

Cherwell District Council Carbon Management Plan (CMP)

Cherwell's Use of Natural Resources Project



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Owners: Jo Colwell (Project Leader) & Chiko Wade (Deputy Project Leader)

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1. Foreword from the Carbon Trust

Cutting carbon emissions as part of the fight against climate change should be a key priority for all public sector organisations. Carbon management is about realising efficiency savings, transparency, accountability and leading by example. The UK government has identified the public sector as key to delivering carbon reduction across the UK in line with its Climate Change Act commitments and the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme is designed in response to this. It helps organisations to save money on wasted energy and put it to better use in other areas, while making a positive contribution to the environment by lowering carbon emissions.

Cherwell District Council partnered with the Carbon Trust on this programme in 2010-2011 to realise substantial carbon and cost savings. This Carbon Management Plan commits Cherwell District Council to a target of reducing CO₂ by 22% by April 2015 and underpins potential financial savings and cost avoidance to the organisation of around £1 million by that date.

Public sector organisations can contribute significantly to reducing CO₂ emissions and improving efficiency. The Carbon Trust is therefore very proud to support Cherwell District Council in their on-going implementation of carbon management.



Richard Rugg
Head of Public Sector
The Carbon Trust

Foreword from Cherwell District Council

Cherwell District Council is an authority continually striving to be amongst the best performing councils in the country. We believe tackling climate change is clearly rooted in improving performance and requires a concerted corporate commitment, which is why it is at the heart of our strategic priorities. We are also ambitious, with a long term vision to be carbon neutral as set out in the District's Sustainable Communities Strategy published in 2009.

In 2006/07, we developed the Cherwell Environmental Strategy for a Changing Climate. This Strategy emphasises our leadership role and the importance of working in partnership. We are aware we have more work to do to put our own house in order and are committed to achieving the improvements required within our own operations, but also to be a catalyst for change in the wider community. Responsibility therefore lies with us to lead by example and to promote widespread action within the Cherwell area.

Within our operations the three major areas of emissions are our sports centres which have undergone modernisation, our vehicle fleet which has an annual rolling replacement plan of more environmentally friendly and fuel efficient vehicles, and other council buildings, some of which were refurbished in 2008/09 with their energy efficiency improved or are due to be refurbished in the near future. We hope our refurbishment project at Thorpe Lane Depot - which has reduced energy use, is using energy efficiently and deploys solar PV and a biomass boiler - will become a positive case study for our community and beyond.

During 2010 we embarked on a corporate improvement project to look at our use of natural resources in parallel with our participation in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme. We believe this twin track approach will ensure we deliver improved performance on both energy efficiency and CO₂ emissions, provide clear leadership and result in improved systems for ensuring good performance into the future. The emphasis will be on the delivery of tangible results and providing the foundation for sustainable improvements in future years.

It is vital that we demonstrate leadership and seek to reduce emissions across all our estate and operations. In uncertain financial times it is also critical that we reduce our energy costs and provide the best possible value for money for the residents of Cherwell. The Council is entering a new phase in 2011 by embarking on a shared management structure with South Northamptonshire District Council to seek further efficiencies and improvements.

This Carbon Management Plan sets out our actions to March 2015 to reduce emissions as well as costs, to protect both the planet and the public purse.

Sue Smith
Chief Executive

Cllr Barry Woods
Leader of the Council

Vision

Cherwell District Council is committed to **reducing our Carbon Dioxide** emissions. By March 2015 we will reduce our emissions by **22%**. Our long term **vision is to be Carbon neutral** in our own operations.

We will achieve our Carbon emissions reduction target by **implementing** practical, cost effective projects, and by **embedding carbon management principles** throughout our Council.

By achieving this we hope to **maintain a clean and green environment**, and mitigate against the impact of future energy cost increases.

Cherwell District Council **aim to lead** the District's carbon reduction **by example**, and provide support **throughout our Communities to increase their resilience**.

Summary

Cherwell District Council will seek to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 22% (1225 tCO₂) by March 2015

Cherwell District Council participated in the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme (LACM8) from May 2010 to March 2011. This Carbon Management Plan represents the completion of the programme and sets out our path for reducing CO₂ emissions over the next five years. Our carbon reduction target is to reduce CO₂ emissions from our own operations by 22% from a 2009/10 baseline year by the end of financial year 2014/15. This equates to a reduction of 1225 tonnes of CO₂ between 2010/11 and 2014/2015.

Our rationale for taking part in this programme of work is based upon improving our performance as a local authority both in terms of cutting costs to the public purse and reducing CO₂ emissions. The District has a long term vision to be Carbon neutral by 2030 as set out in our Sustainable Communities Strategy and agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership. The vision for the district is ambitious but we must start by showing leadership as a local authority by putting our own house in order first.

Cherwell's most recent recorded CO₂ emissions amount to **5568 tonnes of CO₂**. This is for the baseline year, 2009/10. This includes emission from our own operations and from major contractors who operate on our own behalf. Leisure centres are the largest emissions source with 55% of the total emissions and therefore are a strong focus in this Carbon Management Plan. CO₂ emissions from energy use have a total direct and indirect cost of approximately **£1,400,000** per annum. With energy costs rising and predicated to do so continually in the future, it is essential that efficiencies are adopted to reduce this cost. With a **22% reduction target** in emissions Cherwell District Council energy costs will be significantly reduced by approximately 5% per annum accumulating to just over a **£1,000,000 worth of savings by March 2015**, against business as usual. To continue with a business as usual approach, energy costs could increase steadily costing the Council in excess of over £1,500,000 over a 5 year period. This is the Value at Stake for The Council.

A 22% reduction target in emissions equates to over a **£1 million worth of savings by March 2015**, against business as usual. This is the Value at Stake.