

**City of York Council
Environmental Sustainability Strategy
and Action Plan towards a Climate Change
Strategy for the City**

Foreword

The goal for York is to develop as a Sustainable Community; flourishing within economic, social and environmental limits. The role of the City of York Council is to work towards that goal, striving to provide excellent quality services within a well managed organisation; all within the resource limits of one planet.

Climate Change challenges us to make innovative and sustained reductions in our use of resources and fossil fuels for energy in our buildings and for our transport needs. We are already responding to these challenges by setting our carbon footprint for the Council, to be used as a benchmark for an action plan of future savings. In this way we can stand as a leader within the City, working with our partners to develop a Climate Change Strategy for the City as a whole.

This strategy sets the framework for how we shall consider our environmental limits and respond to the challenge of environmental sustainability.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

What is Sustainability?

The key to sustainability is meeting our social, economic and environmental needs whilst considering the ability of future generations to meet their needs. In 2005 the UK Sustainable Development Strategy 'Securing the Future' introduced a responsive and quantifiable definition of sustainability:

'Sustainability is all about living within our environmental limits – living within the planet's environmental limits whilst also creating a fair and just society.'

This definition acknowledges the urgency of current environmental and climate pressures, and also supports a more quantifiable way of working towards sustainability. It is this definition that has helped the City of York Council identify the current gaps in action.

What is a Sustainable Community?

A sustainable community is one which embodies the principles of sustainable development at a local level. These principles include taking local action to tackle global environmental challenges, which at the same time ensure a vibrant local economy. Good governance and a strong, responsible and healthy society.

The Governments Communities Plan published in 2003 defined them as;

'places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse need of existing and future residents, are sensitive to the environment and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run and offer equality of opportunity and good services to all.'

Ecological Footprinting – what is it?

The Ecological Footprint is one way of measuring how our lifestyles have impacts on the planet and also on other people. It calculates how much productive land and sea is needed to feed us and provide all the energy, water and materials we use in our everyday lives. It also calculates the emissions generated from the oil, coal and gas we burn at ever-increasing rates, and it determines how much land is required to absorb our waste.

Today, the global Ecological Footprint is over 25% larger than that which the planet can regenerate. In other words, it now takes more than one year and three months for the Earth to regenerate the resources used in a single year. This overshoot is maintained by using up the planet's non-renewable resources, which is clearly unsustainable in the long term.

The Ecological Footprint – scale of application.

The Ecological footprint measures the consumption of a geographical community, region or country. The measurements show the impact of consumption in that locality per head of population. Currently an Ecological Footprint analysis is not available for the operation of an organisation, be it the council or any other organisation or business. In addition it may not be appropriate for the council to use limited resources in developing one. Using its areas of control and influence the council can concentrate resources and activities on the biggest footprint activities of the City – food, energy and transport - to reduce the council's impact in these areas and lead by example to encourage others to do the same.

What is low carbon /zero carbon/carbon neutral development and economy?

A **zero** carbon development is one that achieves zero net carbon emissions from energy use on site on an annual basis. This requires highly efficient developments, powered and heated by renewable energy with zero net carbon emission. Energy use on site relates to all energy use of the building and structures and the use of them, excluding transport. All non building energy use on site should also be included with in the assessment eg. Street lighting. Fossil fuels may be used on site, as long as there is sufficient export of renewable heat, cooling and or power to offset the resulting carbon emissions.

A **low** carbon development is one that reduces net carbon emissions by 50% or more from energy use on site, on an annual basis.

There is no clear definition of a carbon **neutral** but it does require the carbon emissions from the activity/development to be offset, providing an overall more globally neutral impact.

A zero, low or neutral carbon **economy** is one that meets these criteria in the context of wider economic activity although care needs to be taken with the use of offsetting emissions as the calculations to ensure it is correct are notoriously difficult.

What is an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

An Environmental Management System (EMS) helps identify, co-ordinate and improve the environmental impact of all our activities. This is underpinned with an Environmental Policy for the council. The EMS assesses whether we are using natural resources in a sustainable way to provide the services and activities of the council, and how much waste and pollution to air, land and water is being caused as a result. From there we can set priorities and actions to improve our environmental performance and assign targets, responsibilities and deadlines by which to meet them.

Measuring Sustainability

Measuring sustainability needs a quantifiable assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts of everything we do. This helps us to work towards our goal of developing a flourishing community and economy within the resource limits of One Planet.

The Triple Bottom Line approach extends our decision making process from traditional financial assessment to integrating measurements of social and environmental impacts. This approach provides a framework for measuring and reporting the councils performance on sustainability. Triple Bottom Lining makes our decision making process more transparent and consistent, taking into consideration impacts on the environment and people, as well as on financial cost. Examples of measurements used in triple bottom line accounting include:

- Economic - £cost, jobs and business creation
- Environmental – e.g. tonnes CO₂ emissions, ecological footprint.
- Social – e.g. Crime, health or poverty measurements

What is climate change?

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main greenhouse gas of concern. A finite amount of carbon is stored in fossil fuels, the sea, living matter and the atmosphere. Without human influence, carbon is absorbed and emitted in roughly equal measures – for example, plants absorb carbon as they grow, but release it as they decay.

But when humans cut down trees or burn fossil fuels, they release extra carbon into the atmosphere, increasing the greenhouse effect. The increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere thickens the greenhouse blanket with the result that too much heat is trapped into the Earth's atmosphere. This causes global warming: global temperatures rise and cause climate change

Executive Summary & first six-month delivery plan.

This strategy sets out actions for the City of York Council to tackle the pressing environmental challenges facing the city. It incorporates the areas of control and influence that the council has and puts a priority on leading the development and implementation of a city wide climate change strategy.

By April 2008 the council will:

1. Approve:

- The council Carbon Management Strategic Implementation Plan,
- The scoping report for the City wide Climate Change Strategy,
- The Council Environmental Policy (Executive 11th Sep 2007),
- The Planning Note on Sustainable Design and Construction (Planning Committee September 2007),
- The Council Policy on Sustainability in Design: Policy and Best Practice (Executive Sep 2007),
- The Council Energy and Water Policy (Executive Sep 2007),
- A Draft Sustainable Procurement Policy (Autumn 2007)

2. Continue the implementation and provide an update on progress of:

- The Environmental Management System:
Set in place the Environmental Review phase
- The Carbon Management Programme:
Complete a carbon emissions baseline assessment
Complete Strategic Implementation Plan
- The LDF consultation process

3. Start and provide an update on:

- Development of a sustainability appraisal tool for council decision making,
- Development of a sustainability training programme for the Council,
- Development of a sustainability Communications strategy for the council,
- The review of Sustainable Community Strategy,
- The waste recycling trial within council buildings,
- Respond on sustainability to the Future York Report.

SECTION 1 : The purpose of this document

Purpose

1.1 The national and local policy and legislative context shows clear support for the vision of a more sustainable York and the council is moving in the right direction. However it currently lacks coordination. The purpose of this document is a coordinated strategy for the council in realising this vision as a priority: consolidating its achievements, identifying gaps and providing a clear view of where it goes next.

Who is it for ?

1.2 This strategy is for elected members, chief officers and senior managers and all other staff to explain the global environmental impacts we are facing, and identify a corporate strategy from which a framework of co-ordinated action across the council will respond to these environmental challenges.

1.3 This strategy is for elected members in response to the Policy Prospectus to identify the action being taken towards a climate change strategy for the city.

1.4 This strategy aims to:

- Identify a co-ordinated approach and strategic direction for environmental sustainability in the council.
- Identify the activities the council is undertaking to reduce its environmental impacts in its goal for environmental sustainability.
- Identify the context, actions and timescale for a climate change strategy for the city.

What it covers/how structured

1.5 This strategy and action plan provides a corporate vision, aim and objectives for City of York Council with regards to environmental sustainability and identifies the framework and action plan for the development of a climate change strategy for the city. It introduces the main environmental issues which are driving the need for us to reduce our environmental impacts and presents the regulatory framework within which the environmental limits for our actions are set. It identifies how this strategy fits with the Councils strategic agenda, at both corporate and wider community level and presents an approach and methodology to consider environmental sustainability in everything we do.

1.6 It identifies work already taking place in the council that contributes to York becoming a more sustainable community but, more importantly, it identifies gaps in our action. Corporate Management Team has identified areas of good practice being undertaken in social, economic and environmental matters (the three criteria required for full sustainability). However, it also has identified gaps in the integration of environmental consideration in council activities. This document seeks to fill these gaps in council activities relating to environmental impact.

1.7 The actions are split into two areas: firstly, those where the council has direct control over such as how it delivers its services, the energy it uses and what it buys; and secondly, those areas where the council has a leadership and influencing role such as planning policy and the Local Strategic Partnership. However this is a corporate strategy and action plan for City of York Council, not the city as a whole. It is intended to guide the actions of the council and identify how it can influence and lead others within the wider City Partnership to reduce their impact on the world.

Figure 1. provides a graphical representation of where the Environmental Sustainability & Action Plan towards a Climate Change Strategy for the city sits in relation to other council work.

It illustrates the wider sustainability context in which this strategy operates. It gives examples of council work that contributes to the social and economic elements of the sustainability agenda as well as the gaps in action relating to environmental issues. Examples are given of some of the action currently taking place as well as proposed to address the gaps. The underpinning environmental issues and limits that the strategy and action plan deals with are explained in the next section.

Figure 1: Context and Scope of this Strategy

The Goal for the City: York as a Sustainable Community
Flourishing within economic, social and environmental limits

City of York Council's role in working towards a Sustainable Community	
CYC as an organisational lead CYC Council Plan & Corporate Strategy <i>(Areas of CYC control)</i>	CYC as a lead partner within the City Local Area Agreement <i>(Areas of CYC influence)</i>

Social Goals & actions
Areas of CYC control: e.g. H&S policy, Procurement Policy, New school buildings,
Areas of CYC influence: e.g. Housing Strategy, Fair trade city status, Energy Efficiency Grants,
Measuring Social impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Community provision.</i> ○ <i>H&S policy & targets for CYC staff.</i> ○ <i>Use of Fair trade products.</i> ○ <i>Actual & fear of crime.</i> ○ <i>Health indicators.</i>

Economic goals & actions
Areas of CYC control e.g. capital programme, procurement
Areas of CYC influence e.g. Economic Development Strategy, Science City, LSP Economic Development Board, Future York Report
Measuring Economic impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Normal accounting process & systems.</i> ○ <i>Jobs created.</i> ○ <i>Support for local business.</i> ○ <i>New business creation.</i> ○ <i>No's tourists.</i>

Environmental goals & actions
Areas of CYC control e.g. Environmental Management System, Carbon Management Programme, Sustainable Procurement Policy, Energy & Water Working Group, Sustainable Design Policy,
Areas of CYC influence e.g. Climate Change Strategy, grants to Energy Efficiency Advice Centre.
Measuring Environmental impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Tonnes CO₂.</i> ○ <i>Ecological Footprint.</i> ○ <i>Habitat loss/creation.</i> ○ <i>KwHrs energy used/saved.</i> ○ <i>Cubic metres water used/saved</i>



Scope of this Strategy & Action Plan

Why we need to have a strategy

Threats to a sustainable community for York

1.8 The government has identified at a national and global level three main threats to the long-term future and well-being of the environment, society and economy:

- climate change,
- resource depletion and the challenge of 'one planet living'.
- terrorism

1.9 Climate change and resource depletion are the two main drivers for action to ensure more sustainable communities. It is how the council reduces its impacts in these two areas which is addressed in this strategy and action plan.

Global Warming and climate change

Climate change

1.10 There is an overwhelming body of scientific evidence highlighting the serious and urgent nature of climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, published in February 2007, confirms that atmospheric concentrations of the major greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have all increased significantly since pre-industrialised times because of human activities. These changes present a serious threat to human society and the natural environment.

1.11 Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main greenhouse gas of concern. A finite amount of carbon is stored in fossil fuels, the sea, living matter and the atmosphere. Without human influence, carbon is absorbed and emitted in roughly equal measures – for example, plants absorb carbon as they grow, but release it as they decay.

1.12 But when humans cut down trees or burn fossil fuels, they release extra carbon into the atmosphere, increasing the greenhouse effect. The increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere thickens the greenhouse blanket with the result that too much heat is trapped into the Earth's atmosphere. This causes global warming: global temperatures rise and cause climate change.

1.13 The ten warmest years globally since instrumental records began in 1861 have all occurred since 1994. 1998 was the warmest year and 2005 was almost as warm. Without action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions global temperatures are expected to rise by between 1.4 and 5.8°C by 2100 and sea level could also rise by between 0.09 and 0.88 metres compared to 1990 levels. Such changes will have significant impacts on human society and on the natural environment, with increases in drought and extreme rainfall and greater risks of abrupt changes in climate. The severe flooding weather events of July 2007 across the region follow this projected trend.

1.14 The Stern Review (2006) identified the economic cost of reducing our emissions to tackle climate change as 1% of Gross Domestic Product. Stern further identifies the 'business as usual' scenario, if we do nothing to reduce our emissions or adapt to climate change, this would result in reducing the wellbeing of people by up to 20 per cent. **It is now clear that the debate over the science and economics of climate change has moved on from whether or not it is happening to what action we need to take.**

Resource depletion and one planet living

Resource depletion

1.15 The United Nations Environmental Programme, in its Global Environmental Outlook report (2000) stated:

'The continual poverty of the majority of the planet's inhabitants and excessive consumption by the minority are the two major causes of environmental degradation. The present course is unsustainable and postponing action is no longer an option'

1.16 According to World Wildlife Fund's [Living Planet Index 2004](#), a third of the Earth's natural wealth has been destroyed since 1972. This includes our wildlife, forests, rivers and seas. Much, if not all, of this destruction results from human consumption - which is now unsustainable, and is posing a serious threat. We are using too many resources in too large quantities at too fast a rate.

1.17 The impacts of this over consumption include :

- Increase in use of fossil fuels leading to increased green house gas emissions,
- Road traffic is now the main source of urban air pollution,
- Increasing levels of waste generation,
- Over exploitation of groundwater with significant pollution by nitrates, pesticides, heavy metals and hydrocarbons;
- Over exploitation of commercial North Sea fish stocks.

The local picture

One planet living in York

1.18 If everyone lived as we do in York we would need the resources of three planets to support us. To move York from living a three planet lifestyle to the actual limits of living within our one planet means we all need to make changes in our lives; as individuals, organisations and businesses. There is a clear role for the council to reduce its resource consumption in delivering its services and providing leadership for and encouraging others to do the same.

1.19 So that we can do this, we need to understand and measure the environmental impact of our everyday decisions and actions. We also need

to know where change is most beneficial and most needed. The use of ecological foot printing can help us make these decisions by defining our options in a more quantifiable way.

The challenge for York

1.20 Climate change, resource depletion and one planet living all present significant challenges for both the council and city as a whole. Action to deal with them must be considered within a broad context of sustainability and the social, economic and environmental impact of our actions. The solutions are not always straightforward. Research evidence from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) links the size of the ecological footprint and carbon footprint to income levels i.e. the higher the income the greater the consumption levels and therefore the higher the footprint. Also, the effects of climate change and resource depletion will be felt most by those least able to adapt – the poor. The challenge is to reduce all forms of unsustainable consumption without reducing the well-being of people with lower incomes; moving away from reliance on a consumption led, fossil fuel based economy to the development and implementation of low resource use, low CO₂ life styles, behaviour and technologies. The ultimate aim is a low/zero carbon economy.

Towards a Climate Change Strategy for the city.

1.21 The future is not as bleak as the above information may sound; the scientists are saying that there is still time to take action, but the time is now. There are a number of council programmes already in place and national initiatives coming forward that are laying the foundations for a Climate Change Strategy for the city. The Local Authority Carbon Management Programme is the first step in the action plan towards a city wide Climate Change strategy.

1.22 Local Authority Carbon Management Programme.

This is a ten month programme run by the Carbon Trust aiming to reduce the carbon emissions of local authorities. The council joined the programme in May 2007 and is currently gathering the baseline data of our carbon emissions from which to benchmark future outputs and set targets for reduction. The programme requires us to produce a Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) by March 2008 which will provide the framework for the council's strategic response to climate change, and enable us to lead by example in developing a Climate Change Strategy for the city.

1.23 Carbon Reduction Commitment.

Under the Energy White Paper the government is setting up a system of carbon trading for all large organisations (those with annual electricity bill in excess of £500,000). This system places a cost to the council for each tonne of carbon we emit. The baseline carbon emissions will be set in 2008 with trading starting in 2010. The baseline and energy consumption work we are undertaking in the council for the Carbon Management Programme will make a direct contribution to this.

1.24 **Proposed environmental CPA indicators.**

The Government is looking at introducing new indicators to assess councils' environmental performance. Defra's Environmental Prospectus is proposing indicators for the following: climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation; water consumption; air pollution. These will measure our carbon emissions, how we are considering measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change (severe weather events including flooding, drought etc), levels of water consumption and levels of air pollution caused by council activities. This means that underperformance in these areas will have a clear effect on our overall score.

Legislative and policy context

1.25 At a national level there are a host of policies and legislative drivers that are placing greater responsibility on local government to monitor and manage its environmental impacts, most recently with regard to carbon emissions. These include:

Government Policy:

- Kyoto protocol, ratified 2005. UK target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 12% by 2010 (using 1990 baseline)
- UK Climate Change Bill target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2020 and 60% by 2050 (using 1990 baseline)
- Energy White Paper, 2003
- National climate change programme – this stresses the importance of local authorities' leading by example

Strengthening Legislation:

- EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001
- Climate Change Levy
- Tightening Building Regulations, 2005+
- EU Energy Performance in Buildings (EPD) Directive 2006+
- Energy End Use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive, 2006+
- Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) 2010; A Cap and Trade carbon emissions permit trading system for all large organisations.

Where the strategy fits within the Councils strategic agenda

1.26 At a local level there are a number of drivers for the council both internally and in its role as lead partner within the LSP which directly relate to sustainability and climate change:

- Central and local government share the ambition to create sustainable communities which embody the principles of sustainable development at local level. Sustainable communities are places in which people want to live, now and in the future. This means they improve the quality of life for all whilst safeguarding the environment for future generations.

- York's Community Strategy positions the city's Ecological Footprint as a main success measure. The Community Strategy is currently being revised to reflect the government's requirement for a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), a document which will outline how the council, as lead partner, will work towards delivering a sustainable community and help shape the Local Area Agreement.
- The council's Policy Prospectus produced by the new Administration in May 2007 requested a Climate Change strategy. This document provides an action plan identifying the proposed steps for a Climate Change Strategy for the city.
- The refresh of the council's Corporate Strategy places priority for environmental sustainability at the heart of the council's strategic agenda through the Direction Statement (proposed) :
We will seek to place environmental sustainability at the heart of everything we do
- This refresh of the Corporate Strategy also identifies climate change as one of the council's nine Improvement Priorities (proposed):
(We will) Reduce the environmental impact of council activities and encourage, empower and promote others to do the same

Review and reporting timescales.

1.27 This Strategy will be reviewed every three years, the action plan annually and progress will be reported to the Corporate Management Team and Executive every six months. Progress on targets will be reported annually.

Conclusion.

1.28 There is a clear case for action, ensuring we fill current gaps in action to reduce our environmental impacts within the council. Not only is it the right and responsible thing for the council to do but there are also numerous external drivers that are compelling us to change.

Section 2: Our Approach and methodology

2.1 The council's strategic goal to put environmental sustainability at the heart of everything we do places a challenge for each and every one of us; from ensuring we recycle our waste and switch off electrical equipment when not in use, to influencing the policies, strategies and procurement of the council to minimise environmental impact and deliver sustainable outcomes.

2.2 The actions to achieve this goal will be delivered in three ways. Firstly, raising awareness of the main environmental impacts to all our staff and delivering training to raise skills and capacity in environmental sustainability. Secondly, measuring and managing our environmental performance to ensure we understand our environmental impacts and set appropriate targets to work towards the environmental limits of one planet. Thirdly, influencing our decisions and those of our partners in embedding environmental sustainability at the heart of everything we do. These three areas of action will need to take place simultaneously, will effect directly different people and their outcome will benefit other areas of council activities.

2.3 ***Raise awareness & training leading to behaviour change***

A comprehensive awareness raising and training programme underpins the successful outcome of this strategy and action plan. The range and complexity of environmental issues can seem confusing and unrelated to our everyday actions. To respond to this, we will develop an Environmental Sustainability Communications Strategy for the council. This will raise awareness of environmental issues to staff through existing internal staff communications mechanisms, identifying how the council's activities have an environmental impact and how to reduce this impact through information, practical advice and targeted campaigns (e.g. Switch Off campaign). Building on the awareness raising activities we will raise the capacity of staff to respond to these impacts by providing training on environmental sustainability. This will be delivered by integrating into existing training programmes, developing a core sustainability training package and developing bespoke training where need is identified.

2.4 ***Measure and manage our environmental performance***

The Council already assesses, measures and manages many of its environmental impacts, however much of the information and data is stored in non standardised systems, limiting the opportunity for a council wide overview of how we are performing against our environmental limits. To combat this, an environmental management system is being rolled out across the council to provide a corporate performance framework for measuring, managing and reducing environmental impact.

An Environmental Management System (EMS) helps identify, co-ordinate and improve the environmental impact of all our activities. This is underpinned with an Environmental Policy for the council. The EMS

assesses whether we are using natural resources in a sustainable way to provide the services and activities of the council, and how much waste and pollution to air, land and water is being caused as a result. From there we can set priorities and actions to improve our environmental performance and assign targets, responsibilities and deadlines by which to meet them. We are currently undertaking a baseline review within each Directorate to measure the amount of Carbon, other pollution and waste we are producing from all our activities, This will allow us to benchmark our performance from which to set improvement targets.

To respond to the Climate Change priority assigned by members and capitalise on our inclusion in the Carbon Management Programme we are prioritising the reduction of carbon emissions. A carbon project team is fast tracking the measurement of carbon within the EMS baseline review. From this they will produce a Strategy and Implementation Plan (SIP) by March 2008 which will outline exactly what actions we need to take within the council to meet our carbon reduction targets. The SIP will be used as the lever with partners from the LSP to develop a Climate Change Strategy for the city.

2.5 *Influence decision making activities and leadership role*

We will develop a sustainability appraisal process to ensure we integrate environmental sustainability into the heart of our decision making process, which will be applied to all council policy and strategy development. One of the toolkits we will use in this appraisal process to assess environmental impacts will be the footprinting software REAP (Resource and Energy Analysis Programme). REAP can model scenarios of the long term environmental impacts resulting from proposed policy, allowing us to see both the impact caused by the individual policy, and also the impacts caused by the combined effects of a number of policy areas. In local authorities REAP is particularly suited to modelling policy relating to Housing, Transport and the Local Development Framework.

In addition to these areas, sustainability will be integrated into the Corporate Agenda, in particular through the Organisational Efficiency Programme, the Corporate Procurement strategy of the council, core strategies including the LDF and the Local Transport Plan. At a wider, partner level an environmental sustainability appraisal will be carried out on the Sustainable Community Strategy.

2.6 *Action Plan*

The Action Plan of this strategy identifies who will deliver each element of the plan and target dates for completion.

SECTION 3: Vision, aim, objectives and overall targets.

In order to drive this action forward the following vision, aim and objectives have been identified.

3.1 Vision for the city and council.

***York as a Sustainable Community
Flourishing within economic, social and
environmental limits***

3.2 Aim for the council and the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

The City of York Council will strive to work within the environmental limits of one planet by putting sustainability and reducing its impact on climate change at the heart of everything it does and has influence over.

3.3 Objectives.

The following objectives are areas specifically dealt with by this strategy and action plan.

Objective 1: Climate Change

'We are committed to assuming our global responsibility for climate protection.'

At CYC we will:

- a. Lead the development of a Climate Change Strategy for the City of York.
- b. Lead this activity by example, providing a CYC carbon footprint
- c. Develop a CYC Carbon Management action plan to reduce the Council's Carbon footprint to a more sustainable level through a programme of prevention, adaptation and mitigation measures
- a. Develop a process to consider adaptation of the most climate-sensitive CYC processes and functions, recognising that climate change may present opportunities as well as threats
- d. Mainstream the City wide Climate Change Strategy into all relevant policies, in particular in the areas of energy, transport, procurement, and waste.
- e. Raise awareness and encourage behaviour change to respond to the causes and probable impacts of climate change within CYC.

Through the influence of our policies, services, contracts and partnerships we will seek to:

- f. Develop a Climate Change Strategy and action plan for the City of York.
- g. Encourage the development of a low carbon economy for York.
- h. Co-operate with local businesses to promote and implement good corporate practice.
- i. Through the actions in the strategy reduce Carbon emissions within the City
- j. Raise awareness of Climate Change, the Climate Change Strategy and action plan, and promote engagement and action in the wider York community.

Objective 2: Local Management Towards Sustainability

'We are committed to implementing effective decision making and management of sustainability, from formulation through implementation to evaluation.'

At CYC we will:

- a. Build capacity and understanding of sustainable development issues and environmental limits within CYC.
- b. Strengthen corporate and cross directorate sustainability processes and mainstream them into the heart of CYC
- c. Deliver integrated management towards sustainability, based on the precautionary principle
- d. Set an action plan that is monitored and reviewed annually to implement this Sustainability Strategy.
- e. Ensure that sustainability issues are central to CYC decision making processes through the use of sustainability appraisals on council strategies, policy, projects and procedures
- f. Ensure that resource allocation is based on strong and broad sustainability criteria
- g. Increase understanding of and seek the introduction of a Triple Bottom Line approach to CYC accounting and decision making.

Through the influence of our policies, services, contracts and partnerships we will seek to:

- h. Lead the development of a sustainable community strategy
- i. Encourage ambitious sustainable Local Area Agreement Targets.

Objective 3: Protecting Natural Resources

'We are committed to assuming our responsibility to protect, to preserve, and to ensure equitable access to natural resources.'

At CYC we will:

- a. Reduce our use of and reliance on non-renewable resources.
- b. Increase our use of products from renewable sources, including products with high recycled content.
- c. Reduce our reliance on fossil fuel based energy and increase the share of renewable energies
- d. Encourage transmission of fleet to low-emission vehicles
- e. Use water more efficiently

Through the influence of our policies, services, contracts and partnerships we will seek to:

- f. Promote and increase biodiversity and extend and care for designated nature areas and green spaces
- g. Improve air quality
- h. Improve soil quality, preserve ecologically productive land, forestry and trees

Objective 4: Responsible Consumption and Lifestyle Choices

'We are committed to adopting and facilitating the prudent and efficient use of resources and to encourage sustainable consumption and production in line with the environmental limits of One Planet Living.'

At CYC we will:

- a. Avoid and reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling within our council activities
- b. Manage and treat waste in accordance with best practice standards
- c. Adopt the energy hierarchy of reducing our energy needs, increase efficiency in our use of energy, and use energy from renewable sources wherever possible.
- d. Produce a Procurement Strategy from which we will undertake sustainable procurement

Through the influence of our policies, services, contracts and partnerships we will seek to:

- e. Actively promote sustainable production and consumption in particular of eco-labelled, organic, locally sourced, ethical and fair trade products

Objective 5: Planning and Design

'We are committed to a strategic role for urban planning and design in addressing environmental, social, economic, health and cultural issues for the benefit of all.'

At CYC we will:

- a. Apply requirements for sustainable design and construction and promote high quality design and building technologies
- b. Produce a Local Development Framework in accordance with government guidance that puts sustainability at its heart.
- c. Develop an integrated and sustainable urban mobility plan to, from and for work

Through the influence of our policies, services, contracts and partnerships we will seek to:

- d. Re-use and regenerate derelict or disadvantaged areas
- e. Avoid urban sprawl by achieving appropriate urban densities and prioritising Brownfield site over Greenfield site development
- f. Ensure the mixed use of buildings and developments with a good balance of jobs, housing and services, giving priority to residential use in city centres
- g. Ensure appropriate conservation, renovation and use/re-use of our urban cultural heritage

3.4 Targets.

The targets below are overall strategic targets; more detailed targets relating to action such as energy use or policy development will be broken down in their specific action plans. All action plan targets will contribute to the overall targets below.

3.5 Proposed target for the City of York Council:

‘The City of York Council will reduce its CO₂ emissions by 25% on 2005/6 baseline by 2013’

3.6 Target for the City as a whole:

Agreed target for City of York Ecological Footprint:

The Ecological Footprint per capita for York is currently 5.33 gha. The target set in the 2004 Community Strategy is:

‘A progressive reduction of York’s Ecological Footprint to 3.5 hectares per person by 2033 (33% reduction on 2004 baseline) and by 70% over the next 50 years.’

Proposed target for City of York Carbon Footprint:

The current York Carbon Footprint is 11 tonnes of CO₂ per person per year. In line with UK Climate Change Bill targets this translates into:

‘ a reduction of York’s Carbon Footprint to 8.8 tonnes (20%) per person by 2010 and 4.4 tonnes (60%) per person by 2050.’

It is proposed that this target be suggested for use in the review of the Community Strategy, the Sustainable Communities Strategy.