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# **SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION Progress Report**

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**September 2009**

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# Preface

This document contains a review of South Ayrshire's Council's progress against the commitments in Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, and challenges for the future, based on the prompts in the guidance template prepared by the Sustainable Scotland Network, and supported by COSLA and the Scottish Government.

<b>Organisation Profile</b>	
Organisation name	South Ayrshire Council
Web site address	www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Number of employees (FTE)	6500 FTE
List council services/departments	<p>The Council operates through 12 Services in 3 Executive Directorates</p> <p><b>Chief Executive</b> Policy, Performance and Communication</p> <p><b>Corporate Services Directorate</b> Human Resources and Organisational Development Corporate Resources Legal and Administration</p> <p><b>Development and Environment Directorate</b> Planning and Enterprise Property and Neighbourhood Services Customer and Community Services</p> <p><b>Children and Community Directorate</b> Services and School Management Community Care and Housing Children's Services Curriculum and Service Improvement Community Development</p>
Number of Council premises	198 occupied buildings on 433 sites
Revenue budget for current financial year	£258m
Capital budget for current financial year	£16.75m
Local authority population	112000
Number of households in the council area	51000 (2006)
Total carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from council estate and operations	30,000t (2005/06)
Area footprint (ecological/carbon)	5.48 global Ha per person (ecological) 12.55 tonnes pp (carbon)

<b>Governance Arrangements</b>	
Is there a decision-making body within the organisation with a specific climate change remit?	The Councils Leadership Panel incorporates this remit through the Portfolio carrier for Sustainability and the Environment. The South Ayrshire Sustainability Forum includes external partners and oversees the delivery of the Environmental Theme, which includes climate change mitigation and adaptation, of the Community Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement
Describe how climate change action is supported in the council.	Carbon Management and climate change work is devolved operationally from the Corporate Management Team through the Directorate of Development and Environment to the Sustainable Development Unit. Carbon Management is driven by the cross-Service Carbon Management Officer Group
Does the authority have a 'member champion' and/or an 'officer champion' for climate change within the organisation?	Climate Change is the responsibility of the Sustainability and Environment Portfolio Carrier, and "championed" by the Executive Director of Development and Environment
Do you have a dedicated climate change officer and/or supporting staff?	There is no dedicated climate change officer, the topic is managed corporately by a range of officers in the Sustainable Development Unit, encompassing Energy, Travel and Waste. The Sustainable Development Unit has the lead responsibility for Climate Change activity across the Council
Does the council have an annual budget allocation for climate change work?	£10k is specifically allocated to Climate Change initiatives, but there are significant resources in Energy Management, Waste Management, and Roads and Engineering budgets that support elements of mitigation and adaptation.
<b>Areas for further development</b>	<b>More work requires to be done to "embed" climate change in corporate governance protocols especially around Planning and Procurement, and project evaluation. More effective monitoring and reporting requires to be developed at a strategic level</b>

## The Declaration – Progress on the Commitments

### Commitment One

**Work with the Scottish and UK Governments to contribute to the delivery of Scotland's and the UK's Climate Change Programmes, including to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to future climate change scenarios.**

Please state the date that your organisation signed the Declaration.	The Declaration was launched at a Council event on 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2007
Like the Scottish Government, has your organisation identified its share of emissions and set reduction targets?	The Council has not identified a share of Scottish emissions, but has set a baseline through the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme, and reduction targets have been set in the Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement
Please state the stage your organisation has reached on the 'evaluation' scale in relation to this commitment.	Stage 4/5 – There is some linkage of climate change Declaration process to other key processes including Best Value, Community Planning, and the Single Outcome Agreement  <b>See the evaluation matrix at the end of the report</b>
Please state 2 or 3 actions your authority has taken against for this commitment	There is officer and member involvement with CoSLA and SSN Committees and Task Groups and participation in national networks on Sustainable Development, Waste and Energy.
What are your main learning points from your actions to date?	Need for ongoing research and awareness on development in policy and practice for all services –identifying, assessing and resourcing mitigation opportunities is difficult, adaptation even more so.
What challenges do you still face and what help do you require to address these?	Maintaining commitment in face of significant resource pressures and securing corporate buy-in beyond simple cost avoidance and financial savings
<b>Areas for further development</b>	<b>To review the implications of the Climate Change (Scotland ) Act for the Council's operations</b>

## Commitment Two

**Produce and publicly declare a plan, with targets and time-scales, to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations. This will include our energy use and sourcing, travel and transportation, waste production and disposal, estate management, procurement of goods and services, and improved staff awareness.**

What are your current emissions and what are the main sources?	The Council's Carbon emissions total 56000t CO2e per annum Waste 42% Energy 41% Fleet 8% Street lighting 7% Travel for work 2%
What steps have you taken to produce a plan to cut greenhouse gases emissions?	Carbon Management Plan (CMP) approved April 2008 Single Outcome Agreement has objectives, indicators and targets covering carbon footprint and climate change risk management
Does your plan include targets and timescales? If yes, please state.	CMP seeks a 20% reduction by 2013 from 05/06 base SOA Commitments on mitigation, adaptation, waste and travel
What steps has the council taken to 'publicly declare' your plan?	Climate Change and Carbon Management updates appear on the Council website; and climate change has featured at Community Planning workshops and Conference
What steps have you taken to raise staff awareness?	Energy efficiency is a feature of employee induction and training, Workshops, CPD events, Intranet information, and Bulletins
What stage do you think you are at on the 'evaluation' scale?	Stage 5 – There is a published policy, with targets and review mechanisms <b>See the evaluation matrix at the end of the report</b>
Please state 2 or 3 actions your authority has taken against for this commitment	Development of a Carbon Management Plan Integration with the Single Outcome Agreement Development of a Sustainable Travel plan
What are your main learning points from your actions to date?	Quantification of resources to maintain progress Understanding of appropriate data capture and management
What challenges do you still face and what help do you require to address these?	Maintaining internal and external support resources Developing monitoring and reporting systems that are effective and timely
Areas for further development	Improve reporting and feedback to users to maximise benefit

### Commitment Three

<p><b><i>Ensure that greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation measures are clearly incorporated into our new and existing strategies, plans and programmes, in line with sustainable development principles.</i></b></p>	
<p>What review process, if any, have your authority put in place to incorporate climate change measures in strategies, plans and programmes?</p>	<p>The Single Outcome Agreement and associated Action plans, and the Strategic Risk Register provide the sole review mechanisms at present at a Strategic level. Elements of the Strategic Environment Assessment process help address this also.</p>
<p>In what way has your authority applied sustainable development principles to your climate change plan?</p>	<p>The Council's "Vision for the Future" has identified responding to climate change as a key business aim. The Best Value Audit Report of April 2009 acknowledged the Council's commitment to and resourcing of this work.</p>
<p>What stage do you think you are at on the 'evaluation' scale?</p>	<p>Stage 3/4 There clear delegation and accountability for Declaration, but support for the process is not uniform across the organisation</p> <p><b><i>See the evaluation matrix at the end of the report</i></b></p>
<p>Please state 2 or 3 actions your authority has taken against for this commitment</p>	<p>The Council and Directorate Business Plan has specified adapting to the impacts of Climate Change as a strategic objective, now reflected in the Single Outcome agreement</p>
<p>What are your main learning points from your actions to date?</p>	<p>The importance of promoting the message and linkages at the most senior levels, on regular and ongoing basis</p>
<p>What challenges do you still face and what help do you require to address these?</p>	<p>Carbon assessment and scoring, particularly of major projects. Understanding the implications for local government of the new Climate Change Act</p>
<p><b>Areas for further development</b></p>	<p><b>To include emissions reduction targets in the Housing Strategy and address adaptation in the local development plan Main Issues report.</b></p>

## Commitment Four

<p><b><i>Assess the risks and opportunities for our services and our communities of predicted climate change scenarios and impacts, and take action to adapt accordingly and in line with sustainable development principles.</i></b></p>	
<p>What steps, if any, has your organisation put in place to assess the risks and opportunities arising from climate change scenarios and impacts?</p>	<p>The Strategic Risk of Climate Change impact has been identified</p> <p>Flood Impact Studies, Road Asset Management Review, and Coastal Protection Issues are all under development and Review and incorporated within the SOA Action Plan</p>
<p>Has your authority taken steps to deal with climate change risks and opportunities</p>	<p>Currently only specific issues around flood appraisal and roads asset management have been addressed</p>
<p>Does your authority intend to produce a Local Climate Impacts Profile or similar profile of extreme weather events in your area?</p>	<p>Not directly. This has been identified as requiring local work, and is being evaluated as a possible joint Ayrshire-wide project.</p>
<p>In what way have you applied 'sustainable development principles' in your adaptation assessments?</p>	<p>These have not been applied in any systematic manner to date</p>
<p>What stage do you think you are at on the 'evaluation' scale?</p>	<p>Stage 3 – Strategic Risk has been identified, and a general target identified in the SOA against an Index of Preparedness.</p> <p><b><i>See the evaluation matrix at the end of the report</i></b></p>
<p>Please state 2 or 3 actions your authority has taken against for this commitment</p>	<p>Climate Change has been Identified as a Strategic Risk</p> <p>Adaptation to the impacts of Climate Change is an SOA Strategic Objective and Indicator</p> <p>In-house Sustainable construction guidelines incorporating adaptation principles have been developed</p>
<p>What are your main learning points from your actions to date?</p>	<p>Further targeted awareness-raising work requires to be undertaken with key services and partners</p>
<p>What challenges do you still face and what help do you require to address these?</p>	<p>Service specific adaptation assessment and evaluation tools and relevant guidance is required</p>
<p><b>Areas for further development</b></p>	<p><b>Local Development Plan Work with local partners such as SEPA on River Basin Management and Flood Impact.</b></p> <p><b>Possible Local Climate Impacts Project</b></p>

**Commitment Five**

This commitment relates to local authority outward facing services, and how services like planning, housing and building standards stimulate behavioural change within our communities.

<b><i>Encourage and work with others in our local community to take action to adapt to the impact of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.</i></b>	
Does the council set targets to reduce community emissions? Does the council encourage and enable the local community to: reduce their own area-wide emissions? take action to adapt to inevitable climate change?	Not directly, but there is a per-capita carbon reduction target and there are partner contributions via the SOA Action Plan. There are a number of community energy projects supported by the Council and key partners promoting renewable energy and delivering energy efficiency which support this
Does the council work with existing organisations, for example community councils, to mitigate and adapt to climate change?	The Council works with organisations such as the Energy Agency, and local community and Business groups. All schools are registered with the Ecoschools programme, with 13 Green Flags and 23 Silver Awards achieved to date
Does the council make funding available (or provide advice on funding) to community efforts on climate change?	The Council supports the Energy Agency and ESSAC, the annual Sustainable Energy Fair, Community Energy Project funding to relieve Fuel Poverty and provides in-kind support to Windfarm Community Benefit groups
What stage do you think you are at on the 'evaluation' scale?	Stage 3/4 The partnership has agreed in principle to co-operate on climate change through the SOA, and there are specific initiatives by some individual partners.  <b><i>See the evaluation matrix at the end of the report</i></b>
Please state 2 or 3 actions your authority has taken against for this commitment	Developing Community Planning and Sustainability Forum as a focus for partnership work on Climate Change Support for Climate Challenge Fund bids
What are your main learning points from your actions to date?	Delivery and follow-up on partner expectations. Facilitative support for community groups
What challenges do you still face and what help do you require to address these?	Coping effectively with scale of demand and managing expectations
<b>Further Development</b>	<b>Improved monitoring and reporting of community actions. Improve partner support protocols</b>

### Commitment Six

<b><i>Publish an annual statement on the monitoring and progress of our climate change response, detailing targets set, actions taken, outcomes achieved and further actions required</i></b>	
	This commitment is met through this document, in conjunction with the SOA reporting regime and the Carbon Management Plan reporting framework
<b>Areas for further development</b>	<b>To improve the quality and availability of the reporting to suit a range of recipients</b>

### Commitment Seven

<b><i>Collaborate with other organisations to promote good practice on climate change mitigation and adaptation.</i></b>	
Please list 2 or 3 actions your council is taking to demonstrate leadership and good practice on climate change.	SOA workshops with Community plan partners Joint work on Climate Change through the Sustainability Forum Up&Go Sustainable Travel initiative with partners
Describe any new or existing partnerships that the council has fostered to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	Energy agency/ESSAC for energy efficiency and renewables Carbon Trust for in-house carbon management Strathclyde Partnership for Transport for Sustainable Travel Community energy Projects
What stage do you think you are at on the 'evaluation' scale?	Stage 2 There have been ad-hoc audits of some parts of the organisation with limited follow-up. <b><i>See the evaluation matrix at the end of the guidance document</i></b>
What are your main learning points from your actions to date?	There have been clear benefits of information sharing Networking opportunities have enhanced good practice
What challenges do you still face and what help do you require to address these?	Overcoming scepticism and failure to fully recognise local impact on global issues
<b>Areas for further development</b>	<b>To continue to develop partnership work and good practice</b>

## Communicating Climate Change

<b>Communicating climate change</b>	
<p>Please state your local authority's key climate change message.</p> <p>Which key groups have you targeted?</p>	<p>The fundamental message remains Think global, act local, this means you, and the key focus is on Council Staff and Community Plan Partners</p> <p>Business – a little progress is being made through links with Business Environment Partnership</p> <p>Local communities – limited progress, all reactive, and only with groups receptive to the message</p>
<p>Please state the steps your authority has taken to raise staff awareness on climate change issues?</p>	<p>From Commitment Two:</p> <p>Energy efficiency is a feature of employee induction and training, Workshops, CPD events, Intranet information, and Bulletins</p>
<p>Does the council produce or use any specific climate change awareness-raising materials?</p>	<p>We have limited experience with this – the message is mostly incorporated in material on energy, waste and transport. The DVD of An Inconvenient Truth was screened at the launch of the Declaration and distributed to schools and copies available to borrow free of charge through the library service</p>
<p>What are your 2-3 priority actions on this commitment</p>	<p>Improving quality and availability of information for key groups</p> <p>Developing local web-based information</p>
<p>What are your main learning points from your actions to date?</p>	<p>Focus message on specifics relevant to the target group</p> <p>Seek feedback on penetration and understanding of the key messages</p>
<p>What challenges do you still face and what help do you require to address these?</p>	<p>Overcoming scepticism and general lack of engagement due to other service pressures. Keeping the message fresh and relevant. Upcoming Government Public Engagement strategy will require appropriate resources.</p>