



REPORT OF:	Leader of the Council
TO:	COUNCIL FORUM
ON:	28 JANUARY 2010

SUBJECT : CARBON MANAGEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek Council approval to a commitment to carbon reduction through a sign-up to the 10:10 campaign.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

This Council notes:

1. Climate change predictions show that, without severe cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, increased temperatures will have a hugely detrimental impact on the planet, causing widespread flooding and bringing extreme weather. The global economy, agriculture and water availability will be badly affected. These changes will affect all of us and poorest countries the worst.
2. That under current commitments the UK is due to cut emissions by 34 percent by 2020. Stringent requirements such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment are being imposed on local authorities. Climate change scientists advise that cuts of 10% a year are needed to avert the worst consequences of climate change.
3. A number of Councils have signed up to the "10:10 campaign" which seeks to get individuals and organisations to make a firm commitment to reduce their carbon emissions by 10% during 2010.

This Council believes that it is possible to achieve this target with the right degree of political will, and that it is important to show its commitment to making these emission reductions.

This Council therefore resolves to sign up to the 10:10 campaign and make a firm commitment to reduce its emissions as measured for National Indicator 185 (minus outsourced emissions) by 10 percent between the end of 2009 and the end of 2010.

4. BACKGROUND

Blackburn with Darwen Council already has a number of initiatives to reduce emissions including:

- Signing the Nottingham Agreement in April 2007, pledging to put climate change at the heart of Council business;

- A Carbon Management Plan to reduce emissions from our buildings, streetlights, fleet and business travel by 25% by March 2013 against its 2006/07 baseline. In 2006/07 the Council emitted 29,106 tonnes CO₂. Whilst the plan was being produced emissions dropped but rose again during 2007/08 and at the end of the financial year were 240 tonnes above the baseline. If the Council continues on a business as usual trajectory emissions will rise by 5% in 5 years instead of falling by the target amount.
- A 5-year capital 'invest to save' budget. A capital fund of £250,000 has been made available each year for 5 years to invest in energy saving and efficiency measures. New boilers, a combined heat and power unit, voltage optimisation units and improved lighting are amongst the investments made. Annual financial savings of £40,000 are expected from investments to date.
- Over 40 Energy Champions in Council buildings and aiming for 100. The Champions were responsible for a 5% reduction in electricity consumption in the Town Hall.
- Developing a Climate Change Action Plan to achieve a low carbon borough by 2020;
- Investigating the potential for energy from renewable sources in the borough;
- Using Warm Front grants to tackle fuel poverty in the borough;
- Providing a free energy advice service to residents;
- Bidding for Low Carbon Communities funding to run a pilot in Roe Lee and Bastwell wards where fuel poverty is a key concern;
- Providing energy monitors on loan to householders through the library service;
- Promoting smarter driving training to reduce emissions from business travel – 80 free sessions for Council staff secured from the Energy Saving Trust;
- Working with schools to encourage energy awareness amongst teachers and pupils;
- Endorsing the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy to reduce emissions by at least 30% by 2020.

5. RATIONALE

10:10 is a media-led project aiming to engage individuals, groups, organisations, anyone and everyone in fact, to help cut the UK's carbon emissions by 10% in 2010.

Following a public debate with Government Ministers on the issues, the 10% cut in emissions, labelled 10:10, was launched. Its ambitious aim is to unite every sector of British society in achieving a 10% cut in carbon emissions. Hundreds of organisations - businesses, schools, universities across the public and private sector as well as thousands of individuals have already signed up and the particular challenge for local

authorities is to reduce the emissions covered by National Indicator 185.

Signing up to 10:10 will be a strong indication that the Council is fully committed to this agenda and will take a leadership role in the community.

An active campaign will be launched that will include raising awareness of the 10:10 commitment and what staff can do to meet the target. The Energy Champion scheme will be promoted and expanded, and campaign information will come through TeamTalk and intranet.

During 2010 a number of new initiatives will be launched including new ICT equipment, support to sustainable travel, the use of our buildings, and widespread encouragement to staff to change their behaviour and make lower use of carbon.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Climate change is a key national issue and appears as key indicators NI 185, 187 and 188 in the Local Area Agreement. The Comprehensive Area Assessment approach gives it emphasis in the use of resources section.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are financial implications for the Council if it does not meet its carbon reduction commitments. Additionally, savings could be made of around £500,000 if the 10 per cent reduction can be achieved, depending on energy prices.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No legal implications from this resolution.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The process of carbon management is already being addressed through the management of corporate buildings and of transport, and this resolution seeks to accelerate the pace of the existing plans and procedures. Staff will be asked to modify their behaviour at work, but this will not impact on resources or need diversion of effort from other tasks.

11. CONSULTATIONS

Discussions are proceeding within the LSP in terms of gaining widespread support for this campaign. Many staff are already involved through the network of carbon champions, and information is made widely available to staff and their input and suggestions are welcomed.

Contact Officer: Adam Scott
Date: 14 January 2010
Background Papers: BwD Carbon Management Plan 2007/8 - 2012/13

