

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Committee 8 November 2007

Report Title Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership – First Annual Review

Summary Progress on delivering the partnership projects in the Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy to which Warwickshire County Council has an input. The report also outlines the County Council’s proposed commitment for the next year for approval.

For further information please contact Jacky Lawrence
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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? Yes/No

Background Papers Warwickshire Climate Change Action Plan
(www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechange)

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members Councillor J Appleton
Councillor K Browne } for information
Councillor G Collett
Councillor Mrs E Goode }
- Cabinet Member Councillor M Heatley – for information
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive

- Legal I Marriott – agreed.
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee -
8 November 2007**

**Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership –
First Annual Review**

**Report of the Strategic Director for
Environment and Economy**

Recommendation

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:-

1. Give views on the priorities for Warwickshire County Council in supporting the delivery of the Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy in the coming year.
2. Agree that future reporting on the Climate Change Partnership should be incorporated into the Corporate Review of Environmental Sustainability presented to Cabinet in December each year.

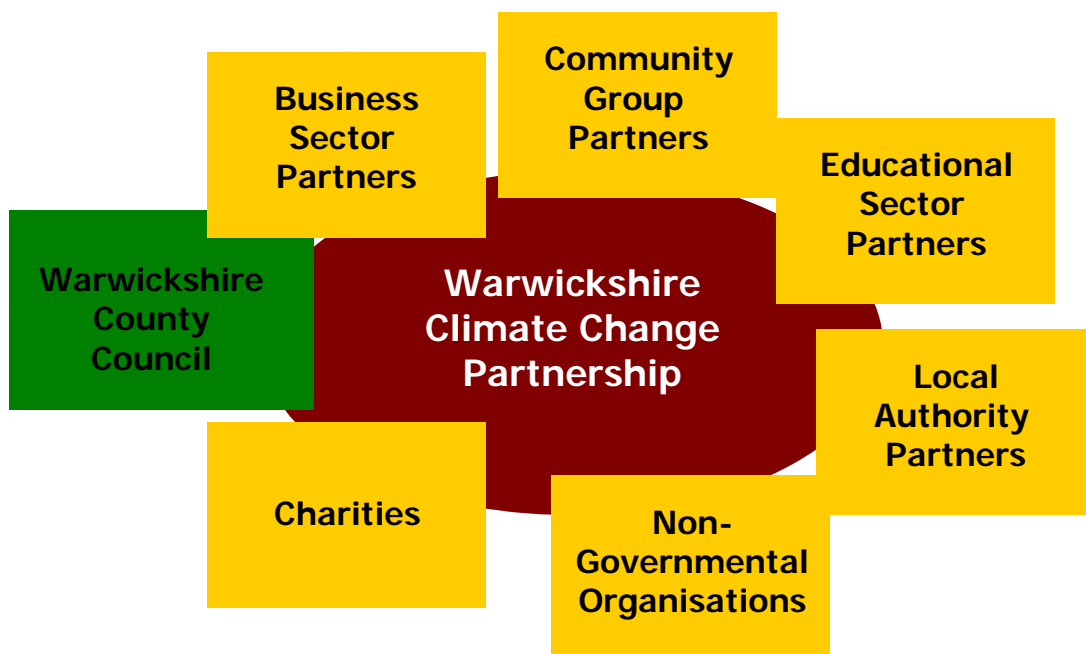
1. Background

- 1.1 Three years ago Warwickshire County Council (WCC) signed the Nottingham Declaration. In doing this we pledged to actively tackle climate change in the county and work with others to reduce emissions county-wide.
- 1.2 The Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy was launched in July 2006 and the Partnership Action Plan was published in August 2006. This first Action Plan included 37 projects, which were identified through a process of consultation on local priorities.
- 1.2 As a member of the Partnership, WCC has committed to reducing its own carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions through undertaking projects and also co-ordinating the actions of the other Partners.

2. Activities in the First Year

- 2.1 The activities of WCC support two agendas and it is important to put these into context:-

- (i) Activities undertaken to support the internal WCC Corporate Objectives. This is work agreed by Cabinet and supported by officers across the council.
 - (ii) Activities undertaken which support and contribute to the Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership. This is work undertaken by WCC officers to support the wider Warwickshire Climate Change Action Plan which includes supporting other partners and supporting residents to take action.
- 2.2 This report only covers the scope of work under section 2.1(ii) above as the corporate work is included in the Corporate Environmental Sustainability Report which is taken to Cabinet each December.
- 2.3 The diagram below explains the breadth of the Council's involvement in the Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership:-



- 2.4 All of the work undertaken in the field of Climate Change demonstrates the commitment of WCC not only to enhancing partnership working with other organisations, but also shows strong support for one of the three main corporate priorities '*pursuing a sustainable environment*'. The layout and format of the case studies shown in the **Appendix A** also reinforce these links.
- 2.5 Further benefits for the Climate Change Partnership have been made through the performance management arrangements for the Local Area Agreement process. A matrix has been established to enable all District/Boroughs to share information about their initiatives – implementation cost, CO2 savings, and contact details. This type of work is invaluable for effective planning of future work.

- 2.6 The main role for WCC in the partnership is to co-ordinate the project work undertaken, ensure all the relevant partners participate, and ensure the effective communication of the outcomes. WCC however, has participated in projects as well and more detail about some of these is provided in the **Appendix A**.
- 2.7 It is important to note that the appointment of a Climate Change Champion as a political lead on the agenda has both been greatly beneficial to officers and has provided a greater confidence to other organisations in the county in the level of commitment from the County Council.
- 2.8 The number of active partners has steadily risen during the year and we currently have 65 organisations working with us. Some are leading on projects, for example the Coventry Telegraph are the main media partners for this year's 'Switch it Off' campaign, and others supporting ongoing projects.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Our priorities for the coming year are to consolidate the successes we have had, to ensure the projects continue, and also to add new initiatives to engage further partners in work which aligns with their own business priorities.
- 3.2 Examples of future project work to support the partnership are:-
- (i) To continue working towards adapting WCC strategies, policies and plans to include consideration of climate change. This will provide the authority with a robust framework to enable the county to be more proactive in both mitigating and adapting to climate change.
 - (ii) to explore the potential for renewable energy generation on WCC land and elsewhere within the county to meet our contribution towards the national target for 2015.
 - (iii) To engage in project work undertaken by the partnership where WCC can itself benefit from the outcomes.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Council has actively taken up its role in co-ordinating and participating in activities in relation to the impacts of climate change. It is working to redirect its resources and capacity to change the culture both within the Council and with Partners across Warwickshire.
- 4.2 Members are asked to endorse this report, comment on a selection of the initiatives in which the County Council has been directly involved shown in **Appendix A**, and comment on the identified priorities for the coming year outlined in section 3 above.

- 4.3 Members are asked to agree that future reporting on the Climate Change Partnership should be incorporated into the main Corporate Review of Environmental Sustainability presented to Cabinet in December each year.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

25 October 2007

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee -
8 November 2007**

**Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership –
First Annual Review**

Switch it Off Campaign 2006

Overview

Objective: To raise awareness of just how much energy is wasted by electrical appliances and vehicles that are left on unnecessarily (such as on stand-by) and the environmental implications of this waste.

Main Partners: **Warwickshire County Council (WCC), Coventry City Council, Worcestershire County Council, Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre,** Central Networks, Savers and The Freight Best Practice Programme.

Audience: Local schools, residents and businesses across Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Coventry.

Rationale: If everyone across this area turned off their appliances rather than leave them on stand-by in their homes, more than £20 million pounds would be saved each year. As a consequence of the reduction in electricity consumed it would prevent over 86,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere.

Web Link: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/switchitoff

Switch it Off Campaign

A number of initiatives were set up to maximise the promotional impact of Switch It Off (SIO). Strong branding was developed to identify each of these as a SIO initiative. Evaluation played a large part in the campaign's success, with monitoring of electricity consumption being carried out by Central Networks.



The Big Switch Off

Switch it Off week culminated on Friday, November 3, with a big 'Switch it Off' day when everyone in Warwickshire was urged to limit their electricity usage between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. Consumption across the area was monitored by Central Networks over SIO week and the previous week. Across Warwickshire there was an 8% drop in electricity consumption (32 MW) compared to the previous two days. Across Worcestershire there was a 4% drop (11 MW) compared to the previous day. Across Coventry there was a 6.6% (21 MW) drop compared to the previous day.



Family Challenge

Local families were invited to live with an Electrisave meter for one week and keep a diary of their use of electricity and 24 Warwickshire families took up the challenge. A prize draw covering participants across Warwickshire was held in January 2007. The Beard Family from Leamington won a week's accommodation in Cornwall with a free family pass to the Eden Project.

'Switch it Off' Art Competition for Schools

Prior to SIO week, local schools were asked by a local charity, Savers, to submit shapes of electrical appliances or lights decorated with a collage of recycled materials or displaying colourful and interesting 'Switch it Off' messages. Around 1,300 individual artwork submissions were received from schools across Coventry, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Certificates were awarded to local winners by Jaguar Cars during SIO week. Three winning schools were each presented with a cheque for £250: Aston Fields Secondary (Worcestershire), High Meadow Infants (Warwickshire), Brooke Special (Warwickshire).



Anti-idling campaign

The Freight Best Practice Programme, with support from WCC, led on this national pilot with a local distribution company in Rugby. The results were extremely encouraging with 76% (37/49) of vehicles showing an improvement in miles per gallon (MPG) following the training, including 20% of the fleet (10 vehicles) recording MPG improvements greater than 10%.

'3 Council Challenge'

Staff located in the main buildings at WCC, Coventry City Council and Worcestershire County Council competed against each other during SIO week to see who could reduce electricity consumption the most. Electricity consumption at Warwickshire's Shire Hall actually increased during the week by 1.6% while consumption at Coventry's Town Hall went up by 2.6%. Worcestershire's County Hall results were not available. The results, while disappointing, do not reflect the anecdotal evidence provided by caretakers, who reported that their daily lock-up took a lot less time during SIO week with less lights to turn off.

SIO Staff Supporters

Twenty-nine volunteers were recruited from across all WCC directorates to act as informal SIO monitors. Volunteers were asked to put up posters, distribute stickers where equipment had been left on unnecessarily and feedback on progress throughout the week. Feedback shows that staff were enthusiastic to take part but key learning points include stressing health and safety issues (such as the need to leave lighting on in key areas such as stairwells) and common sense issues (such as not switching off fridges!).

Even more could have been achieved with the 18 to 24 age group if the bid for £30,000 Climate Change Challenge funding had been successful.

Warwickshire Biomass Heating Project

Overview

Objectives:

1. To promote the installation of biomass (woodfuel) heating in the West Midlands and in particular around Warwick and Coventry.
2. To develop a wood fuel supply chain in Warwickshire.
3. To roll out experience gained in developing a growing centre for biomass in Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

Main Partners: **Energy West Midlands, Marches Wood Energy Network, Warwickshire County Council**, Econergy, Warwickshire College, Warwick District Council, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, The Warwickshire Rural Hub, The University of Warwick, ARUP, National Grid.

Audience: Energy Managers and Technical Specialists involved in specifying heating plant in new build and refurbishments.

Rationale: Wood is the most widespread form of renewable energy in Europe. Woodfuel is generally competitive with most conventional fossil fuels such as coal, oil or natural gas. For non-domestic users, woodfuel is also exempt from the Climate Change Levy. Overall, wood heating offers perhaps the most cost-effective route to developing renewable energy. Allowing for emissions of CO₂ in planting, harvesting, processing and transporting the fuel, replacing fossil fuels with woodfuel will typically reduce emissions by up to 90%. Woodfuel also offers an opportunity to protect the user from rises in the price of fossil fuels.

Web Link:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/2A51934B5A578A1D802572E200603FDA>

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biomass>

Biomass Heating Feasibility Studies

Warwickshire County Council identified a range of partners who were willing to see if they had any buildings that would be suitable for wood fuelled heating systems. Energy West Midlands then engaged the Marches Wood Energy Network (MWEN) to carry out feasibility studies for 12 sites. The studies were intended to identify where there was a basis for further investigation. All but one of these sites were found to be physically and economically suitable for some form of biomass heating.

Biomass Market Development

Following the feasibility studies, a market development event was held on 30th May 2006 at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell Hall, to share the results with everyone. The event was followed by visits to existing schemes at Oakengates Theatre and Leisure Centre in Telford.



Feedback showed that there was considerable interest in both:

- ❖ establishing a woodfuel supply infrastructure in the county, and
- ❖ making it easier for building projects to incorporate biomass into building energy systems.

Sixteen of the organisations that were represented at the event expressed an interest in establishing and participating in a local biomass heating support group in order to take forward a number of public building projects. So far there are three projects in progress: Warwick District Council's Oakley Crematorium, Warwickshire County Council's Kingsbury Water Park and Warwickshire College. A 'Specifiers Design Guide' has also been produced. The main barriers to progressing other projects have been the lack of staff time for project management and availability of capital resources.

The Warwickshire Biomass Heating Support Group was initiated following the event and had its first meeting on the 4th December 2006. The group meet quarterly and are now planning the second market development event in November 2007. This second event will be supported through Advantage West Midlands' Sustainable Public Buildings programme and its purpose is to identify and help overcome all remaining barriers. Warwickshire is lucky in that it is able to guarantee a supply of woodfuel for initial projects. To ensure future security of the fuel supply the Support Group will continue working closely with the Rural Hub.

Goods Again Project at Onley Prison

Overview

- Objectives:**
1. To provide training and employment opportunities within the prison and the local community.
 2. To address poverty issues by offering low cost electrical items to low-income residents – target sales of 1,300 items per year.
 3. To divert electrical goods away from land fill sites - target 267 tonnes per year.
 4. To help promote recycling in the wider Warwickshire community and increase the number of households participating in a reuse scheme.

Main Partners: **Her Majesty's Prison Service**, Warwickshire Waste Partnership (Warwickshire County Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Warwick District Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council), Warwickshire Environmental Trust, Coventry City Mission, Second Chance (Christian Alliance Housing Association), Roundabout, Bareboards, The Loft and Action 21.

Audience: Low income residents, charities and the Prison Service.

Rationale: Warwickshire has some high levels of deprivation. Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough in the north of the county, for example, has one ward in the top 10% of the most deprived wards in the country - and six in the top 20%. Just under 20% of Warwickshire households have an annual income below £10,000. For them, buying new electrical goods and paying full price is rarely, if ever, an option. 20,000 unwanted electrical appliances (such as cookers, fridges and freezers) are discarded in Warwickshire each year and there is no other local way to reuse or recycle them.

Web Link: <http://www.covcitymission.org.uk/goods.htm>

The Goods Again Project

Goods Again came about through existing joint working channels, notably the Warwickshire Furniture Reuse Forum. The need for refurbished and reusable electrical appliances was flagged up by local charities and further explored by a feasibility study commissioned by the Warwickshire Waste Partnership.



Goods Again was formally launched in January 2006 and, as far as we know, it is still unique. The project takes discarded electrical goods out of the waste stream for reuse. The 'rescued' items are taken to a specialist workshop set up at Onley Prison near Rugby, where they are tested, repaired, refurbished, or dismantled into reusable parts. The work is done by prisoners, supervised and trained by qualified instructors.

The workshop takes 24 prisoners at any one time. They learn new skills and, although there were set-up problems, they work towards a City & Guilds qualification at the end of their training course. This could help them find jobs on release and offers a way to 'put something back' into the communities many of them come from. This job satisfaction is a big plus and a positive step towards resettlement and reducing re-offending.

Once processed, reusable electrical goods are transported to charitable organisations for redistribution to those people who can't afford new. Goods Again charges a nominal amount per item, averaging around £35 for white goods. The charities then decide what charge to pass on to the end user.

Highlights of the Scheme

- ❖ The Goods Again project won the Municipal Journal Award for Innovation with the Third Sector on June 28th 2007.
- ❖ Goods Again has created seven new jobs in warehousing and administration roles.
- ❖ Key contacts have been made with recycling centres and other organisations to ensure a good flow of items into the project. Contacts have also been made with outlets to take refurbished items.
- ❖ The project is registered as an Approved Authorised Treatment Facility under the WEEE Regulations.
- ❖ As Goods Again grows, there will be wider opportunities for training and development - of prisoners, volunteers, unemployed trainees and project staff.
- ❖ Some Coventry schools encourage pupils learning about waste to bring in small, unwanted electrical items for collection by Goods Again.
- ❖ So far in 2007 there has been £23,139 revenue – target for 2007 is £27,000.

In June 2007

- ❖ 822 items were collected, reducing waste to landfill by 10.72 tonnes.
- ❖ The prison produced 337 saleable items and 306 items were delivered to customers.
- ❖ The value of invoices totalled £3,784.



The scheme intends to start providing training for volunteers and unemployed people on the warehouse and administration side. Her Majesty's Prison Service is treating Goods Again as a pilot project which may be extended to benefit prisons elsewhere.

Sustainable Construction Practices - Pride in Camp Hill

Overview

- Objective:** Pride in Camp Hill is a community regeneration initiative aiming to reduce energy consumption in community buildings owned or managed by the local community.
- Main Partners:** **Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Advantage West Midlands, Warwickshire County Council,** The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment.
- Audience:** Local Communities and Residents, Local Schools, Local Businesses within and surrounding the Camp Hill area.
- Rationale:** Camp Hill is amongst the worst 10% of wards in the country and the most deprived ward in Warwickshire. The Pride in Camp Hill scheme will help transform the area improving the quality of living standards and lowering fuel bills for homes and businesses within the area by introducing a number of energy efficiency schemes.
- Web Link:** <http://www.prideincamphill.co.uk>

Pride in Camp Hill – Energy Efficiency in New Homes

Pride in Camp Hill is a regeneration project which began in 2000 with the aim to transform Camp Hill, making it a better place to live. Over the past couple of years a greater emphasis on energy efficiency has been incorporated into the project, with some pioneering environmental work now occurring.

New micro combined heat and power systems are going into homes, which operate a gas boiler and produce about 1kw of electricity at the same time. They are able to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the average home by about one and a half tonnes a year and could reduce household energy bills by an average of £150 a year.



Insulation levels in the new properties are 40 per cent better than current building regulations; and all homes are being provided with recycling facilities both internally and externally.

In addition, photovoltaic (solar) panels are to be used in the next phase of the development on south facing roofs of apartments both within the village centre and outlying areas. It is hoped that power from these will light the internal and external communal areas.

Pride in Camp Hill will continue to move forwards in its aim to increase energy efficiency as phrase three of the development aspires to build new homes to meet the Eco Homes 'Very Good' standard. The preferred developer will be requested to consider the best technologies for renewable energy supplies and energy savings as part of their over-all work.

Pride in Camp Hill won the regional Forum for Constructing Excellence (FORCE) Award for regeneration practice in February 2007 because of the use of pioneering environmental works in the development.



Eco Schools Programme – Myton School, Warwick (A Specialist Science College)

Overview

- Objective:** To change from a school that just carries out projects into a true 'Eco-School' where every student knows and is proud of their environmental achievements, and wants to take the school forward in this way.
- Main Partners:** **Myton School**, Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (WEEAC), RSPB, Teachers TV, Severn Trent Water, The Tree Council, Collect 4 Schools, SITA, Garden Organic.
- Audience:** Students, Teachers, Governors and Parents.
- Rationale:** To reduce environmental impacts and increase environmental protection in schools and also to aid delivery of WCC County Strategies such as: Climate Change, Waste Minimisation, Green Travel & Transport and Sustainable Procurement Strategies.
- Web Link:** www.mytonschool.co.uk/learningeco-schools

Myton School Projects

Addressing wasted energy

A whole school energy audit was carried out which included eight weeks data collection. As a result of this an energy report was produced for the school. Further actions from the report will be implemented in the coming school year.



In addition, photovoltaic (solar) panels are to be used in the next phase of the development on south facing roofs.

Reducing water use and waste

Health Education lessons on water savings are carried out, and water saving devices have been installed into cisterns. There is also a programme to identify and rectify any leaks as and when they occur.

Improving recycling

The school is hoping to purchase a baling machine to reduce transport, skip and landfill costs. The baler will crush plastic, paper and card for recycling. Compost bins were established two years ago and recycling is in place.

Improving the diet of pupils at school

The school's catering department has received the healthy schools award for transforming school meals. They now provide balanced healthy meals for all students.

Drinking water and the use of a water bottle is encouraged throughout the school rather than students bringing in cans and bottles of soft drinks.



Raising awareness of sustainability

This is covered through Curriculum work in Geography and Science, and by the establishment of an organic garden. Fundraising by the Eco Schools group has also enabled a greenhouse and a shed to be purchased.

Assemblies are regularly held at Myton about being an Eco School. These are then followed up in class by pupils planning games and projects based on sustainability and 'Green Living'.

Making the environment part of compulsory education

The school has created a Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) activity for years 7,8,9 and 10. They will also be starting an Environmental GCSE next year.

Biodiversity and school grounds

Funding has been received from the Tree Council. Two hundred and fifty trees including a new woodland of over 175 different native varieties has now been planted.

An RSPB 'Birdwatch' camera has been set up in the school grounds to watch and monitor wildlife.

Involving students in the wider community and world issues

The school has carried out a 'Walk for Wildlife' which they will now carry out each year.

Funding has been raised and sent to a school in Africa, and in addition they have 'sponsored' a penguin in a reserve. A Conservation trip to Belize was also carried out as well as an environmental expedition to Uganda.

The school raised £5,000, £3,000 of which was sent to WWF and the remainder split between the African Children and penguin project.

Measure of success

The success of the programme can be demonstrated at Myton by the appointment of an Environmental Co-ordinator (teacher) who is paid an additional salary increment for this position.

It can also be demonstrated by the full involvement and participation of staff and others at the school such as the Premises Manager, Governors and Senior Staff, and Head Teacher.

Furthermore members of the local community close to the school are involved in some way or other. In addition the cable channel Teachers TV visited the school and filmed a teacher from Birmingham learning about Myton's achievements which was subsequently broadcast in May 2007.

The commitment of the Environmental Co-ordinator is an important element in the school's success, as is the intention of the school to make the environment a whole school priority in the near future. This will not only attract funding to continue similar projects but also displays a firm commitment to improve the school in terms of reducing running costs through energy & waste conservation. The future of Eco-Schools at Myton is very positive indeed.