



Tees Valley
Climate Change Strategy
Executive Summary

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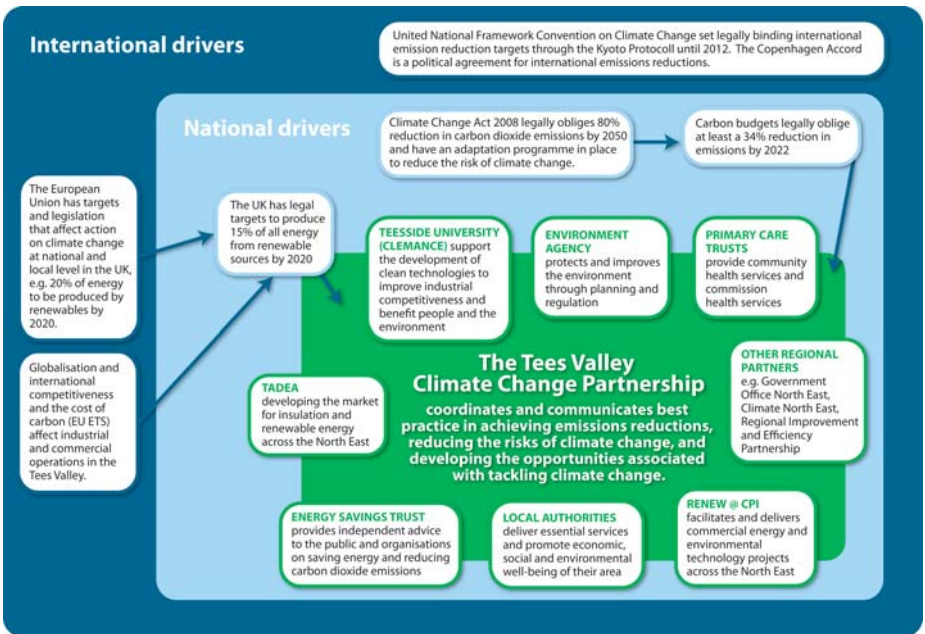
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Climate Change

Climate Change will increasingly affect everyone in the Tees Valley. We need to take action to reduce our emissions (**mitigation**) and to adapt our lifestyles, properties and environment (**adaptation**).

The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership was established in 2005 and includes the five Tees Valley local authorities, the Environment Agency, RENEW, Tees and Durham Energy Advice Centre (TADEA), the Energy Savings Trust, Teesside University (CLEMANCE), and the Primary Care Trusts. The first Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy was adopted in 2007. We have revised the strategy to reflect major changes in the national policy context and the desire to engage other sectors.

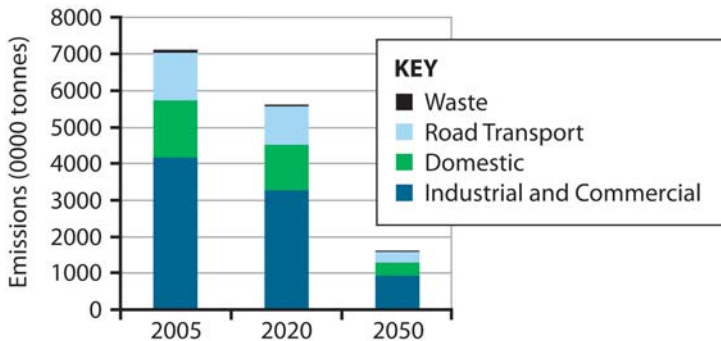


The Challenge of Climate Change

In 2006 the Stern Review concluded that we need to reduce our annual emissions by at least 80% to prevent dangerous climate change, and that the costs of action now is far less than the costs of dealing with climate change in the future. The UK Climate Change Act 2008 commits the UK to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050.



Tees Valley Emissions Baseline

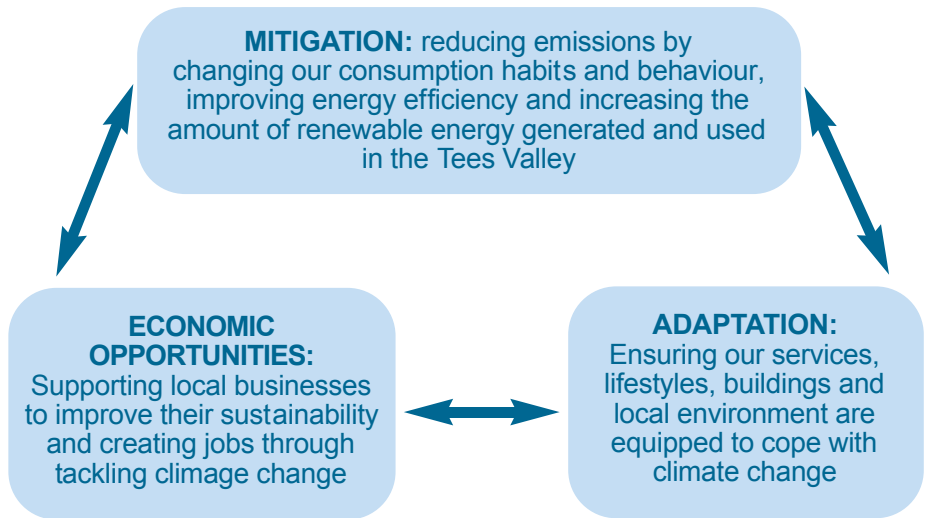


The Tees Valley NI 186 emissions baseline in 2005 was 7,125,000 tonnes of CO₂ - we will reduce this by 21% by 2020 - almost 1,500,000 tonnes of CO₂.

Tackling climate change creates significant new opportunities. In 2008, every Local Authority in the North East signed up to the Covenant of Mayors initiative, a commitment to reducing CO₂ emissions in local areas by at least 20%. In 2009, the North East was designated by the government as a Low Carbon Economic Area to develop ultra low carbon vehicles. A Low Carbon Transition Plan has been developed for the Tees Valley to exploit the key infrastructure, technologies and sectors that will benefit the sub region based on our unique assets and skills.

Where do we want to be and how are we going to get there?

The vision of the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership is "creating prosperous and resilient communities in a low carbon economy." Alongside the Low Carbon Transition Plan for the Tees Valley, and the Covenant of Mayors, the Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy prioritises substantial and measurable emissions reductions, adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and developing the economic opportunities associated with climate change.



Business

Where we need to be

All organisations in the Tees Valley have access to low carbon energy, operate with improved resource efficiency, are resilient to, or protected from, climate change impacts, and have taken full advantage of the economic opportunities associated with climate change.

The energy, resources, chemicals and process industries are vital to the Tees Valley economy. The Low Carbon Transition Plan for the Tees Valley demonstrates how the low carbon economy can build on the unique infrastructure, skills and partnerships in the sub-region to develop in a way that supports existing industry, as well as attracting new technologies and sectors to the sub region. The principal sectors and technologies targeted in the plan include:

- Carbon Capture and Storage
- Low carbon energy using biomass, waste and industrial by-products
- Resource recovery that recovers optimal value from 'waste'
- Biofuels and biotechnology to produce renewable fuels and feedstock for the chemicals sector
- Advanced engineering and manufacturing

The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership will:

- Lead by example in improving the energy efficiency and resilience of the buildings we are responsible for, and install low carbon technologies in our own buildings wherever we can. Good practice will be shared and promoted across the Tees Valley.
- Drive energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy through the planning system. This will help to create local jobs in insulation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and adapting buildings.
- Help businesses to adapt to climate change.
- Promote sustainability through public sector procurement processes.
- Encourage and support businesses in the Tees Valley to improve their resource efficiency, adapt to climate change and reduce their emissions through free advice and the Green Business Network Environmental Award Scheme.

Housing

Where we need to be

All homes in the Tees Valley are insulated to the best possible standards, and are resilient to impacts such as flooding and heat waves. New homes are designed to maximum possible sustainability standards. Communities and new developments have taken advantage of opportunities for power micro generation and/or district heating.

National Energy Action calculated that almost 30 per cent of people in the North East region are living in fuel poverty and there are approximately 91,000 unfilled cavity walls and 145,000 lofts with inadequate levels of loft insulation. There are major programmes to improve home insulation and boiler upgrade programmes in the Tees Valley. However, approximately 80% of homes in the Tees Valley are owner occupied or privately rented which creates particular challenges in improving their energy efficiency and resilience to climate change. This is because privately owned or rented houses are usually treated on a case by case basis, whereas programmes to improve social housing are more straightforward to implement.

Regardless of tenure, it is important to ensure that future rising costs of energy do not result in vulnerable households being unable to sufficiently heat or cool their homes in the future.

Service provision will be increasingly affected by climate change and major weather events such as flooding can increase levels of social deprivation. Poorer households often suffer disproportionately and may not be insured. After a flood, it is vital that affected structures are made more resilient, for example, by raising ground level electrical sockets and improving surface drainage, to reduce the impacts and costs of future events. The most vulnerable people such as the elderly are most affected during heat waves.

The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership will:

- Improve home insulation and install energy efficient boilers as a priority because it reduces fuel poverty as well as reducing emissions.

- Ensure all social housing stock achieves maximum practicable energy efficiency by 2020. However, this accounts for less than 10% of all homes in the Tees Valley, so we will also target private landlords and owner occupiers to promote home energy efficiency.
- Develop a communication campaign for the Tees Valley sub region that will specifically target households according to tenure.
- Maximise opportunities for retrofitting during refurbishments of housing stock, such as Decent Homes improvements.
- Encourage and support the retrofit of homes that have been affected by flooding for example by raising ground level electrical sockets and improving surface drainage, to reduce the impacts and costs of future events.
- Through Tees Valley Unlimited, investigate options for introducing district heating (and cooling) in the Tees Valley. We will investigate how best to promote low carbon cooling technology to vulnerable residents.



Travel

Where we need to be

The Tees Valley has excellent public transport and electric vehicle infrastructure and is easily accessible by active and sustainable travel options such as walking and cycling.

Tees Valley consists of five urban population centres with no single dominant centre of commercial activity, so despite the fact that car ownership levels in Tees Valley are well below the national average, private vehicle use accounted for over 60% of transport emissions in 2005.

In the Tees Valley, there are significant pockets of deprivation, including several communities geographically isolated from towns and services where many households do not have access to a car. Access to jobs and services by public transport is necessary to improve social inclusion and improve the vitality of low-income neighbourhoods.

Obesity and corresponding health problems are a growing problem in the Tees Valley. The National Institute of Clinical Excellence recommend that planning applications for new developments should prioritise the need for people to be physically active as a routine part of their daily life, (including those whose mobility is impaired).

Local facilities and services must be easily accessible on foot, by bicycle and by other modes of transport involving physical activity.

The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership will:

- Prioritise improving public and sustainable transport in Local Transport Planning, and increase the provision of facilities for cyclists throughout the Tees Valley.
- Develop travel plans to influence people's travel behaviour towards more active and sustainable options such as walking, cycling and the use of public transport
- Prioritise active and sustainable travel. Public sector organisations will improve the environmental impact of their fleet vehicles.
- Include climate change impacts in Transport Asset Management Plans and ensure that footpaths and cycle routes are maintained in good condition so that people are encouraged to use them.

Our Local Environment

Where we need to be

We fully value and benefit from the ecosystem services provided by our natural environment, and everyone has access to high quality green spaces.

The natural environment plays a crucial role in enhancing community health, and wellbeing, and supporting economic development, as well as providing ecosystem services that absorb carbon emissions, support biodiversity, and minimise the impacts of flooding and heat waves. The way in which the built environment is planned and designed also influences climate change and biodiversity. An attractive urban environment raises the value of commercial facilities such as offices, and better building design can greatly reduce the energy consumption of buildings, as well as increase their resilience to flooding and heat waves.

The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership will:

- Go beyond minimum requirements to integrate renewables in new developments where feasible, and will consider how building design can be optimised to reduce emissions as well as adapt to climate change.
- Promote the implementation of the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy to help us deal with the impacts of climate change, for example by increasing trees in urban areas, to provide shade and absorb carbon emissions.
- Consider future climate change when deciding the most appropriate species to plant now, taking into account the biodiversity impact of the species chosen.
- Optimise areas to increase flood attenuation, and create opportunities for biodiversity to adapt to climate change by improving wildlife corridors and habitats.
- Ensure there are adequate maintenance plans for debris clearance from streams, rivers, becks, and surface water drainage to prevent localised back-up flooding.
- Use public sector procurement processes to increase the demand for locally produced, organic and fair-trade products.
- Investigate the feasibility of promoting local food production at a sub regional level, for example through organic box schemes and farmers markets.

Communication and Awareness Raising

Where we need to be

All sections of our communities are increasingly aware of the need for sustainable development and able to play a role in tackling climate change. We value quality of life and sustainable consumption.

Technological solutions can help us reduce our carbon emissions, but changes in lifestyles and daily behaviour are just as important. In the UK, despite a high level of knowledge about climate change, most people are not taking action to reduce their personal carbon emissions.

The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership will:

- Conduct periodical surveys to determine the extent of knowledge and action on climate change in the Tees Valley and use this to assess progress on communication and awareness raising.
- Ensure that householders and businesses living in flood warning areas are aware of potential disruption caused by flooding, and will improve community preparedness for severe weather events.
- Increase the number of schools participating in Eco-Schools and the Climate Change Lead Schools project
- Build on existing networks of professionals and volunteers to engage with local communities on climate change, especially hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups.
- Ensure local events and attractions are low-carbon and sustainable as far as possible. For example the Tall Ships event in 2010 will be a Sustainable Event.

It is important to remember that most of our personal carbon emissions are a 'hidden' consequence of modern day living and that the vast majority of actions we need to take to tackle climate change will improve our quality of life as well as our local environment.



Implementation

The Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy [\[insert link to Main Document\]](#) is based on the short term actions included in the Tees Valley Local Authority Climate Change Action Plans. These are all actions that are either already being implemented by Local Authorities and other members of the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership, or are planned for 2010. Tees Valley Unlimited will publish annual progress reports to monitor progress on implementing the strategy.

Further Information

Links to:

- [Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy](#)
- [Green Business Network](#)
- [Green Infrastructure](#)





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