

# **Rotherham's Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan** **2011 - 2015**

## **Introduction**

National Environmental and Climate Change legislation places significant duties and expectations on local authorities to address climate change issues.

The purpose of this Strategy is to explain how Rotherham MBC will reduce our environmental impact; reduce its contribution to climate change and adapt to future changes resulting from climate change. The strategy will contribute to national climate change objectives including:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 against a 1990 baseline.
- Reducing fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency through the Government Energy Company Obligation and Green Deal.
- Generating 15% of the UK's energy consumption from renewable energy by 2020.

Climate change is set to be an issue that will dominate the 21<sup>st</sup> century because of its economic, social and environmental implications. Although an international issue, many of the effects will be felt, and ultimately will need to be managed, on a local scale.

Progress of the Strategy and Action Plan will be regularly monitored. Achievements and areas of concern against the objectives and targets will be reported annually. The strategy will be reviewed annually or as a result of significant changes from local, regional or national legislation and policies.

## **The Challenge of Climate Change**

There is a wide range of evidence indicating our climate is changing largely as a result of human activities. UK Climate Impacts Programme reported changes are already occurring including:

- Global average temperatures have risen by nearly 0.8 °C since the late 19th century, but the rise has slowed recently.
- On average since 1900 sea-levels have risen by about 10cm around the UK and about 17cm globally.
- Sea-surface temperatures around the UK coast have risen over the past 3 decades by about 0.7 °C.

Seasons are changing in the UK with the growing season starting earlier and finishing later; average rainfall in the summer is decreasing, while in winter it is increasing; species are changing their behaviour, from butterflies appearing earlier in the year to birds starting to change their migration patterns.

Not only is it necessary to take action to mitigate future climate change, there is also a need to adapt to the changes we are likely to face.

Results of modelling carried out for the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study also suggest that by 2050:

- Increased and more frequent floods would bring an extended, higher intensity winter flood season and flash flood flows.
- Air pollution, especially during extreme heat events in urban areas, is expected to increase the incidence of health complications.
- Increased pressure on biodiversity and changing eco-systems.

Climate change will present the borough with opportunities as well as challenges:

- Increasing job opportunities in the low carbon sector.
- Providing opportunities for the Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Sector and industries in developing solutions to climate change challenges.
- Potential increase in arable farming yields

### **Action Plan**

The action plan sets out 10 key areas of action where we have the greatest scope to make changes; improve our local environment and reduce carbon emissions. The key areas are:

1. Strategic Planning and Policy
2. Built and Natural Environment
3. Emergency Planning and Recovery, Social Care and Health
4. Energy and Water
5. Engagement, Education And Awareness Raising
6. Housing
7. Procurement and Resources
8. Regeneration and Business
9. Transport
10. Waste and Recycling

Reducing our carbon emissions is essential to translating our commitment into actions. Carbon reductions can often be linked to improving efficiency and reducing cost by reducing waste; reducing energy and water consumption; using low carbon modes of transport; implementing sustainable procurement processes; contributing to carbon reductions through our built and natural environment and influencing behaviour through planning, policies, training and awareness.

## 1. Strategic Planning and Policy

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery Lead	Resources
1.1 Strategic approach to sustainable development adopted that cuts across all aspects of estate management, service delivery and community leadership	1.1.1 Dedicated Resource and Network for Climate Change Co-ordination	Dec 2013	Identify Climate Change Champions at Senior Officer and Elected Member level	RMBC Cabinet; SLT	Current
	1.1.2 Report performance and progress of action plan through the annual Environment Statement	March 2014	Annual report	Asset Management	Current
1.2 Ensure that a system is in place for gathering data in relation to climate change	1.2.1 Audit of Environmental and Climate Change activities across RMBC	March 2014	Internal Audit Programme / Annual updates Contribution to Annual Environmental Statement	Asset Management	Current
1.3 Commit to LGA initiative and become a Climate Local council	1.3.1 Sign up to the Climate Local commitment	April 2013	Annual Declaration Annual progress report	Resources Directorate	Current
	1.3.2 Comply with the commitment through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Declaration of targets and actions</li> <li>- Share learning and experiences with other Local Authorities</li> <li>- Report progress</li> </ul>				

<b>2. Built and Natural Environment</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Progress Measure</b>	<b>Delivery Lead</b>	<b>Resources</b>
2.1 Manage and improve the quality and accessibility of parks, open spaces and public rights of way	2.1.1 Development of Site Management Plans	Ongoing annual target dates (March)	Site Management Plans (currently 19)	Streetpride; Planning & Regeneration.	Current
	2.1.2 Implementation of Rights of way improvement plan		Team Action Plan (Rights of Way Team) and independent verification of targets for Rights of Way Improvement Plan as requested by the Local Access Forum.		
2.2 Improve street cleanliness by reducing litter, graffiti, fly tipping and other enviro-crime	2.2.1 Maintain cleanliness standards	Ongoing annual target dates (March)	Local Performance Indicators	Streetpride	Current
	2.2.2 Undertake awareness / action campaigns		Campaign reports		
2.3 Conserve existing biodiversity and reduce sources of harm	2.3.1 Implement Rotherham Biodiversity Action Plan 2012	Ongoing to 2020	Project Plans and biodiversity records Preparation and delivery of Implementation Plan	Streetpride	Current
	2.3.2 Develop and implement site based management plans for Council owned sites	Ongoing	Management plans		
	2.3.3 Maintain the Local Wildlife System to encourage all landowners to manage important biodiversity sites appropriately	Ongoing	System records		
	2.3.4 Ensure all land use and management strategies, policies and plans take account of biodiversity-related climate change issues and incorporate adaptation measures.	Ongoing	Management plans, corporate strategies and policies		

<b>2. Built and Natural Environment</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Progress Measure</b>	<b>Delivery Lead</b>	<b>Resources</b>
2.4 Establish ecological networks through habitat protection, restoration and creation to create ecologically resilient and varied landscapes	2.4.1 Agree Green Infrastructure mapping and incorporate into Local Plan delivery	2012 - 2014	Current ecological network extent mapped, connectivity targets agreed and supporting policies in place.	Streetpride; Planning & Regeneration.	Currently within Local Plan production scope
	2.4.2 Work with partner organisations to deliver network enhancement and connectivity.	Ongoing	Project plans		Current
2.5 Maintain environmental evidence base to allow sound ecological decisions to be made	2.5.1 Undertake regular monitoring of evidence base to ensure appropriate systems are in place.	Ongoing	Provision of relevant performance indicator data.  Provision of data to support decision making.	Streetpride	Current
2.6 Manage Rotherham woodland	2.6.1 Maintain, manage and conserve trees & woodlands in the borough	Annual certification	FSC Certification and Management Plans / improvement schemes	Streetpride	Current
	2.6.2 Identify local market for wood management by-products				
	2.6.3 Support woodland management projects for socially excluded communities				
2.7 Ensure that asset portfolio's are sustainable by integrating sustainability into all capital and asset management strategies, plans, programmes and projects	2.7.1 Promote sustainable design and construction through asset management and procurement practices.	Annual reporting project dependant	Design standards  BREEAM ratings subject to projects and funding	Asset Management Department	Current
	2.7.2 Adopt environmental sustainability measures within estates management.	Annual Report	Building performance standards		
2.8 Employ planning policy to address climate change	2.8.1 Consider climate change impacts and incorporate sustainable features in applications	Ongoing	Planning applications	Planning & Regeneration	Current
2.9 Ensure Biodiversity Duty (NERC Act 2006) is implemented in line with	2.9.1 Integration of biodiversity considerations into all relevant service areas and functions	Ongoing	Annual compliance monitoring to be undertaken by Defra.	Streetpride	Current

## 2. Built and Natural Environment

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery Lead	Resources
recommended Best Practice.			Internal monitoring system (to be agreed)		

### 3. Emergency Planning (and Recovery), Social Care & Health

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery Lead	Resources
3.1 Ensure potential environmental damage is minimised in emergency situations and accidents through the development of emergency response plans at sites of significant environmental risk	3.1.1 Maintain and implementation if required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Borough Emergency Plan</li> <li>- Site specific plans</li> <li>- Multi Agency flood plan.</li> </ul>	Annual Review	Annual training and exercises together with validation	Asset Management Department; Rotherham Emergency Planning Forum and the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum	Current
3.2 Ensure communities are prepared and able to adapt to future climate	3.2.1 Undertake Local Climate Impact Profile	Rolling Programme	Production of a local risk register	Asset Management Department	Current
	3.2.2 Raise community awareness		Validation of Awareness Raising Events  Place Survey		

<b>4. Energy &amp; Water</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Progress Measure</b>	<b>Delivery Lead</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1 Sustainable energy use and wider sustainable development recognised as a priority	4.1.1 Ensure energy issues reported regularly to Senior Management Teams	Annual / 6 monthly	Annual / 6 monthly reporting	Asset Management Department	Current
4.2 Reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	4.2.1 Reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from RMBC activities	Annual - July	GHG Report Annual CRC report	Asset Management Department	Current
	4.2.2 Promote energy efficiency in schools through technical improvement and awareness	Annual	Energy Performance Certificates / Display Energy Certificates	Asset Management Department	Current & external funding
4.3 Improve water management	4.3.1 Reduce water consumption from operational activities and include water management features in new build / refurbishment projects subject to projects and funding	Annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water management features in RMBC assets</li> <li>- Water consumption</li> <li>- Adaptation improvement report / action plan</li> </ul>	Asset Management Department; Planning & Regeneration; Adaptation Working Group	Current; potential EU funding
	4.3.2 Assess the feasibility of developing and adopting a Sustainable Water Management Strategy including adaptation measures				
4.4 Adopt /promote renewable energy	4.4.1 Increase renewable energy generation year on year in the borough to reach 36Mw by 2021.	Annual	Renewable energy generation in the year	Planning & Regeneration	Local Plan
	4.4.2 Identify and implement projects through FITS / RHI	Ongoing	FITS / RHI project records	Asset Management Department	FITS/RHI

<b>5. Engagement, Education and Awareness Raising</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Progress Measure</b>	<b>Delivery Lead</b>	<b>Resources</b>
5.1 Provide environmental training and information	5.1.1 Implement an ongoing communications and awareness campaign / training	Ongoing	Records of awareness campaigns / training sessions School training records	Asset Management Department	Current
	5.1.2 Support community groups / champions to provide local environmental advice	Ongoing	Records of support	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services	Current
	5.1.4 Communicate the environmental performance and initiatives of RMBC	Ongoing	Articles and press releases	Resources Directorate	Current
5.2 Work in partnership with schools, and other organisations to promote and support action / projects that improve the quality of our environment	5.2.1 Support Schools with Eco-Schools / Schools Collaboration Programme	Ongoing	Schools Collaboration Programme Report ECO schools / standard in Rotherham	Asset Management Department	Current

<b>6. Housing</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Progress Measure</b>	<b>Delivery Lead</b>	<b>Resources</b>
6.1 Improve the energy efficiency of social housing as measured through the SAP rating	6.1.1 Improve insulation	Ongoing	SAP rating of 75 by 2015	Housing & Neighbourhood Services; Strategic Housing Investment Service	Current and external funding
	6.1.2 Improve heating systems				
	6.1.3 Improve energy awareness				
6.2 Improve and maintain access to information on energy efficiency for Rotherham residents	6.2.1 Provide householders with a local energy efficiency advice and grant information services	Ongoing	Case / advice records	Housing & Neighbourhood Services; Strategic Housing Investment Service	Current
	6.2.2 Neighbourhood Service Centres advice				
6.3 Obtain external funding to support energy efficiency initiatives	6.3.1 Promote ECO/Green Deal	Jan 2013 - 2014	Projects using: Green Deal / ECO Funding for all 3 strands: 1. Affordable Warmth 2. Carbon Saving Communities 3. Carbon Savings	Housing & Neighbourhood Services; Strategic Housing Investment Service	ECO / GD Funding
6.4 Aim to achieve zero carbon new residential development	6.4.1 Evaluate the outcome of the Government Building Standards review announced by Government October 2012, with expected changes in 2013 resulting in: - Developing target(s) to achieve the objectives in line with changes to building standards. - Implement key actions to ensure compliance	2013	To be confirmed in 2013	Housing & Neighbourhood Services; Strategic Housing Investment Service	Current

## 7. Procurement & Resources

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery Lead	Resources
7.1 Promote sustainability and environmental considerations through procurement activities	7.1.2 Comply with the Sustainable Procurement and Commissioning Code of Practice	2013	CoP monitoring through environmental audit programme  Whole Life costs procedure and records of application	Procurement and Commissioning Teams	Current
7.2 Encourage procurement of local products and services	7.2.1 Action through the Procurement Strategy	Ongoing	Increased local products or services	Procurement and Commissioning Teams	Current
7.3 Where feasible, purchase goods and materials that can be manufactured and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way	7.3.1 Action through the procurement activities	Ongoing	Types of goods and materials purchased	Procurement and Commissioning Teams	Current
	7.3.2 Award suppliers who have proven sustainability credentials.				

<b>8. Regeneration / Business</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Progress Measure</b>	<b>Delivery Lead</b>	<b>Resources</b>
8.1 Regenerate derelict land and focus new developments on brown-field sites	8.1.1 Review and improve the current non domestic regeneration and land policy	Ongoing	Number of regeneration projects on brownfield sites	Planning & Regeneration	Current
	8.1.2 Review Local Plan land allocations in relation to modern market requirements		Local Plan		
	8.1.3 Maximise the amount of future housing which is built on previously developed land		Domestic properties constructed on brownfield sites		
8.2 Communicate the advantages to businesses of adopting new environmental practices, that reduce costs and increase business performance	8.2.1 Provide information to businesses on the environmental and economic benefits of low carbon and energy efficient practices	Ongoing	Number of businesses reached	Planning & Regeneration; RiDO Business Development Team	Current
	8.2.2 Raise awareness of loans and assistance for SMEs, particularly linked to the low carbon agenda & their bottom line				

9.Transport					
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery Lead	Resources
9.1 Reduce the environmental impact of fleet transport and promote the use of sustainable transport	9.1.1 Assess feasibility of alternative fuel fleet vehicles	Ongoing	Alternative fuel vehicles	Streetpride; Corporate Transport Unit	Current / external funding
	9.1.2 Install on board tracking device	Ongoing	Tracking devices fitted		
	9.1.3 Promote sustainable transport through the Local Transport Plan	Ongoing	LTP projects and performance indicators	Streetpride; Transportation Unit; Transportation and Highways Projects Group	Current
	9.1.4 Reduce staff grey fleet mileage	5% Annual	GHG report RMBC Travel Plan revised Autumn 2012	Streetpride; Transportation Unit	Current
	9.1.5 Service Planning to contribute to LTP targets	Annual	LTP targets considered in service plans	Service Directors; Performance & Quality; Transportation Team	Current
	9.1.6 Raising awareness and gaining commitment to sustainable transport from staff and contractors including moving people to public transport	Monitor annually	RMBC Travel Plan revised Autumn 2012  All modes travel survey required –capture data  Contract monitoring and LPS  Staff / contractor buy ins  Service level agreements	Streetpride; Transportation Unit	Current
	9.1.7 Implement a car club for RMBC	2013	Riverside House car club		Corporate funding

## 9. Transport

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery Lead	Resources
9.2 Management of taxies and contractors	9.2.1 Develop clear set criteria for taxies and hire vehicles including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- set age limits and emission standard following technology standards e.g. euro five</li> <li>- Install on board tracking device</li> <li>- Enforce idling regulations</li> </ul>	2014	Ongoing consultations with Taxi Licensing and Taxi Operators association	Streetpride; Transportation Unit	Current

<b>10. Waste / recycling</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Progress Measure</b>	<b>Delivery Lead</b>	<b>Resources</b>
10.1 Reduce the amount of waste produced through the adoption of the waste hierarchy 'reduce - reuse – recycle - recover'	10.1.1 Implement Waste Management Strategy	Waste Strategy target dates	Performance indicator reports	Streetpride; Waste Management Team	Current
	10.1.2 Assess and improve internal waste management		Waste management arrangements and volume Domestic waste arisings		
10.2 Reduce the amount of waste produced in schools	10.2.1 Promotion of waste minimisation and recycling including: paper banks composting	Ongoing	Number of schools with recycling facilities	Streetpride; Waste Management Team	Current
10.3 Improve management of ICT Waste	10.3.1 100% targets for reuse / recycling	Ongoing	Waste reused / recycled	Asset Management Department; Corporate ICT, ICT Governance & Change	Current

**Key:**

SLT	Strategic Leadership Team
DEC	Display Energy Certificate
EDS	Environment and Development Services
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
LP	Local Plan
LTP	Local Transport Plan
NAS	Neighbourhoods & Adult Services
RMBC	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
DECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change
LGA	Local Government Association
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Method
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities
DEFRA	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
RHI	Renewable Heat Incentive
FITS	Feed in Tariffs
RIDO	Rotherham Investment and Development Office
EST	Energy saving Trust
CoP	Code of Practice
SME	Small / Medium Enterprise