

# Climate Change Action Plan 2016

Climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing us today. Whilst other countries may experience the most severe impacts, our own region will also be affected by wetter winters, drier summers and more severe weather patterns in general.

We recognise that St Albans City and District Council (SADC) has an important part to play in acting on climate change through our role as:

- Community leader – helping local people and businesses to be smarter about their energy use and to prepare for climate impacts;
- Service provider – delivering services that are resource efficient, less carbon intensive, resilient and that protect those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts;
- Estate manager – ensuring that our own buildings and operations are resource efficient and are well prepared for the impacts of a changing climate.

This plan sets out the actions and measures that the Council will take to progressively address the risks and pursue the opportunities presented by a changing climate. This requires both reducing our impacts and emissions (mitigation) and ensuring we are resilient against future climate changes (adaptation). The plan sets out how we are leading by example within our own operations, and what we are doing to assist residents and businesses to reduce their impacts and adapt to a changing climate.

In producing the plan we have set the following locally relevant commitments:

## Climate mitigation

**Commitment 1:** We will reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 1.8% per annum from 2008/09, equating to a 20% reduction by 2020/21.

**Commitment 2:** We will reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions across the District by 3% per annum, from 2006; also specifically reducing emissions from the domestic sector by 1.5% per annum, from 2010.

## Climate adaptation

**Commitment 3:** We will integrate climate resilience adaptation into buildings, operations and services across the District.

The table below sets out our commitments, and the actions we will undertake to deliver them. We will monitor our performance, report progress and review our actions in April 2017, and every two years thereafter, to ensure they are current and continue to reflect local priorities.

## Climate mitigation

In order to mitigate the worst effects of climate change, we are working to create a low-carbon future:

**Commitment 1:** We will reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 1.8% per annum from 2008/09, equating to a 20% reduction by 2020/21.

**Justification:** The UK has committed to reducing its emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. Local authorities are key players in facilitating this reduction in emissions and St Albans City and District Council aims to lead by example by reducing emissions from its own buildings and operations. Between the 2008/09 (our baseline reporting year) and 2014/15 financial years, we reduced our emissions by 16% (from 7,766 t CO<sub>2</sub>e to 6,509 t CO<sub>2</sub>e). We still need to achieve a further reduction of 264 t CO<sub>2</sub>e from our 2014/15 emissions by 2020/21, to achieve our emissions reduction target.

Specific action(s)	Measure(s)	Timescale(s)
Measure and report on the Council's greenhouse gas emissions	Publish our annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report <sup>1</sup>	Annual, July
	Present a summary in our annual Performance Report, for discussion by Councillors at <a href="#">Cabinet</a>	Annual, September
Improve processes for managing energy consumption of Council-owned buildings	Gas and electricity bills will continue to be monitored using our integrated Energy Management Software. Unusual energy consumption values will be identified using validators in the software and corresponding sites will be investigated, to identify potential opportunities for energy demand reduction	Ongoing
	Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology will be rolled out to the	2020

<sup>1</sup> Our latest Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report can be found on our website, here: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/sustainability/energy.aspx>

	remainder of Council-owned properties, to allow for more accurate monitoring of energy consumption	
Reduce energy consumption of our commercial buildings, through improvements to energy efficiency and energy conservation	Continue to integrate energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in the design of new buildings and refurbishment projects such as the new <a href="#">Museum of St Albans (MoSTA)</a> and Harpenden Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool redevelopments	Ongoing
	Pilot a project to replace old, inefficient fluorescent lighting with efficient LED lighting at the District Council Offices. This will reduce lighting electricity consumption by up to 60%	August 2016
Reduce electricity consumption from Council IT systems and equipment	<p>Continue to investigate further opportunities for reducing electricity consumption from Council IT and equipment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise surplus hardware and energy demand through virtualisation of devices</li> <li>• Encourage the powering down of IT equipment by sending staff reminders to turn off computers and monitors when not in use and ensuring our building management team powers down larger equipment at the end of the day</li> <li>• Explore options for improving video conferencing and remote working systems, encouraging smarter, more efficient working</li> <li>• Integrate high energy efficiency standards into <a href="#">procurement and purchasing decisions</a> for electrical equipment and IT, such as ensuring new equipment achieves a minimum efficiency of 85% (<a href="#">EPA Energy Star version 5.0</a> or equivalent)</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Reduce energy consumption from existing Council Housing and improve the energy efficiency of buildings to a minimum and average Standard Assessment Procedure	Continue to work towards the actions in the Council's <a href="#">Home Energy Conservation Plan</a> for reducing energy use from Council housing, Our plan includes actions to:	Next progress report due in 2017

(SAP) rating of 60 and 70, respectively, by 2016 <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace current inefficient boilers with A-rated condensing boilers, prioritising the poorest performing properties</li> <li>• Fill lofts and cavity walls as part of on-going works or on request, also prioritising the lowest performing properties</li> <li>• Install low energy lighting to kitchen, bathroom and communal areas as well as lighting sensors to communal areas</li> <li>• Replace all single glazed windows with double glazing, exploring the use of timber framed glazing and secondary glazing within conservation areas</li> <li>• Promote energy efficiency to new and existing social housing tenants</li> </ul>	
Develop new Council Housing buildings to high energy efficiency standards	Complete the refurbishment of our Wavell House Sheltered Accommodation, improving the energy efficiency of the building	2017
	Complete the development of 2 new semi-detached houses in Kings Road to comply with Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4	Spring 2016
Reduce emissions from transport used in the delivery of Council business	Update our Green Travel Plan <sup>3</sup> and continue to encourage staff to use sustainable modes of transport. Current initiatives include staff discounts for public transport and provision of cycling facilities at our offices	Summer 2016, Ongoing

<sup>2</sup> This work is detailed in our Home Energy Conservation Plan. Our plan for 2015 to 2027 is available online, here: [http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/Images/Home%20Energy%20Conservation%20Plan%202015-2027.pdf\\_tcm15-49214.pdf](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/Images/Home%20Energy%20Conservation%20Plan%202015-2027.pdf_tcm15-49214.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Our Green Travel Plan can be found on our website here: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/sustainability/greentravel.aspx>

Reduce emissions from the procurement of goods and services delivered on behalf of the Council	Review and update the Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy <sup>4</sup> , ensuring that the policies are implemented to procurement decisions and contract specifications	2017
	Incorporate key sustainability criteria into the annual performance monitoring of our largest contractors, including energy and fuel use data, to encourage on-going action to reduce emissions	Annual July
	<p>Monitor the progress of our waste and recycling contractor in implementing the emissions reduction approach outlined in its Environmental Impact Control Plan. Specific actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all vehicles are compliant with Euro 6 emissions standards</li> <li>• Integrate electric bin lifts in the 26-tonne dustcarts, with a power supply independent of the vehicles' engine. This has been shown to reduce fuel consumption by up to 8% compared to traditional, hydraulic systems</li> <li>• Recalibrate vehicle gearboxes to reduce engine load at a standstill and optimise the automatic gear selection for the most efficient performance</li> <li>• Monitor engine management data (including over-revving, harsh braking, rapid acceleration, idling, and speeding) to enable more efficient driving</li> <li>• Calibrate compaction mechanisms to the optimum, including compaction pressures and number of cycles. This should reduce the vehicle's 'high idle' when the body is functioning by 15%</li> <li>• Use route optimisation software to reduce mileage</li> </ul>	<a href="#">New contract commences June 2016</a> , monitoring ongoing

<sup>4</sup> The latest version of our Sustainability Procurement Strategy can found on our website, here: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/sustainability/procurement.aspx>

**Commitment 2:** We will reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions across the District by 3% per annum, from 2006; also specifically reducing emissions from the domestic sector by 1.5% per annum, from 2010.

**Justification:** St Albans City and District Council can play a key role in reducing emissions across the District, by leading and supporting projects across the domestic, commercial and transport sectors. To date, emissions across the District have decreased by 12%, from 829.5 kilotonnes (kt) CO<sub>2</sub> in 2006 to 729.1 kt CO<sub>2</sub> in 2013 (the latest available reporting year). The domestic sector has historically been the largest contributing sector to the District's emissions; in 2013 it contributed 46% of emissions. For this reason, the Council is putting particular emphasis on reducing emissions from domestic properties.

Specific action(s)	Measure(s)	Timescale(s)
Analyse and report on CO <sub>2</sub> emissions across the District	Present a summary of District-wide CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, monitored and published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change <sup>5</sup> , in our annual Performance Report, for discussion by Councillors at <a href="#">Cabinet</a>	Annual, September
Reduce energy consumption from domestic properties across the District and promote renewable and low carbon energy <sup>6</sup>	Continue to work towards the actions in our <a href="#">Home Energy Conservation Plan</a> , measuring and reporting progress every two years	April 2017
	Administer the <a href="#">Home Repairs Assistance Grant</a> , providing support for improving the energy efficiency of vulnerable households, and investigate ways to improve uptake of the scheme	Ongoing
	Promote national grants, subsidies and advice to households, such as the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO), Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) and	Ongoing

<sup>5</sup> Department of Energy and Climate Change, UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>

<sup>6</sup> This work is also outlined in our Home Energy Conservation Plan. Our plan for 2015 to 2027 is available online, here: [http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/Images/Home%20Energy%20Conservation%20Plan%202015-2027.pdf\\_tcm15-49214.pdf](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/Images/Home%20Energy%20Conservation%20Plan%202015-2027.pdf_tcm15-49214.pdf)

	Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), for example through <a href="#">our website</a>	
	Participate in the <a href="#">Hertfordshire Sustainability Forum</a> , working to align Hertfordshire local authorities' sustainability policies and raise awareness of key issues, such as domestic energy efficiency. Specific upcoming work includes reviewing and updating the <a href="#">Climate Change Strategic Framework for Hertfordshire</a>	Ongoing
Reduce fuel poverty in the District and protect vulnerable residents	Monitor the percentage of fuel poor households <sup>7</sup>	Ongoing
	Provide advice in person, on our website and through Council communication channels, to help residents understand, manage and reduce their household energy bills and consumption	Ongoing
	Formalise the <a href="#">Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)</a> risk assessment tool, to assess potential risks to the health and safety of occupants in residential properties. In particular, where homes aren't adequately heated, recommendations will be made to landlords to carry out improvements to energy efficiency	Ongoing
	Work in partnership with <a href="#">Hertfordshire County Council</a> , <a href="#">The Health and Wellbeing Partnership</a> and the voluntary sector, to deliver the <a href="#">Herts Healthy Homes</a> scheme to protect the vulnerable and reduce the impacts of both winter fuel poverty and overheating in summer	Ongoing
Use the planning system to promote energy efficiency, renewables and a low	Include policies in our Local Plan <sup>8</sup> that encourage developers to achieve high energy standards and to incorporate renewable and	SLP to be adopted in

<sup>7</sup> Data obtained from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Fuel poverty sub-regional statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics>

carbon community	decentralised (on-site) energy generation. All major development proposals should demonstrate how they have considered and maximised opportunities identified in the Energy Opportunities Plan <sup>9</sup>	May 2017, DLP to be adopted in March 2018
	Include policies in our Local Plan that encourage new large scale development to explore and incorporate new low carbon district heating networks	March 2018
	Establish a set of performance indicators to monitor the effectiveness of sustainability policies in the Local Plan	March 2018
Reduce emissions from transport, by improving the efficiency of public transport and encouraging the use of alternative, low carbon modes of transport	Work with Hertfordshire County Council to support the continuation of the work of Network St Albans. The partnership is made up of key local transport stakeholders that have worked together over recent years to promote a range of sustainable local transport services including public transport, car sharing, walking and cycling.	Ongoing
	Encourage the use of <a href="#">electric vehicles (EVs)</a> by installing further public EV charge points in the District (utilising S106 and other funding sources) and promoting EV grants to residents and businesses	Autumn 2016
	Review licencing rules for local authority-authorized electric taxis, based on the results of a one year trial which ended in March 2016 and develop a strategy to accommodate the further use of electric taxis	Late 2016

<sup>8</sup> We are currently preparing our Strategic Local Plan (SLP) and Detailed Local Plan (DLP). Further information can be found on our website, here: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/planning/Planningpolicy/>

<sup>9</sup> This can be found under the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy heading in our SLP



	Update our <a href="#">walking</a> and <a href="#">cycling</a> strategies and continue to develop walking and cycling infrastructure; specifically completing the <a href="#">Green Ring</a> (a 10 km route encircling the City centre)	2016
	Continue to develop and implement the actions of our Air Quality Management Plan <sup>10</sup> to reduce emissions from road transport, with a focus on improving air quality at our three Air Quality Management Areas	Ongoing
	Develop a campaign to improve air quality by reducing emissions from idling stationary vehicles	Spring 2017

<sup>10</sup> The latest, publically available version of our Air Quality Management Plan is available on our website, here: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/environmentandwaste/pollution/air-pollution/>

## Climate adaptation

In order to adapt to the risks and opportunities that our changing climate will present, we make the following commitment:

**Commitment 3:** We will integrate climate resilience adaptation into buildings, operations and services across the District.

**Justification:** The effects of climate change can already be observed both globally and locally. In St Albans, we have experienced a number of severe weather events in recent years, including flooding and colder winters, the severity and frequency of which are expected to increase in the future.

Specific action(s)	Measure(s)	Timescale(s)
Incorporate climate resilience measures in the Council's new buildings and renovation works	All new developments constructed by the Council will incorporate sustainable drainage and measures to reduce flooding where appropriate. Over the next few years this will include the <a href="#">new Museum of St Albans (MoSTA)</a> and the Batchwood Garage Site Redevelopment	2017/2018
Ensure climate change risks are appropriately identified and mitigated against in our management plans	Contribute to and participate in the county-wide, multi-agency Local Resilience Forum, known as <a href="#">Hertfordshire Resilience</a>	Ongoing
	Continue to review and update business continuity processes through our <a href="#">Winter Operation Plan</a>	Ongoing
Identify communities at greatest risk from climate change (particularly flooding) and help develop appropriate action plans	Continue to host meetings with local communities, Environment Agency, Hertfordshire County Council and emergency services to develop action plans for key flood risk communities	Ongoing
Support the local community to prepare for and increase their resilience to the possible	Alleviate and minimise the risk of flooding through engineering solutions; provision of Aquasacs to Parish Councils for use by	Annual, April

impacts of climate change	vulnerable residents; and by working with partners such as the local highway authority to undertake drainage and gully clearing	
	Implement the actions of the <a href="#">Winter Operation Plan</a> and the Flood Response Operation Plan	Ongoing
Build climate resilience into our Local Plan	Incorporate policies to ensure that new developments avoid areas prone to flooding. We will encourage new developments to incorporate Sustainable (Urban) Drainage Systems (SuDS), including flood storage areas if and when necessary and to appropriately deal with flood risk assessment and mitigation (fluvial and surface water)	March 2018
Ensure that the District's green spaces, trees and woodlands are well managed, to conserve biodiversity and provide ecosystem services such as flood protection	Update the Council's Green Spaces Strategy and work with the <a href="#">Countryside Management Service (CMS)</a> to implement the environmental actions set out in our <a href="#">Green Spaces Management Plan</a> and site-specific management plans. Specific upcoming work includes a collaborative project with the <a href="#">Environment Agency</a> and <a href="#">Affinity Water</a> to improve the water quality, flow, flood risk and habitat of the River Ver	2016, ongoing
	Produce and implement our Tree Action Plan and Policy <sup>11</sup> , implementing policies for the conservation of woodlands and public commons and management of trees across the District	Spring 2016, Ongoing

<sup>11</sup> Our latest Tree Action Plan and Policy can be found on our website, here: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/environmentandwaste/trees-and-woodlands/CouncilTreeMaintenance.aspx>

To find out more about our approach to sustainability, please visit our website, at: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/sustainability/>

If you would like to let us know your views, please email: [sustainability@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@stalbans.gov.uk)

Or write to:

Candice Luper, Sustainability Projects Officer, Community Services Department, St Albans City and District Council, Civic Centre, St Peters Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3JE