



Nottinghamshire  
County Council

# Beacon Council Scheme: Sustainable Energy

## Summary Sheet: Strategy and Partnerships

### Regional Planning Guidance / Regional Energy Strategy

Nottinghamshire County Council has engaged actively in developing policy at regional level in a wide range of areas. Two senior cabinet members including the Leader are engaged in the Planning Board of the Regional Assembly. A number of officers took part in the development of Regional Planning Guidance, and gave evidence at the RPG examination in public in November 2003, in particular on the energy and transport policies. There has been a similarly high level of involvement in the development of the Regional Energy Strategy through the Regional Energy Group. Officers from the County Council are also involved in regional groups leading work on sustainable development, climate change, transport, the Regional Waste Strategy, sustainable procurement and environment.

### The Local Authority Energy Partnership (LAEP)

Established in 1996 the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities Energy Partnership (LAEP) represents all 19 local authorities in the region. Its vision of 'sustainable development' is linked to three key objectives:

- Quality of Life
- Economic regeneration
- Countering Social Exclusion

The partnership works with central government and gave formal evidence to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee in 1999 in Nottingham – the resulting report has influenced government policy. All participating authorities operate free and impartial energy advice services to the domestic market.

### The Nottinghamshire Agenda 21 (NA21) Strategy

Nottinghamshire County Council set up NA21 in 1999 in response to its work with the district Agenda 21 groups. NA21 aimed to bring together the issues that could not be tackled at a more local level and which needed a more strategic approach. The Action Plan "A Better Quality of Life" launched in 2000 was the result of mapping the existing work in the county, identifying the issues and developing a vision for the future. The progress report, printed in 2004 identifies a number of positive actions on sustainable energy in the area and indicated that the Steering Group had highlighted Climate Change as one of the key priorities for the partnership.

### Community Strategy

NA21 is now a key partner in the Nottinghamshire Partnership forum, Nottinghamshire's Local Strategic Partnership. The Framework Community Strategy for Nottinghamshire sets out delivery of the Public Service Agreement and climate change as areas of activity. As the delivery partner for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, NA21 commissioned work to research the effects of climate change on the Nottinghamshire area and in 2004 held a conference with Michael Fish as the keynote speaker. This has helped to kick-start the local response to the issue. Copies of the leaflet, "Climate Change in Nottinghamshire" are available.

### Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)

The County Council actively supports all of the district LSPs. A county representative attends each of the issue groups and promotes sustainable energy policies. Tackling climate change will become an action point for all LSPs in 2005/6. Collectively all the local authorities in Nottinghamshire are part of the Local Authorities Energy partnership, which promotes energy efficiency, emission reduction and the eradication of fuel poverty. Because the individual authorities have signed up to this partnership they reflect its priorities in their LSPs.

### Strategic Plan

Building a Future, the County Council's 2001-2005 Strategic Plan, has a very specific target to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from County Council buildings by 25% from a 1998 baseline by 2003. This has been achieved and further reductions are set. There is also a commitment to purchase greener energy, and to reduce the use of cars for journeys to school.



2005-2006  
Sustainable Energy

### Contacting us

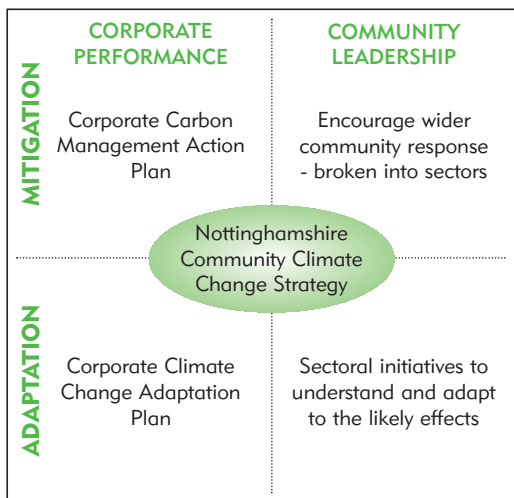
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**Joint Structure Plan (JSP)**

The revised JSP was put on deposit in November 2003, and was subject to examination in public in summer 2004. The energy policies in the plan adopt the regional targets set out in RPG for renewable energy generation, and also set out the need for local plans/local development documents to contain design policies which promote energy efficient construction. The transport policies provide support for development which minimises the need to travel.

**Climate Change Strategy**

The County Council is working closely with the Nottinghamshire Agenda 21 partnership to produce a Community Climate Change Strategy for the County. This will tackle both mitigation (reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation. As part of this strategy the County Council will set out its own response, and in particular is developing a corporate Carbon Management Plan.



The development of the Climate Change Strategy was launched at a major conference held in October 2004, hosted by the NA21 partnership, and addressed by Michael Fish.

**Carbon Management Plan**

The Carbon Management Plan provides a comprehensive process for the management of emission of greenhouse gases from Nottinghamshire County Council. It has been developed through extensive working with the Carbon Trust and deals with those emissions under the direct influence of the

council namely, energy use in our council buildings, streetlighting, transport (including vehicle fleet and business travel) and waste management,

**PSA partnership and delivery plan**

This unique CO<sub>2</sub> reduction Public Service Agreement (PSA) was made with Government by a Partnership of bodies from within Nottinghamshire namely; Nottinghamshire County Council, all the 7 District / Borough Councils (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield and Rushcliffe Borough Councils and Newark & Sherwood District Council) and Nottinghamshire Police. In return for reducing their annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions arising from energy use in buildings, a grant will be shared between the Partners. To receive the reward grant the Partnership must achieve an annual reduction of 5,000 tonnes through the installation of more energy efficient technology, switching to lower carbon fuels or investing in renewable technology.

**Energy in Buildings Strategy**

The Energy Strategy for buildings was adopted by the Council's Cabinet in March 2002 primarily in response to the increased emphasis upon reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to combat climate change. Allied to this, the clear economic reasons for continuing to improve the Council's annual fuel consumption, given the size, age and diversity of its building portfolio, were also paramount. It is based upon a

re-assessment of the energy performance of these buildings and of past investment programmes in relation to cleaner fuel options and green electricity purchase. The report examined future opportunities that may occur, notably through the use of wood heat, emissions trading, carbon offsetting and through seeking out new funding streams.

The Strategy features a framework for action based on the Local Government Association energy hierarchy, with emphasis upon a dedicated investment package of £11m, an annual budget of £30k for

energy awareness raising and a new monitoring and reporting system. The proposals were tied to UK targets for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions established in 2000 and to the Council's own Strategic Plan (2001–2005). A target of a 25% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (on a 1998 baseline) was adopted (and achieved) for 2003 which has helped launch the Council towards its long term vision of becoming a carbon-neutral Authority. This will only be reached if future opportunities, particularly for the generation of both electricity and heat from renewables, can be exploited.

**Sustainable Developer Guide for Nottinghamshire**

The Sustainable Developer Guide (SDG) for Nottinghamshire is a project that has been managed by Nottinghamshire County Council's Sustainability Team on behalf of a partnership of District Councils, the City Council, the Environment Agency (Lower-Trent Area) and the Newark & Sherwood Energy Agency. Its main role is to inform and inspire developers and their agents in order to raise standards of development coming forward for planning approval. The aim is to signpost the best available advice about exploring and delivering more sustainable solutions for most types of schemes.

**Newark & Sherwood Energy Agency**

Nottinghamshire County Council is a partner of the Newark and Sherwood Energy Agency, which aims to maximise local sustainable energy investments while generating jobs, creating social inclusion and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The Agency has encouraged action at the local level and contributed to government consultations. They provide advice and energy efficiency investment, promote low energy housing and support Energy Service Company (ESCO, activity. Links to European partners have been made through the collective of European Energy Agencies, Energie Cites and the Save II Contract.