

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

COMMITTEE      Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure

DATE             31 January 2012

DIRECTOR        Gordon McIntosh

TITLE OF REPORT Annual Report on Scotland's Climate Change  
Declaration

REPORT NUMBER: EPI/12/021

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report highlights Aberdeen City Council's progress in 2011, on actions to meet the commitments of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee: -

- a. Notes and endorses the actions and commitments set out in Aberdeen's 2011 report on the Scottish Climate Change Declaration.
- b. Instruct officers to submit the annual report, as required by the declaration, to the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN).

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 has set targets to reduce carbon emissions by:

- 42% by 2020; and
- 80% by 2050

Guidance on Part 4 of this act, the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties, came into effect in 2011.

This recognises the important role that public bodies play in planning and delivering climate change actions and mainstreaming it alongside corporate priorities.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 In 2007, Aberdeen City Council alongside all of Scotland's local authorities signed up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.
- 5.2 Signatories to the Declaration acknowledge the reality and importance of climate change and are committed to:
- mitigating their impact on climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
  - taking steps to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.
  - working in partnership with their communities to respond to climate change.
- 5.3 Under the declaration, signatories also agree to submit an annual report on climate change actions to the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN).
- 5.4 The report should reflect the continued work by Scottish local authorities to deal with the climate change agenda and contain details of progress taken and actions planned by the Council to respond to climate change. This includes:
- Providing effective leadership, governance and management on climate change.
    - Reducing the local authority's own 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions from their estate, services and functions.
    - Taking action to reduce emissions from the local authority area
    - Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
    - Developing effective partnership working and climate change communications, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.
- 5.5 Appendix 1 of this report contains the 2011 Scottish Climate Change Declaration Annual Report from Aberdeen City Council.

## 6. IMPACT

- 6.1 The actions and results contained within the Climate Change Declaration have supported the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) in:
- Adapting to climate change-  
12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
  - Reducing the risk of climate change-  
14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our

consumption and production.

- 6.2 Actions on climate change support the Council's 5 year Business Plan (2011 – 2016) priorities to protect and enhance our high quality natural and built environment and to increase the amount of waste diverted from landfill.
- 6.3 The report also supports the Council commitment to the environment set out in, Vibrant, Dynamic & Forward Looking: Aberdeen's environment - natural and built - is part of what makes our city unique. Aberdeen City Council has a duty both to protect that environment and to play its part in protecting our planet.
- 6.4 Declaration reports submitted to the SSN are publicly available on their website. Information from the local authority reports submitted in 2010 were analysed by COSLA and SSN, along with the Carbon Trust and Adaptation Scotland.

## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Local Transport Strategy (2008 – 2012)
- Nature Conservation Strategy (2010 – 2015)
- Waste Strategy (2010 – 2025)
- Carbon Management Plan (2010 – 2015)
- Alternative Energy Strategy for Council Owned Public Buildings
- Open Space Strategy

## 9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Alison Leslie  
Sustainable Development Officer  
[alleslie@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:alleslie@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
01224 522792



# **Scotland's Climate Change Declaration Report 2011**

## **Aberdeen City Council**

# Scotland's Climate Change Declaration 2011

## Introduction

Each of Scotland's 32 local authorities signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in early 2007. The Declaration is a public statement wherein local authorities acknowledge the reality and implications of climate change and their responsibility to respond effectively. The Declaration also welcomes the actions of the UK and Scottish governments and the opportunities for local authorities to work in partnership with others in responding to climate change.

As signatories to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, each Scottish local authority is committed to taking action across a range of key areas. These can be summarised as:

1. Providing effective **leadership, governance and management** on climate change.
2. Reducing the local authority's **own 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions** from their estate, services and functions.
3. Taking action to reduce **emissions from the local authority area**
4. Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others **to adapt to the impacts of climate change.**
5. Developing effective **partnership working and climate change communications**, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

This Reporting Template focuses on these five key areas.

The principles of effective Declaration reporting include:

- Providing clear, consistent and comparable information.
- Linking climate change reporting with existing reporting requirements and the council's own performance improvement agenda.
- Showing clearly how climate change is being integrated into council and Community Planning agendas, especially through Single Outcome Agreements.
- Highlighting key achievements and initiatives
- Communicating with the community, making the report easy to understand and available to the public.

Local authorities are encouraged to provide information in a transparent and easy to understand format:

- In relation to 'corporate' and 'area-wide' emissions, quantifiable data will be vital, and this is best communicated graphically.
- On adaptation, examples of adaptation action or process initiatives would help illustrate what is being done.
- On governance, leadership and management, and on partnership working, communications and capacity building, diagrams, process

maps and examples of materials and events would be extremely useful.

In order to make reporting on the Declaration as effective and efficient as possible, local authorities are encouraged to use this reporting template to report top-level information and to use web-link references to more detailed information.

Local authorities are also encouraged to make reference to their previous Declaration reports, especially making reference to the year-ahead priorities listed in those reports. This will help in showing continuity and year-on-year progress.

In reporting on the Declaration, local authorities are encouraged to recognise the importance of the UK Climate Change Act, Climate Change (Scotland) Act, national targets for emissions reduction, the Climate Change Public Bodies Duties Guidance (published 2011), The Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting the Emissions Reduction Targets 2010-2022 Report on Proposals and Policies, the Low Carbon Scotland Public Engagement Strategy, the evolving Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the Adaptation Scotland Scotland Climate Change Adaptation Workbook . Also of use is the internationally recognised 'Greenhouse Gas Protocol' for consistent reporting of 'corporate emissions' and the evolving suite of Local Authority climate change datasets and indicators published by DECC.

## **Section 1**

### **Governance, Leadership and Management**

#### **Leadership, governance and management of climate change at Aberdeen City Council**

##### **Leadership**

Aberdeen City Council along with all 31 other Scottish Local Authorities signed the Scottish Climate Change Declaration in 2007 making a commitment to take action on climate change. This was underlined in 2009, when the Council became a signatory to:

- The Covenant of Mayors, which promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy. [www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)
- The World Energy Cities Climate Change Accord, agreeing to exchange best practice as an energy city. [www.energycities.org/climate-initiative](http://www.energycities.org/climate-initiative)

The Council's "Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking" policy statement, priorities to protect the environment include -

- A programme of planting a "Tree for Every Citizen"
- Minimise the impact of Council activities on the environment, including a target of being carbon neutral overall by 2020 and a commitment that all new council developments will be carbon neutral

- Support the use of small scale renewables and make appropriate use of small scale renewables in all new council developments
- Support the use of innovative methods of treating wastewater, including reed beds, and make appropriate use of such treatment methods in new council developments

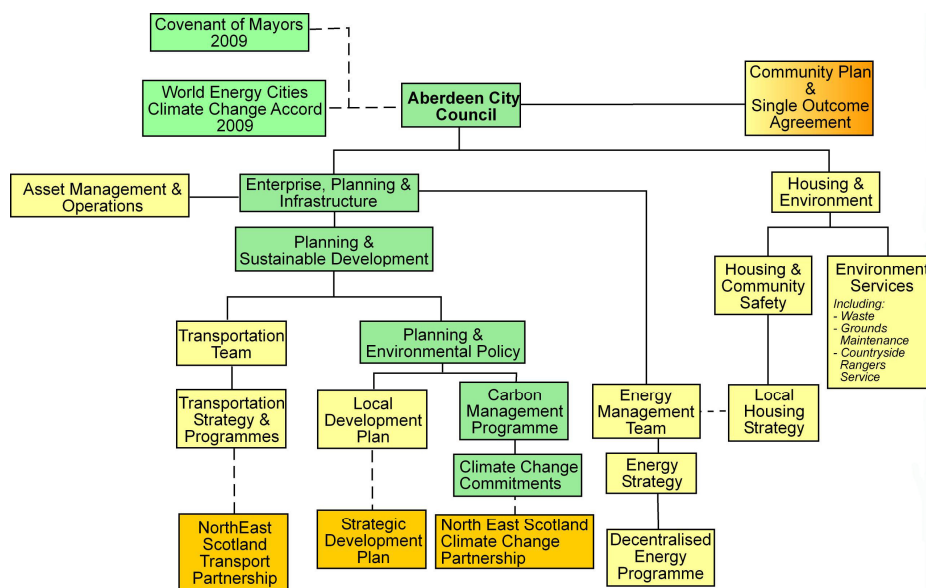
Key priorities from Aberdeen’s Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) are summarised below:

- Reduce unnecessary carbon emissions
- Minimise the environmental impact of transport on our community and the wider world.
- Manage, reduce and divert the City’s waste from landfill.
- Aim for affordable, sustainable and carbon neutral energy supplies.

### Governance

- Climate change is addressed as part of the sustainability agenda and reported through the Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure Committee.
- In 2011, the Vice Convener of the Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure Committee was nominated as the Council’s elected member representative to the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership.
- Demonstrating support for carbon reduction, the Chief Executive and senior managers sit on the Council’s Carbon Management Strategy Group.
- A review of the Community Planning Partnership led to the establishment of a new Community Planning Partnership and Community Planning Aberdeen Board in June 2011. The previous Challenge Forums were replaced at this time and a new “Greener” theme will cover the sustainable development agenda.

Table 1.0 Aberdeen City Council Climate Change Management



Direct responsibility for climate change actions

### **Incorporating Climate Change into Key Policy**

- The Council's Environmental Policy Team, in Planning & Sustainable Development, plays a corporate role in coordinating mitigation measures and embedding climate change into council policies and strategies. However, responsibility for actions related to climate change is spread across relevant council services.
- All Council plans, policies and strategies undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess their environmental impact, this includes addressing climate change.
- Aberdeen was the first city in Scotland to produce a Climate Change Action Plan in 2002. Since then climate change has become increasingly imbedded in council plans, and strategies. These include:
  - Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan 2009, which sets targets for the city region's electricity needs to be met from renewable sources by 2020;
  - The Aberdeen City Waste Strategy (2010 – 2025) which aims for no more than 5% of municipal waste to be landfilled by 2025;
  - The Council's Carbon Management Plan (2010-2015) which sets a carbon reduction target of 23% by 2015. The plan details the baseline of carbon emissions and projects aimed at achieving this target.
  - Encouraging sustainable travel, through the Local Transport Strategy (2008-2012) and Cycling Strategy for Aberdeen City.
  - Recognising the need to build a more resilient natural environment, the Council's Nature Conservation Strategy 2010-2015, has been designed to help halt the decline in biodiversity through nature conservation and assist with tackling greenhouse gas emissions which are contributing to climate change.
- New plans and strategies approved in 2011 underline continued commitment to climate change:
  - An Alternative Energy Strategy for Council Owned Public Buildings was approved by committee in May 2011. The aims of the document are to ensure the Council will continue to undertake energy efficiency measures and install low/ zero carbon technologies in and on Council owned assets, to reduce overall energy consumption and carbon emissions.
  - The proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan is due to be adopted in 2012. Addressing energy and adaptation issues, this document includes supplementary guidance on waste; renewable and low carbon energy developments; and low and zero carbon buildings.
  - The Council's Open Space Strategy was approved in September 2011. This sets out a vision for new and improved open spaces in the city. The strategy contains a key objective and series of actions to, "Maximise opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and further biodiversity".



- The Councils updated Air Quality Action Plan was approved in March 2011. This includes measures for mitigation and adaptation including: lower emissions through the uptake of cleaner vehicles; encouraging modal shift away from the car as the preferred travel choice; increased awareness of the health impacts of poor air quality and improved traffic management.

### **Section 1: Aberdeen City Council priorities for the year ahead**

- Reduce carbon emissions in line with the Climate Change Scotland Act 2009 and work to meet the responsibilities of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties.
- The Council will ensure climate change continues to be embedded into council plans, policies and strategies.
- Work will commence on the development of a Council Climate Change Strategy in 2012.
- The proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan is expected to be adopted in 2012.
- Exchange information on energy efficiency and good practices as a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors 2009 & World Energy Cities Climate Change Accord.
- A workplan focused on waste and carbon reduction is to be developed in 2012 for the new Community Planning "Greener" theme.

### **Section 2**

#### **Reducing the local authority's own 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions from its estate, services and functions.**

#### **Actions to Achieve Reduction Targets**

##### **Marischal College**

Leading by example, the Council completed the refurbishment of its new headquarter building, Marischal College, in 2011. The building meets BREEAM "Excellent" standards, and includes insulated wall lining, high air tightness, double-glazed energy efficient windows and a heating system fed by biomass boiler.

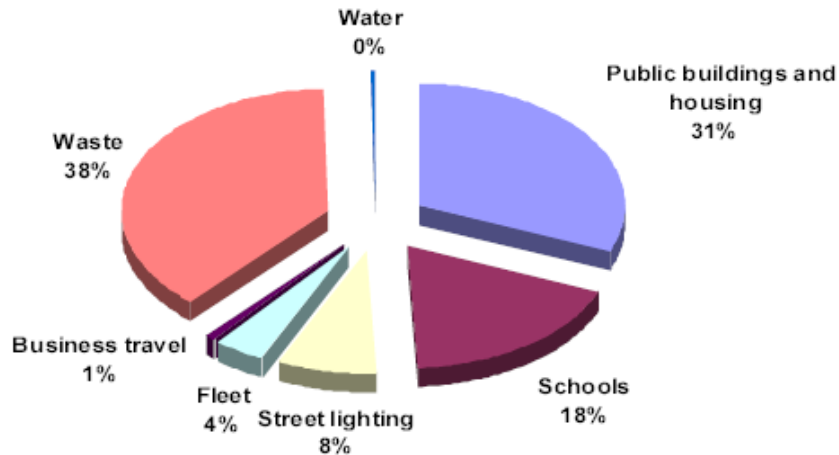
##### **Carbon Management Plan**

Aberdeen City Council underlined its commitment to carbon reduction by participating in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme for a second time in May 2009. In March 2010, the Committee approved the Council's Carbon Management Plan (2010-2015) setting targets of:

- 23% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2015 (based on 2008/09 emission levels)

- 42% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020 (based on 2008/09 emission levels)

Council CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for 2008-2009 were calculated at 118,530 tonnes. A percentage breakdown of this baseline is indicated in the chart below -



### Progress in 2011

Annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for 2010/11 were 106,603 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>.

Emissions data collated up to April 2011, indicates that the Council has achieved a 10% reduction in its carbon footprint since 2008/09. This is the equivalent of 11,927 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>.

This means the Council is on track to meet its target of a 23% reduction in carbon emissions by 2015 but must continue this trend and further reduce emissions by over 15,000 tonnes by 2015.

Table 2.0

Council Carbon Emissions Reduction		
Emission Source	CO <sub>2</sub> Reduction (tonnes) 2009/2010	CO <sub>2</sub> Reduction (tonnes) 2010/2011
Business Travel	5.82	143.6
Fleet	105.83	115.1
Housing	354.9	2036.64
Public Buildings	2,306	Increase of 704.4
Street Lighting	127	increase of 1386.8
Waste	7,665	5762.6
Water	12.2	26.6

### Carbon Management Plan Actions to Achieve the Targets

A Carbon Management Plan Annual Review was completed in October 2011, this set out progress on carbon reduction projects and includes -

#### Business Travel

- A review of essential car user status and parking permits.

- Eco-driving training for 23 staff members in August 2011, which was delivered in partnership with the Energy Savings Trust.
- Expansion of the Council's pool of bicycles and fleet of pool cars, as well as promotion of bus fare cards.
- Implementation of bus and bicycle salary sacrifice schemes.
- Staff participation in sustainable travel initiatives including:
  - Walk to Work Week - May 2011
  - Liftshare Week - October 2011.
  - National Walk at Work Challenge the Challenge.
- Installing electric vehicle charging points at Council headquarters, Marischal College and city shopping centre Union Square.

### **Fleet**

- 10 particulate filters have been fitted to the most polluting Council fleet vehicles.
- 13 corporate vehicles have trialled biodiesel fuel, produced from waste cooking oil.
- From February 2011, all Heavy Goods Vehicle drivers now undergo energy efficient driver training as part of their ongoing training programme.

### **Public Buildings and Housing**

- The Council's Energy Management Team work to reduce the Council's energy consumption, meet UK and Scottish legislative and statutory requirements and support work to deliver the Council's Climate Change obligations.
- Staff from the Council participated in an energy monitoring study with James Hutton Institute (formerly Macaulay Institute). The initiative was designed to raise awareness of home energy consumption.
- Completion of replacement of existing oil and gas heating systems at Duthie Park Winter Gardens with a biomass system.
- Completion of upgrade of an old oil heating system Catherine Street Community Centre with an air source heat pump, as well as insulating property.
- A rolling programme of pipe work and boiler room insulation.
- Energy Performance Certificates were produced for council buildings. These documents are publicly displayed in buildings and published on the council website.

### **Section 2: Priorities for the year ahead**

- Continue progress with the programme of actions outlined in the Council's Carbon Management Plan (2010 – 2015), to reduce CO2 emissions from waste, fleet, business travel, water and public buildings and housing.

Carry out a review on how targets are being met in 2012.

- Approval of the Local Housing Strategy 2011 – 2016. This document will include targets for fuel poverty, energy efficiency, and carbon mitigation.
- Continue council water conservation and energy efficiency programmes.
- Develop a Council Internal Waste Policy to minimise waste in line with Zero Waste Scotland proposals.
- Develop proposals and training to put in place Council Carbon Reduction Champions.

### Section 3

## Taking action to reduce the emissions from the local authority area

### Local Authority Area-Wide Emissions

There are two commonly used methods of looking at area-wide emissions.

- The first, **consumption-based emissions**, is calculated on travel and the goods and services we use.
- The second, **Production-based emissions** - looks at the emissions from industry, transport and domestic energy use.

### Consumption Based Emissions

Consumption based emissions are available from the Stockholm Environmental Institute – REAP data. This data is calculated on goods and services used. It is not allocated to the place where the impacts (e.g. factory emissions) are produced.

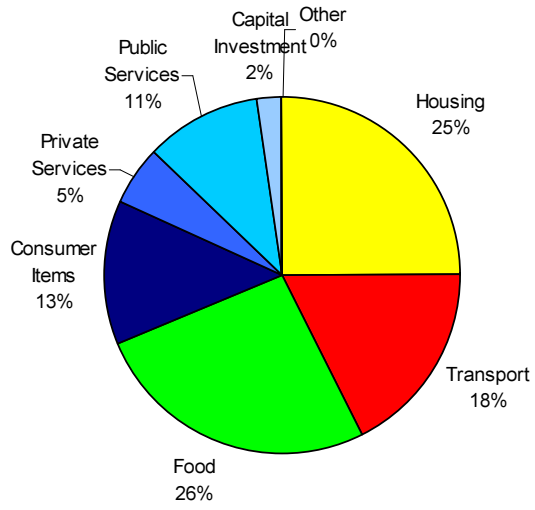
Table 3.0: Per capita consumption based data for Aberdeen (2008)

	PER CAPITA FOOTPRINT		
Aberdeen	Ecological Footprint (gha/capita)	Carbon Footprint (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> /capita)	GHG Footprint (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> eq/capita)
TOTAL	5.64	12.81	17.35

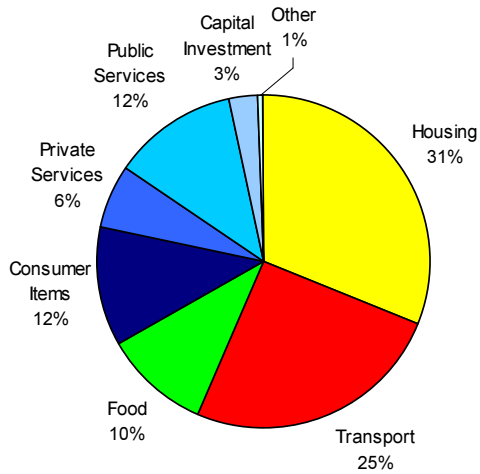
Source: <http://www.resource-accounting.org.uk/downloads/scotland/aberdeen-city>

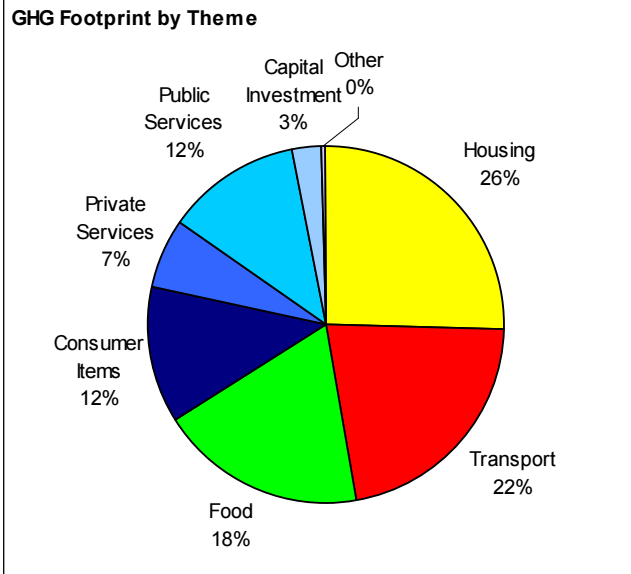
The charts below show the breakdown of the total per capita emission indicated in Table 3.0

**Ecological Footprint by Theme**



**Carbon Footprint by Theme**





### Production Based CO2 Emissions

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has released 2009 data of CO2 emissions for each local authority area in the UK from the following broad source categories:

- Industry, commercial and public sector (including electricity-related emissions)
- Domestic (including electricity related emissions)
- Road transport

*Tables 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3: Per capita Local CO2 emission estimates; industry, domestic and transport sectors for Aberdeen 2005 – 2009*

Table 3.1

Per Capita Local CO2 Emissions					
	Year	Per capita Industry & Commercial	Per capita – Domestic	Per capita – Road Transport	Per capita - Total
Aberdeen	2005	4.5	2.9	1.6	9.2
	2006	4.5	2.9	1.7	9.1
	2007	4.3	2.8	1.6	8.7
	2008	4.2	2.8	1.5	8.6
	2009	3.8	2.4	1.4	7.7

Source: [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate\\_stats/gg\\_emissions/uk\\_emissions/2009\\_laco2/2009\\_laco2.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_stats/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2009_laco2/2009_laco2.aspx).

Table 3.2

### Aberdeen Total Per Capita CO2 Emissions

Source: DECC

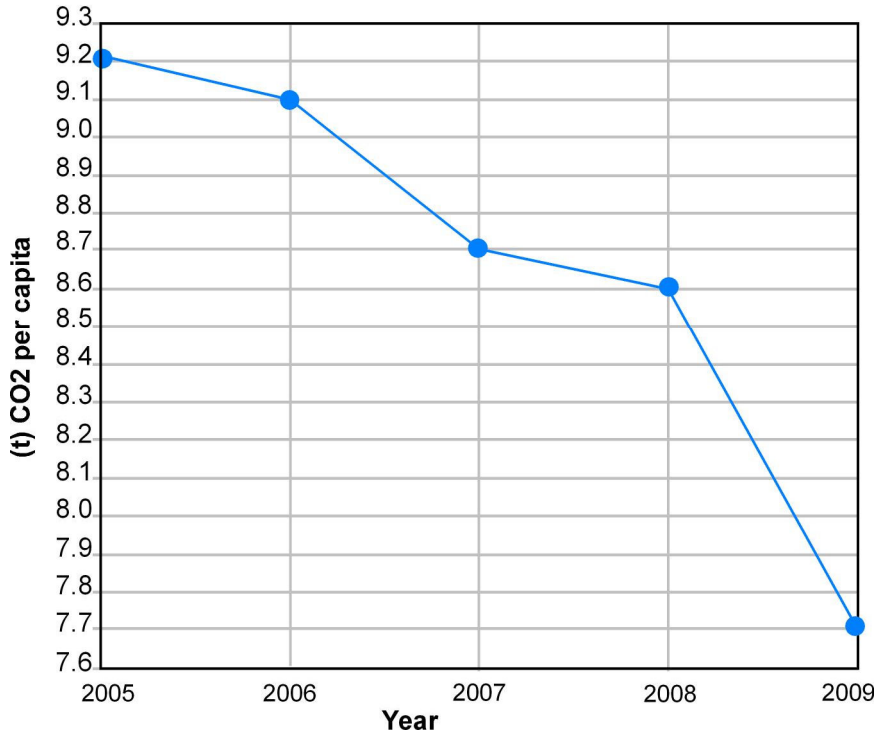
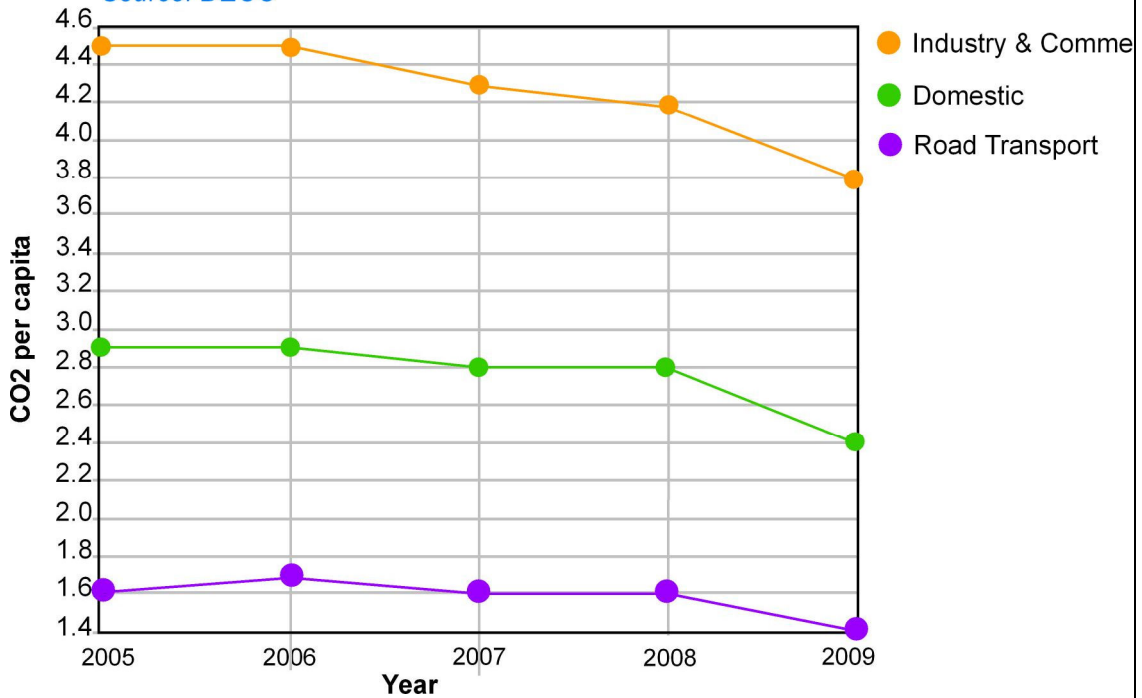


Table 3.3

### Aberdeen Per Capita CO2 Emissions Breakdown by sector

Source: DECC



The 2009 per capita data from DECC indicates a downward trend in emissions for the city, with total emissions falling considerably since 2005.

While the total per capita figure for Aberdeen of 7.7 remains higher than the

Scottish average of 7.0. Figures for the domestic and transport sectors both indicate emissions are below the Scottish average.

### **Actions to reduce emissions from the local authority area**

- The tree planting site at Tullos Hill has been selected as one of 16 pilot study sites across the UK for the new Woodland Carbon Code. This initiative aims to create a measurable and fully auditable carbon sequestration scheme over the full life of the woodland. It sets out standards for voluntary carbon sequestration projects that incorporate principles of carbon management as part of sustainable forest management.  
Compliance with the code means that woodland carbon projects can provide reliable estimates of the amount of carbon that will be sequestered as a result of the tree planting.

### **Transport**

- The Council is a partner in Getabout, which involves local organisations working together to promote sustainable forms of travel in the region. In 2011, the Council organised a number of events with Getabout, to promote walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing. These included Bike Week 2011 in June 2011 and European Mobility Week in September 2011 when a public event was held in the city centre and bike roadshow events at 3 city schools.
- The Council received funding from Sustrans Scotland to help fund new or improved cycle parking facilities at three schools within the City.
- Construction took place on Phase 1, Haudagain and Auchmill Road sections, of the Aberdeen – Blackburn (A96 Corridor) cycle path. This valuable link will provide a designated cycle route to Bucksburn, a large residential area, and links to existing routes on the A96 through to Dyce and Old Meldrum Road through to Stoneywood.
- Posters and leaflets were circulated in 2011 as part of a programme of education to raise public awareness of the issues surrounding vehicle engine idling.

### **Energy**

- The City's Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Network in Stockethill, Hazlehead and Seaton provides low carbon heat and power for 8 public buildings, 14 multi story blocks and 1,000 homes. The scheme is managed by independent, not-for-profit company - Aberdeen Heat & Power Co Ltd.  
In 2011, work commenced to expand the network into the city centre and link in a further 741 flats. This expansion offers the opportunity for other Council buildings, to be served by the scheme in the future.  
Overall, CHP has reduced carbon emission from domestic heat and lighting by 42%. This is equivalent to 7.15 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per flat per year.
- The Council continued to work collaboratively and build successful



partnerships with local energy advice initiatives for a city wide approach to energy efficiency. These include –

- SCARF - free, impartial advice and information to householders covering fuel debt, paying for fuel, domestic energy, heating demos, damp, condensation, grants for insulation;
- Aberdeen Care and Repair, Affordable Warmth Scheme - aimed at owner-occupiers who cannot afford to heat their homes adequately. This initiative offers no cost or low interest rate loans for energy efficiency works, where there is no or insufficient grant/ funding support.

Continued work to improve home energy with projects including:

- Victorian Tenement project –energy efficiency scheme for owner-occupiers, tenants of private landlords, private landlords and local authority
- A number of new “short term” energy efficiency schemes for city householders were put in place in 2011 utilising external funding including:
  - A free loft, cavity wall and underfloor insulation scheme covering the Torry, Nigg, Cove neighbourhoods.
  - A city-wide free cavity wall insulation scheme.
  - Council Tax discount scheme offering cashback for switching from high to low carbon heating.
  - Funding support to help those in properties off the gas network to install A-rated gas heating.

## **Waste**

- In recent years a roll out of food waste collections in the city and a move to alternative weekly collections has reduced the amount of waste going to landfill. In 2011, additional waste measures included:
  - Introduction of a wood waste collection at Sclattie Recycling Centre.
  - Establishing a Zero Waste Management Project Board and Zero Waste Management Sub-Committee to deal with strategic waste issues in the Council.
  - Extending recycling collections to include aerosol cans, kitchen foil and foil trays and plastic bottle tops.
- The Council's Waste Aware Team introduced:
  - 4 Neighbourhood recycling points
  - 29 private communal recycling points
  - 13 on-street paper and cardboard bins
  - Attended 59 events and delivered 79 talks and workshops.

### **Section 3: Priorities for the year ahead**

- Complete work to expand the CHP network to the city centre and a further 741 flat is due to be completed in 2012.
- Build on waste reduction and awareness measures and increasing recycling in the city to reduce carbon emissions from waste.
- Continue the work of the Zero Waste Management Project Board dealing with strategic waste issues in the Council.
- Continue a programme of city energy efficiency initiatives and work with local partner organisations to reduce carbon emissions in Aberdeen.
- Commence work on installation of photovoltaic cells at Loirston Primary School.
- Work to meet the requirements of the Woodland Carbon Code at the pilot site at Tullos Hill.

### **Section 4**

#### **Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to adapt to the impacts of climate change.**

##### **Adapting to climate change**

- In 2011, city council officers worked with Aberdeenshire Council to develop a Climate Change Study will further embed climate change issues into the next City and Shire Strategic Development Plan. The study recognised climate change as a key challenge to be addressed under the National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2 2009) and includes adaptation as well as mitigation measures.
- The proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan sets out the planning policies to be applied in promoting the growth of a sustainable city. The document includes specific supplementary guidance which takes into account climatic changes and national guidance on flooding. Adaptation measures included avoiding developments in areas at risk from flooding or that will increase the risk of flooding; and incorporating SUDS into new developments.  
Supplementary Guidance on Drainage Impact Assessment was produced on behalf of the North East Scotland Flooding Advisory Group with involvement from Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Water and SEPA. A link to the plan and further supplementary guidance indicated in section one of this report can be found at  
[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning\\_environment/planning/local\\_development\\_plan/pla\\_local\\_development\\_plan.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/planning/local_development_plan/pla_local_development_plan.asp)
- Sustainable Building Standards for council buildings were put in place in 2006. These ensure that new council developments are appropriately

adapted to the potential future impacts of climate change and minimise the impact of flooding, heat gain and reduced water resources. In 2011, steps were taken to further embed these standards by integrating the development of Site Waste Management Plans into building procurement.

- The Council has continued working with local partners including Scottish Water, SEPA, Aberdeenshire Council to progress a Flood Risk Management Plan.
- A Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act Implementation Progress Report was submitted to Council committee in September 2011.
- Actions that have been completed from the Council's Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Plan include:
  - Completion of the review of our non-statutory local nature conservation sites which will provide them with better protection.
  - Development of a new Urban and Communities Local Biodiversity Action Plan to help conserve and enhance nature in urban environments, plus, work with and educate local communities that depend and benefit from our natural environment. Working with local communities will help them to adapt to climate change through getting involved with improving their green spaces and helping to increase biodiversity.
  - Completion of Supplementary Guidance for planners and developers on Buffer Strips adjacent to Water Courses of which a benefit is that they reduce run-off into water bodies by storing water and releasing it more slowly, and therefore reducing flooding - an effect that may increase due to climate change. A new Supplementary Guidance on Natural Heritage also covers Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems as beneficial for flood control. It will mean that new developments will be better prepared for the effects of climate change.
- Energetica is an ambitious plan to create a 30 mile renewable energy corridor across the north Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. Supporting the development of sustainable communities the Council approved Energetica Placemaking Supplementary Guidance in 2011 as interim planning advice pending adoption of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan. Buildings in the corridor will be expected to demonstrate that energy performance has been carefully considered in the design process.

#### **Section 4: Priorities for the year ahead**

- The proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan is expected to be adopted in 2012.
- Phase 2 of the Council's tree planting programme, under the "Tree for Every Citizen" initiative, is due to be completed in 2012. This builds on the 87,000 city trees which were planted in 2010. The trees will create new

woodlands and extend existing ones. In all, 45 hectares of new woodland will be created.

- Continued implementation of climate change adaptation measures and actions under the Council's Nature Conservation Strategy and Open Space Strategy.
- Continue to meet the requirements of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

## **Section 5**

### **Developing effective partnership working and climate change communications, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.**

#### **Local Authority Partnership Working on Climate Change**

##### **North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership**

Aberdeen City Council is a member of the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership (NESCCP). The NESCCP was formed in 2008 and brings together local public and private sector partners who are working to reduce the impact of climate change and propose options for adapt to climate change in the north east of Scotland. The network of organisations allows knowledge of best practice to be shared by partners. An officer and an elected member from the city council attend the quarterly partnership meetings.

##### **AREG (Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group)**

AREG (Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group) aims to ensure that Aberdeen City and Shire and its businesses play a major role in the energy revolution. AREG are currently championing the proposed Aberdeen Offshore Wind Deployment Centre to help the industry capitalise on existing offshore engineering expertise in the City to address the major challenges of implementing large scale offshore wind power developments.

##### **European Partnership Working**

Aberdeen is a partner in several European projects which benefit from shared knowledge and experience of European partners, bring funding to the city and help to deliver far reaching change.

This exchange of information with project partners has benefited project development in our own city with measures that will assist with mitigating and adapting to climate change. These projects include –

- **Build with Care**

A 3 year project (2009 – 2012), which is working to mainstream energy efficient building design. The project has brought funding for the

installation of the biomass heating system in the newly refurbished Marischal College. The council has also led on the production of a policy statement which calls for attention to energy efficiency measures in existing buildings. The paper has been adopted by the North Sea Commission and Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR).  
[www.buildwithcare.eu](http://www.buildwithcare.eu)

- **North Sea SEP (Sustainable Energy Planning)**

A 3 year project (2009 – 2012), which is developing and promoting a model for regional development focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The project is working to develop practical tools for planning and decision-making in energy provision. For Aberdeen, this has meant the development of a heat-mapping tool for the city which will help plan the extension of the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) scheme and identify areas suitable for renewable heat installations.

[www.northseasep.eu](http://www.northseasep.eu)

- **MUSIC – (Mitigation in Urban Areas Solutions for Innovative Cities)**

This 3 year project (2010 – 2013) involves academic partners working with 5 European cities, including Aberdeen. The aim is to develop an energy or sustainable city vision and action plan for each city using transition management, working with key city stakeholders through a series of workshops. In addition the project will:

- Create a GIS information system that will incorporate energy data into urban and energy planning for Aberdeen.
- Provide funding to install a renewable energy solution in a city school, Loirston Primary, to improve energy performance and enhance education.

[www.themusicproject.eu](http://www.themusicproject.eu)

- **Care North**

Aberdeen is a partner in this project 2009 – 2012, which is examining the potential effects of a range of sustainable transport options for the city, and the impact these would have on CO2 emissions. This includes a study into the feasibility of a Low Emission Zone in the city.

[www.care-north.eu](http://www.care-north.eu)

- **IMCORE**

In 2011, the Council completed its role as a couplet partner on in the IMCORE (Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource) European project. The project looked at adapting to coastal change with a focus on local level challenges and approaches. The Council provided expert knowledge to project partner Aberdeen University.

[www.imcore.eu/](http://www.imcore.eu/)

The Council is also involved in two projects which are helping to build a more resilient environment which can adapt to the changes climate change may bring. These are -

- **Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF)**

Aberdeen is leading this project (2009 – 2012) which is working to deliver policy recommendations that recognise the role and value of urban fringes. In Aberdeen, an urban fringe project on the River Don is improving connectivity and delivering improvements to the open spaces and networks surrounding the River Don.

[www.sustainablefringes.eu](http://www.sustainablefringes.eu)

- **Periurban Parks**

Aberdeen is a partner in the Periurban Parks project (2009 – 2012). This initiative is looking at the creation and management of parks in natural suburban areas and examining how redevelopment in these areas can impact positively on the environment and on halting biodiversity loss.

[www.periurbanparks.eu](http://www.periurbanparks.eu)

**Aberdeen City Council works to raise awareness of climate change through a range of communication tools.**

**Internal Communications**

- A new regular online Carbon Management Bulletin has been produced to help raise staff awareness of carbon management and resource efficiency. In total, 5 bulletins were produced in 2011, giving details on some of the projects that are being undertaken to reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
- The Council has signed up to take part in the Carbon Trust Awareness Campaign Programme. Planning is underway by the in-house delivery team for an awareness campaign which is due to be launched early in 2012.
- The Council participated in Climate Week 2011 (21-27 March) distributing internal information for staff on climate change. This builds on existing information which is available on the council intranet, website and through displays and information material.

**External Communications**

- Information on climate change is available on the City Council website.  
[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning\\_environment/environment/your\\_environment/cma\\_youenviron\\_climate.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/environment/your_environment/cma_youenviron_climate.asp)
- Articles including energy efficiency and climate change are produced in Our Green Times - a 4 page environmental news supplement, distributed quarterly through a local free newspaper to all homes in Aberdeen.  
[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning\\_environment/environment/your\\_environment/cma\\_youenviron\\_Greentimes.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/environment/your_environment/cma_youenviron_Greentimes.asp)
- The Council's Home Energy officers, offer energy efficiency advice to householders of all tenure types in Aberdeen.

- The Council participated in Earth Hour, in March 2011 when floodlights on Wallace Monument, St Mark's Church and the St Nicholas Kirkyard façade were switched off for the weekend, surpassing the 1 hour requirement of this global initiative.
- Aberdeen City Council worked with COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities), SCDI (Scottish Council for Development and Industry), SLAED (Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development) to host a conference, EMPOWERING SCOTLAND: Maximising the Potential of Public Assets for Low Carbon Energy, in Aberdeen in June 2011. The event demonstrated Scottish Local Authorities commitment to a low carbon agenda and new statutory duty on climate change.
- An officer from Aberdeen City Council participated in a panel session as part of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) in November 2011. The session focused on climate change and land use, concentrating on the role of land use in facing up to climate change and the impact and implementation of the Scottish Government's Land Use Strategy.
- Over 10,000 attended Aberdeen's annual All –Energy exhibition and conference in May 2011. The event promotes low carbon energy solutions. Aberdeen City Council in partnership with Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) and Aberdeenshire Council were represented on the 'Aberdeen City and Shire Pavilion' alongside a wide range of local businesses and organisations.

### **Section 5 Priorities for the year ahead**

- Continue to build on partnership working to exchange best practice and build mitigation and adaptation measures in the north east of Scotland.
- Several of our European partnership projects are due for completion in 2012:
  - Build with Care to be completed March 2012.
  - North Sea Sustainable Energy Planning to be completed August 2012.
  - Peri-Urban Parks to be completed October 2012.
  - Sustainable Urban Fringes to be completed August 2012.
- Continue work through a transition management process as part of the MUSIC project, to develop a sustainable city vision with key stakeholders in Aberdeen.
- Participate in climate change awareness raising national campaigns for 2012 including; Climate Week and Earth Hour.
- Implementing a Council Carbon Reduction Campaign, as part of the Council's Carbon Trust Awareness Campaign Programme.
- Support and contribute to the work of the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership.

## **Climate Change Progress Highlights of the Past Year**

- A 10% reduction in carbon emissions has been achieved through the Council's Carbon Management Plan. This ensures the plan is on track to deliver a 23% reduction in emissions by 2015.
- The Council's work to cut carbon emissions has earned a best practice certificate at the European Public Sector Awards (EPSA) in 2011. The submission A Step Change: Aberdeen City Council's Leadership for a Low Carbon Economy earned the best practice certificate under the Going Green theme.
- The Council was a finalist in the Scottish Green Awards, Best Green Public Service category. This award application highlighted some of the Council's carbon reduction initiatives; including the Council's Carbon Management Plan and CHP network.