

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 10 NOVEMBER 2015

REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SPACE

EAST HERTS CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN REVIEW OF PROGRESS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

---

**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To update the Committee on progress achieved in reducing carbon emissions following the first five years of implementation of the East Herts Climate Change Action Plan and to review actions completed.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

**That:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the continued and ongoing progress achieved in implementing the East Herts Climate Change Action Plan, since its initial adoption by the Council in December 2009 together with the continuing success in the reduction of carbon emissions arising from the Council's service provision be supported.</b>
------------	---

**1.0 Background**

Members may recall that the Council adopted the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in December 2009. The Environment Scrutiny Committee asked at the time that progress with the Action Plan would be reported to the committee on an annual basis. This report provides an update with details of the Council's carbon emissions for the financial year 2014/15.

**1.1** It should be noted that all agreed initiatives within the Action Plan that have cost implications were/are subject to a business case

analysis before implementation to ensure value for money.

1.2 The document appended as **Essential Reference Paper “B”** to this report summarises the work achieved to date (December 2009- August 2015) in implementing the Action Plan.

## 2.0 Report

2.1. Officers are pleased to report that good progress has been made with implementation of the majority of actions within the Action Plan and that in general work is progressing to schedule, subject to thorough business case justification where appropriate.

2.2 A comprehensive analysis is undertaken each year of energy use of all the Council’s buildings. Including the main offices and leisure facilities plus smaller sites the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions arising for the 2014/15 year was 2,744 tonnes, which is up by approximately 8% from the previous year (2013/14). When compared with the baseline year of 2008/09 when emissions were 2,946 tonnes this represents an overall total reduction of approximately 7% for the year from base against the Council’s agreed reduction target of 25% by 2020/21. If all sources including external contracts such as Waste Management are included CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from East Herts Council service delivery has fallen by almost 9% compared to the baseline year.

2.3 Of particular note is the continuing range of energy efficiency projects completed with further planned within the District’s pools and leisure centres. Whilst overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the leisure facilities have risen by 13% last year, there has been a corresponding increase in usage of around an additional 5,500 customer visits. Since the baseline year of 2009 average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per visit to the Council’s leisure facilities have fallen by over 50% per visit in 2014/15. When viewed per customer visit this represents major efficiencies in carbon dioxide emissions, since the leisure centres and pools in particular utilise a large proportion of the energy consumed by East Herts Council in its service provision. Measures that have been undertaken over the past 3 years include:

- new heat pumps, valve wraps, plate heat exchanger, pool hall extraction fans, pool covers ( Grange Paddocks);
- new energy efficient changing room space heaters, pool cover ( Ward Freman Pool);
- new pool circulation pump, pool covers and recently LED lighting in reception area ( Hartham);

- pool cover (Fanshawe Pool)

However, as the facilities date from the 1970's and with Hartham Pool originally constructed in 1962, their age has a key impact on energy efficiency as none of the swimming pools in particular are properly insulated. Also given that the facilities were constructed for considerably less usage increasing visitor numbers means that the premises have a higher energy consumption than more modern construction. The Council has identified funding for consultants to undertake a review of the leisure sites with a view to determining potential options for energy efficiency/management improvements including the potential for use of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and solar PV alongside other measures.

- 2.4 The past refurbishment of Castle Hall into Hertford Theatre which included the installation of a range of energy efficiency measures has resulted in considerable ongoing carbon reductions year-on-year down a further 16,121 kg CO<sub>2</sub> to 204,248kg CO<sub>2</sub> in 2014/15 from 310,841kg CO<sub>2</sub> in 2008/09. This represents a very considerable fall of 34% in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the baseline.
- 2.5 The waste contract has delivered considerable ongoing CO<sub>2</sub> savings since the 2008/09 baseline, mainly as a result of improved scheduling of rounds and the use of newer more energy efficient vehicles. The total reduction in carbon emissions achieved since 2008/09 to date is now over 27%, which is in excess of the Council's agreed carbon reduction target of 25% by 2020. However, during the 2014/15 year there has been a stabilisation in emissions as collection rounds and vehicles remained unchanged. This is in contrast to the dramatic fall of 33% seen the previous year which was as a result of the change to using 6 twin pack recycling collection vehicles together with a move to zonal working on rounds making collections more efficient.
- 2.6 Whilst as noted above significant savings of approximately 7% have been achieved against 2008/09 baseline year, the 2014/15 year has seen an increase in emissions when compared to 2013/14. This is likely to be for a variety of reasons. First the average minimum temperature for the Year 2014/15 was approximately 2 degrees Celsius lower, which impacts significantly on the overall heating demand for the Council's buildings. Secondly, at Wallfields there has been an increase in staff occupation density partly as the building has accommodated additional shared service staff, which gives rise to greater

electricity consumption. Thirdly, it is worth recognising that the carbon factor of the energy supplied has a slight bearing on emissions if less “renewably sourced” energy is supplied by the utility companies. Finally, whilst energy use in the Leisure centres has increased, visitor numbers have similarly expanded resulting in a slight drop in energy use when calculated per visit.

2.7 The CO<sub>2</sub> savings shown above, from the baseline of 2009, indicate the Council is making steady progress in achieving its own internal Climate Change reduction target of reducing its carbon emissions by 25% from baseline levels by 2020. Since 2009 to March 2015 there has been a total reduction of some 1600 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from major static sources. This is equivalent to the total annual emissions of 320 typical East Herts homes.

2.8 Further examples of carbon savings arising from specific Council service areas are provided in **Essential Reference Paper “B”**.

### 3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper ‘A’**.

## Background Papers

East Herts Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan – December 2009

Contact Member: Councillor Graham Mc Andrew -  
Executive Member for Environment and Public  
Space  
[graham.mcandrew@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:graham.mcandrew@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Cliff Cardoza – Head of Environmental Services  
Contact Tel Ext No – 1478  
[cliff.cardoza@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:cliff.cardoza@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: David Thorogood – Environmental Strategy and  
Development Manager  
[david.thorogood@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:david.thorogood@eastherts.gov.uk)