

Climate Change Mitigation Strategy



Introduction

The City of London Corporation sees its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of addressing the wider sustainability and efficiency agendas, which also include aspects such as biodiversity, air quality, climate change adaptation and the efficient use of resources.

A certain level of climate change is unavoidable, and whilst it is important that we reduce emissions to help limit the extent of climate change, we must also prepare for its expected impacts. The City's Climate Change *Adaptation* Strategy details our work on preparing for those impacts. It is available for download from our [website](#).

This Climate Change *Mitigation* Strategy sets out how City of London Corporation plans to catalyse action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Square Mile and beyond. It provides a high-level guide for action, and detailed Action Plans are being developed to specify the way forward and to monitor progress.

A vision for a low-carbon future

In the Climate Change Act, which was adopted in November 2008, the Government set a target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emission by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. This is a very ambitious goal and achieving it requires radical changes in the way we live our lives, our infrastructure and our services.

To make this goal more tangible and to inspire action, the City of London Corporation has consulted widely on what a low-carbon future could look like. The results of this consultation are summarised below:

A low carbon future means that...

- People will travel by environmentally friendly means of transport, including walking and cycling. Public transport will be efficient and pleasant to use.
- Buildings will be very energy-efficient, with active and passive design features such as renewable energy generation and rainwater harvesting incorporated into building design as standard features.
- Urban environments will be pleasant to live and work in. They will have diverse green features and good air quality.
- Readily available products and services will support low-carbon lifestyles and business practices.
- When deciding where to locate, businesses will take into account advantages relating to a low-carbon economy, including easy and pleasant low-carbon transport options and a skills base relating to low-carbon business opportunities.

Setting Targets for a Low-Carbon Future

The City of London Corporation fully supports the aim of a low-carbon future and will seek to maximise its contribution to the national effort of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

By changing the way it manages its own operations and assets, the City of London Corporation seeks to achieve the following short term target:

- Short term target:
15% reduction in energy consumption by 2015 (from 1990 levels)

The City of London Corporation will also encourage and support the communities within the Square Mile to achieve similar levels of reductions by 2015, particularly by utilising the planning system and engaging with its stakeholders.

Furthermore, the City of London Corporation will contribute to achieving the national milestone targets as detailed below. These targets are very ambitious, and achieving them will require a mixture of local, regional and national action.¹

- Medium term target:
34% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 (from 1990 levels)²
- Long term target:
80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (from 1990 levels)²

There is also a London-specific target of 60% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2025 (from 1990 levels) and the City of London Corporation will engage with the Mayor of London on emissions reduction towards this target.

¹ The City of London Corporation recognises that its efforts can only be effective if there is a fundamental restructuring of national energy generation and supply infrastructure and clear national regulative frameworks which encourage low-carbon businesses and lifestyles.

² National targets as specified in the Climate Change Act from 2008.

Priorities

The following priorities set out the key areas of the City of London Corporation’s activities to advance the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions:

- a. Ensure that places, spaces and buildings are designed in ways that support low-carbon lifestyles and shape the City as a sustainable place to do business, as well as continuing to promote and lobby actively for sustainable and improved transport options.
- b. Provide high quality services whilst minimising their impact on climate change.
- c. Provide leadership and encourage innovation in sustainable financial and other services, which will support the development of a low carbon economy.
- d. Harness expertise and build capacity for a low-carbon economy and low-carbon lifestyles.
- e. Increase the percentage of energy produced by low-carbon means that is being used in the City.
- f. Continue to share best practice in tackling climate change and act as a role model among business centres.

a. Ensure that places, spaces, buildings and transport systems are designed in ways that support low-carbon lifestyles and shape the City as a sustainable place to do business.

The City’s vision as detailed in the Community Strategy reflects the importance of the planning system in supporting our communities. In particular the Community Strategy makes explicit the links between sustainable design and the City’s competitiveness, the promotion of opportunity, the protection of the environment and the City’s culture and heritage.

Currently the built environment is responsible for around 70% of London's carbon emissions and the planning system must be used as an effective tool for tackling climate change as it can advance sustainable places and spaces as well as sustainable transport solutions.

b. Provide high quality services whilst minimising their impact on climate change.

In order to drive change in the City, the Corporation needs to lead by example in providing services, which not only reduce the Corporation's own greenhouse gas emissions, but also help its stakeholders to reduce theirs. For example, an efficient waste and recycling collection that minimises the amount of waste going to landfill reduces the fuel used in collecting and transporting the waste, as well as reducing the amount of greenhouse gases generated by waste in landfills.

This priority will assist in identifying and implementing innovative practices and efficiency savings and meets with the Strategic Aim specified in the City's Corporate Plan: "*to provide modern, efficient and high quality services for the Square Mile whilst delivering sustainable outcomes*".

c. Provide leadership and encourage innovation for sustainable financial services, which will support the development of a low carbon economy.

One of the Corporation's three Strategic Aims is to support and promote 'The City' as the world leader in international finance and business services, and this priority very much underpins that Aim.

By conducting research, developing partnerships and encouraging innovation, the City of London Corporation plays a vital role in securing the City's leadership in finance and investment solutions for a low carbon future, thus ensuring the City remains competitive and promotes

opportunity. The City of London Corporation will help the Government and the financial services sector to work together to develop the financial services needed to help society make the transition to a low carbon future.

d. Harness expertise and build capacity for a low-carbon economy and low-carbon lifestyles.

Reducing the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% will require major changes in the way businesses operate, as well as in people's lifestyles. Thus, supporting people and businesses by ensuring that skills and knowledge are disseminated widely is essential. Expertise relating to, for example, designing and managing sustainable buildings, carbon trading, investment in clean tech, enhancing biodiversity in an urban environment, and addressing the carbon impact of the supply chain is already available in the City. This knowledge and related skills can be shared and spread.

Activities under this priority will extend opportunities for education, life long learning, skills training and work, as well as enhancing access to products, services and exciting new commercial opportunities which enable low-carbon lifestyles and business practices.

e. Increase the percentage of energy produced by low-carbon means that is being used in the City.

Enhancing energy efficiency and reducing energy use are obvious first steps in protecting and promoting our environment. However, for deeper cuts, the carbon intensity of electricity generation needs to be reduced. This can be partly achieved through local solutions, including Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and on-site renewable energy generation. A feasibility study has been recently commissioned, which will evaluate the viability of extending the City's existing pipe subways network. In addition, the study will assess the feasibility of a comprehensive

decentralised energy network across the Square Mile, utilising the pipe subways network. Such a decentralised energy network could provide district heating, cooling and low carbon generated electricity to residents and businesses throughout the City.

f. Continue to share best practice in tackling climate change and act as a role model among business centres.

The City of London is widely recognised as a leader among international business centres with regards to sustainability and the City of London Corporation has been awarded Beacon Status for its work on tackling climate change. The City can build on these achievements and in living up to its position as a role model, share the learning that its success is built on.

Action Plans for each of these priorities are being developed and will be reviewed annually. They will detail the way forward and provide an opportunity to monitor progress.

Appendix 1

Related City of London Corporation Strategies and Policies

The City of London Corporation sees its efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as part of addressing the wider sustainability agenda. Key Corporate strategies and policies that deal with sustainability related matters include the following:

- Corporate Plan
- Sustainable Community Strategy
- Local Development Framework – Core Strategy (to be adopted 2011)
- Carbon Descent Plan
- Local Area Agreement
- Sustainability Policy
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- Air Quality Strategy
- Open Spaces Strategy

Appendix 2: Technical Appendix

Emissions baseline information

45.1 million tonnes of CO₂ were emitted by Greater London in 1990. By 2006, the emissions had been reduced to 44.3 million tonnes of CO₂ per year (source: GLA, London Climate Change Action Plan, 2007). This is a reduction by 1.8%.

Since there is no City-focused data for carbon emissions in the baseline year of 1990, we will use emissions data for 2006 and add 1.8%, assuming that the City's emissions followed the same path as Greater London's emissions.

Integration with regional and national policies

National and regional policies have a significant impact on the City's greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, the London Plan has a significant impact on the sustainability aspects of planning

permissions for the City's built environment. Also, on a national level, reducing the carbon intensity of large-scale energy generation will decrease the City's carbon footprint considerably. The emissions reduction targets in this strategy take account of those impacts and the City's carbon footprint will always be calculated on the basis of the most up-to-date national conversion factors, which reflect the carbon intensity of energy generation.

Greenhouse Gases

The following greenhouse gases are covered in the Kyoto protocol and in UK legislation:

Gas	Global Warming Potential
Carbon dioxide	1
Methane	21
Nitrous oxide	310
HCFCs	3800
Perfluorocarbons	9200
Sulphur Hexafluoride	23900

Global warming potential (GWP) is a measure of how much a given mass of greenhouse gas is estimated to contribute to global warming. It is a relative scale which compares the gas in question to that of the same mass of carbon dioxide (whose GWP is by definition 1). The figures listed above refer to GWP over a 100 year period.



The City of London is an unusually diverse organisation with three main aims

- o To support and promote 'The City' as the world leader in international finance and business services.
- o To provide modern, efficient and high quality local services and policing within the Square Mile for workers, residents and visitors whilst delivering sustainable outcomes.
- o To provide valued services to London and the nation.

Further information on the City of London and Climate Change Mitigation:

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