

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	19 March 2012
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Annual Report on Scotland's Climate Change Declaration
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/13/011

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report highlights Aberdeen City Council's progress in 2012, on actions to meet the commitments of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee: -

- a. Notes and endorse the Aberdeen's 2012 report on the Scottish Climate Change Declaration.
- b. Instructs officers to submit the annual report, as required by the declaration, to the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN).
- c. Approves participation in corporate switch off initiatives to raise awareness of energy consumption, carbon emissions and climate change.

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 emissions in Scotland by:
- 42% by 2020; and
 - 80% by 2050 - from baseline year 1990.
- 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 2012 Scottish Climate Change Declaration Annual Report from Aberdeen City Council.
- 5.6 Awareness raising climate actions have included participation in light switch off initiatives, such as the WWF Earth Hour Campaign, to demonstrate the Council's commitment to tackling climate change, saving energy and reducing the city's carbon footprint.
- 5.7 Aberdeen City Council has participated in Earth Hour annually since 2008, with a switch off of floodlights at key city landmarks for a weekend in March each year. In 2012, Aberdeen was one of 6,895 towns and cities in 152 countries around the globe that participated in

the switch off. In Scotland, key landmark buildings that took part included; Edinburgh Castle, the Clyde Arc, the Falkirk Wheel and Inverness Castle.

- 5.8 This report seeks approval for Council participation in Earth Hour 2013 and future similar switch off initiatives. Earth Hour will include a planned weekend switch off of floodlights at Marischal College, Wallace monument and gardens, St Marks Church and St Nicholas Kirkyard façade as a city high profile commitment to tackling climate change.
- 5.9 To accompany any switch offs, information will be placed on the council website and additional communication channels including; local media and social media outlets, to ensure there is wider understanding of the actions and what it aims to achieve.

6. IMPACT

- 6.1 Actions on climate change support the Council's 5 year Business Plan (2011 – 2016) priorities to:
- We will protect and enhance our high-quality natural and built environment through support of initiatives including open space, nature conservation, the city's granite heritage and carbon management
- 6.2 Priorities in the Council administration policy statement "Aberdeen the Smarter City", in relation to carbon mitigation include:
- We will design and construct all new infrastructure to be energy efficient by maximising the use of low carbon technology and materials. We will use recycled materials where appropriate.
 - We will increase energy efficiency and introduce carbon reduction measures in our processes and our housing and non housing assets to reduce our carbon footprint, save money and to bring people out of fuel poverty.
 - We will manage waste effectively and in line with UK and European legislative requirements by maximising recycling and reducing waste to landfill, thereby reducing our costs and carbon footprint.
 - We will provide and promote a sustainable transport system, including cycling, which reduces our carbon emissions.
- 6.4 Declaration reports submitted to the SSN are publicly available on their website. Information from the local authority reports submitted in 2011 was 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 (2011 – 2016)
- Local Housing Strategy (2012 – 2017)

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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