

Tewkesbury Borough Council Climate Change Strategy
Report From the Stakeholder Workshop Held on 28th July 2004 at the Tewkesbury
Borough Council Offices

Introduction

Tewkesbury Borough Council is developing a climate change strategy to address emissions of greenhouse gases from the borough and also local actions needed to adapt to a changing climate.

On the 28th July 2004 the Council held a stakeholder workshop at its offices in Tewkesbury. The aims of the workshop were to gather ideas from community and professional organisations on four key areas of the strategy:

- energy efficiency in homes and businesses
- renewable energy
- transport
- adapting to a changing climate

Over 20 people attended the day. After an introduction by James Kelly (Director of Community Services) and a short presentation on climate change by Ed Dearnley (Severn Wye Energy Agency) the delegates were offered the choice of two workshop groups – energy efficiency or renewable energy. After a break for lunch delegates were offered the choice of two further workshop groups – transport or adapting to a changing climate.

Recording the Workshop Discussions

During the workshop sessions delegates were asked to identify key issues for their workgroup area then go on to look at how these issues could be addressed by the Council and its partners.

The following pages contain the outputs from the workgroups. They were produced using information recorded on flipcharts during the workshops and consultation with the group facilitators. Whilst we have re-organised some of the ideas discussed for the write up we have attempted to reflect the group discussions as accurately as possible.

Workgroup 1 – Energy Efficiency in the Home and in Business

Home

Key Issues Presented	Possible Solutions Put Forward
More data needs to be available to be able to understand the current levels of insulation in both existing and new build properties.	
Standards of insulation need to be improved in both new and existing properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation – Can we get developers install to levels higher than those required by building regulations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a developers forum to find ways of increasing energy efficiency in new build properties. • Section 106 agreements may be possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing properties are not being insulated at a high enough rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest free loans for homeowners wanting to install energy efficient measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of pressure from home buyers to demand improved energy efficiency levels in the homes they purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with estate agents to improve energy awareness of energy running costs. Link in with new sellers packs, which include an energy performance section
Poor levels of awareness throughout – home owners, developers, landlords etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target specific sectors – schools, Registered Social Landlords, private owned etc
Education information needs to be readily available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress the financial aspect. It is currently perceived that energy efficiency is costly (in the first instance) rather than cost effective. People need to be taught about “life cost” • Signposting towards information (website links from council website) • Push for greater public awareness of the energy efficiency advice centre
The process of improving home energy efficiency needs to be made as easy as possible for people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We make energy efficiency products more practical (?) and good looking – the example given was that light bulbs that are commonly distributed are not aesthetically pleasing and more should be done to improve the style and range of lamps

	available.
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Business

Key Issues Presented	Possible Solutions Put Forward
People go to work and do not take responsibility for their local environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve ownership of the issues from business owners and give employees the option to control their own environments (lighting, equipment, heating controls etc.)
Lack of education and no understanding of where to go to get information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand holding assistance for businesses (perhaps an additional EEAC service?)
There needs to be a separate focus on large and small businesses alike.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create working partnerships with Business Links, Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations, Business Parks, etc.
Lack of understanding amongst business owners that energy efficiency is not just about being “Green”, but is also about good financial management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should businesses be charged for energy efficiency advice to give the service additional added value and to make businesses appreciate the service provided? • Tax relief for businesses who install EE measures and reach national Good practice benchmark figures
Lack of understanding on managing demand, i.e. knowing when energy demand will be on the increase and when not, and controlling usage accordingly	
CO ₂ audits would allow businesses to measure their output and compare it against similar orgs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby government to expand Action Energy style programmes

Workgroup2 – Renewable Energy

Key Issues Presented	Possible Solutions Put Forward
Renewable energy needs to be encouraged in new developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge to make new developments Carbon Neutral • Target actions at developers • Lobby for a change in building regulations to adapt/consider more renewable options • Use planning gain (section 106) to negotiate with developers to secure lower carbon developments. • Increase awareness within relevant trades such as plumbing and heating engineers and electricians. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training ○ Incentives • Link in with new Gloucestershire Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP)
There is a need for local demonstration projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish projects that demonstrate a range of different renewable energy technologies in applications that are appropriate to the local area. • Specific technologies mentioned included, wind power for new developments, building integrated solar energy, wood fuel, biogas from organic waste, hydro power and water source heat pumps. • Monitor projects for effectiveness, in order to convince people that this methodology may be the way ahead
Use of renewable energy in new community buildings (for all to see)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use solar panels for public services for example bus shelters etc. although need to assess cost and viability (vandalism) • Research existing demonstration projects, e.g. BEDZED
Community involvement and ownership needs to encouraged, especially with wind energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish local exemplars of community renewable energy • Encourage community involvement in new renewable energy projects through the planning system.

Potential barriers to renewable development need to be identified and overcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach regional government for assistance
There is a need for a demonstration of transport biofuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and promote a local transport biofuel project
Planning issues – there could be possible public opposition to wind power, particularly in areas of natural beauty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local planning guidance on renewable energy • Consult the community early, and consider community led/ owned schemes • Publicise the idea that turbines could be an interim measure, i.e. they can be taken down easily if necessary.
Lack of awareness on scale and capacity – 3-5 medium/large wind turbines in each district by 2010 could deliver the current county renewable energy target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of better renewable energy information materials • Better public education
Lack of awareness amongst the general public on many renewable technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage demonstration/ community building projects
Waste is on the increase by around 3% per annum in Gloucestershire, and importantly a high proportion of this waste is biodegradable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate Change Strategy should be linked to Waste Management Strategy to ensure that Sustainable Waste Management can also benefit action on Climate Change. • There may be opportunities to generate Biogas from the organic fraction of the waste stream through Anaerobic Digestion • Investigate opportunities to generate renewable energy from combustion or thermal processing of organic components of the waste stream (e.g. clean waste wood).

Workgroup3 – Transport

It is important to note that the group recognised that there are many additional factors that relate to transport other than purely climatic factors. This work group has tried to take these into consideration throughout discussion.

Key Issues Presented	Possible Solutions Put Forward
Use of alternatives to fossil fuels needs to be encouraged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the uptake of biofuels
Needs to be a focus on reducing current levels of travel as well as shifting modes of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel by encouraging working from home more frequently/take advantage of the IT age (Broadband giving same speed of working from home as from work) • Encourage mixed developments – i.e. offices, shops, doctors, main services being located closer together
'Food miles' need to be reduced. Transport of fresh foods is excessive, and the fact that large quantities of food are processed leads to more transportation to and from factories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage locally sourced food through farmer's markets and 'box schemes' • Work with large employers to allow local food producers to sell produce at workplaces
Lack of general education on transport issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of "local" council advice centres
There is a need for more school busses (also meaning walking busses)	
Insufficient take up of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ car sharing ○ community busses ○ park and ride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a corporate travel plan within the council and promote the same for other large employers in the area • Increase/ Incentives for those who car share/cycle/walk • Create a green transport plan for the borough • Create more bicycle parking at park and ride stops to encourage 'bike and ride' for those who do not wish to bike in towns

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote existing community travel services, many of which are poorly used
Poor use of waterways and rail networks (Ashchurch Rail Service)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rail freight to Wingmoor Farm waste disposal - this is one of a declining number of hazardous waste disposal sites and as such the volume of waste disposed here is set to rise.
Too much rural development – should be a greater focus on urban development to reduce travel demands	
Car usage is excessive and expanding. Traffic congestion is getting worse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up ‘home zones’ and other initiatives that encourage living without a car Lobby for “intelligent” traffic signals similar to those employed throughout Europe Increase the number of secure bike parking spaces in towns and community facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage of large deliveries out of town to avoid the need for trucks to enter the town, and then transport goods into town by way of electric vehicles and consider the benefits of reducing just in time deliveries
‘Just in Time’ deliveries result in a greater number of freight vehicle movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage storage of large deliveries out of town to avoid the need for trucks to enter the town, and then transport goods into town by way of electric vehicles Encourage businesses to consider the benefits of reducing just in time deliveries

Workgroup4 – Adaptation

<p>Building on flood plains needs to be reduced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with the local plan/ local development framework to reduce development of flood plains • Work more closely with developers to address current and planned building on existing flood plains, take into account any projected increase in the flood plain due to Climate Change.
<p>Issue of flash flooding in some areas of the District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage in new and existing developments (e.g. porous paving) • Encourage households to collect and re-use rainwater (e.g. waterbutts)
<p>Buildings need to be designed to cope with the extremes of temperature we will experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with well insulated, low energy buildings in energy efficiency workshop
<p>There is a potential threat to biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed into continued development of Gloucestershire and/or Tewkesbury's biodiversity action plan and assist with implementation
<p>Changes in Economy – Maybe opportunities as well as threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry/business • Education • Tourism • Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link in with county and district economic development strategy and push climate change issues
<p>There is a need to better understand the potential impacts of climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnerships with the Environment Agency and Gloucestershire Uni to distribute results of climate change modelling work
<p>Drinking water may be a problem if there are more droughts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the need to share resources with other counties and districts

<p>Flood defences will need to be strengthened. Flash floods will affect areas other than those on existing flood plains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Environment Agency to strengthen flood defences • Balance flood management with retreat • Tree planting should be encouraged to improve water retention • Work with other local Councils upstream and downstream on joint strategy
<p>Greater flooding may lead to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion problems • Leaching of pollutants from contaminated land • Problems with storage of hazardous waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate this into planning process • Incorporate into emergency planning process
<p>Potential public health issues need to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increase in pests/ insects due to temperature change (e.g. mosquitoes) • Increase in dust and pollen • Effect of heat on vulnerable people • Public shade /impact on schools etc. (skin cancer) 	