



# Climate Change Strategy 2010-2016

Reducing Tendring's impact on the  
environment

# Foreword

There is an ever growing body of evidence that greenhouse gas emissions, in particular carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the burning of fossil fuels, poses a serious threat to our environment and in the medium term could impact on our social and economic wellbeing.

It is widely recognised that climate change is a global phenomenon, and to reduce the long term impact coordinated international action is required. It would be easy to see this as only as a world wide issue and it was down to governments to agree treaties.

In reality many of the causes and consequences are at a local level and Tendring District Council has a key role to play in influencing and leading local communities, a role that is recognised within UK Climate Change legislation.

On 7 March 2007 the Council signed the Nottingham Declaration, an acknowledgement that Climate Change is a key issue for the Council. Since then further work has been done to ensure that this area of activity is given a high priority within the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership.

This Climate Change Strategy sets out a framework for what will be a continuous improvement process to reduce carbon emissions and ensure as a District as well as a Council we are preparing for predicted changes to the climate and reducing our use of fossil fuels.

There are six main greenhouse gases recognised for their global significance. These include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. This strategy concentrates on the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions because this gas is released in the largest quantities, has a long term effect in the atmosphere and is the greenhouse gas that we have the greatest control over.

The Council recognises the importance of its community leadership role in tackling climate change but also the importance of working with partners through the Local Strategic Partnership and at a County level in support of the Essex Partnership This strategy has been developed to produce a framework for action and will be further refined with partners to help the District reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare for the effects of a changing climate.

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# Why do we need to act?

Rising concentrations of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels in homes, in power stations and through transport, business and industry are contributing to warming of the atmosphere, resulting in noticeable effects around the world.

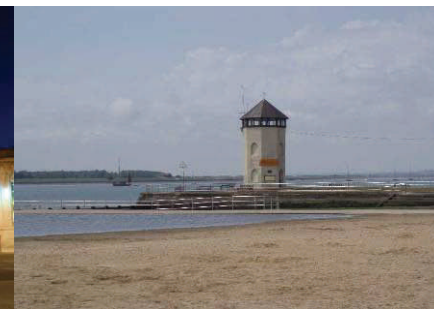
Globally, temperatures are rising and severe weather events such as storms, flooding, gales, heat waves and droughts are becoming increasingly common. The human costs include food shortages, health risks and economic damage. Predictions show current trends continuing well into the next century.

Climate Change is an issue that will not go away. Unchecked, no one will remain immune from its consequences, yet we each contribute to it. Every time we use electricity or gas at home or at work, travel by car or plane or buy goods and services, we are responsible for emitting greenhouse gases that are warming the planet and changing our climate. If dangerous climate change is to be avoided our contribution to it both as an individual and as a community must be reduced dramatically.

There is a need to raise awareness of what it means for each and every one of us, change behaviour and take actions that reduce the emission of the greenhouse gases (particularly CO<sub>2</sub>) that cause it, and to plan for

## Potential Implications of Climate Change on Tendring (Data from DEFRA UK Climate Projections 09—Regional data East of England)

- **Heat waves are predicted to increase in frequency in the coming years with maximum daily temperatures within the Eastern region estimated to increase between 1 - 5.9°C by 2050.**
- **Increased risk of subsidence due to significant decreases in soil moisture content in summer.**
- **Within the next 30 years sea levels at Clacton could rise by 18cm.**
- **Heavier winter rain and snow fall is likely to become more common.**



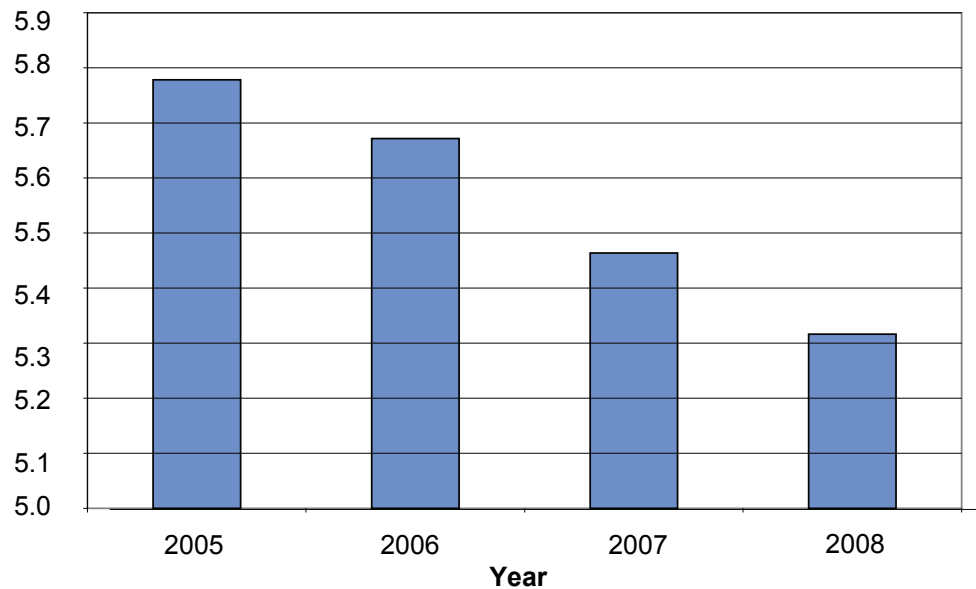
# Tendring's emissions

Before action can be taken to address Tendring's impact on our environment, we first must understand our impact.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the Tendring area are now published annually by DEFRA.. Data includes emissions from energy use in homes and businesses, and from transport, but currently excludes shipping and aviation. Based on the estimated population of 147,600 the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Tendring is 5.3 tonnes per person (2008). This compares to an Essex average of 7.0 tonnes per person.

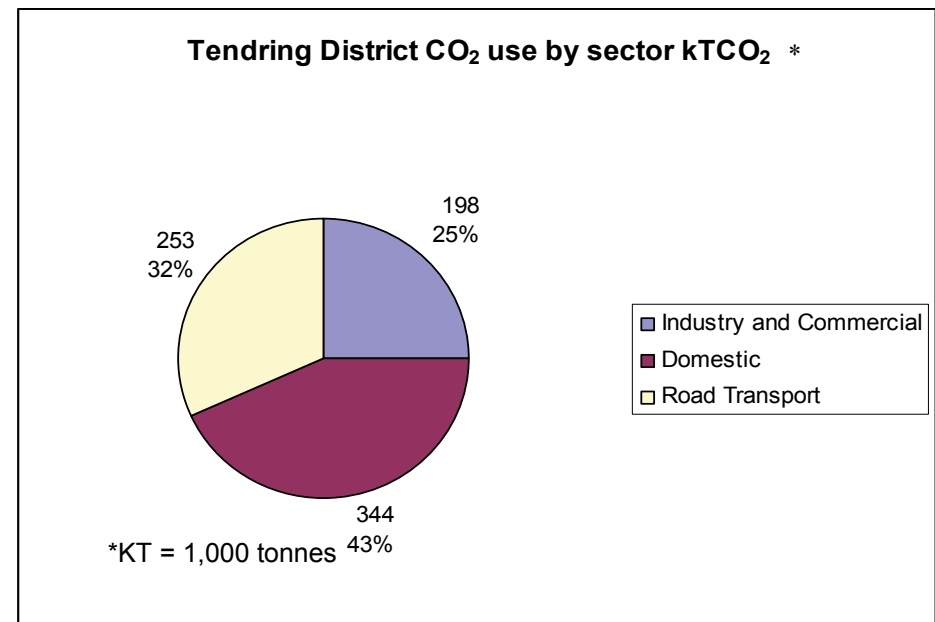
Although the level of emission for Tendring is decreasing work is required to maintain the downward trend.

## Tendring's average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita



Unsurprisingly in an area where people live in five main coastal settlements and villages across the District that are served by poor public transport, widely dispersed communities and the presence of the international port of Harwich, transport is a significant emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## % of total District CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by sector in 2007 (latest official figures available)



It is useful to consider the figures in a wider context. World Resources Institute data indicates that the District and the UK have higher per capita emissions rate than in Italy, India and China, but are far exceeded by Canada and the USA. This serves as a reminder that reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is an issue that needs to be tackled "globally" as well as "locally" and that we all need to take part in lobbying for change as well as acting to tackle climate change ourselves.

# Strategic priorities

There are a number of corporate actions aimed at protecting and enhancing our environment but this strategy focuses on actions to reduce our carbon emissions, plan for a changing climate and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels as these are areas where we can have most impact. The Local Development Framework will deal with adaptation or mitigation measures required for new developments to address the effects of climate change.

This document focuses on actions we can take with our partners to both mitigate against and adapt to climate change.

This is a challenging ambition, and to ensure we are focused on projects that will deliver the greatest impact, we have included a priority to protect and enhance our environment, countryside and coast.

A key aim of this strategy is to help develop a collective community response. This is essential as local communities and organisations have a vital role to play as well as the Council itself (with the Council being responsible for approximately 0.79% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the District).



Our Place		
What will success for Our Place look like?		
By 2016, people in Tendingr, and particularly those in areas with significant deprivation currently, will enjoy an improved quality of life. There will be a good mix of high quality housing, including affordable housing, reflecting the diverse needs of residents. Households and businesses will produce less waste. Public spaces will be clean and well maintained. The coastline will be protected and well managed for the benefit of residents and visitors.		
Our Priorities	What we want to achieve	How we want to achieve it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regenerate the District and improve deprived areas.</li></ul>	<p>Significant regenerated areas of the District, including improved access into and movement around the District.</p> <p>Improved quality of life for those residents living in areas with significant deprivation.</p>	<p>Work with partners and potential funders to deliver improved infrastructure and regeneration to Harwich, Jaywick, Walton, Clacton and the rural area.</p> <p>Work with partners to address the issues which contribute to deprivation in parts of the District. Work with Essex County Council and other partners through the Jaywick Strategic Partnership.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ensure all our residents live in high quality housing which meets local needs.</li></ul>	<p>More sustainable affordable and high quality housing, in the right locations and which meets the different needs of our residents</p>	<p>Ensure that housing land allocations are made which will support sustainable mixed developments, and the supply of affordable housing sites. Apply high design standards to all new proposals.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Protect and enhance our environment, countryside and coast.</li></ul>	<p>A reduced amount of waste going to landfill and increased recycling.</p> <p>A reduction in the output of carbon as a result of the Council's activities.</p> <p>Good coastal and inland flood protection.</p> <p>A high quality built and natural environment with quality open spaces that enhance the natural assets of the coast and countryside.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a waste reduction scheme.</p> <p>Work to reduce our carbon footprint and encourage partners to do the same.</p> <p>Develop a Shoreline Management Plan with the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Through effective planning enforcement and policy, work to protect, restore and promote the built heritage, whilst ensuring appropriate development and enhancing the natural environment.</p>

## Our Priorities

**Protect and enhance our environment, countryside and coast**

## What we want to achieve

**A reduction in the output of carbon as a result of the Council's activities**

## How we want to achieve it

**Work to reduce our carbon footprint and encourage partners to do the same**

This Climate Change Strategy sets out long term ambitions, but it includes targets and actions to be achieved in both the short and the medium term too. The Council Climate Change Strategy has three core objectives to be met. These objectives are set out in the following pages.



# Reduce carbon dioxide emissions

Through the Local Area Agreement the Essex Strategic Partnership and Tendring District Council have agreed a reduction target of 9.5% per person by 2011. This equates to a reduction of 3% per year. The Essex Climate Change Partnership will be considering the best approach to take regarding this indicator. Especially regarding exact details of how these targets will be split between business, transport and households and how success will be monitored.

The greatest reductions will be achieved by reducing energy use and improving energy efficiency. The domestic sector offers good potential for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, but action is also needed to reduce energy use across the public, voluntary, and the commercial and industrial sectors.

Reducing the reliance on the private car through the promotion of home working, reduced vehicle engine capacities and cycling where possible and passenger transport infrastructure and services will contribute to lower emissions. Other policies such as encouraging locally produced goods and services and planning policies that reduce the need for travel will also play a part.

As our learning increases we are becoming more aware of how land use can either contribute to or mitigate against CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We want to promote land uses that capture greenhouse gases rather than releasing carbon into the atmosphere

## **Our priorities for reducing carbon dioxide emissions**

The council will work with partners to **reduce carbon dioxide emissions** within the District.

The Council is committed through the Local Area Agreement (LAA) to delivering the following

- **Work with partners across the District to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per person by 9.5% by 2011, by 20% by 2020 and 50% by 2050 compared to 2005 levels.**
- **Achieve an ongoing reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from Council operations and estate.**
- **Work with individuals, communities and businesses to help them reduce their emissions**
- **Support schemes which facilitate the installation of energy efficiency measures for those in need (fuel poor) and in suitable homes.**



# Preparing for a changing climate

Whatever we do to reduce emissions now, we cannot escape some change in the climate due to past emissions. Indeed whilst no one incident of extreme weather can be directly attributed to climate change an increasing incidence and severity of extreme weather is consistent with scientists' predictions of a changing climate.

So we can only hope to reduce the severity of the change, ensure the risks are considered and take advantage of what benefits do come; for example an increase in growing season (one month over the last century) and warmer winters. It is crucial that we recognise that this is still a developing area and that our preparations need to be flexible and ever developing as scientific understanding develops.

It is also important to ensure that our new LDF adequately reflects the opportunities and threats caused through climate change.

## Our priorities for preparing for a changing climate

The council will work with partners to **prepare for climate change** within the District.

The Council is committed to delivering the following:

- **Consider the risks faced by our district and how projected changes to the climate may impact on the services we deliver, the development we permit and the communities we serve.**
- **Work with local organisations to help increase understanding of potential climate risks.**
- **Develop a coastal change adaptation strategy, including its impact on tourism, for the Tendring peninsular.**
- **Ensure that the Local Development Framework (LDF) adequately provides for climate change measures to be undertaken.**



# Reduced reliance on fossil fuels

The fossil fuels, coal, oil and gas are not only responsible for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but are also highly polluting in other ways (coal being the most polluting and least convenient of all). This coupled with growing concerns over the security of supply of fossil fuels and our growing dependence on imports of natural gas adds even greater urgency to the drive to reduce our reliance on oil and adopt low and no carbon alternatives for heat energy and electricity generation.

“Peak Oil” is defined as the period during which the maximum rate of global petroleum extraction is reached and subsequently declines. There is a growing concern that this point may have already been reached and shortages of oil and gas may begin to be experienced by the UK within the next five years. “The availability and price of oil affects almost every aspect of our economy and our day-to-day lives: the way we travel, where we work, what we eat, how we power our homes and buildings; and how we manufacture goods.” (‘The Oil Crunch: Securing the UK’s energy future’ Oct 2008, The Peak Oil Group).

Action taken to tackle “Peak Oil” has the potential to make a major step change in reducing carbon emissions. This is a new area for the Council and before we can realistically determine what needs to be done in addition to the work on climate change we need to improve our understanding of it and encourage local groups with an interest to share their understanding.

## Our priorities for reducing our reliance on fossil fuels

The council will work with partners to **reduce our reliance on fossil fuels** within the District.

The Council is committed to delivering the following:

- **Promote and make more efficient use of energy and alternatives to fossil fuels in the delivery of our services.**
- **Utilise non fossil fuel dependent technologies where feasible in our own estate and operations and to promote these within our local communities.**
- **Work with the private sector to establish renewable energy supplies and maximise the opportunities of offshore wind farm development.**
- **Planning Services support for low carbon buildings, energy supply and transport infrastructure.**