

Southampton City Council Carbon Reduction Policy

The Carbon Reduction Policy outlines the Council's commitment to meet the Government's target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 80% by 2050. It also delivers against many of the Sustainability Principles that the Council have adopted. The Council interim target is to reduce CO₂ emissions by 40% by 2020. SCC baseline year will be based on 2008/09 CO₂ emissions. We aim to provide a leadership role and work with partners to reduce the overall CO₂ emissions of our City and beyond.

Southampton City Council commits to:

- Ensuring accurate carbon emissions data is available for legal reporting and carbon management purposes.
- Reducing CO₂ emissions as required to meet the Council's commitments (including ¹LAA, ²NI and ³CRC requirements) through a range of measures identified in an annual action plan
- Increasing carbon efficiency in terms of energy consumed per floor area (normalised to take into account variations in the weather) within its own estate and services.
- Applying the energy hierarchy⁴, which sets the direction for sustainable energy use within the Council and in priority order, we will strive to:
 1. Eliminate or reduce the need for energy,
 2. Maximise the efficiency of the remaining energy uses,
 3. Supply energy from renewable sources where feasible.
- Investing in highly energy-efficient plant and equipment to reduce CO₂, (including renewable energy sources), where this meets investment criteria
- Include life cycle (energy & maintenance) costs into the decision making process when procuring new plant and projects
- Utilising the Carbon Trust's MACC⁵ calculation tool as a business model to guide investment.
- Procuring energy to minimise costs and environmental impact
- Ensuring all future plans and policies include adaption to climate change

¹ Local Area Agreement 11 stretch target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 938 tonnes by March 2010

² National Indicators 185 & 186 to reduce CO₂ emissions within the council buildings and per capita of city population respectively.

³ Carbon Reduction Commitment is a legally binding cap and trade climate change and energy saving scheme coming into force 2010. It will cover large business and public sector organisations.

⁴ Based on the energy hierarchy described in the Local Government Association's publication *Energy Services for Sustainable Communities The Local Government Position* (February 1999)

⁵ Marginal abatement cost curve (MACC) considers the cost of CO₂ per tonne saved over a project's life time. For example, if the market price for carbon allowances is £12/tonne then it would make sense to implement projects that the life time carbon cost saving is lower than £12 per tonne of CO₂ saved.

Southampton City Council will address carbon efficiency in all areas of operation including:

Management issues

- Improve the collection and dissemination of accurate carbon emissions data throughout all SCC activities.
- Educate and raise awareness among staff
- Define roles and responsibilities for carbon management and reduction for all staff
- Encourage continual professional development for relevant technical staff
- Establish clear reporting procedures

Procurement issues

- Consider life-cycle energy costs for new projects and modifications to existing plant
- Procure equipment with low energy ratings and utilise the ⁶[Energy Technology List](#) where appropriate
- Establish technical guidelines for new projects and refurbishment

Financial issues

- Identify appropriate budget holder at a Departmental level, for all energy and carbon costs
- Establish ownership for invoice verification
- Establish management of carbon trading under CRC

Technical issues

- Establish procedures for efficient operation of plant and equipment
- Improve performance of plant and equipment already in use within the Council.
- Improve performance of buildings currently held in the Council portfolio
- Ensure all new buildings incorporate the energy hierarchy in design and technology used. Over and above those required by building regulations.

Southampton City Council is committed to accelerating its carbon management programme through a strategic action plan which will be reviewed for progress and updated each year.

⁶ The energy technology list provides a comprehensive list of energy and water efficient technologies that meet the efficiency requirements to enable a business to claim 100% first-year enhanced capital allowances on their spending.