



Climate change and  
sustainable Bournemouth  
community action plan

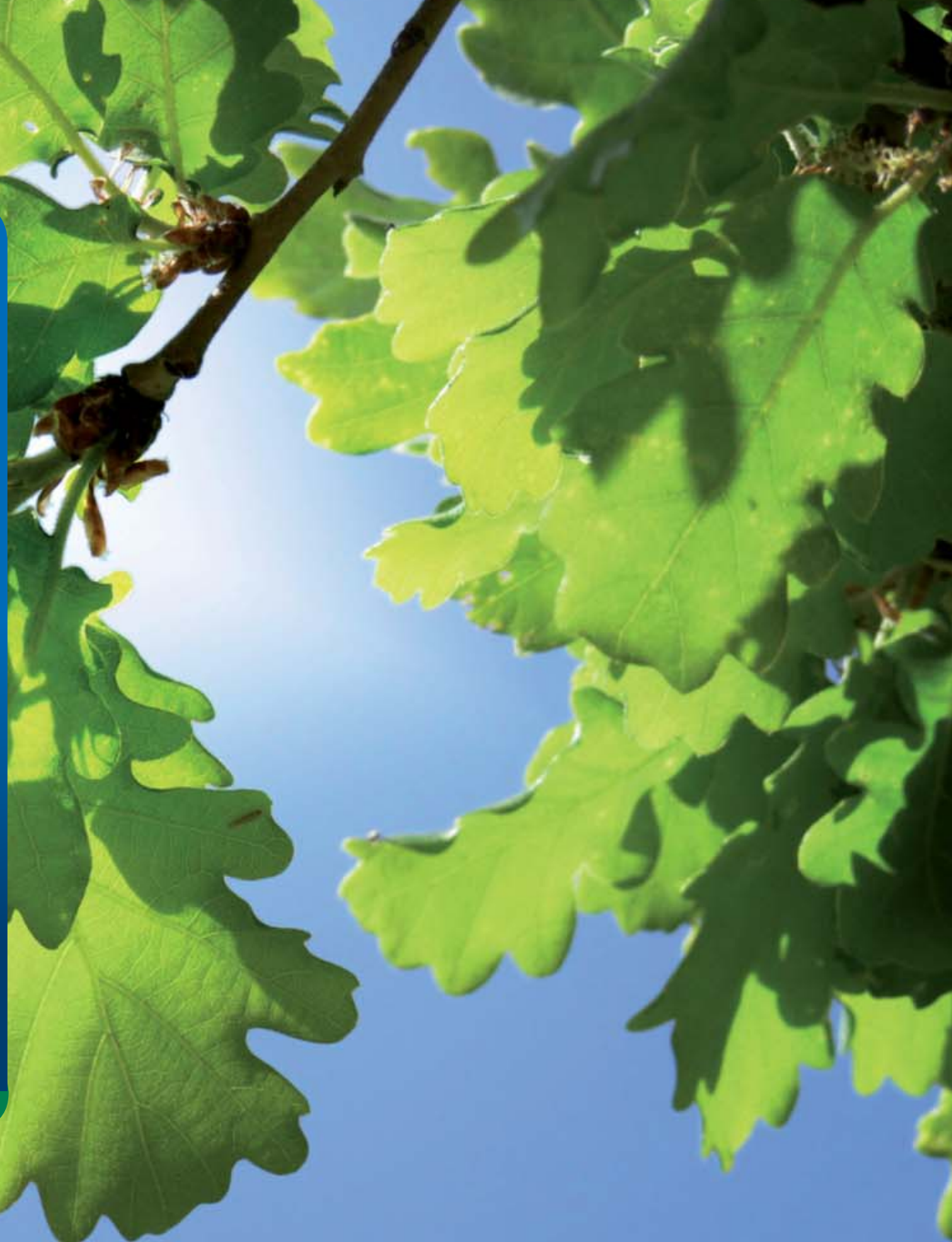
# Go Green Bournemouth





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## Improving our environment is a top priority for Bournemouth Council

Councillor Stephen MacLoughlin,  
Leader of Bournemouth Council



Global population is predicted to rise by 50% by 2050 - 3 billion additional people - and naturally, people in rapidly developing countries such as India and China want to break out of poverty and aspire to our lifestyle.

But the western world has become used to a way of life that is dependent on consuming natural resources at an unsustainable rate. Fossil fuels are finite and release greenhouse gases as they burn, adding to the natural processes of climate change.

Our protein-rich diet drives agricultural land use around the world, with market failure contributing to huge food mountains in some countries and shortages in others. We also waste unacceptable quantities of food.

However, the public is becoming increasingly sensitive to the imperative of sustainable development, and this is expressed by their support for environmental initiatives. For example, in Bournemouth the combined rate for recycling and composting rose from 36% to 40% in 2007/08 alone.

In response to public opinion, Bournemouth Council has made 'improving our environment' its top priority, and we have deliberately chosen a broad definition of the term to include natural, built, social and economic aspects of our environment because they are so inter-related.

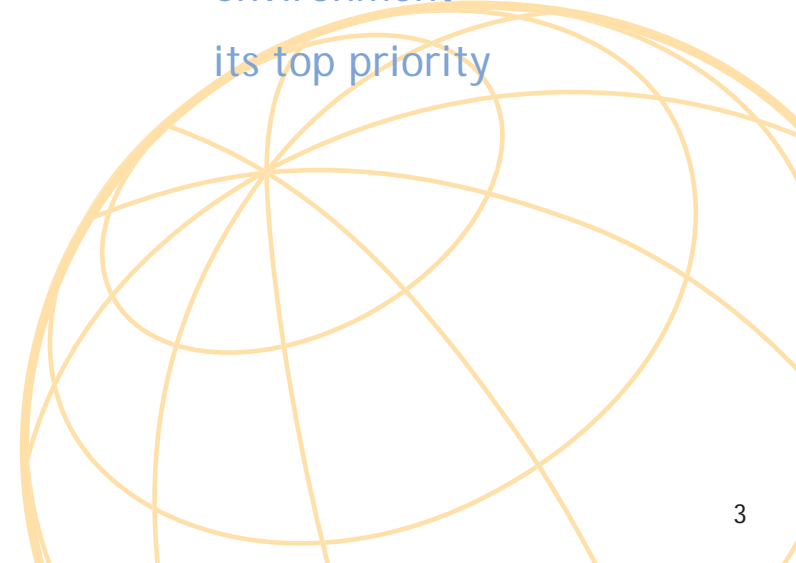
However, it is not always clear what people should do for the best in a subject which is technically, politically and socially complex.

So we have developed this community action plan for the public, businesses and local public service providers to raise awareness of the issues, and to take positive action that will lead to a sustainable future.

The actions we've set out will have an impact, but they require coordinated and concerted action by the whole community in Bournemouth, in tandem with our neighbours locally, nationally and internationally.

**As a well known high-street retailer put it, 'This is Plan A, because there is no Plan B'.**

Bournemouth  
Council has made  
'improving our  
environment'  
its top priority





## Now is the time to act... Together

Adrian Thomas,  
Chair of Bournemouth 2026

At its conference in November 2005 the Bournemouth Partnership, which represents over 200 organisations in the public, business, voluntary and community sectors, started to create a vision of the Bournemouth we would like to see in 2026.

Many formal and less formal discussions with individuals and groups went into creating this vision and the resulting strategy, known as Bournemouth Vision 2026, sets out the big picture for Bournemouth 2026 and identifies the things we can practically aim for over the four years, 2007-2011, towards achieving our goals.

One of the major challenges we all face is that of climate change. The Climate Change and Sustainable Bournemouth Community Action Plan sets out clearly the extent and breadth

of what is likely to happen as a result of climate change and ways in which we can respond to these challenges.

However, because we tend to perceive climate change as a series of predictions which will occur at some point in the future, we can be tempted to postpone our response to a time when we will actually experience them. It is hard to imagine such things happening and so even harder to motivate ourselves to make the necessary changes in the way we live.

Fortunately, this is not the whole story, nor can it be! Much has already been achieved and can be built upon through our action plan. The contribution of Bournemouth 2026 continues to be focused through the Sustainable Environment Forum which has the role of providing information,

sharing good practice and challenging and encouraging partners to act effectively in response to what they have learnt.

As both Bournemouth Borough Council and the Partnership have endorsed the Earth Charter, we have a framework against which we can judge our achievements. What this reveals at present is that there is a great deal yet to be done. The action plan requires our endorsement and commitment so that the environment we value so highly will thrive and sustain life in all its abundance.

Bournemouth 2026 is fully behind this new vision for our town and we will seek to ensure that all of our plans recognise and respond to the challenges it presents.

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## Facing up to the future

In recent years, the UK government has introduced a range of legislation and action plans to meet the challenges of climate change and sustainable energy. Regional bodies in the south-west have also addressed the issues with reference to the particular concerns of the region.

Where Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset is concerned, considerable work has been undertaken during the past five years, including:

### Renewable energy strategy and action plan

- Maximise the potential for local economic benefit and diversification
- Facilitate renewable energy development appropriate to our environment and communities
- Encourage a high degree of community involvement, understanding and benefit from using energy more efficiently and developing our renewable energy resources
- Play our part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions

- To deliver these aims, build on opportunities and overcome barriers, six priority areas have been identified.
  - Developing positive planning policies for renewable energy
  - Developing biomass energy and renewable energy from waste
  - Increasing the application of sustainable energy in buildings
  - Raising awareness and understanding about sustainable energy
  - Developing community renewable energy initiatives
  - Researching and developing new areas for action on sustainable energy

### Energy efficiency strategy and action plan

- Create a high degree of awareness and community action on energy efficiency
- Make the most of the economic opportunity of improving energy efficiency in our area
- Maximise the use of available resources within national programmes to achieve a step-change in energy efficiency improvement in the domestic sector and tackle fuel poverty in vulnerable households
- Encourage and facilitate a major increase in business energy efficiency
- Ensure local authorities reduce carbon emissions from their own

building stock and activities, and take a leadership role to promote energy efficiency in the wider community

- Play our part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2020
- Eliminate fuel poverty in our area by 2016

### Green Knowledge Economy

The concept of the Green Knowledge Economy - in which the environment is the main driver of economic development - is seen as crucial in meeting the challenges of climate change, and we are currently developing a viable strategy and action plan to implement these principles.

### Green Infrastructure

The term Green Infrastructure refers to a wide range of natural assets such as beaches, open spaces, gardens and street planting and its proper provision can make a positive contribution to



our recreation and health, wildlife habitats, food production, flood reduction and many other aspects of our daily lives.

At present, a Green Infrastructure Framework is being developed for South East Dorset with regional and local strategies to follow.

### Bournemouth 2026

Bournemouth Vision 2026 is specifically concerned with developing sustainable lifestyles and ensuring efficient use of resources, and a Sustainable Environment Action Plan has been developed to identify and co-ordinate the actions being taken to deliver the goals.



### Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

With current emissions of 5.7 tonnes per capita in Bournemouth, the target is to reduce this by 6.8% to 5.31 tonnes in 2010/11.

In addition, the Council aims to reduce its own emissions from energy and transport by 5% over the next two years. Based on a carbon footprint of 27,325tCO<sub>2</sub> for 2008/09 this means a total reduction of 1,366tCO<sub>2</sub>.



The Council aims to reduce its own emissions from energy and transport by 5% over the next two years.





## Adapting to Climate Change

Climate change is now recognised as the greatest environmental challenge facing the planet.

Over the last 100 years, global temperature has increased by 0.74°C, while sea level has risen by 17cm. The 12 warmest years on record have all occurred since 1990.

### How will Bournemouth's climate change?

By 2050, it is projected that Bournemouth will:

- Be warmer overall, by as much as 3.5°C in summer
- Have more stormy, wetter winters, with a 5 - 20% increase in rainfall.
- Be drier in summer, with a 10 - 40% decrease in rainfall
- Have warmer coastal water and sea level rising by about 45cm.

### What are the consequences?

- High summer temperatures will become more frequent, resulting in drier summers with longer droughts
- Deaths associated with hot weather will increase, especially amongst the very young, older people and more vulnerable adults
- Winters will become wetter and flooding more frequent, damaging more places and livelihoods
- Increased numbers of buildings, homes and people will be at risk from extreme weather conditions
- Local transport could be disrupted by expanding railway lines and melting or cracking road surfaces
- More extreme weather will put our local habitats and native wildlife at greater risk, with some marine life lost as coastal waters become warmer
- More storminess is likely to increase damage to coastal and marine habitats, as well as trees and woodlands
- The risk of getting food poisoning could increase
- Skin cancer could become more prevalent due to increased UV light.

### However, there are some benefits from climate change as well.

- Tourism benefits with good coastal protection in place
- More stable summers and milder, stable springs should enhance and lengthen the tourist season
- More people will enjoy active outdoor lifestyles
- Winter deaths among vulnerable groups should be reduced

- A longer growing season will increase the potential for new and novel agricultural crops
- New fish and marine life could bring about business opportunities.

### The impact of extreme weather

We can already see and feel how more extreme local weather is affecting people and places in our area and we need to better understand and reduce the increasing risk and impacts facing Bournemouth from its changing weather.

Bournemouth and Poole Councils are currently working together on a Local Extreme Weather Impact Study and this will give us a greater understanding of the links between:

- Our local weather
- The built and natural environments of both towns



- Specific local communities and neighbourhoods
- Our overall vulnerability to extreme weather and its impacts
- Existing action plans most likely to make a significant difference.

From this study, we will be able to determine how we can best manage the impact of our current climate and make sure residents, businesses, visitors and public services are all equally well prepared for the future effects that climate change is certain to bring.

Both Bournemouth and Poole Councils have made this issue a top priority, with senior officers and specialist staff taking responsibility for developing and delivering the project to ambitious and stringent targets.

To date, the work has involved:

### Resilience and managing community risks

A Community Risk Register has been developed to identify those areas which need to be addressed in order to reduce the risk wherever possible and how to respond effectively if incidents occur. Already some 200 risks have been identified and work is on-going to refine contingency planning on a multi-agency basis.

### Managing Bournemouth's flood risk

The Council has established a full-time, permanent engineering post to support the improvements needed in our flood risk management and response. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was completed in 2008 on behalf of all authorities in the River Stour and Avon catchments.

### Tourism and climate change

To communicate the issues to a wider audience, we have helped to produce a 20-minute DVD featuring 10 leading tourism businesses from the south-west, illustrating how these innovative businesses have adapted to our changing climate and the effects of extreme weather conditions.

We have also worked with the Environment Agency to produce a short animation of the projected climate change flood impact facing Bournemouth and Poole.

### Biodiversity

After attending a national conference on climate change and biodiversity, we produced our own report and recommendations for local action. We have also successfully applied for Breathing Places status under the BBC's national learning programme and our "Year of Wild Action" began in April 2009.

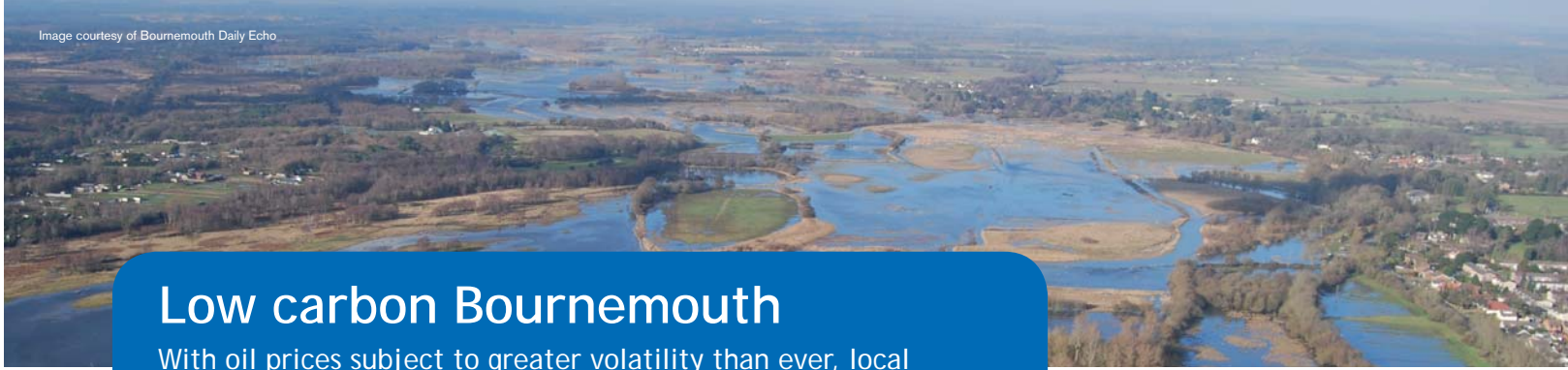
## Sustainability Audit

Bournemouth 2026 has carried out a Sustainability Audit to ensure that its Community Strategy does not conflict with wider considerations. All reports to the Council's Cabinet are accompanied by an environmental impact assessment which is available to the public. This specifically identifies response to climate change as a factor in decisions on new or revised plans, policies and projects.

## Bournemouth climate change community action plan

- Introduce the UKCIP Business Areas Climate Impacts Assessment Tool (BACLIAT) for local services, businesses and other organisations to explore and address the implications of climate change for their operations and stakeholders
- Strengthen climate change adaptation planning through links with the sub-regional Resilience Forum
- Run a community engagement campaign to get everyone talking about the impacts of existing extreme weather and the strength of Bournemouth's response to these.





## Low carbon Bournemouth

With oil prices subject to greater volatility than ever, local authorities are intent on taking practical steps to help households and businesses adapt to a world of diminishing energy supplies and climate change.

Bournemouth has based its response on the work of the Oil Depletion Analysis Centre, whose recent report drew together the most promising policies for tackling peak oil, so that everyone can benefit from the best practices being developed both at home and abroad.

Almost every area of policy is affected, from transportation to land use, planning to social services, and the Centre's proposals to mitigate peak oil are usually complementary to those required to combat global warming. However, there are also important distinctions that may affect the decisions we have to make.

Many of the suggested policies can reduce expenditure almost immediately simply by saving energy, and a wide-ranging review suggests we should consider the following actions:

- Conduct a detailed energy audit of all council activities and buildings
- Ensure our community risk register includes action to reduce the threats from volatile fossil fuels and energy supplies
- Develop an emergency energy supply plan
- Introduce rigorous energy efficiency and conservation programmes
- Encourage a major shift from private to public transport, cycling and walking
- Expand existing programmes such as cycle lanes and road pricing
- Reduce overall transport demand through imaginative planning
- Promote the use of locally produced, non-fossil transport fuels such as biogas and renewable electricity in

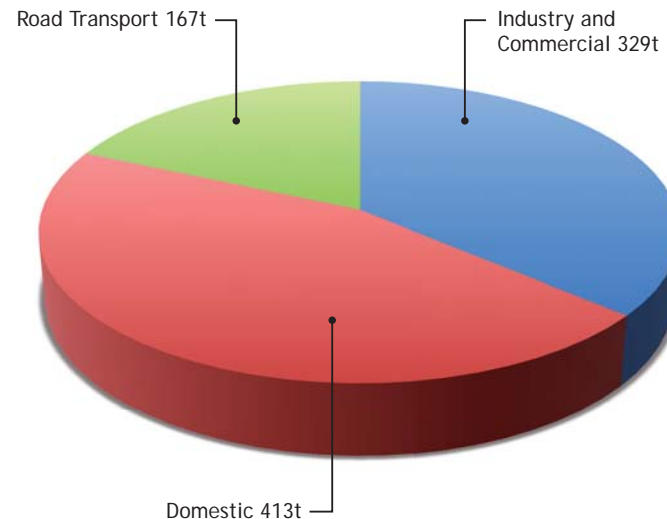
- both council operations and public transport
- Launch a major public energy-awareness campaign
- Find ways to encourage local food production and processing and so reduce energy used in refrigeration and transportation of food.

## How big is Bournemouth's carbon footprint?

Bournemouth and Poole have the largest carbon footprints in Dorset. In Bournemouth, our carbon emissions come from:

- Homes and domestic use producing the most at 45.4%
- Business and public services producing 36.2%
- Road transport producing 18.4%.

## Carbon emissions in Bournemouth



Population  
161,000

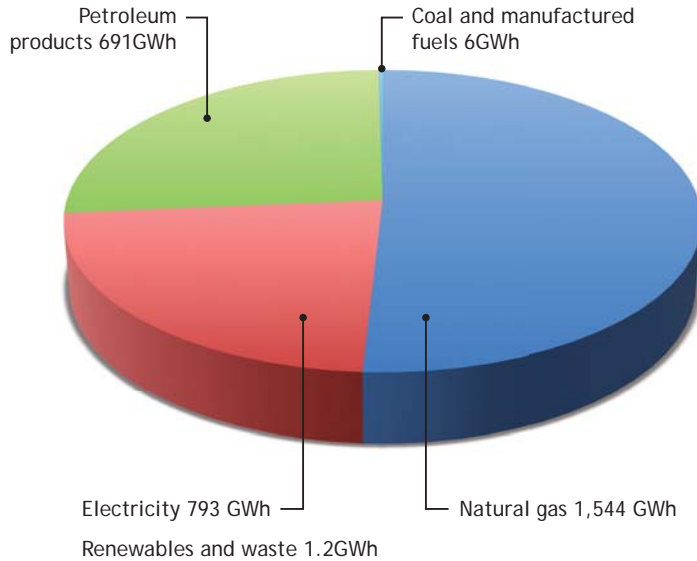
Based on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions totalling 909,000 tonnes in 2006.

NI186 target is 6.8% reduction by 2011.

## Energy consumption

The chart below gives a comparison of different energy sources' contributions to carbon emissions in Bournemouth, compared to their contribution to the total amount of energy consumed.

### Energy use in Bournemouth (total 3,035GWh)

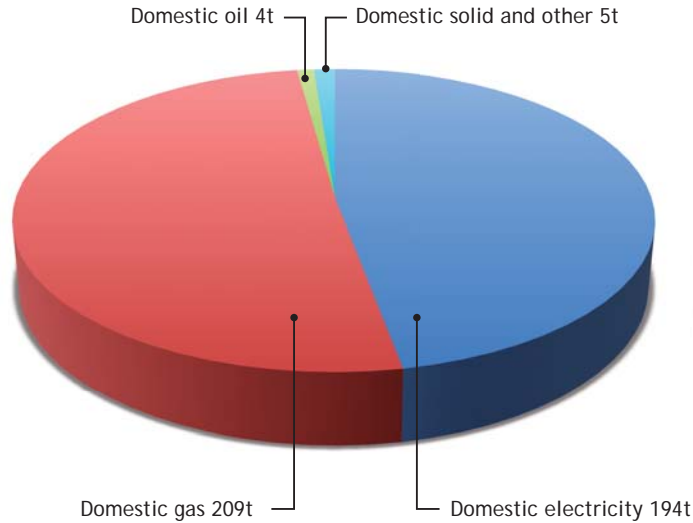


Although not all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions originate from energy use, metered electricity and gas account for 63% of Dorset's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while oil (not including transport), coal and manufactured solid fuel use is responsible for approximately a further 7.5%. Therefore energy efficiency is the most effective way of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and is also the cheapest as its costs are offset by savings on energy bills.

## Local homes and domestic use

The chart below shows the sources of Bournemouth's domestic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Electricity and gas account for 46% and 51% of our total domestic emissions, respectively. *In this sector, Bournemouth has the highest levels of emissions in Dorset.*

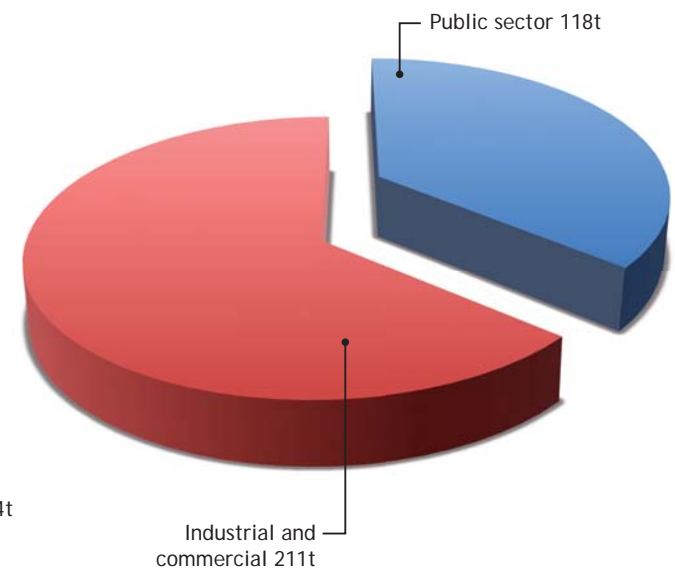
### Sources of domestic emissions in Bournemouth (total 413 tonnes)



## Local business and public services

There is no data for the carbon emissions or energy use of the business sector alone, but Defra figures give the combined emissions of businesses and the public sector (including hospitals and schools). After Poole and Purbeck, *Bournemouth has the third highest level of emissions in Dorset.*

### Industrial and commercial emissions in Bournemouth (total 329 tonnes)



Energy efficiency is the most effective way of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions





A very loose estimate of the contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Dorset from different business sectors can be made using an economic modelling tool adopted by councils in the South West.

Industry	CO <sub>2</sub> contribution	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> per £ million GVA
Finance	16.8%	82
Secondary industries	14.1%	446
Energy & water	12.0%	492
Business services	9.6%	17
Distribution & Retail	8.5%	30
Transport	7.0%	116
Primary Industries	6.1%	136
Non metal products	6.1%	291
Chemicals	3.7%	572
Construction	3.5%	20
Others	12.7%	1286

The Carbon Trust has produced estimates of the potential for energy saving across a range of industrial sectors, suggesting a 20% reduction in energy costs is possible for most businesses.

## Potential savings in industry sectors

Industry	Potential savings	Sources of gains
Chemicals	5 to 15% of energy bill	Process improvement
Food and drink	Up to 10%	Process control
Hospitality	40% reduction in energy bill	Energy efficiency measures installed during refurbishment
Hospitality	12% reduction in carbon emissions	Simple energy efficiency measures that pay for themselves within two years
Agriculture and horticulture	30% of heating costs	Simple energy saving measures
Retail	20% reduction in costs	Better management of heating and lighting
General	10% of energy bill	Better boilers and associated distribution systems
General - industrial buildings	20% of heating costs	Simple measures
General - offices	20% of energy bills	Simple measures

Over 200 businesses in Dorset benefit from resource efficiency advice every year, but the projected reduction in emissions is only 2.3% over 10 years.

While our influence over business energy efficiency and carbon emissions is not as strong as in the domestic sector, there are still ways in which we can be effective. These include economic development functions, promotion of business advice services, leadership in the community, planning policy and procurement.

A 20% reduction in energy costs is possible for most businesses





Image courtesy of Bournemouth Daily Echo

building control officers and key local developers are all working in partnership.

## Key recommendations for the low carbon Bournemouth strategy

- Maintain a strategic approach to reducing Bournemouth Council and area carbon emissions
- Conduct a scrutiny review of energy
- Ensure that a cross-council system is in place for gathering data relating to sustainable energy
- Widen the carbon reduction team membership and ensure that a member of staff in each service area is responsible for promoting integration of sustainable energy and carbon reduction
- Include a carbon impact assessment for all major projects and decisions
- Provide energy training to staff in areas of operation having the greatest impact on energy use or community carbon emissions reduction.

## Community and charitable sector

While there are no available statistics on the carbon impact of the community and charitable sector, their influence over others is much more important than the effect of the sector's own buildings.

Although there are real obstacles for charities and community groups to overcome, significant opportunities do exist, including:

- Improving their own buildings and making them into exemplars of energy efficiency
- Exploiting their wide range of contacts within the community to disseminate energy efficiency advice
- Undertaking projects where part of the funding is available, for example: if half of the cost of an energy survey is provided, they can find match funding.

## Bournemouth carbon emissions report and recommendations

For the past 18 months, Bournemouth Council has been working with the Energy Saving Trust. The main result is a report on the actions we can take to tackle climate change through sustainable energy management.

## Key recommendations for the Council's low carbon community leadership

- Ensure that energy and climate change is identified as a key priority issue in the community plan
- Develop a communications plan to lead the community to take action on reducing energy usage and work in partnership with local community groups to set up joint initiatives
- Work with the Carbon Trust to promote its services to businesses, industry and schools

- Promote smart energy meters to residents and businesses as a way of helping them reduce energy use
- Work to reduce car dependency and develop planning conditions to help reduce traffic growth.

## Key recommendations for low carbon Council services

- Ensure the Council regeneration team recognises the value of energy efficiency improvements and ensure a core focus of economic development activity is to secure high energy standards in projects and businesses targets
- Strengthen partnerships with registered social landlords to set targets in social housing
- Work with the Energy Saving Trust to provide advice to residents and look to target residents in identified hotspots
- Introduce and enforce specific energy policies and ensure planners,



# Low Carbon Bournemouth Community Action Plan

Adopt national targets of at least an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and at least 34% reduction in emissions by 2020.

- Identify organisations in Bournemouth with fuel bills in excess of £50,000 per year and introduce them to the Carbon Trust to help them save money, increase energy efficiency and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Ensure proper insulating, heating and thermostatically controlled water in all public buildings and that 'smart switches' are used to turn off all non-essential electrical items when people leave public buildings
- Extend the Green Tourism Business Scheme and introduce visitor carbon calculators to look at the impact of their trips
- Review the impact of the Air Festival, with a view to reducing any negative environmental impact
- Increase the use of composting rather than waste recycling or disposal
- Communicate the steps we need to reduce our carbon footprint through the Bournemouth Go Green campaign
- **Reduce.** Avoid energy use, then reduce through energy efficiency and redesign of products and services
- **Replace.** Use low carbon renewable energy where possible and/or clean, efficient fossil fuel technology
- **Neutralise.** Offset unavoidable carbon emissions
- Encourage the local community to develop community renewable schemes
- Develop an effective communications plan to encourage the community to take action on reducing energy usage
- Promote smart meters to residents and businesses as a way of helping them reduce energy use
- Consider introducing measures to encourage reduced car use and cleaner car purchase such as congestion charging or carbon-based residents parking permits
- Ensure Bournemouth is fully engaged with neighbouring councils and community partners on the delivery of strategies and action plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Use the Energy Saving Trust report and recommendations as the basis of our Low Carbon strategy and action plans.



## Low carbon Bournemouth homes

Bournemouth's housing stock consists of 82,000 properties, of which 55,800 are owner-occupied, 18,200 privately rented, 5,100 council owned and 2,900 Housing Association properties.



To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from energy use in housing requires existing stock to be installed with energy saving measures, new housing to be built to a very high energy efficient standard, a mix of sustainable energy generating technologies to be used and households to adopt day-to-day energy conserving lifestyles.

The 2008 Climate Change Act set legally binding targets to reduce household CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to almost zero over the next four decades and local authorities are seen as crucial to reaching this goal.

To help achieve these targets, it is proposed to introduce new financial support for measures that have high up-front costs, install smart meters for all domestic customers by the end of 2020 and give incentives for using renewable heat and electricity technologies. It is also intended that by 2030, all homes will have received a 'whole house makeover' that

includes cost-effective energy saving measures, plus renewable heat and electricity measures.

Councils are required to improve domestic energy efficiency by 30% by 2011, and by April 2008, the projects we initiated have led to a 25.38% improvement - a cumulative year on year reduction of over 0.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

We are also obliged to review the energy efficiency (SAP) ratings of private housing, and our 2008 survey showed the average SAP to have risen from 44 to 50 - higher than the national average.

We have devised a range of strategies to encourage energy efficient, affordable housing, and we also help fund energy improvements with grants for loft insulation and heating improvements, particularly for low income and vulnerable people.

### Building regulations

Building regulations now set minimum energy efficiency standards for newly constructed homes and the government has made a commitment for all new homes to be zero-carbon from 2016.

Various other directives are under review, and when finalised will have a direct impact on low carbon homes.

### Social housing

As well as working with registered social landlords and energy suppliers to improve the energy efficiency of their housing stock, we are also required to invest in the energy performance of our properties to ensure they have effective insulation and efficient heating.

Recently, councils have been given the opportunity to build affordable housing by the Homes and Community Agency, and this funding is dependent on properties being energy efficient and sustainable.

### Key Issues

The energy that households use to heat their homes and water accounts for over 80% of the total, with 13% of this accounting for UK emissions. The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan has identified the key issues we face in attempting to improve domestic energy efficiency.

- Because we are used to the way our boilers and appliances work, we have little appetite for change
- Many of us are not aware of the options available and tend not to spend time researching them
- Changes to our buildings can involve disruption and cost
- The cost of improving the energy performance of buildings has to be balanced against other priorities, even if we get the money back over time through savings on our energy bills
- People living in rented accommodation may not be able to make changes to their properties
- Modernising our buildings will not be enough - we will also need to change our habits.



## Partners

The Registered Social Landlord partners who build affordable housing on behalf of the Council are:

- Spectrum Housing Association
- Raglan Housing Association
- Bournemouth Churches Housing Association
- Testway Housing Association
- East Dorset Housing Association.

Partners who work with the Council to improve our housing stock include:

- Quadron Property Services - main contractor for void works
- In-house building maintenance team - responsible for boiler replacements and upgrades
- Heatech - installation of new gas central heating systems
- PJ Harvey - installation of new gas central heating systems
- George Howe & Sons Ltd - external insulation contractor
- Permarok - external insulation system and provider of grant funding through Eaga
- Solutions for Energy - responsible for sourcing best grant funding for fuel switching, boiler upgrades, cavity wall and loft insulation
- Gendex - contractor providing loft and cavity wall insulation.

Partners who work with the Council to fund, promote and carry out improvements to the energy efficiency, health and safety of private sector housing include:

- Age Concern Bournemouth
- Bournemouth Housing Forum
- Bournemouth Partnership
- Bournemouth Police
- Bournemouth & Poole Primary Care Trust
- Bournemouth University
- Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Disability Wessex
- Dorset Energy Advice Centre
- Dorset Fire & Rescue Service
- DOTS Disability
- Eaga (Warmfront)
- Energy Saving Trust
- Government Office of the South West
- Insulation installation companies
- National Landlords Association
- Quadron Property Services
- The Pension Service
- Utility companies.

The Bournemouth Building Control Service operates a partnership scheme with various local companies, liaising directly with these partners to reduce energy consumption in new homes, and encourage the design and construction of low carbon, privately funded housing.

Bournemouth Building Control Service currently works with the following companies:

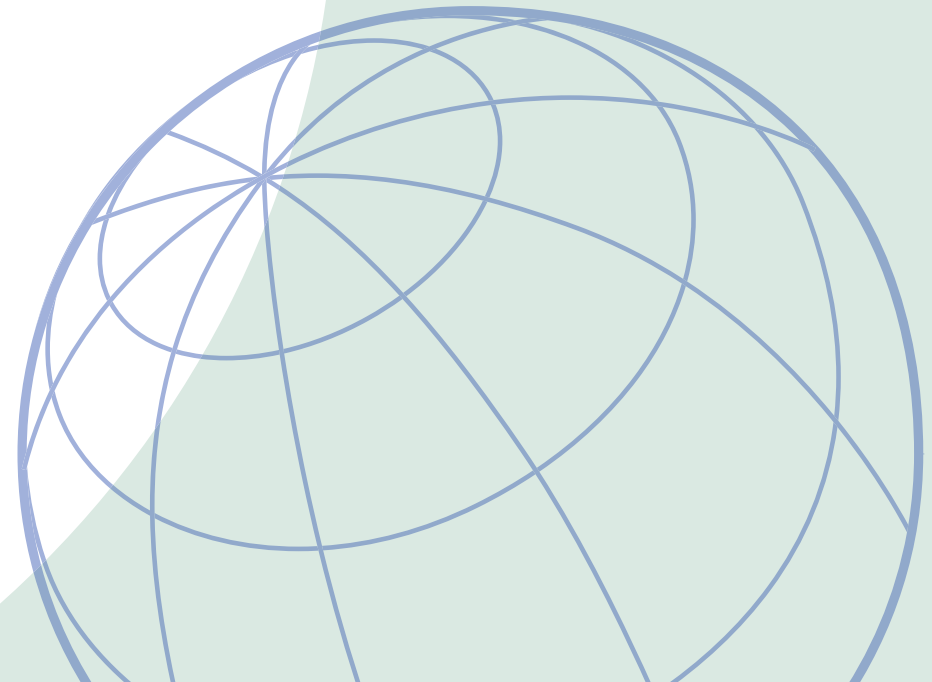
- Anders Roberts & Associates - architects
- Harriplan Limited - architects
- Dave Wells Properties - property developer
- Holton Homes - property developer
- Glossbrook Homes - property developer
- Greenward Associates - architects
- Avon Project Services - architects.



# Low carbon Bournemouth homes Community Action Plan



- Develop further guidance on how developers can incorporate sustainable energy in new buildings and re-developments
- Explore the use of renewable energy systems on local authority owned/ controlled land and as part of all new-build developments and major refurbishments
- Send information leaflets on renewable energy, sustainable construction, grants, etc. when householders make pre-application enquiries for conversions or new build
- Extend and improve the delivery of local energy efficiency programmes, and develop new programmes
- Identify cost-effective ways to target more hard-to-treat properties and historic buildings and develop pilot programmes to do this
- Provide grants to owners and occupiers in vulnerable groups to improve energy efficiency
- Investigate implementing a council tax incentive scheme for homeowners installing insulation
- Support national campaigns and raise awareness of home energy efficiency. Promote national and local energy efficiency grant schemes to householders at events, in the media and through work with schools
- Investigate joint energy efficiency schemes to help achieve minimum standards across all social housing
- Select energy champions to promote energy efficiency within local tenants groups. Pilot use of smart metering by tenants' energy champions - publish results to raise awareness.





## Low carbon Bournemouth economy

National planning guidelines give councils a framework for promoting sustainable economic development, prudent use of resources, mitigating against the effects of, and adaptation to, climate change.

Environmental issues are also central to regional plans and strategies, while the Bournemouth Local Development Framework includes policies on improving sustainable transport options, setting targets for the amount of renewable energy developments, setting sustainable building standards and mitigating against the effects of climate change through the provision of green infrastructure.

In addition, the Council has included all of the Energy Saving Trust recommendations for delivering a low carbon economy in its community action plan.

### Partners

Key partners in the local economy and supporting groups include:

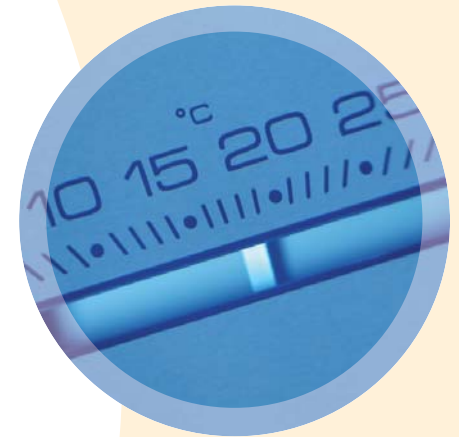
- Abbey Life
- Borough of Poole
- Bournemouth Airport
- Bournemouth and Poole College
- Bournemouth Area Hospitality Association
- Bournemouth Borough Council
- Bournemouth Chamber of Trade & Commerce
- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
- Bournemouth Tourism Management Board
- Bournemouth University
- Business Link Dorset
- Castlepoint Shopping Centre
- Daily Echo
- Deverill Limited
- Dorset Business
- Dorset Police
- Federation of Small Businesses
- FJB Hotels
- Go South Coast
- Harbour Heights Hotel
- Jothrey Smith
- HSBC Bank plc
- ITW Finishing
- JPMorgan Chase & Co
- Learning & Skills Council
- LV= Liverpool Victoria
- Marc Young Hairdressing
- Poole Harbour Commissioners
- Poole Hospital NHS Trust
- Poole Tourism Partnership
- Poole Town Centre Partnership
- Royal Bath Hotel
- Sibbett Gregory
- South West Regional Development Agency
- Terence O'Rourke Ltd
- Unisys Insurance Services



# Low carbon Bournemouth economy Community Action Plan



- Investigate the potential of new businesses related to the production of renewable energy
- Expand the uptake of business energy advice in the county
- Work with regional bodies and Business Link to expand and enhance the available business advice offering on energy efficiency
- Undertake a feasibility study to ensure that future environmental business support programmes are effectively targeted to achieve a low carbon resource efficient economy
- Identify specific business types which have high carbon emissions and could be targeted for a co-ordinated promotion of business energy efficiency advice, and to assess the effectiveness of this action
- Include minimum energy performance standards for suppliers in local authority procurement guidelines
- Support the growth of local installation businesses and support other businesses to diversify into installation of energy efficiency measures
- Introduce incentives for exemplar zero energy developments
- Target local business, private and public in campaign to:
  - » stop using fossil fuels
  - » switch to renewables e.g. concentrated solar power
  - » ensure proper insulating, heating and thermostatically controlled water within public buildings
  - » use 'smart switches'
  - » turning off all non essential electrical items when employees leave public buildings e.g. computer screens and printers
- Identify organisations in Bournemouth with fuel bills in excess of £50,000 per year and advise them on saving money, increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Extend the Green Tourism Business Scheme.





## Low carbon Bournemouth travel

Together with neighbouring authorities, Bournemouth Council has developed a number of policies focusing on transport sustainability in the area.

For Bournemouth itself, reducing traffic congestion and improving town centre transport are major priorities, and the key issues identified in the current strategy are:

### Accessibility, traffic congestion and quality of life

Possible solutions include:

- Actively encouraging more responsible car use
- Enhancing alternatives to the car
- Managing development to reduce the need to travel by car
- Introducing traffic calming in appropriate areas
- Building new and upgrading existing roads.

### Parking

Possible solutions include:

- Ensuring developers provide sufficient off-street parking for expected levels of car ownership
- Introducing more managed parking in residential areas where there is significant parking pressure
- Replacing some long stay commuter parking with more short stay retail parking
- Introducing some form of Park and Ride
- Replacing some on-street parking along main roads with more off-street parking.

Where climate change is concerned, we have been looking at a wide range of solutions to mitigate the situation, including:

- Making shorter journeys to work or school by bus, cycling or walking
- Reducing the need to travel
- Best use of the existing network
- Low emission vehicles
- Work, school and residential travel plans
- Bus lanes
- Bus priority at junctions
- Development of safe, direct and attractive routes for pedestrians and cyclists
- Improvements to Bournemouth rail and coach station
- Improved cycle storage facilities at all schools
- Improved rights of way
- New low carbon buses
- Community transport
- Park and Ride.

### Partners

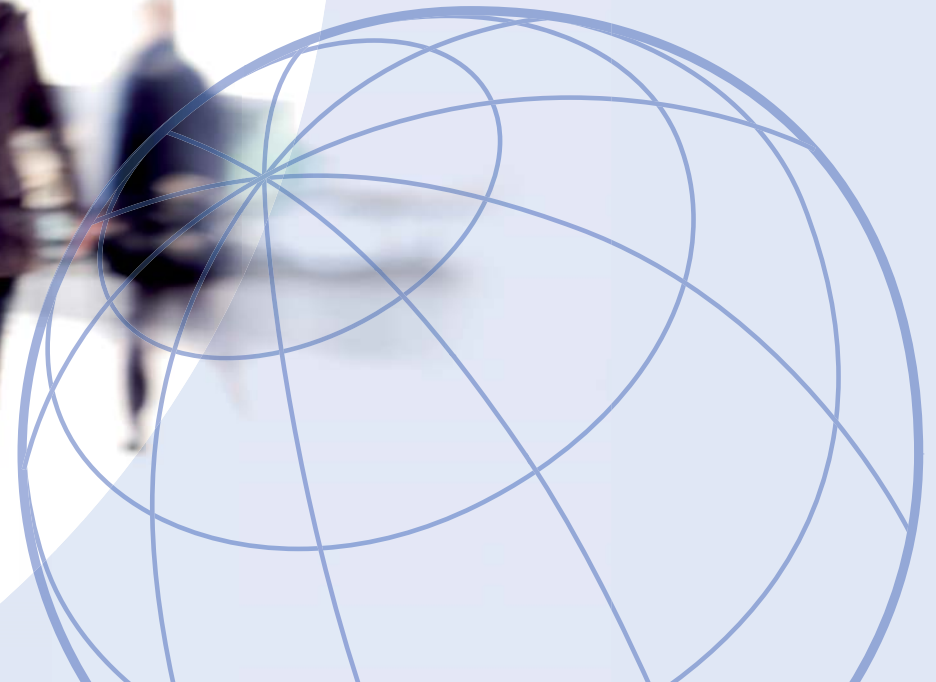
Working with partners is one of the best ways to use scarce expert staff resources effectively, and our key partners include:

- Bournemouth 2026
- Dorset County Council
- Borough of Poole
- Transdev Yellow Buses
- Wilts & Dorset
- Volunteer groups such as Dorset Cyclist Network
- Disability groups
- Chamber of Trade
- Bournemouth Area Transport Action Group
- Bournemouth & Poole Primary Care Trust
- Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Services
- Sustrans

## Low carbon Bournemouth travel Community Action Plan



- Consider procurement of biodiesel and bio-ethanol for vehicle fleets
- Ensure that there are sustainable, affordable, accessible bus services and taxis available
- Introduce a more comprehensive and affordable community transport network to cater for people with severe disabilities or those without a regular bus service
- Provide and promote attractive alternatives to the car - such as buses, cycling and walking
- Promote initiatives that reduce the number of car trips - e.g. home-working, flexible working, car-sharing, car clubs, school and workplace travel plans
- Make best use of intelligent transport systems
- Consider introducing incentives to encourage reduced car use and cleaner car purchase such as congestion charging, workplace parking levies or carbon-based residents parking permits
- Promote the Energy Saving Trust's free green fleet review service to local businesses.







## Low carbon community groups

The term 'The Third Sector' encompasses voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals - and the council has developed a comprehensive strategy to serve such groups.

### Key issues

### Understanding the Community

Identifying communities and developing community profiles are key to improving the understanding of local issues, enhancing local contacts and highlighting potential gaps in facilities, activities and people. Recent examples include:

- Fair Share funding to ascertain community needs and implement local projects
- Motivating people to take part in formal and informal activities
- Overcoming resistance to taking part in activities and ensuring people trust organisations like the Council to deliver on their promises
- Using advocates in the community - community leaders, youth workers, community development workers

- Engaging people through events and innovative consultation, with a realistic, achievable range of projects
- Developing and managing appropriate, affordable activities and facilities.

### Embracing Community Action

Engaging with local people to meet their real needs is of prime importance and the following issues need to be considered:

- Understanding what community development is - facilitating local decision making, including all sections of the community, offering relevant solutions to local issues - and what it is not - imposition of decisions, limited choice, ignorance of local opinion

- Strengthening community links, especially with socially excluded people
- Investing in outreach work to deliver and sustain initiatives and encourage feedback on needs and issues in leisure.

The Council is also actively encouraging the development of community renewable energy schemes and all of the Energy Trust recommendations have been included in the community action plan.

### Partners

Once again, partners and funders play a major role in the Council's activities, and these include:

- The Community Foundation for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole
- Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Services
- Poole Council for Voluntary Services
- Dorset Community Action

- Dorset Race Equality Council
- Bournemouth 2026
- Help and Care
- Help the Aged
- Homestart
- Age Concern.

There is also an opportunity to work with emerging representative groups from black and ethnic minority cultures, including:

- Bournemouth Chinese School
- Bournemouth Thai Language and Cultural School
- Dorset Bengali Association
- Dorset Farsi Speaking Association
- MaIPolski
- Dorset Kurdish School
- Dorset African Caribbean Association
- Unity in Vision
- Bournemouth Reform Synagogue
- Bournemouth Portuguese Association.

## Low carbon community groups Community Action Plan



- Encourage developers to incorporate sustainable energy in new buildings and re-developments
- Develop further guidance on how developers can incorporate sustainable energy in new buildings and re-developments
- Explore the use of renewable energy systems on local authority land and as part of all new build developments and major refurbishments
- Consider use of renewable energy for street lighting, school crossings, parking meters, etc.
- Establish a community sector energy network
- Develop a programme for provision of energy surveys, advice and funding to community buildings, making sure that users are involved in all stages, and following up with domestic energy efficiency advice to users of the building
- Develop a 'bank' of resources for community groups to use to promote energy efficiency
- Maximise the benefits of the Energy Saving Trust advice centre by making residents fully aware of the service, schemes and grants
- Target residents in Energy Saving Trust identified hotspot areas
- Lead the community to take action on energy by setting up community energy efficiency initiatives
- Encourage the local community and energy services companies to develop renewable schemes
- Develop a communications plan to encourage the community to reduce energy usage
- Work to reduce car dependency.



## Low carbon Council

The Carbon Trust estimates that UK local authorities spend £750 million a year on energy, and are one of the largest single sources of emissions, with over 25 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Bournemouth Council is committed to reducing such figures, not only to save money, but also to show leadership through their own example.

Bournemouth Council owns a huge variety of buildings - from offices to plant nurseries, schools to leisure centres, car parks to a crematorium - and some of these are particularly high energy users.

### Bournemouth Council's estimated direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared with neighbours

	Number of buildings	Total m <sup>2</sup>	Total CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (tonnes)	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (tonnes) per m <sup>2</sup>	Local authority emissions per head of population (kg)	Direct emissions as % of local authority area emissions
Bournemouth	193	250,209	15,616	0.06	95.48	1.68%
Christchurch	69	18,556	1,634	0.09	36.24	0.54%
Dorset County	380	545,040	21,066	0.04	52.51	0.70%
East Dorset	10	8,840	809	0.09	9.50	0.14%
North Dorset	17	6,310	805	0.13	12.31	0.17%
Poole	176	228,248	11,190	0.05	81.09	1.20%
Purbeck	3	2,495	164	0.07	3.63	0.04%
West Dorset	47	11,393	470	0.04	4.91	0.05%
Weymouth & Portland	45	17,602	2,477	0.14	38.35	0.78%
<b>Total</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1,088,693</b>	<b>54,230</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>135.19</b>	<b>1.12%</b>

To address the situation, the Council has set itself a target of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 5% over two years. Based on a carbon footprint of 27,325tCO<sub>2</sub> for 2008/09 this means a total reduction of 1,366tCO<sub>2</sub>.

The Council is now participating in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme operated by the Carbon Trust, and through this we have set an aspirational target of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our operations by one-third by 2014.

### The Council's carbon reduction team

The Council has set up a dedicated group which meets monthly, and as well as looking at renewable technologies, it will also play a key role in implementing a number of initiatives designed to contribute to an effective strategy. These include:

#### Carbon reduction commitment

A carbon trading scheme due to start in 2010, whereby carbon allowances are purchased each year, and bonuses or penalties paid according to the performance of the Council.

### Local authority energy financing scheme

Since 2005 the Council has offered its services and interest free loans for energy efficiency projects. It covers a large range of projects from lighting to insulation, and some £60,000 and 300 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> have been saved to date.

### Combined heat and power scheme

We have carried out a feasibility study into the local generation of electricity and the use of the heat from the generation process to provide heating to buildings in the area. If the scheme goes ahead it will offer carbon and cost savings for both private and public buildings, and could also be powered by bio-fuels from local waste.

### Display energy certificates

Government legislation now requires all public buildings over 1000m<sup>2</sup> to have a certificate showing its energy performance, and those performing poorly will be prioritised for further investigation and possible LAEF funding.

### Sustainable Construction Policy

The Council has also signed up to this policy to ensure buildings constructed or refurbished meet a certain standard in respect of sustainability.



# Low carbon Council Community Action Plan



- Introduce measures to encourage reduced car usage and cleaner car purchase, such as congestion charging or carbon-based residents' parking permits
- Introduce basic or high energy efficiency standards in the procurement of electrical goods
- Introduce basic or high energy standards for new council buildings
- Procure local items where possible, and items manufactured with minimal energy use and environmental impact
- Include environmental criteria as part of the process for selecting subcontractors and suppliers
- Increase the proportion of the council's total energy expenditure spent on energy efficiency
- Seek advice and support from the Carbon Trust on Council owned buildings
- Consider producing our own renewable energy
- Assign energy costs to departments and buildings, based on actual use. Set targets for energy reduction and train staff to use less energy and raise awareness of the importance of this. Publicise the results and use them to raise further awareness
- Consider developing at least one exemplar project
- Apply to the Energy Saving Trust for a green fleet review
- Promote cycling and public transport, and provide facilities for cyclists to those sites currently without them
- Set a target for reducing car use and encourage car sharing
- Encourage staff to use more efficient vehicles for work and consider prohibiting high polluting vehicles
- Set targets for vehicle emissions and fuel use in procurement of transport services
- Set targets and timescale for reducing energy consumption across our own operations, service delivery and throughout the wider community
- Ensure that a cross-council system is in place for gathering data relating to sustainable energy
- Ensure that a member of staff within each service area is responsible for promoting the integration of sustainable energy
- Develop and train key staff in the introduction of sustainability impact assessment
- Introduce energy training to staff in areas of council operation with most significant impact on energy use
- Insist on high energy standards or carbon neutral development in council property or land
- Use the planning system to reduce car dependency
- Ensure building control officers are trained and encouraged to promote sustainable energy to all those applying for building control approval
- Provide advice on fuel poverty to social care clients.



# Sustainable Bournemouth

This year, for the first time, a comprehensive assessment has been carried out to see how effectively public bodies are working together to improve the quality of life for local people. Part of this survey examined the issue of Bournemouth's sustainability, and the conclusions included:



## Sustainability Strengths

Bournemouth's 2,000 acres of parks and gardens have an impressive 10 Green Flag Awards, which reflects on the considerable work and expertise which goes into maintaining our green spaces.

Bournemouth Tourism has silver level in the Green Tourism Business Scheme, while our annual green tourism seminar for local businesses, coupled with our annual tourism awards, encourage and recognise sustainable tourism.

Our local transport plan has been complimented by the government for its environmental content, and we have taken an innovative approach to land management in an urban setting with, for example, goats grazing on cliffs. This supports the changes in public perception needed for Bournemouth to adopt more radical solutions which challenge traditional thinking on conservation and heritage.

We were the first local authority in the UK to adopt the Earth Charter principles, and these are expected to improve our ecological integrity and make a significant contribution to our efforts on sustainability, equality and diversity.

## Sustainability Weaknesses

Our performance on tranquillity and air quality is low compared with other areas and the density of urban living is considered to be having a negative impact on peoples' physical and mental health.

## Sustainability Opportunities

Local partners in nature and in complementary holistic health treatments want to work more with the council to realise the proven mental health benefits of people being in our beautiful open spaces.

The feasibility of a town centre based combined heat and power scheme is also being considered alongside the possibility of it running on energy produced by bio-fuels derived from local waste products, especially food.

We have taken a positive position on the planned off-shore wind-farm development to the west of Isle of Wight and if this happens, it could support the creation of new low carbon employment opportunities in research, construction and maintenance.

## Sustainability Threats

There is undoubtedly a lack of awareness about sustainable economic growth and the need for major investment to protect people from the impact of more extreme weather conditions and climate change.

Perversely, effective campaigning on sustainable consumption will have a negative effect on our ability to achieve government targets for waste recycling.

## Review of Council service spending

We undertook a detailed review of spending as part of the challenge to set a sustainable revenue budget, and this identified budget savings of £1.558m in 2009/10 together with the release of £2.678m from reserves. These budget savings have been used to support services under pressure and to invest in new growth.

As a result, the Council included over £2.330m for spending in 2009/10 on its top priority of improving the environment.



## Bournemouth's place in the world

Jeffrey Newman,  
Director of Earth Charter UK

Bournemouth Borough Council made a bold move in February 2008 when it became the first local authority in the UK to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and ecological integrity by endorsing the Earth Charter.

The Charter is now informing the Council's corporate strategy, particularly in five separate but inter-related areas.

### The need for a joined-up approach

Environmental sustainability (both natural and built) is inextricably linked to community sustainability and issues of health, justice, equality, employment and the like.

Local residents have already raised the question of Bournemouth's 'soul' and this could provide a stimulating way to help people think about what they look for in their community.

### Local action, global understanding

Bournemouth, with its tourism, 35,000 language school students, and University Centre for Global Perspectives could develop an integrated understanding of the impact of global issues on the local community and vice versa. The 'twinning' and the 200th Anniversary are of particular importance.

### Strong relationships are essential

From an Earth Charter perspective, there are many reasons to pursue local alliances with Poole and Dorset on the sustainability agenda, while the Transition Town movement is also an important local, national and increasingly international "grass-roots" initiative.

We also recommend that Bournemouth considers joining the international

## Big Green Fortnight

As part of our mission to increase support for sustainability and carbon reduction, we held a special event in May 2009 to raise awareness of environmental issues while making them accessible and fun. The Bournemouth and Poole Big Green Fortnight included 65 events, a film festival and the Big Green Bus, and was attended by almost 8,000 people.



grouping 'local governments for sustainability' (ICLEI) which has incorporated the Earth Charter into its bye-laws.

An ICLEI representative could be present at Bournemouth's 200th Anniversary and the 2010 Local Government Authority Conference at the BIC. This provides an opportunity to highlight ways in which the endorsement of the Charter enhances the work of a local authority.

### Making difficult choices

Achieving the aims of the Earth Charter will undoubtedly involve difficult decisions, but Bournemouth is ideally placed to lead the way in explaining the issues. For example, Bournemouth could host a series of symposia in conjunction with the university.

The Air Festival offers an excellent example, since it attracts tourism but conflicts with other espoused values, and Bournemouth's experience could help clarify issues of carbon

emissions and carbon trading, desire for cheap travel and the needs of the environment, while enhancing public awareness of the choices that must be made.

Fair Trade policy could provide another important issue, as could finding suitable sites for travellers.

### Making something different happen

We believe it is essential that Bournemouth now undertakes a small pilot project that can validate the potential local impact of the Charter.

As an illustration, a collaborative 'Food Initiative' could draw together a wide range of partners - schools, restaurants, food shops, local business, local food producers, tourism, South West Food and Drink, the two universities, the catering college, the NHS (PCT and Hospitals), farmers and the NFU, community groups, public procurement, waste disposal, the Soil Association, and more.



During Big Green Fortnight, we launched the Go Green Bournemouth campaign, the aims of which include:

- Raising awareness of the predicted weather and climate in 2050 and the opportunities and challenges created by it
- Encouraging residents and businesses to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their carbon footprints
- Raising awareness of practical solutions for more sustainable lifestyles and more sustainable use of our natural resources
- Engaging people in fun and exciting ways, offering family-friendly activities for residents, local communities and holidaymakers
- Showing that sustainable living can be easy, healthy, inexpensive and fun
- Showcasing local green success stories
- Promoting sustainable travel, such as walking, cycling, public transport, school bus services and car share.



## Sustainable Bournemouth Community Action Plan

- Instigate a community-wide discussion about Bournemouth's 'soul' as a way to help people think about what they look for in a sustainable community
- Ask the university's Centre for Global Perspectives to lead the development of an integrated understanding of the impact of global issues, including climate change, on the local community and vice versa
- Provide support for a Transition group, with the emphasis on helping to build the capacity it needs for sustainable growth
- Consider joining the ICLEI
- Work with Bournemouth Education and the university to host seminars on 'difficult choices' of national and wider importance
- Review the business case for adopting Fair Trade procurement policies for the council's own operations and service contracts
- Ask Bournemouth 2026 to support a major food initiative to involve local partners
- Develop an action plan to reduce the negative health impacts of high density urban living
- Provide greater equality of access to open spaces that are quiet, relaxing and support more subtle leisure activity
- Encourage greater involvement of local community partners in nature and complementary holistic health
- Investigate the feasibility of a town centre based combined heat and power scheme
- Encourage local support for the potential benefits of new 'low carbon' employment and for the developing green knowledge economy
- Increase community awareness about how our natural assets supporting more sustainable economic growth will require investment to protect them from the impact of more extreme weather events and climate change
- Introduce a more robust assessment of the sustainability impacts of our key decisions
- Work with groups we find hard to reach to make sure our climate change and sustainability plans are developed and delivered in partnership with them
- Produce information and advice on climate change and carbon reduction in user-friendly versions that enable full community engagement
- Run the Go Green Bournemouth campaign over the next three years, to improve our sustainable use of natural resources. The campaign themes are: air, nature, energy, food, travel, waste and water.



For more detailed information about  
the Climate Change and Sustainable  
Bournemouth Community Action Plan  
please visit:  
[www.bournemouth.gov.uk/gogreen](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/gogreen)

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