

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL
CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON REDUCTION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION (CRACA) PLAN**

SERVICE REPONSE

Issue raised by the Environment Scrutiny Panel	Service Response
<p>Local authorities' obligations to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and the use of the statutory emissions trading scheme.</p> <p>1. The Environment Scrutiny Panel was advised that details of carbon dioxide emissions produced in each local authority area, together with reduction targets for each authority, will be produced at a national level. This will be done by a Government-appointed agent using a mapping exercise to calculate CO2 emissions based on a breakdown of 1km grid squares for each local authority area. Emissions from energy consumption, industry and vehicles will then be calculated for each grid square and an overall reduction target (based on these calculations) will be set for each local authority area.</p> <p>2. The panel suggested that the Council should request that it be supplied with the detailed breakdown on information, rather than just an overall reduction target. This will assist the authority to take steps in helping to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the highest emitting areas - for example by highlighting areas of housing where action could then be targeted to assist householders in reducing energy consumption.</p>	<p>Carbon dioxide emissions</p> <p>The carbon reduction commitment statutory emissions trading scheme, referred to in the heading in bold opposite, will apply to carbon emissions from Middlesbrough Council's assets only (premises, vehicles and street lighting). The scheme does not apply to town wide emissions.</p> <p>The 1km square grids, which are referred to by the scrutiny panel, are an indicative assessment of carbon emissions across the whole town calculated from factors such as traffic flows and fuel use at source by households, industry and commerce.</p> <p>National indicator 185 measures the council's own emissions which for 2007/8 amount to 32,775 tonnes and this is the statistic to be used in the statutory emissions trading scheme.</p> <p>National indicator 186 measures total carbon emissions for Middlesbrough which for 2006 amount to 951,000 tonnes (a recent statistic calculated under a new measurement protocol). It is NI186 which can be broken down into 1km square grids, not NI 185. By comparison to Middlesbrough's 951,000 tonnes in 2006, Stockton emitted 2,709,000 tonnes and Redcar and Cleveland emitted 1,424,000 tonnes, which reflects the different</p>

	<p>industrial profile of the area.</p> <p>We have studied the 1km square grid emission statistics for Middlesbrough which come from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory but these will be of limited value in terms of prioritising what work should be carried out, as discussed in paragraph 6 of the Overview and Scrutiny Report. This is because a low carbon emission value across a 1km square grid could indicate high levels of fuel poverty (as little fuel is used) or a high level of insulation (for a variety of reasons), in either case, the statistics do not tell us what the problem is. We can use other data to identify the problem, such as the link between fuel poverty and deprivation / low incomes to inform work programmes. Railways and road traffic emissions also impact on some grids more than others. We will however, use the square kilometre data to produce emission maps across the town using in-house expertise and existing GIS equipment. We hope to complete this task by the early May 2009. These maps will provide a useful publicity and awareness-raising tool.</p> <p>There are schemes in place to help householders increase their home insulation and reduce their energy use, for example, through the Affordable Warmth programme. The climate change implications are picked up through the Middlesbrough Climate Change Community Action Plan.</p>
<p>The Council's involvement in reducing Middlesbrough's carbon dioxide emissions by 45,000 tonnes over three years to December 2005.</p> <p>1. The panel made reference to the development of "eco-</p>	<p>On 6/1/09, the Executive endorsed developing high sustainability standards within a climate change context, in the CRACA Plan (Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation Action Plan). For example, Policy SE1 states 'Develop a set of</p>

buildings” by some local authorities (for example Worcester County Council has won awards in this area). These are designed to ensure that the building specification meets the highest possible environmental standards through the use of environmental features such as timber from sustainable sources and recycled materials, or using rainwater to flush toilets.

2. In response, the scrutiny panel heard that part of the Council’s CO2 reductions have been achieved through the use of energy efficiency measures in older local authority buildings. In terms of new buildings, which by their nature are much more energy efficient, design schemes (for example Building Schools for the Future) will involve sustainability appraisals. A balance does, however, need to be struck between cost and energy efficiency measures.
3. The panel suggested that the authority - as a Beacon Council on climate change - should work towards developing the highest sustainability standards possible, including the development of “eco-buildings,” and that this approach should be endorsed by The Executive.

building construction, operational and maintenance policies that ensure all council buildings are of the highest achievable and affordable energy efficiency standards and provide a comfortable working environment'. Policy ME1 states 'Implement building construction, operational and maintenance policies devised in action SE1. Ensure procurement policies recognise the environmental credentials of contractors with all electricity purchased from affordable clean energy sources'

On 1/4/08, the Executive endorsed a new sustainability policy, which is based on One Planet Living Model. The council's environmental sustainability strategy is being evolved into a One Planet Living strategy to help reduce Middlesbrough's ecological and carbon footprint.

An Executive report is planned for later in 2009 to set out a framework to publish a comprehensive One Planet Living Action Plan to show how Middlesbrough proposes to reduce its ecological footprint by around 66% in 30 years, so that local residents can live a ‘One Planet’ lifestyle compared to the typical ‘Three Planet’ lifestyles we now have in the UK. A bid has been made for external funding to contribute to the cost of developing the One Planet Living Action Plan and details will be reported to the Executive as soon as possible. This initiative is a major step forward towards securing a more sustainable future for Middlesbrough.