

CLIMATE LOCAL SEVENOAKS - Progress Report No. 1

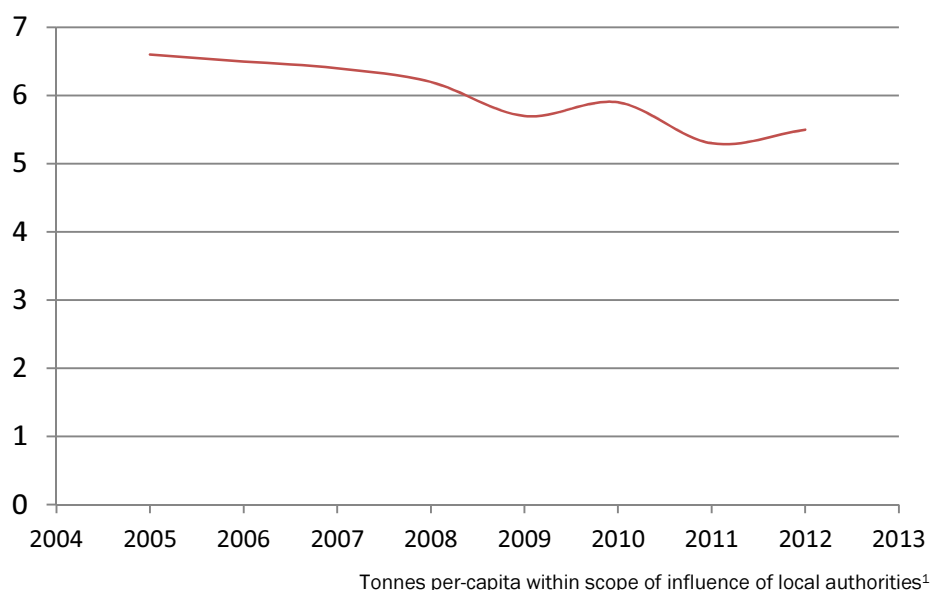
SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN (2013-28) - TARGET: 'To achieve 75% of actions contained in Climate Local Sevenoaks'

February 2014

1. We will work towards a cut in emissions which will contribute to an overall reduction of 34% in Kent's emissions (2.6% annually).

Benchmark data (DECC, 2010): 5.7t per-capita emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities

2005 – 6.6t
 2006 – 6.5t
 2007 – 6.4t
 2008 – 6.2t
 2009 – 5.7t
 2010 – 5.9t (benchmark)
 2011 – 5.3t (-10.17%)
 2012 – 5.5t (+3.77%)



Note: Data for 2013 and 2014 not yet available from DECC.

In a 2-year period (2010-2012), and against a target reduction of 5.2%, the District has seen a 6.4% reduction (average reduction of 3.2% pa against a target of 2.6%) in per-capita emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities.²

¹ Table at: \\Client\\$\\$\SDC\Community Services\Housing\Housing Policy Team\carbon emissions per capita climate local report feb 14

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates>

ACHIEVED: 100%

2. We will encourage renewable energy installations and want to see the District increase energy from renewable sources by 10% by 2020.

In 2012/13 and 2013/14, there were 5 large-scale renewable, decentralised or combined heat and power schemes granted planning permission.

There were also 204 Feed-in-Tariffs (FIT) installations across the District, all of which were domestic PV solar panels.

The District Council also received 5 planning applications for renewable energy installations.³

The District Council provided 310 energy packs and these include a wide-range of information on renewable, decentralised, and combined heat and power measures.

100% of new-build affordable homes were secured and/or built to Sustainable Code Level 3 or above, which includes renewable energy technologies.⁴

In 2014, we introduced a bespoke District Council energy switching scheme to allow residents and businesses to switch tariffs fully online or through a dedicated telephone contact centre. A number of the site's suppliers offer energy through renewable sources, thereby contributing to this objective.

ACHIEVED: 100%

3. We will work towards retrofitting of homes across the District, beginning with 67 households in 2013 through the work of the Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership.

Due to changes at national level, all of which were out of the District Council's control, the Green Deal (GD) programme has been delayed. We did not therefore set such a challenging target for 2013/14, there being little scope to deliver retrofit measures with no available funding.

In 2012/13 and 2013/14, the District Council enabled 71 retrofit cases through various other initiatives.

The District Council secured an external DECC grant of £4.2-million in partnership with Dartford Borough Council to undertake a low-carbon retrofit programme on domestic and commercial properties in the District and this will help to support low delivery numbers through the main GD programme.⁵

Note: Installations are expected to increase significantly through 2015/16 as a result of the above project and this will help to balance out numbers going forward.

The District Council continued to promote the benefits and availability of low-carbon retrofit

³ SDC Annual Monitoring Reports (2012/13 and 2013/14)

⁴ Affordable housing development programme

⁵ Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC): Green Deal Communities Scheme: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-to-help-local-communities-benefit-from-green-deal>

technologies (and limited schemes) in a wide-range of ways, including energy packs, leaflets and other promotional materials, meetings and forums, energy and switching surgeries, website and social media, and face-to-face interactions with people across the District.

ACHIEVED: 75% (via other initiatives/programmes)

4. We will work with at least 42 local companies by 2015 to help them cut their energy, waste and water bills.

The District Council has produced a bespoke energy advice pack, specifically for businesses.

A thermal-imaging camera is now available for businesses to identify energy loss in their premises. This device has been advertised and promoted with various business groups and organisations to raise awareness.

In 2014, a bespoke District Council energy switching scheme was introduced. This includes a specific commercial portal to allow businesses to check and switch tariffs fully online or through a dedicated telephone contact centre.⁶

The District Council was also successful in receiving £4.2-million from Government's Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) as part of a consortium, which includes Kent County Council and Dartford Borough Council. This is being worked-up through the locally-branded 'Warmer Streets' project and commercial installations are expected to commence in Spring 2015.⁷

100 local businesses have signed up to the Trade & Papers Recycling Service, which is offered to businesses to help reduce general rubbish collection and save money.

Recycling has been actively promoted to SMEs throughout the District in a wide-range of ways.

In 2012/2013, the District Council provided commercial waste recycling services to 85 of its customers. As a result, it recovered 61.36 tonnes of commercial paper and cardboard for recycling. On average, customers saved 30% to 40% on their waste collection bills.

In 2013/2014, the District Council provided commercial waste recycling services to 111 of its customers. As a result, it recovered 84.16 tonnes of commercial paper and cardboard for recycling. On average, customers saved 30% to 40% on their waste collection bills.

There were 3 commercial and 1 community FIT installations recorded in the District.

Two STEM workshops were delivered in partnership with Kent County Council's Low Carbon team. A total of 40 businesses were in attendance.⁸

Energy efficiency schemes, initiatives and advice have been promoted to businesses through the District Council's social media Twitter account, Facebook, and its Real Business newsletters.

Further information on energy efficiency and related schemes has been made available on the District Council's website, with links through to various supporting organisations.⁹

⁶ <http://www.sevenoaksswitchandsave.co.uk/>

⁷ DECC: Green Deal Communities Scheme: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-deal-communities>

⁸ Steps to Environmental Management Scheme (STEM): <http://www.kent.gov.uk/business/Business-and-the-environment/steps-to-environmental-management-scheme-stem>

Renewable energy grants were also provided to 5 rural businesses through the West Kent Leader Programme in 2012/13.¹⁰

As a major employer, the District Council has also undertaken various measures to reduce its energy, waste and water bills, including: the commencement of LED retrofit lighting throughout its main offices and Dunbrik Depot; further LEDs installed at its bus station; a rolling vehicle replacement programme to introduce cleaner more efficient vehicles helping to reduce emissions and fuel consumption; committed actions to move all offices to a paperless environment; replacement of a wide-range of machinery for low-carbon/fuel alternatives; financial and operational commitment to refurbish the Council's Dunbrik Depot vehicle workshop to include efficient vehicle testing and fleet repair facilities with modern lighting, exhaust extraction and space heating systems; and the introduction and expansion of a chargeable business paper and card recycling collection service to divert waste from landfill/incineration and assist business customers to meet their obligation to separate recyclable waste streams.

ACHIEVED: 100%

5. We will give them guidance on how climate change could affect their company and they can plan for it

As above.

ACHIEVED: 100%

6. We will support activity to reduce water consumption in the District from 160 litres to 140 litres per person per day by 2016.

The District Council provided 310 energy packs and these included a variety of water-saving devices, advice and assistance.

100% of affordable homes have been secured and/or built to Sustainable Code Level 3 or above, which will include measures to reduce water consumption.

ACHIEVED: 100%

7. We will ensure that 60% of the District's wildlife sites are being positively managed.

Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve habitat improvement project, access and biodiversity improvement e.g. re-introduction of water voles; island creation; habitat improvement; sand martin nesting site creation; access improvements; a new bird watching hide; riparian management; and reed bed management.

Bough Beech Reservoir and visitors centre - new hide and visitor access improvements; habitat improvements; creation of several ponds and scrapes and interpretation improvements.

⁹ <http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/services/housing/energy-efficiency-and-conservation>

¹⁰ West Kent Leader Programme: <http://www.westkentleader.org.uk/>

Countryside surrounding the River Eden - addressed diffuse water pollution issues in the Eden through implementation of habitat improvement.

ACHIEVED: 100%

8. We will work to ensure that 95% of the District's Sites on Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are in 'favourable' state or 'recovering'.

Adopted Planning Policy (SP11) protects sites designated for biodiversity value includes Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Wildlife Sites and ensures they are appropriately and positively managed.

ACHIEVED: 100%

9. We will encourage an increase in volunteering with a target of a 20% increase in hours spent and a 20% increase in Sevenoaks' residents taking part in organised outdoor activities.

The District Council, West-Kent Extra, Stag Community Arts Centre, and Sevenoaks Library created over 8,000 hours of volunteering opportunities. Voluntary Action within Kent (VAWK) created 834 volunteering opportunities (this figure was inflated due to the Olympics 2012 Torch Relay and outdoor steward positions for the Paralympics at Brands Hatch).

ACHIEVED: 100%

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT: 97%

Note:

With many of the above objectives being difficult to measure, and they each including numerous wide-ranging and often changing/developing sub-actions which are, in turn, difficult themselves to measure, it is impossible to provide exact progress in terms of measurable outcomes. Where this is the case, we have based overall progress on informed assumptions by percentage (as per the overarching 75% target).

Item 1 only includes data up to 2012 (calendar year) at present as post-2012 data is not yet available from DECC. We have therefore retrospectively applied the annual reduction target of 2.6% and still provided progress over a 2-year period, as per other objectives, though the reporting timescales are different in this particular case. Other data contained in the report covers the financial years of 2012/13 and 2013/14. Reporting cannot therefore be contained to complete and specific years, as would normally be the case with a progress report. It does, however, still provide an indication as to general progress in climate change strategy over a 2-year period.

Gavin Missons, Housing Policy