BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Sustainable Development and Environmental Efficiency Strategy (SDEES)

Foreword

Bedford Borough Council is committed to becoming a more environmentally efficient and resilient organisation. It also remains committed to supporting local communities and businesses in the Borough to increase their own efficiency and resilience.

Explaining our continued approach to promoting environmental sustainability, we are pleased to introduce Bedford Borough Council's Sustainable Development and Environmental Efficiency Strategy. This document sets out, through a series of key strategic priorities, how the Borough will achieve its ongoing vision for the authority and the wider Borough. Through the delivery of an annual action plan, we will demonstrate what the Council and its partners are doing to meet these priorities in a cost effective, resource efficient manner.

This strategy will be delivered against a backdrop of significant reductions in funding for local government. The delivery of the strategy will contribute to both the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2021, which will help ensure that Bedford Borough continues to be seen as the place to grow and has a good quality local Environment, as well as the Council's business transformation programme which aims to increase financial efficiency, whilst maintaining services and empowering local residents and communities in the Borough.

Dave Hodgson
Mayor of Bedford

Philip Simpkins
Chief Executive

BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Action Plan .....

1 SECTION ONE

Introduction

Introduction

The world is adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere faster than ever before. The International Energy Agency has warned that to avoid 'catastrophic and irreversible' global warming this trend must be reversed quickly. To continue following this path would mean around a 50% chance of a rise in global average temperature of more than 4ºC by 2100.

An increase in global temperatures of this magnitude would increase the likelihood of some extreme weather events:

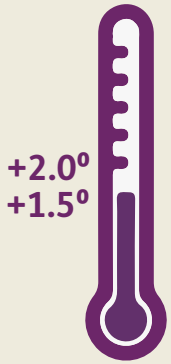
- *Extremely hot days and heat waves will increase in frequency, magnitude and length. Conservative projections estimate that a 1-in-20 year hottest day is expected to become a 1-in-2 year event by the end of the century.*
- *Longer dry periods will be accompanied by heavier rains. Comparable projections indicate that a 1-in-20 year rainfall is likely to become a 1-in-5 to 1-in-15 year event.*
- *Mean sea level rises will contribute to upward trends in extreme coastal high water levels in the future which may be exacerbated by more intense storm systems.*

The latest Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPPC) report in 2018, states that we are already seeing the consequences of 1ºC of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and retreating Arctic sea ice. If temperatures continue to rise at the current pace, by 2100 global sea level rise would be 10cm higher if temperatures increase above 1.5-2 degrees and the Arctic Ocean would be free of sea ice in summer once every 10 years (compared to once every century). Limiting the warming to 1.5 degrees, rather than the 2degrees agreed at the Paris convention in 2015, would enable people and ecosystems time to adapt and reduce the risks of complete loss of environments such as coral reefs. However, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees requires 'rapid and far reaching' transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities. Emissions of carbon dioxide would need to fall by around 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching 'net zero' around 2050.

The UK, through the climate change act in 2008, is going some way to achieve this with the aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, so far achieving 42% reduction compared to 1990 levels. The UK government's Green Growth Strategy 2017, which underpins a large part of this strategy, sets out a number of key obejectives to drive down the carbon emissions whilst also investing in the green economy.

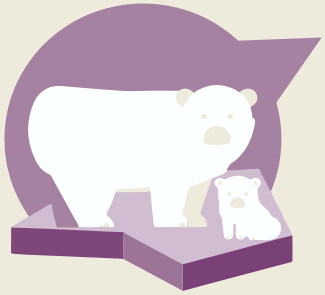
At a local level Bedford is committed to playing its part to encourage actions to reduce its contribution to, as well as build a resilient community against, the impacts of climate change. The Council has already delivered 53% reduction in carbon emissions since 2009/10 and continues to deliver energy efficiency projects. By delivering this strategy, the Council demonstrates its commitment to ensuring that climate change mitigation

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL



If temperatures continue to rise and increase above 1.5 - 2 degrees

at the current pace, **by 2100** global sea level rise would be **10cm higher**



The Arctic Ocean would be **free of sea ice** in summer once **every 10 years** (compared to once every century)

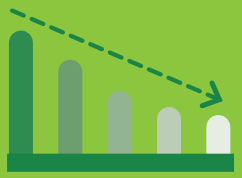
BEDFORD IS COMMITTED TO PLAYING ITS PART TO ENCOURAGE ACTIONS TO REDUCE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO, AS WELL AS BUILD A RESILIENT COMMUNITY AGAINST, THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

Bedford Borough Council has already delivered **53% reduction in carbon emissions since 2009/10** and continues to deliver energy efficiency projects

1-in-20 year rainfall is likely become a **1-in-5** to **1-in-15 year event**

UK

UK Climate Change Act 2008 aims to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050** so far achieving 42% reduction compared to 1990 levels



50% chance of a rise in global average temperature of more than **4°C** by 2100

1-in-20 year hottest day is expected to become a **1-in-2 year event** by the end of the century

and adaptation actions are implemented across the Council's estate, the staff and through the services it provides and communicated to the community and businesses of the Borough to ensure that a joined-up approach is achieved.

The Sustainable Development and Environmental Efficiency Strategy sets out how the Council will continue to lead by example to increase its environmental efficiency and resilience, whilst also encouraging and supporting local communities and businesses in the Borough to do the same. The strategy was developed in collaboration with service areas across the authority as well as other partner organisations; all of which are committed to delivering local projects that will help to achieve local, regional and national targets.

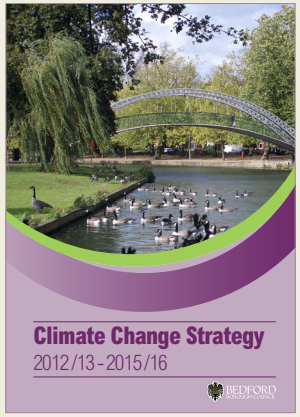
The purpose of this strategy is to define our vision for environmental efficiency and resilience; building on the work we have already completed to date, and to then outline the strategic priorities that will help us to deliver it. It also determines how, through work across the Council and work with external partners, we will meet new challenges faced in the future.

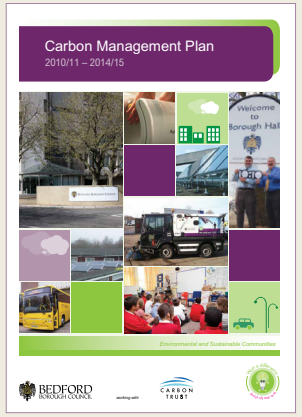
The strategy initially explores the reasons why it continues to remain crucial for us take action to protect and improve the local environment, whilst recognising our achievements and successes to date. The action plan, which should be read in conjunction with this strategy, demonstrates how strategic priorities will be delivered in future by defining a series of key actions; to be implemented by both the authority and external partners.

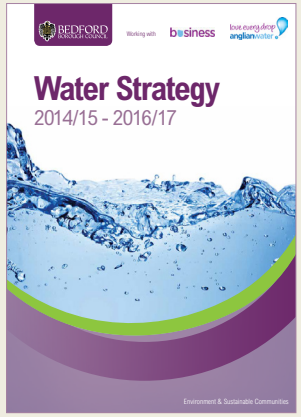
Drawing on the positive outcomes from previous strategies, the Council aims to create a robust and inclusive strategy that incorporates the Council's main aims and objectives.

Key environmental strategies that have been brought together to create this one, comprehensive strategy are:

- *Climate Change Strategy 2012/13-2015/16*
- *Carbon Management Plan 2010/11-2014/15*
- *Water Strategy 2015/16*
- *Affordable Warmth Strategy 2013-2016*







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SECTION TWO

Our Goals

2. Our Goals

Bedford Borough Council will:

- ***Achieve resource efficiencies and cost savings***
- ***Be more resilient against increasing energy prices***
- ***Enhance and protect the local environment***
- ***Empower local communities and businesses***
- ***Plan for and protect against future change***
- ***Improve quality of life for all***
- ***Create long term business value for the Council***

3 SECTION THREE

Context

Context

3.1 The International Framework

In order to meet its international legal commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (under the Kyoto Protocol), the UK government introduced the Climate Change Act in 2008. This set out legally binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 34% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050 against a 1990 baseline. It also introduced a series of carbon budgets which provide legally binding limits on the amount of emissions that may be produced in successive five-year periods, as well as placing a requirement upon the Government to complete a National Adaptation Plan.

Article 4 of the European Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) sets a target for the UK to meet 15% of total energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020. In 2010 the UK Government published the 'UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan' to demonstrate how it would meet this target. The EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC) requires compliance with Article 7 (Energy Performance Certificates), Article 8 (Inspection of boilers) and Article 9 (Inspection of air conditioning systems).

Under the EU Waste Framework Directive, the UK is committed to recycle 50% of 'household waste' by 2020. 'Waste from Households' is the agreed UK measure used to report on its compliance with the Directive (2008/98/EU). The European Commission's Circular Economy Package includes revised proposals on waste to boost global competiveness, sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs.

The waste policy review (2016) sets a series of targets to:

- *Reduce landfill to a maximum of 10% of municipal waste by 2030*
- *Recycle 75% of packaging waste by 2030*
- *Recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2030*
- *Ban landfilling separately collected waste*

Reduce landfill to maximum of **10%** of municipal waste by 2030

Recycle 75%
of packaging waste by 2030

Recycle 65%
of municipal waste by 2030

Ban landfilling separately collected waste

recycle for Bedford Borough

3.2 National drivers and legislation

There are a number of national drivers that have informed the development of this strategy. These are documented below. As and when new initiatives and legislation is introduced, an assessment will be undertaken to determine the impact/opportunity that such change(s) could have upon the authority. Any subsequent actions that need to be taken will be documented within the action plan which sits alongside this strategy.

Energy efficiency:

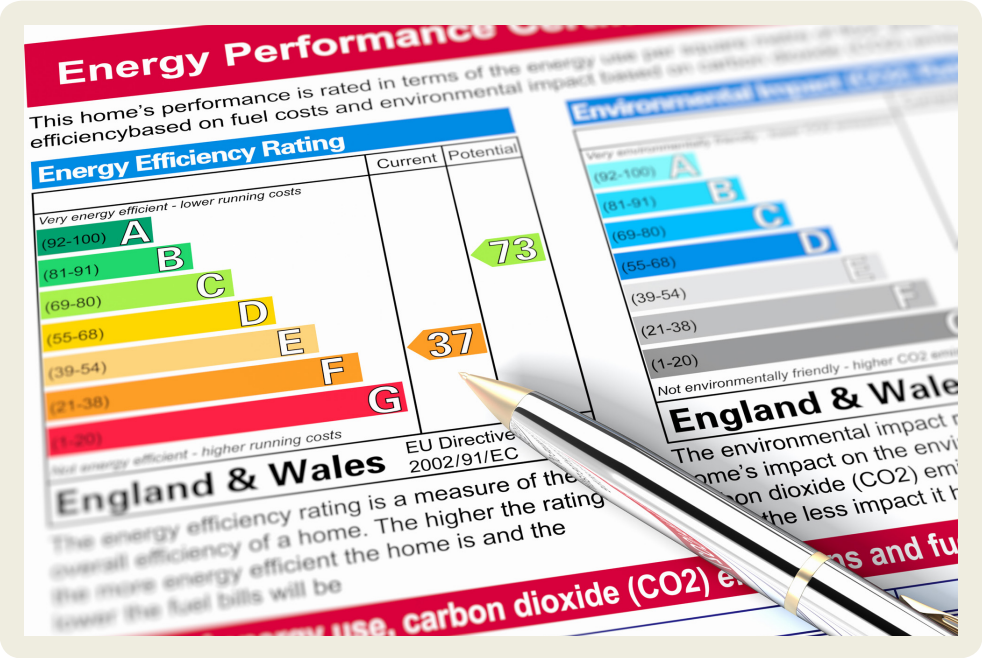
- *Feed in Tariff (FIT) - A government programme designed to promote the uptake of small-scale renewable and low-carbon electricity generation technologies.*
- *Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) - A government environmental programme that provides financial incentives to increase the uptake of renewable heat.*
- *Energy Company Obligation (ECO) - A government energy efficiency scheme in Great Britain to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty. Under the scheme, larger energy suppliers have to deliver energy efficiency measures to homes in Great Britain.*
- *The Clean Growth Strategy (2017) includes several government proposals on energy efficiency, including:*
  - *Introducing a voluntary public sector target of a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020-21*
  - *Providing £255million funding for energy efficiency improvements in England and help public bodies access sources of funding*
  - *Consulting on raising minimum standards of energy efficiency for rented commercial buildings*
  - *Simplifying requirements for businesses to measure and report on energy use*

Housing and asset management:

- *Central Government's technical housing standards (2015) – this comprises of additional optional Building Regulation standards on access and water efficiency after the Code for Sustainable Homes was scrapped. Decent Homes Standard- A government policy that introduced technical standards to ensure that public housing meets a minimum standard of housing conditions.*
- *Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA)-The Act places a requirement on local authorities to report on action taken to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation.*
- *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 – The Act imposes a duty for those involved in planning to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.*
- *EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings – This directive resulted in the requirement for energy performance certificates (EPC), Display Energy Certificates (DEC), air conditioning inspections for new and existing buildings. In addition to this the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) will come in to force from 2018. By April 2018 all rented properties in the non-domestic sector with an F & G rated building will*

need to be improved to be rented out and from April 2023, all existing commercial lettings will also need to be improved.

- *The Clean Growth Strategy (2017)- includes several government proposals on energy efficiency and housing improvements, including:*
  - *£3.6billion to upgrade 1 million homes through ECO and extend support for home energy efficiency improvements until 2028 at current level of ECO funding.*
  - *All fuel poor homes to be upgraded to EPC band C by 2030 and to aspire to as many homes as possible to be EPC band C by 2035 (where practical, cost effective and affordable).*



  - *Consulting on strengthening energy performance standards for new and existing homes under Building Regulations, including futureproofing new homes for low carbon heating systems*
  - *Building and extending heat networks, underpinned with public funding out to 2021.*

Health and wellbeing:

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012-Places a duty on primary care trusts and local authorities to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) of the health and well-being of their local community.

Water efficiency:

Water Act 2014- Enabled the creation of a new market for retail and sewerage services to eligible business customers (including local authorities) in England from April 2017. Deregulation of the water market should result in customers having a greater opportunity to make water savings through accessing more water efficiency services.

Transport:

- *Transport Act 2000- Introduced a statutory requirement for local transport authorities to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP) every five years and to keep it under review. It sets out the statutory framework for Local Transport Plans and policies.*
- *Clean Growth Strategy 2017 -includes several government proposals on transport, including:*
  - *End the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040.*
  - *Develop one of the best electric vehicle charging networks in the world.*
  - *Accelerate the uptake of low emission taxis and buses.*
  - *Announcing plans for public sector to lead the way in transitioning to zero emissions vehicles.*
  - *Investing £1.2billion to make cycling and walking natural choice for shorter journeys.*

Climate Change Adaptation and Air Quality:

- *The Climate Change Act put in place a policy framework to promote adaptation action in the UK, including:*
  - *UK Climate Change Risk Assessment- Every five years the UK Government must carry out an assessment of the current and future risks to the country from climate change.*
  - *The National Adaptation Programme- The Government's strategy to address the main risks and opportunities identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, which is also produced every five years. The programme focusses on increasing the awareness of the need to adapt to a changing climate, increase the resilient against current climate extreme and address gaps in evidence.*
- *Environment Act 1995- Under Part IV, local authorities have a statutory duty to review the air quality within their area. The Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) in UK 2017 outlined the urgent need to improve the quality of air in the UK. Funding has and will be allocated to support local authorities to tackle the causes of air pollution and to prepare their plans and deliver targeted action to improve air quality.*
- *Flood and Water Management Act 2010- Introduced a Lead Local Flood Authority Role for local authorities, requiring them to lead the coordination of local flood risk management in their areas and 'develop, maintain, apply and monitor' a strategy for local flood risk management.*

Waste and Recycling:

- *Waste Management Plan for England- Fulfils the requirement of Article 28 of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) by providing an analysis of the current waste management situation in England and evaluating how it will support implementation of the objectives and provisions of the WFD.*
- *The Clean Growth Strategy (2017) includes several government proposals on waste, recycling, including:*
  - *Working towards zero avoidable waste by 2050, maximising value extracted from our resources and minimising the negative environmental and carbon impacts associated with extraction, use and disposal.*
  - *Publishing a new Resources and Waste Strategy to make UK a world leader in competiveness, resource productivity and efficiency.*

Biodiversity:

- *Biodiversity 2020- draws on the Natural Environment White Paper and sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy and how it is being implemented into international and EU commitments. The overall aim is to 'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.'*
- *Clean Growth Strategy 2017 - includes proposals to:*
  - *Establishing new networks of forests in England, new woodland on farmland and fund larger woodland and forest creation.*
  - *Plant 11 million trees and increase the amount of UK timber used in construction.*

3.3 Local drivers

The Local Government Act 2000 reformed local government in England and Wales and gave the Council powers to promote economic, social and environmental well-being within its boundary. The Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2021 is a core document for the Council when exercising its duty under the Act. It sets out a framework for policies and objectives around seven key themes. Theme 2: A Greener Borough: Environment and Climate Change sets out the goal to achieve: 'A high quality natural and built environment which is valued and enjoyed by all; which encourages biodiversity and supports the development of a low carbon community, including local businesses, capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change'.

This Sustainable Development and Environmental Efficiency Strategy supports work to implement the Sustainable Community Strategy and contributes to the following key local plans, strategies and policies:

- *Corporate Plan 2017-2021- The Plan outlines the Council's priorities for the period and details where it will target limited resources. It focusses on three priority areas which will help ensure that Bedford Borough continues to be a place where people want to live, work and spend their leisure time.*
- *Housing Strategy 2016-2020- As a housing authority, Bedford Borough Council has an obligation to assess the housing conditions in its area and to formulate strategies to address any issues that are identified. Despite transferring its housing stock to Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) in 1990, it still retains a role as a strategic and enabling authority along with a number of statutory responsibilities in relation to housing. Key objectives include making the best use of existing housing stock by*

'increasing energy efficiency, improve adaptability to climate change and fuel poverty.'

- *Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3)2011-2021- Sets out the long term transport strategy and contains an implementation plan which is designed to tackle the Borough's transport problems. A key objective is 'to deliver improvements that encourage a reduction in transport emissions and greenhouse gases, in order to tackle climate change and develop a low carbon community capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change'.*
- *Air Quality Strategy- We are currently developing a new Air Quality Strategy for Bedford. This strategy will outline the scope and measures to improve air quality within the Borough.*
- *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) - A local assessment of current and future health and social care needs. The data and intelligence within the JSNA is used to inform and develop the locally agreed health and wellbeing priorities within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.*
- *Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2023- The strategy outlines top priorities for improving the health and wellbeing of all people living in Bedford. Priority 3, Empower residents to create strong, safe and healthy communities; has a primary objective to 'Work with public and private sectors partners to ensure homes are affordable, warm, secure and can support independent living; including new homes built as part of the 19,000 houses proposed by 2035' with fuel poverty as key performance indicator to monitor this.*
- *Bedfordshire Authorities Municipal Waste Management Strategy- provides a detailed implementation plan for local municipal wastes and presents detailed proposals for future waste services, including recycling, composting and other potential waste treatment technologies; setting out plans and policies for the period up to 2020.*
- *Corporate Asset Plan 2017-2022- Defines the Council's objectives and strategy for managing its assets. The need to monitor and reduce both energy and water consumption throughout the estate is embedded throughout the plan.*
- *Bedford Development Plan- Made up of a series of Local Development Documents, the overall strategy for the borough is set out in the first of these, the Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan. This sets out the long term spatial vision for Bedford Borough to 2021. As part of the Development Plan the Allocations and Designations Local Plan allocates sites to meet the Borough's future development needs and designates areas of land where specific policies will apply. The Sustainable Drainage Systems SPD defines the requirements for the implementation of SuDS as part of future local development.*

- *Local Plan 2030 –This will replace many of the policies of the Bedford Development Plan and will address sustainable development needs to 2030. The policies that it contains will be used to guide development and make decisions on planning applications.*
- *Green Space Strategy (2012-2021)- Bedford Borough Council use this strategy to guide how publicly accessible green space is planned, developed and managed to meet the community's needs, both now and in the future, and to identify the associated green space partnership opportunities and investment priorities.*
- *Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP)- The TAMP forms an integral part of the Local Transport Plan (2011-2021), setting out current practices and systems being applied to the management of the transport asset. Whilst many of the working practices relating to good asset management are already in place, the TAMP will formally incorporate overarching transportation strategies to maximise the benefits to the community, leading to better value for money and efficiency savings in service delivery. Bedford Borough Council's Street Lighting Policy sits underneath the TAMP. This policy outlines the basic principles and standards applying to street lighting and illuminated signage in Bedford Borough as well as the benefits of well-designed and maintained public lighting e.g. improving safety, reducing crime, reduced energy costs and consumption.*
- *Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2015- A tool to help individuals, communities, businesses and authorities understand and manage flood risk within the Borough.*
- *Bedford Borough 2020 - A programme of transformation across the Council that* brings together the work that the Council is doing to address the future challenges presented by reduced funding for local government, increased demand for its services and the need to continue to improve the experiences of its residents. The programme outlines the Council's ambition to redesign how the Council delivers services and manages operations in 2020 and beyond. *A key part of the programme will be the creation of a Digital Operating Model which will see more of the Council's services working together and available digitally.*
- *Bedford Borough Growth Plan 2018-2022- This plan will help to address locally the global economic position and secure faster delivery of jobs growth, against Bedford's Economic Development Strategy to deliver the growth trajectory. The Growth Plan will identify and secure delivery of key actions in order to target and stimulate private sector growth for business rates' maximisation and associated economic benefits, aiming to:- support growth of start-up and existing businesses, attract new business to Bedford Borough, bring forward employment sites faster, promote vitality of Bedford's town centre, and support local people into local jobs.*

4 SECTION FOUR

What we have achieved so far

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

What we have achieved so far...

We have already delivered a number of different services and projects across the Council and wider community which have supported environmental efficiency and have increased resilience. As a result of the Council's Carbon Management Plan and Energy Performance Contract, the Council successfully reduced its own carbon emissions by 53% in 2017/18.

Reduced emissions by **1,500 tonnes** *from 2014 -2018,* **saving £170,000**

First authority to sign a **'water promise'** *and develop a water strategy with Anglian Water*

Since 2010 the ***'real nappies'*** *cashback scheme has had* **140 successful applicants**

Successfully delivered financial and technical **support to residents** *in the Borough via the* **Warm Homes Healthy People Fund** *to address fuel poverty.*

Produced and circulated a **Safe, Healthy and Well information leaflet** *for residents advising how to reduce energy bills whilst keeping warm in winter.*

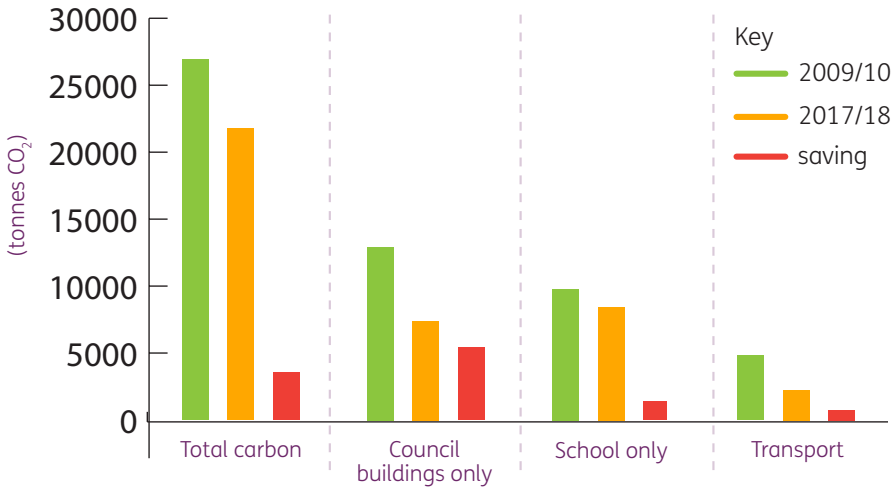
Offering subsidised water butts and compost bins 102 units

Upgraded lighting *at 3 mulitstorey car parks to LED and motion sensors in 2018, so far* **saving £25,000** *348,000kWh*

Street lighting has been improved with over **14,000 LED lanterns** *and over* **2400 columns replaced** *so far reducing carbon*

4.1 Reducing CO2 Emissions

Year	Total carbon* (tonnes CO_2)	Council buildings only (tonnes CO_2)	Schools only (tonnes CO_2)	Transport (tonnes CO_2)
2009/10	26,957	13,068	10,380	3,415
2017/18	20,126	6,093	8,799	2,347
Saving	6,829	6,975	1,581	1,068



* including outsourecd activities

4.2 Biomass case study

A biomass boiler was installed in Borough Hall, taking priority in providing heat to the building and significantly reducing its carbon footprint. The biomass boiler has generated 218mWh of heat so far, which is equal to over £11,000 income from the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

This boiler works by creating heat and energy from biomass fuel- in this case, wood pellets. These are a sustainable fuel source and environmentally friendly as the carbon dioxide released on combustion is offset by what the plant absorbed. The Council sources pellets from the UK only, minimising the carbon footprint of transport, and uses high quality pellets which produce energy more efficiently.

In addition, Borough Hall's heating system has been converted to operate on natural gas rather than oil, which has seen 200 tonnes less carbon dioxide created in just one year.

4.3 Evaporative Cooling case study

In May 2012, the Council installed four evaporative cooling units to replace the traditional air conditioning system used in the data centre in Borough Hall. The units use 90% less energy than traditional methods and have revealed savings totalling 380,925 kWh and 170 tCO2 from 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2014. In December 2012 the project was recognised by the Public Sector Sustainability Awards, winning 'Best IT/E-Commerce Project'.

4.4 Bedford International Athletics Stadium case study

Solar Panels at Bedford International Athletics stadium

Solar photovoltaic panels (solar PV) were installed on the SSW facing pitched roof at the stadium in 2014 as part of the many number of projects delivered through the RE:FIT programme. This has helped to reduce the sites electricity consumption and to generate an income through the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) scheme. The 49.82kW system comprises of 212 panels, rated at 235W each, split across two roofs. It is estimated that the system will generate around 40,000kWh/annum, saving around 20,000kWh/annum (£1,974/annum).

The income from the Feed-in-Tariff is estimated to be approximately £5,100 plus £800 export per annum resulting in a total financial saving of approximately £8,000/annum. The project will reduce the stadium's carbon emissions by 10,354kgCO2/annum.

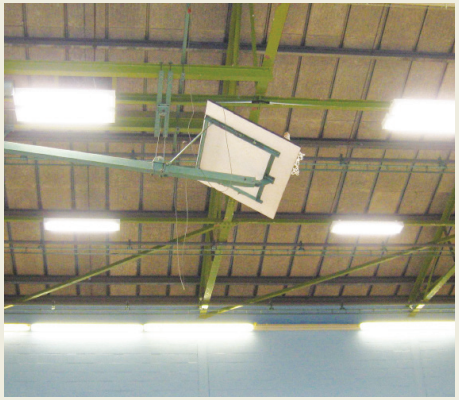
4.5 Hydro Power case study

Hydro Power project on the River Ouse

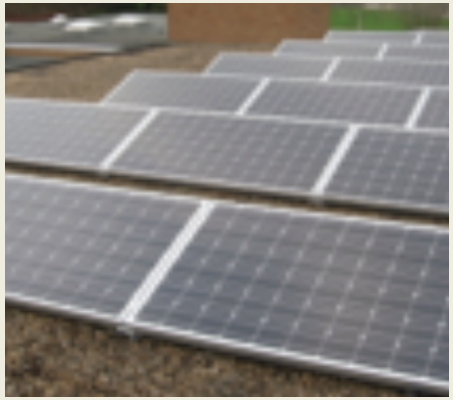
A micro hydro power facility, installed on the River Ouse, was officially opened in June 2012. Two Archimedes screws at the Boat Slide Weir generate approximately 130,000 kWh of electricity per year and save approximately 70 tonnes of CO2 a year. Re-establishing the tradition of using power from the river, the project has also proven to be an excellent educational resource.

4.6 Mayor's Climate Change Fund case study

The Mayor's Climate Change Fund was launched in January 2010 and provided 50% match-funding to support community group projects which contributed to a reduction of carbon emissions within the Borough. Voluntary & community groups, not for profit organisations, the public sector including schools, parish councils and charities applied for a minimum grant level of £5,000 and a maximum of £20,000 to 50% match-fund measures to reduce energy consumption such as insulation, heating improvements and lighting upgrades. The fund was launched in early 2010 with £350,000 allocated to projects from 2010 - 2015.



Biddenham Upper School lighting project replacing t12 with T5 lights.



Solar PV panes installed on Scott Lower school's roof.

Air source heat pump at Bedford Rural Communities Charity

Installation of new energy efficient boiler at Community Voluntary Service Bromham Road

4.7 Other projects include

- *Worked in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council to deliver an Energy Auditing Train the Trainer Course utilising funding secured through the Climate Change Skills Fund.*
- *Successfully delivered financial and technical support to residents in the Borough via the Warm Homes Healthy People Fund to address fuel poverty.*
- *Produced and circulated a Safe, Healthy and Well information leaflet for residents advising them how to reduce their energy bills whilst keeping warm in winter.*
- *The 'Real Nappies' cashback' scheme has had 140 successful applicants.*
- *Street lighting has been improved across the Borough with over 14,000 LED lanterns installed and over 2,400 columns replaced, with works continuing up to March 2019. This has so far reduced the carbon emissions by around 1,500 tonnes from 2014 to 2018, reducing energy consumption by over 1.7million kWh and saving the Council around £170,000.*
- *Participation in the Carbon Trust's Collaborative Low Carbon Schools Service (CLCSS)*
- *First authority to sign a 'Water Promise' and develop a Water Strategy with Anglian Water*
- *Offering subsidised water butts and compost bins*
- *'Watt a difference' and 'Energy Champions' campaigns to promote behavioural change across the authority*

5 SECTION FIVE

Our strategic priorities

5. Our strategic priorities

Priority 1: Demonstrating community leadership

We believe in taking responsibility for the well-being and improvement of our communities by demonstrating integrity and long-term commitment to developing and applying our environmental strategy. Our priority is to engage and represent the community, working towards a shared vision for the area, in partnership with residents and businesses. We believe that, as a Council, we have a uniquely demographic position, and as such can bring key values to the area in a community leadership role.

In order to achieve this, as detailed within our action plan, we will:

- *Reduce energy and carbon emissions across the Councils estate*
- *Support local communities to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions*
- *Reduce water usage and assess opportunities for water saving*
- *Reduce emissions from Council owned transport*
- *Support schools/academies in the Borough to reduce their energy and water use and use sustainable transport*
- *Support our staff to increase awareness and promote sustainable travel*
- *Improving efficiencies in waste disposal, increasing recycling performance & reducing waste to landfill*
- *Assist our partners and stakeholders in monitoring and reducing energy and water consumption*
- *Promote green infrastructure and biodiversity across the Council estate*
- *Encourage green practices and procurement within the Council*

Priority 2: Building community resilience

Building community resilience is crucial in ensuring any activities we undertake have a sustained effect. We believe in working with communities to enable them to feel empowered to take ownership of their resilience. This is of vital importance to ensure that businesses and communities can self-assess risks to their way of life and continuity of business, and take the appropriate steps to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from incidents and emergencies in relation to climate change. In building community resistance, organisations protect themselves by ensuring sustained engagement through a variety of resources, social connections, and continual development and acquisition of new skills. Our aim is to assist in identifying and establishing resources in order to increase awareness and knowledge and, as such, impacts of incidents will be reduced.

In order to achieve this, as detailed within our action plan, we will:

- *Support local communities to help them become resilient to the impacts of climate change*
- *Support local businesses to help them become resilient to climate change*
- *Support local communities with sustainable transport choices*
- *Support the installation of low carbon buildings and communities within new and existing developments*
- *Support the reduction in emissions from transport and encourage sustainable transport in new developments*
- *Ensure open spaces including parks and recreation are resilient to predicted climate changes*

6 SECTION SIX

Implementation and Monitoring Progress

6. Implementation and Monitoring Progress

The Council is entering into a period of financial challenges and the need for efficiency and income generation is at its most prevalent. The Council needs to develop new ways of thinking to continue to provide services to Bedford residents to the highest standard whilst making sustainable choices.

To ensure that the key priorities are delivered, an action plan has been developed which outlines the actions to be carried out under each priority. This can be found on the Council's website. This action plan will be reviewed and updated annually. A progress report will also be published annually.

The Sustainable Development and Environmental Efficiency Strategy will be communicated across the authority and with partners, as well as to residents in the Borough. This will be done via:

- *The Councils website*
- *Internal staff newsletters*
- *Involvement with internal and external partners to align their achievements and strategies*

Finding out more

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us and our services, please contact us at our address below.

Për Informacion معلومات کے لئی برای اطلاع Za Informacije

ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ Informacja Per Informazione তথ্যের জন্য للمعلومات

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