot water system at a discounted price	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To install a minimum of 50 solar hot water units per year</li> </ul>	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	SADC and Eaga Renewables
E11	Wind Turbine Rebate Scheme	Offer a rebate on the planning application costs for successful domestic wind turbine installations (Maximum of 1 applicant per month)	Promote and give incentive for the generation of wind energy.	2008	Ongoing	Staff Time  Approx. £2 k annual commitment	SADC
E12	Reduce Fuel Poverty and increase energy efficiency across all housing tenures within the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To carry out cavity wall/loft insulation to 250 properties per year within the council's housing stock.</li> <li>To install replacement high efficiency condensing boilers</li> </ul>	To improve the SAP <sup>11</sup> rating of the council's housing stock (currently 70.6)	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As approved budget- £20 k annual commitment</li> <li>As approved</li> </ul>	SADC

		<p>to 200 properties per year within the council's housing stock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider the installation of solar hot water systems, where appropriate</li> <li>Ensure that all tenants have received training and advice on the efficient use of energy and heating</li> </ul>				<p>budget - £200 k annual commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As approved budget Approx. £90 k annual commitment</li> </ul>	
E13	Alternative heating measures for council buildings	<p>Investigate, as necessary, the use of alternative heating technologies for use in council facilities (e.g. council offices, leisure facilities).</p> <p>To include CHP and biomass.</p>	Reduction in energy use from fossil fuels	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	SADC
E14	Construction of energy efficient commercial buildings in St Albans	<p>Promoters of new commercial developments will be asked for an energy statement and data on expected CO2 emissions generated by the expected energy consumption of that building</p>	In line with the European Directive "Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)"	2008	Ongoing	Staff time TBA	SADC Building Control
E15	'EU' Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	<p>Directive provides a range of provisions aimed at improving energy performance of residential and non-residential buildings, both new-build and existing buildings</p>	All public buildings to be assessed and surveyed within the District and certificates on display	Oct 2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. Capital budget of £2 k per building (2 – 7 buildings)	SADC

E16	Energy Audits	Make available energy audits, allowing organisations to assess their energy consumption and provide help and advice in reducing their energy needs		2008	Ongoing	Staff Time Approx. Capital budget £5 k	SADC
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#### Theme 4: Water

The South East region is already suffering from a severe water shortage, and coupled with high water demand, Hertfordshire has started to experience prolonged drought, a decline in water resources and river habitats.

Water consumption in the county remained above the national average of 160 litres per person per day in 2005/06. At 182 litres, this is twice the amount used by our grandparents. The growth of water-consuming goods like power showers, leisure pools and garden sprinkler systems, has contributed to this figure and the planned development of new homes means it is essential to implement measures and programmes to reverse this trend to meet future needs.

Project No.	Project Title	Action/s	Outcome	Start date	End date	Resources	Lead Organisation
W1	Water Conservation Promotion Campaign	In partnership with Three Valleys Water, promote water efficiency in the home and garden. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribution of water 'hippos', information booklets and other promotional media. Hold events to raise awareness.</li> <li>To promote the installation of domestic water meters.</li> </ul>	Annual reduction in the consumption of potable water, litre per person per day (l/p/d)	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	Sustainability Team

<b>W2</b>	Discount water butt scheme	Support Herts County Council scheme offering discounts on domestic water butts, through promotion and distribution of leaflets.	Annual reduction in the consumption of potable water, litre per person per day (l/p/d)	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	Sustainability Team
<b>W3</b>	SADC Water Management programme	To carry out a water audit to assess and monitor water use and consumption in the council district offices, and leisure facilities.  To install devices and implement measures to reduce water use and detect potential leakages.	Achieve set target in water use reduction	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. Capital budget £7 k	Sustainability Team / Building Services
<b>W4</b>	Reduce water consumption in all housing tenures	All bathroom modernisations will use water saving taps. In the new Schedule of Rates the taps will be specified for all tap changes on the day-to-day side.	Reduction in litre per person per day (l/p/d)	2008	Ongoing	As approved budget	Paola Munns, Housing Asset Manager

## Theme 5: Waste & Recycling

Waste is a growing problem, and its appropriate disposal is central to the work being done to reduce the impacts of climate change. Landfill sites are fast filling up, and combined with the resulting CO<sub>2</sub> and methane they create (emitted from the biological breakdown of waste) the way we treat waste needs to be re-assessed through reduction, re-use and recycling.

Recycling is an important part of successful waste management as it reduces the amount of waste to be disposed of. In terms of sustainability, it can help to protect our environment by limiting pollution and carbon emissions, as well as reducing the related economic and social costs.

Project No.	Project Title	Action/s	Outcome	Start date	End date	Resources	Lead Organisation
<b>W&amp;R1</b>	Recycling Strategy <a href="http://www.recyclingforapremier.com">www.recyclingforapremier.com</a>	To continue supporting the actions being carried out by St Albans District Council to achieve higher levels of recycling towards set targets.	To meet the target of 50% of household waste being recycling by 2010/11	2008	Ongoing	Staff Time  As approved budget	SADC
<b>W&amp;R 2</b>	"Saving the World One Bag at a Time" scheme	Reduce the disposal of single use shopping plastic bags to landfill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- raise awareness of impacts</li> <li>- distribute 1000 bags for life a year</li> <li>- encourage local supermarkets to give away free bags for life</li> </ul>	Reduction in carrier bags going to landfill	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £2 k annual commitment	Sustainability Team

<b>W&amp;R 3</b>	'Wastesavers'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise a joint campaign to raise public and business awareness of waste minimisation and the reuse, recycling and composting of waste. To promote the County's WasteAware campaign <a href="http://www.WasteAware.org.uk">www.WasteAware.org.uk</a></li> </ul>	Reduction in waste. Achieve local targets for recycling	2008	Ongoing	Staff time  Approx. £1k annual commitment	Sustainability Team
<b>W&amp;R 4</b>	Waste Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce a commercial waste recycling/reuse directory to encourage local businesses to recycle/reuse their waste</li> </ul>		2008	2010	Staff time  Approx. £3 k capital budget commitment	ST
<b>W&amp;R 5</b>	Paper Reduction plan for St Albans City and District Council Offices	<p>Reduce the amount of paper used in council offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set print default to duplex on all PCs</li> <li>increase use of electronic committee reports and other documents</li> <li>Reprographics to print duplex as standard, unless requested not to</li> </ul>	Achieve minimum of 25% reduction in office paper use	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	Sustainability team
<b>W&amp;R 6</b>	Waste Recycling programme for St Albans City and District Council Offices	Improve office based recycling facilities for staff and members	Increase the rate of office based recycling to a minimum of 75 %	2008	2009 / ongoing	Staff Time  Approx. £500 annual commitment	SADC ST and Purchasing Team

<b>W&amp;R 7</b>	Nappy cash-back scheme	Applicants receive a £60 rebate towards the cost of buying reusable nappies, or towards the cleaning cost.	Reduction in the use of disposable nappies	2008	Ongoing	Staff time Approx. £5 k annual commitment	Louise Palmer, Env & Health
<b>W&amp;R 8</b>	<a href="http://www.recyclenow.com">www.recyclenow.com</a>	Support of the HCC composting awareness raising programme.  Discounts for garden composters	Reduction in organic waste collection by refuse contractors	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	Client Services
<b>W&amp;R 9</b>	Recycling of redundant materials from housing stock refurbishment projects	Where possible, all waste from major housing stock refurbishment projects will be collected by a specialist waste contractor and taken away to be recycled into re-usable materials. To include window replacements, bathroom and kitchen refurbishments.	To minimise the amount of waste materials going to land fill.	2008	Ongoing	As approved budget	Paola Munns, Housing Asset Manager

## Theme 6: Green & Ethical Procurement

Environmental and climate change impacts occur through both the origin and nature of any goods purchased, for example the use of timber from non-sustainably managed forests or the transportation of non-seasonal fruit to the UK.

If you are a business it is possible to purchase services and goods in a more sustainable way by looking at factors such as service delivery options and contracts to encourage suppliers to operate green procurement policies. Householders may choose to buy locally grown fruit & vegetables, or Fairtrade goods that guarantee farmers in developing countries a fair price for their produce.

At a local government level, the Sustainable Procurement Task Force has produced an action plan to guide, promote and support the public sector in tackling issues such as climate change through more efficient procurement. With local government expenditure estimated at over £40 billion a year, public sector procurement can be used as a lever to stimulate markets for more sustainable goods and services.

Project No.	Project Title	Action/s	Outcome	Start date	End date	Resources	Lead Organisation
<b>G&amp;EP 1</b>	Fairtrade District Status	To support the parish and town councils within the District in meeting the 5 goals as required by the Fairtrade Foundation, UK.	Maintain and promote Fairtrade District status	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	Trevor Brennan, Sustainability Officer
<b>G&amp;EP 2</b>	Sustainable Procurement	To promote procurement practices drive energy efficiency and carbon reduction improvements for all organisations within the district	Make available materials and purchasing policy templates for	2008	Ongoing	Staff Time  Approx. £2 k annual commitment	SADC, LSP and St Albans Chamber of Commerce

<b>G&amp;EP 3</b>	Low Carbon Electricity	Purchase 100% electricity from a low carbon sources	All electricity provided from a low carbon supplier	2008	Ongoing	Staff Time As approved budget	SADC Purchasing
<b>G&amp;EP 4</b>	Sustainable Procurement for St Albans City and District Council	To implement a strategy to improve procurement decisions which look further into the future and can yield (direct) economic and social benefits to the Council and community over the longer term, as well as reducing environmental impacts.	Strategy adopted as part of the SADC Procurement Policy	2008	Ongoing	Staff time. TBA	Trevor Brennan, Sustainability Officer

## Theme 7: Land Use Planning

The way in which developments are regulated, planned and built and the way in which resources are used to do this determine whether or not they are sustainable. Simply by re-evaluating how and where we build things, and by taking into account issues like biodiversity and alternative technologies, we can reduce resource use and emissions and help adapt to some of the challenges climate change will bring.

Project No.	Project Title	Action/s	Outcome	Start date	End date	Resources	Lead Organisation
LUP 1	Development and implementation of the St Albans Local Development Framework (LDF)	To ensure sustainability is an integral part of the Core Strategy, Site Allocations document and Development Control Documents (DPDs)  All DPDs will be required to undergo a sustainability appraisal.	Conservation of green belt land and 'green spaces'. Construction of sustainable & resource efficient buildings	2008	Ongoing	Staff time.	John Chapman Planning Policy / Sustainability Team
LUP 2	Interim Policy Statement on Renewable Energy and Planning	Produce policy requiring developments over a set threshold to incorporate renewable energy into design process and go beyond Building Regs Part L	A requirement that all developments, either new build or conversion, with a floor space of 1,000 m <sup>2</sup> , or one or more residential unit, to incorporate on site renewable energy equipment to reduce predicated CO <sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 10 %	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	John Chapman Planning Policy

<b>LUP 3</b>	Code for Sustainable Homes	Incorporate polices in the LDF that support the Code for Sustainable Homes	A requirement that housing development should meet minimum level of 3 or above of the Code for Sustainable Homes	2008	Ongoing	Staff Time	John Chapman Planning Policy
<b>LUP 4</b>	BREEAM Statement	Incorporate polices in the LDP that support a Very Good or Excellent rating for commercial development	A requirement that commercial development meet a minimum standard of BREEAM rating of Very Good or above	2008	Ongoing	Staff Time	John Chapman Planning Policy
<b>LUP 5</b>	Hertfordshire Sustainable Development Guide ("Building Futures")	Via a steering group of 5 Herts LA's, produce a supplementary guidance on sustainable development to encourage best practice by developers/builders/local planners and integrate sustainable construction into key site development briefs	Guidance produced. Increased number of sustainable commercial and residential developments. Reduced pressure on Herts resources, e.g. water.	2008	2010	Staff time	Planning Policy
<b>LUP 6</b>	Sustainable construction in council new-build	Considerations to be made for the use of sustainable construction measures in the design of council-led developments.	Construction of sustainable & resource efficient buildings	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	Sustainability Team
<b>LUP 7</b>	Produce policies, guidance and advisory notes promoting and encouraging sustainable design and development	Produce, and if necessary enforce, planning-related guidance and policies to encourage developers to adopt sustainable measures into design and construction plans.  Include advisory notes in	Increased number of developments demonstrating sustainable design criteria.	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	Planning Policy/ Sustainability Team

		planning application consultations (via Environment & Health)					
<b>LUP 8</b>	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Implement the recommendations of the Local BAP	All green spaces managed in accordance to the BAP	2009	Ongoing	Staff time TBC	Jon Green, Leisure Services
<b>LUP 9</b>	'Biodiversity in Action' Campaign	Campaign to raise the issue of biodiversity with the public	Campaign launched	2009	Ongoing	Staff time Approx. £2 k capital commitment	Jon Green, Leisure Services
<b>LUP 10</b>	'Community Allotments' project	Provision of information to allotment holders about gardening for biodiversity, water conservation and composting of green waste.	Information provided	2009	Ongoing	Staff time Approx. £1.5 k capital commitment	Jon Green, Leisure Services
<b>LUP 11</b>	Gardening for Biodiversity	Introduce 'Gardening for Biodiversity' initiative, which will encourage people to bring wildlife into their gardens.	Campaign launched	20010	Ongoing	Staff time Approx. £2 k capital commitment	Jon Green, Leisure Services

## Theme 8: Corporate Development & Partnership Working

If the Council is to be successful in achieving the aims and actions set out in this Strategy, Climate Change and the wider issues of Sustainable Development must be integrated fully into all areas of its operations. By getting our own house in order we will be better equipped to lead the district towards achieving its carbon reduction target.

In addition, delivery of the Strategy aims can only be realised through effective, strategic partnerships with relevant organisations and community groups. It is therefore vitally important that the Council builds on the good work to date and further develops existing partnerships. We must also exploit opportunities to establish new partnerships and working groups.

Project No.	Project Title	Action/s	Outcome	Start date	End date	Resources	Lead Organisation
<b>CDPW 1</b>	Carbon Management Plan	To implement a strategy of actions needed to both adapt to climate change and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from St Albans City & District, in partnership with LSP.	Targets to be set based on carbon footprint	2008	2010	Staff time.  As per approved budget.	Sustainability Team
<b>CDPW 2</b>	Carbon Trading Councils (COT)	A cap-and-trade scheme that will drive carbon reduction by putting a price on carbon to enable local authorities and their partners to commit to carbon reduction plan	To meet an agreed annual carbon budget of 574 tonnes for civic centre offices	2008	2009	Staff time  As per approved budget £500	Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) & SADC
<b>CDPW 3</b>	Carbon Footprinting Programme	Maintain carbon footprint baseline for SADC operations and District wide on which to measure progress towards target	Current carbon footprint baseline: District (2005/2006) 1,141,699 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> produced, Council operations	2008	Ongoing	Staff time. .	Sustainability Team

			(2005/2006) 3,500 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> produced				
<b>CDPW 4</b>	Corporate Integration on Sustainability & Climate Change	Develop and introduce a mechanism to integrate sustainability into policy and service delivery	An assessment or checklist approach adopted to appraise the environmental impact of policy decisions and committee reports	2008	2010	Staff time.	Sustainability Team
<b>CDPW 5</b>	Corporate Integration on Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Run a training programme for senior management, key officers and members to integrate sustainability &amp; climate change within departmental service plans and service activities.</li> <li>Sustainability &amp; climate change training to be part of the induction programme for new members of staff throughout the authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a minimum of 2 training work shops per year</li> <li>Training to be included in induction programme for new staff</li> </ul>	2008	2010	Staff time. As per approved budget.	Sustainability Team
<b>CDPW 6</b>	Corporate Integration on Sustainability	To establish an officer working group on sustainability across whole authority ' Environmental Cascade Officers'	Establish a minimum of 4 meetings per year	2007	2010	Staff time	Sustainability Team

<b>CDPW 7</b>	Staff Resource Efficiency Raising Campaign	Distribution of promotional materials; provision of information (hardcopy and electronic); training and feedback.  Each member of staff and elected members to be supplied with "I Count" booklets	Improved efficiency of energy, water and other resource use	2007	2010	Staff time. As per approved budget.	Sustainability Team
<b>CDPW 8</b>	Green the supply of goods and services to the Council	Introduce a clear framework for monitoring and reinforcing a commitment by contractors to minimise the impact of their activities on the environment.	Greening of supply chain	2007	2010	Staff time	Sustainability Team

## Theme 9: Adaptation

Our climate is already changing. UK researchers have found that spring is beginning on average six to eight days earlier than it was 30 years ago, and each year we appear to be experiencing prolonged spells of extreme weather conditions.

We are committed working to “with key providers, including the health community, businesses and development organisations, to assess the potential effects of climate change on our communities, and to identify ways in which to adapt”. Therefore, using scenarios for the future, it is essential that we put plans in place to adapt to the predicted changes in climate.

Project No.	Project Title	Action/s	Outcome	Start date	End date	Resources	Lead Organisation
A 1	Future proof the LDF, taking into account climate change including actions to support passive cooling in buildings SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage), permeable surfaces, subsidence, flooding and landscaping	To ensure sustainable development is included as an integral part of the plans that will shape our district over the coming years. This will lead to the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of ‘sustainable communities’.</li> <li>• Conservation of green belt land</li> <li>• Construction of sustainable &amp; resource efficient buildings.</li> <li>• Support of the Government’s “zero carbon” target for all new homes by 2016</li> </ul>		2008	Ongoing	Staff time. TBC	Planning

A 2	Review & update Emergency Plan in response to changes in temperature and more severe weather within the district such as flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To investigate the potential impacts on health and safety from significant rises in temperature (e.g. asthma, heat exhaustion, pest control) and the potential loss of life and effects on roads and buildings due to increased flooding risk</li> <li>• To adapt and/or develop programmes to include actions that meet the needs of the above</li> <li>• To inform and advise businesses and the public about the associated risks.</li> </ul>	Update implemented	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	E&H & Emergency Planning Team
A 3	Protection of vulnerable habitats and species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify the potential impacts of global warming (e.g. deterioration of habitat, migration of species) on the district's habitats and species that are sensitive to climatic changes.</li> <li>• To create a system to monitor &amp; respond to the impacts identified. Identify changes to species selection policy</li> <li>• Review contract and resources available</li> </ul>	Assess implications of seasonal changes in plant growth	2010	Ongoing	Staff time.	Leisure Services & John 'O' Conner

A 4	Adopt maintenance programme for parks and open spaces to changes in growth patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To create a system to monitor &amp; respond to the impacts identified.</li> <li>Identify changes to species selection policy</li> </ul>	Change in species selection	2009	Ongoing	Staff time.	Leisure Services & John 'O' Conner
A 5	Food Safety & Hygiene Adaptation Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop and complete risk assessments for all registered food businesses in the district that may be susceptible to increases in food-related illnesses from hotter climatic conditions.</li> <li>To promote the related issues to businesses to increase awareness and reduce risk.</li> </ul>	All business assessed	2008	Ongoing	Staff time.	E&H
A 6	Monitor air pollution and raise awareness about the changes in health risks resulting from climate change		Results available	2008	Ongoing	Staff time	E&H
A 7	Plant trees to provide shaded areas in priority areas such as schools & urban locations.	Identify areas for planting	Planting programme introduced	2007	Ongoing	Staff Time	Leisure Services / Tree's & Woodland & John 'O' Conner

## **Our Future**

It is hoped that this strategy will start the process to integrate economic, environmental and social policies within the City & District of St Albans. All those involved will have to work harder to make the connections needed to involve the community as a whole.

Although many of the actions identified within this strategy are specific to the district, it must not be forgotten that the decisions we make can have a much broader effect and can in many cases influence the global balance of the planet.

A challenge has been set for all of us to take forward what we learn from our actions. Only with a genuine commitment to the principles of sustainable development will the objectives set out within this document be achieved.

## Key Terms Explained

**Adaptation** - Because of the way the climate systems works, we are locked in to a change in climate for the next 30 years that is influenced by our past emissions. Therefore even if we reduced our emissions to zero now, we would still notice a change in climate over the next 30 years because of emission in the past. Therefore we need to adapt i.e. change the way we do certain things for example build, to take into account the way we know the climate is going to change.

**BREEAM** - Building Research Environment's Environmental Assessment Method. A method used to assess the environmental performance of new and existing buildings. BREEAM assesses buildings in the following areas: management, energy use, health and wellbeing, pollution, transport, land use, ecology, materials and water.

**CHP** - A combined heat and power system provides both electricity and heat to buildings by a single process. CHP is energy efficient because the heat is utilised from electricity generation and the loss of electricity during transmission to the site from the power station is reduced because electricity is produced on site.

**Low Carbon Buildings Programme** - Grant programme (replacing 2Clear Skies") funded by the Department for Trade and Industry, providing grants for householders and not-for-profit community organisations to install renewable energy.

**DEFRA** -The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is one of the main central government departments dealing with climate change and sustainable development.

**Code for Sustainable Homes** - A BREEAM specifically for homes.

**Energy efficiency** - The use of energy for example electricity in boiling a kettle, gas in heating a hot water tank, without wasting any of that energy, for example only boiling the amount of water needed; insulating the water tank to ensure as much energy is used heating the tank rather than escaping into the air around the tank.

**Greenhouse gases** - These are the gases that cause the greenhouse effect. They include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride.

**Greenhouse effect** -The energy coming in from the sun can pass through the atmosphere almost unchanged and warm the earth, but the infrared radiation emanating from the earth's surface is partly absorbed by some gases in the atmosphere and some of it is reemitted downwards. This further warms the surface of the earth and the lower atmosphere. The gases that do this naturally are mainly water vapour and carbon dioxide, along with other greenhouse gases.

**Greenhouse gas emissions** - These are the greenhouse gases that are being sent out into the atmosphere.

**HECA** - The Housing Efficiency and Conservation Act (1995) aims to focus the attention of local authorities on the energy efficiency of all residential accommodation and on developing an integrated approach to housing and energy efficiency strategies.

**Kyoto Protocol** - The Kyoto Protocol (1997) is an international agreement in which signatories to the protocol agreed to reduce their green house gas emissions relative to 1990 levels. The UK is committed to reduce its emissions by 12.5% by 2012.

**LDF** - The Local Development Framework was introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and will change the way the council prepares local development plans. The framework will replace the Local Plan and will place sustainable development at the heart of the planning system.

**LTP** The Local Transport Plan is an outline of the council's activities around a sustainable transport system for the city, and the main source of Government funding for major transport schemes.

**Microgeneration** - Small-scale generation of power at, or near where the power will be used.

**Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change** - This declaration commits local authorities to activities in the local community that tackle the causes of climate change, and allow adaptation to the changing climate. [www.lga.gov.uk/Documents/Briefing/Our\\_Work/Environment/Nottdeclaration.pdf](http://www.lga.gov.uk/Documents/Briefing/Our_Work/Environment/Nottdeclaration.pdf)

**Renewable energy** - Forms of energy that can be produced as quickly as they can be used for example solar power, wind power, wave power.

**BAP** - A Biodiversity Action Plan is an internationally recognized program addressing threatened species and habitats, which is designed to protect and restore biological systems

**SUDS** - Sustainable drainage systems offer an alternative approach to traditional drainage. SUDS employ a whole suite of techniques to effectively manage drainage at source including dry ditches (swales), detention/attenuation ponds, and integrated constructed wetlands, all of which aim to detain run-off and release it slowly into watercourses or to ground

## References

<sup>1</sup> Greenhouse gases (GHG) include: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane and oxides of nitrogen. When we heat our homes or run our cars, for example, we burn fossil fuels which release carbon dioxide. Methane comes from many sources, which include, rubbish decomposing in landfill sites, mining of coal, growing rice and emissions from animals (particularly farming cattle) and humans. These gases trap heat near the surface of the earth that would otherwise escape, keeping the heat in and making the earth warmer.

<sup>2</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)), the Tyndall Centre ([www.tyndall.ac.uk](http://www.tyndall.ac.uk)),

<sup>3</sup> *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis, Forth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (<http://www.ipcc.ch>)

<sup>4</sup> Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution ([www.rcep.org.uk](http://www.rcep.org.uk))

<sup>5</sup> *Stern Review* ([http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent\\_reviews/stern\\_review\\_economics\\_climate\\_change/stern\\_review\\_report.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm))

<sup>6</sup> *Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom – The UKCIP02 Scientific Report – April 2002 – Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs* (ISBN 0 902170 60 0)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/Environment/climatechange/uk/legislation/index.htm>

<sup>8</sup> Hertfordshire Environmental Forum – ‘Quality of Life Report (2007)’

<sup>9</sup> DEFRA – ‘Local and Regional CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Estimates 2005-2006’

<sup>10</sup> St Albans Carbon Footprint Reference: The group acts as an critical friend to the Authority on climate change issues. Members include: St Albans City & District Council, University of Herts, Rothamsted Research, Building Research Establishment, St Albans Friends of the Earth, Hertfordshire Alternative Technology Society and the St Albans Chamber of Commerce

<sup>11</sup> SAP: The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) for energy rating of dwellings is a calculation of a building’s energy efficiency. SAP ratings are scored on a scale from 1 to 100 where 1 is the worst and 100 the highest. Current SAP rating for SADC housing properties is 65.