



Darlington Partnership

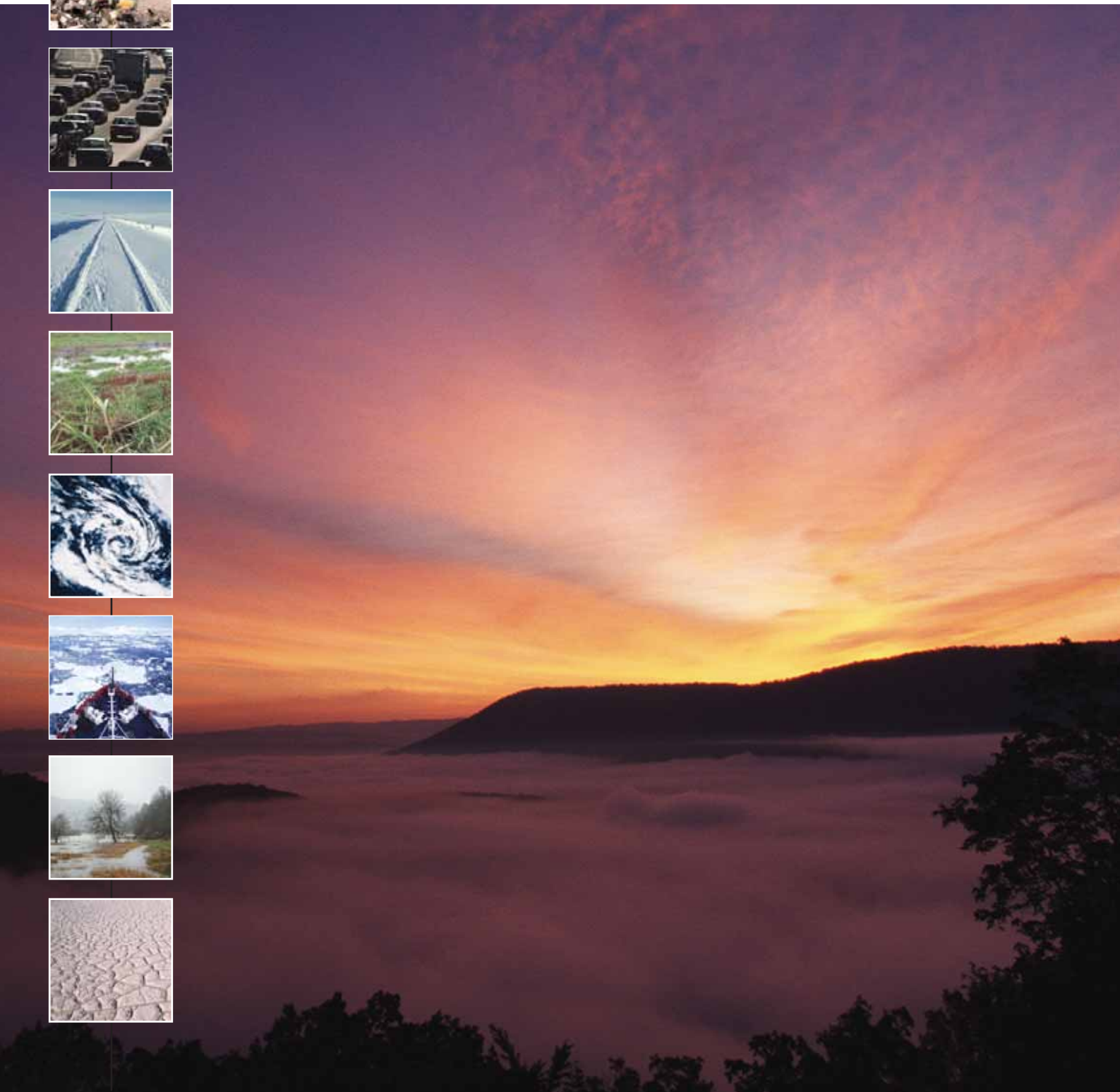
# Darlington's Climate Change Strategy



2006 – 2010



**Darlington**  
Where *Quality* comes to *Life*









## Foreword



I am delighted to have been asked to introduce Darlington's first Climate Change Strategy. This is an issue that affects us all and demands that action needs to be taken before it is too late. It requires a global response in order to ensure that we pass a

healthy planet on to future generations. To achieve this requires everybody to first of all understand what causes climate change and then what simple action can be taken to reduce those things that are causing the damage.

Darlington's Climate Change Strategy addresses the issues and I hope that you find it interesting, clear and useful. It is intended as a positive document that helps businesses and individuals alike in understanding how they can both reduce their impact on the environment as well as cutting costs.

It is also a strategy that is linked into that of our neighbours in Tees Valley and the North East. We are

committed to ensuring that everything we do is made more effective by combining forces with others in order to address the priorities contained in this strategy, the Darlington Declaration on Climate Change and international commitments such as the Kyoto Agreement.

May I thank all of those who have developed this strategy on behalf of Darlington Partnership under the leadership of John McGovern from Northumbrian Water. It is a demonstration of partnership working at its best and I commend it to you all and trust its impact will be felt for many generations to come.

**Alasdair MacConachie OBE DL**

Chairman  
Darlington Partnership

## Acknowledgments

The production of the Climate Change Strategy has been led by the Darlington Local Strategic Partnership. It has been produced as a result of the combined efforts of a number of committed organisations and individuals. Particular thanks go to the following parties: Darlington Climate Change sub group, Chaired by John McGovern, Head of Investment, Northumbrian Water, which has overseen, supported and encouraged the development of the strategy; Paula Jamieson of Darlington Borough Council, who generated the content and format of the strategy and the North East Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre, for their expert advice and continued assistance in producing the strategy.





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# Introduction and Vision

Climate change is one of the most pressing and difficult challenges we face today.

Climate change is caused by the greenhouse effect, whereby certain gases (greenhouse gases) trap radiation from the sun. Human activities have upset the natural balance of greenhouse gases which is resulting in rapid change to the global climate. This will affect rainfall, temperature, extremes of weather and sea level.

Darlington's Community Strategy has recognised that climate change is likely to be one of the key drivers of change within our community this century. In late 2004 a sub-group was set up specifically to develop a response on behalf of the Darlington Partnership.

## Prime Minister, 14 September 2004:

"I want to concentrate on what I believe to be the world's greatest environmental challenge... a challenge so far-reaching in its impact and irreversible in its destructive power, that it alters radically human existence".

## Conservative Party Leader, 13 September 2004:

"Climate change is one of mankind's greatest challenges ... Britain and the global community are still moving too slowly".

## Liberal Democrats Leader, 1 March 2004:

"...we are facing an environmental disaster and we need to act now".

In 2005 the Darlington Declaration was published, acknowledging the challenge of climate change and identifying that everyone in Darlington is responsible for taking an active role in adapting to and reducing the adverse impacts of climate change. The Declaration committed the Partnership to prepare a plan to combat climate change (see the Darlington Declaration on page 4).

The result is this strategy, which commits the Partnership, Council, local business, major organisations and community groups to actions designed to help us to tackle climate change. This involves both mitigating the contribution of greenhouse gases to climate change, and adapting to climate change, which is already, to some extent inevitable.

The vision that the Darlington Partnership aims to fulfil through this strategy is:

**Darlington's community will be protected from climate change**

This vision will be met, so far as it is within the power and ability of the Partnership, through the following objectives:

- Reducing the emission of gases that are causing climate change.
- Ensuring that we adapt to the level of climate change that is already occurring.
- Raising awareness throughout Darlington of the impacts of climate change, the adaptation measures and greenhouse gas reduction measures.
- Measuring the effectiveness of our actions and revising and developing further actions to ensure we continue to be effective.



# Darlington Declaration

The Darlington Partnership recognises that climate change is likely to be one of the key drivers of change within our community this century.

## We acknowledge that

- Climate change is occurring.
- Everyone in Darlington is responsible for taking an active role in adapting to and reducing the adverse impacts of climate change.

## We welcome the

- Opportunity to deliver sustainable development at a local level through the social, economic and environmental benefits which will arise from combating climate change.
- Recognition by many sectors, especially Government and business, of the need for change.
- International and national emissions targets which will reduce our impact through focussed action.
- Opportunity for Darlington to lead the local response and play a role in delivering the national programme.
- Opportunity for relevant and responsible organisations to encourage and help local residents and local businesses to reduce their energy costs, to reduce traffic congestion, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty within our communities.

## We commit to

- Work, at a local level, to contribute to the delivery of the UK climate change programme.
- Declare our commitment publicly to addressing the cause and effect of climate change to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations especially in energy consumption, transportation, waste and purchasing goods and services.
- Prepare a plan, with local communities, to secure maximum benefit for Darlington's community in combating the impact of climate change.
- Encourage all sectors in the local community to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to declare publicly their commitment to action.
- Work with key providers, including health services, businesses and development organisations, to assess the effects of climate change, and to identify ways in which we can respond.
- Monitor the progress of our plan and publish the results.
- Contribute to providing innovative ways to reduce our carbon impact, to respond to the challenge of climate change and provide opportunities for the development of renewable energy within Darlington.





# Why is Climate Change important?

## What is Climate Change?



The Earth's climate naturally changes as a result of changes in the levels and concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. However, changes in temperature over the last 100 years have been much greater than previously and this is mainly due to human

activities.

The main gas responsible is carbon dioxide (others are also involved) and the principal cause is the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation.

The impact of man's contribution to the greenhouse effect is that the world will now experience significant climate change.

## What is the Greenhouse effect ?

A balance between radiation (sunlight) coming from the sun and energy emitted back into space from the Earth determines the Earth's temperature. A greenhouse effect naturally keeps the Earth warm by preventing some energy escaping back into space. This process occurs naturally and has kept the Earth's temperature about 60 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than it would otherwise be. Current life on Earth could not be sustained without the natural greenhouse effect. The main greenhouse gases which

enable this process are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride.

## Effects of Climate Change

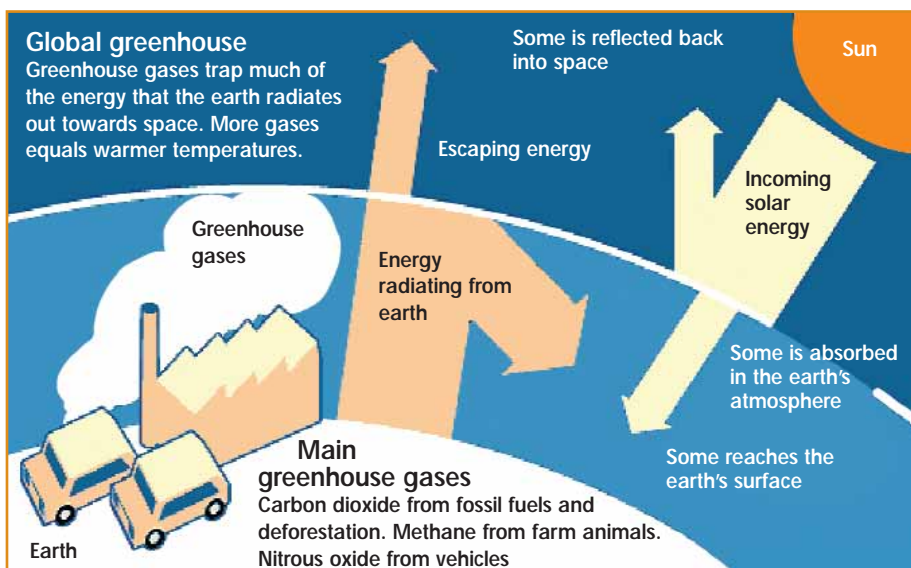
There are likely to be far-reaching effects on all aspects of the economy, society and the environment.



## Global Effects

The poorest countries are likely to be the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change (for example Southern Asia and South East Asia). Africa is expected to experience significant reductions in cereal yields, as are the Middle East and India. Millions of people could be exposed to malaria by the 2080's. In some areas, water resources for drinking and irrigation will be affected by reduced rainfall. There are likely to be increased frequency of droughts and flooding. By the 2070's Brazil and Central Southern Africa could lose their tropical forests because of reduced rainfall and increased temperatures.

If this happens, the rain forests, which currently absorb carbon dioxide will become a carbon source adding to carbon dioxide build up in the atmosphere.



The Greenhouse Effect

## National Effects

Defra provided new climate change scenarios in April 2002 showing that average annual temperatures across the UK may rise by between 2° and 3.5°C by the 2080's. In general there will be greater warming in the south and east than in the north and west of the UK. High summer temperatures will become more frequent and very cold winters will become increasingly rare.

Rainfall amounts and frequency will also change. Winters will become wetter and summers may become drier across all of the UK. The largest relative changes will be in the south and east. Heavy winter precipitation will become more frequent, but the amount of snow could decline substantially.

Sea levels will continue to rise and could be between 26 and 86 cm above the current level in South East England by the 2080's. Flooding could become more frequent.

People may be able to lead more 'outdoor' lifestyles, and there may be fewer winter deaths and illness as a result of cold weather.



Whilst it is impossible to predict precisely how the North East and Darlington will be affected by climate change, 'And the weather today is... ' outlines some possible scenarios.

### The Natural Environment

- Migration of new species into the North East
- Detrimental impact on some fauna, including fish populations

### Lifestyles and the Built Environment

- Lower winter heating bills
- Increased demand for water and air conditioning
- Disruption to transport networks through weather events
- Increase in condensation, damp and mould

### Water Resources and Flooding

- Domestic water requirements will increase
- Erosion of river banks will increase
- Industrial water requirements will alter

### Energy Resources

- Disruption to supply through weather events
- Increased demand for energy to cool temperature



## Local Effects

Climate change is anticipated for the North East of England. The expected changes were detailed in the document "And The Weather Today Is..." Published in 2002 by Sustainability North East (SustainNE) and endorsed by Government Office for the North East, the North East Assembly and One North East. By 2080 the North East can expect:

- Higher annual temperatures in both Summer and Winter
- Up to 20% more rain in Winter
- Up to 30% less rain in Summer
- 40% to 100% less snowfall
- 30 to 100 days longer thermal growing season
- 6 to 66cm rise in sea levels





# Response to Climate Change

**Awareness about the challenge of climate change is already high and is increasing, and responses are already being made at international, national and the regional level. Examples of action being taken include:**

## International

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was agreed at the Earth Summit in 1992.

The Kyoto Protocol was agreed in 1997. Developed countries agreed to targets that will reduce their emissions of a basket of six greenhouse gases by 5.2% below 1990 levels by 2008 – 2012. The protocol gained statutory force in 2004.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was set up in 1988 to assess the science change. It is sponsored by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme.

In June 2000 the European Commission launched the European Climate Change Programme. The goal is to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.

## National

The UK's **Climate Change Programme (UKCCP)** was published in November 2000. It details how the UK plans to deliver its Kyoto target to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5%, and move towards its domestic goal to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010.

**The Energy White Paper**, published in February 2003, sets out the longer term strategic framework for the UK's energy policy and accepts that the UK should put itself on a path to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by some 60% by 2050.

**The Climate Change Levy** came into effect on 1st April 2001 and applies to energy used in the non-domestic sector (industry, commerce, and the public sector). The aim of the levy will be to encourage these sectors to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

**Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC)** - Under the Energy Efficiency Commitment electricity and gas suppliers are required to achieve targets for the promotion of improvements in domestic energy efficiency. The EEC will

contribute to the Climate Change Programme by cutting greenhouse gas emissions. In providing particular help to low-income consumers, it is expected that the EEC will also contribute to the alleviation of fuel poverty. Suppliers encourage and assist their domestic consumers to make energy savings - through installing measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation and energy efficient boilers, appliances and light bulbs. At least 50% of energy savings must be focussed on low-income consumers, specifically those in receipt of certain benefits and tax credits/pension credit.

Several key organisations are operating at national level to increase awareness about energy efficiency and climate change and to assist householders, public sector bodies and businesses towards taking action. Of particular note are the **Carbon Trust** and the **Energy Saving Trust**, both of which offer programmes and funding to reduce energy use.

**Defra Climate Change Communications** - Defra has announced £12m in funding as the first step in a new climate change communications initiative. Changing public awareness, attitudes and ultimately behaviour are all going to be vital if we are to achieve our climate change goals. For the next three years Defra will be leading work across Government, initially focussing on public attitudes to climate change.



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# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

There are many ways in which we, as individuals, are contributing to climate change. Many of the activities we undertake in our everyday lives result in greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), being released into the atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide emissions by sector indicate that the domestic sector represents the sector with the highest emissions. 27% of the UK's overall carbon dioxide emissions come from our homes. An average house produces 6 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year.

By becoming more energy efficient at home, not only can the effects of climate change be reduced, but savings on fuel bills of up to £250 can also be made.

Did you know that the average British household spends a startling £620 per year on fuel and power? That's about £250 too high. Why is this the case?

A regular house loses over 50% of its heat through loft spaces and walls. Loft and wall insulation can reduce heat loss by up to 80%.

## Grants

### Warm Front

If you are in receipt of certain types of benefits, you may qualify to have the works undertaken for free, through the Government's Warm Front Scheme. Call EAGA on 0800 316 6011 to find out if you qualify for any of the measures available under the Warm Front Scheme.

### Local Schemes

There may be grants and offers available to help you install an energy efficient heating system, cavity wall and loft insulation. For further information contact the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre on 0800 512012.

## House

### Boiler and Central Heating

Boilers account for around 60 per cent of all domestic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Using a high efficiency condensing boiler with heating controls could save you up to £180 a year, and significantly cut your home's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### Insulation

Around 33% of the heat lost in your home is through the walls, so insulating them can generally be the most cost-effective way to save energy in the home.

### Walls

If your home was built between the 1930's and 1980's then it could be a candidate for cavity wall insulation and you could save up to £100 on your annual heating bills!

### Loft

As much as a third of your heating costs could be escaping through your roof. Loft insulation is a very effective way to reduce your heating bills. Simply by insulating your loft to the recommended depth of 270mm, you can save wasted energy up to £170 on fuel bills.

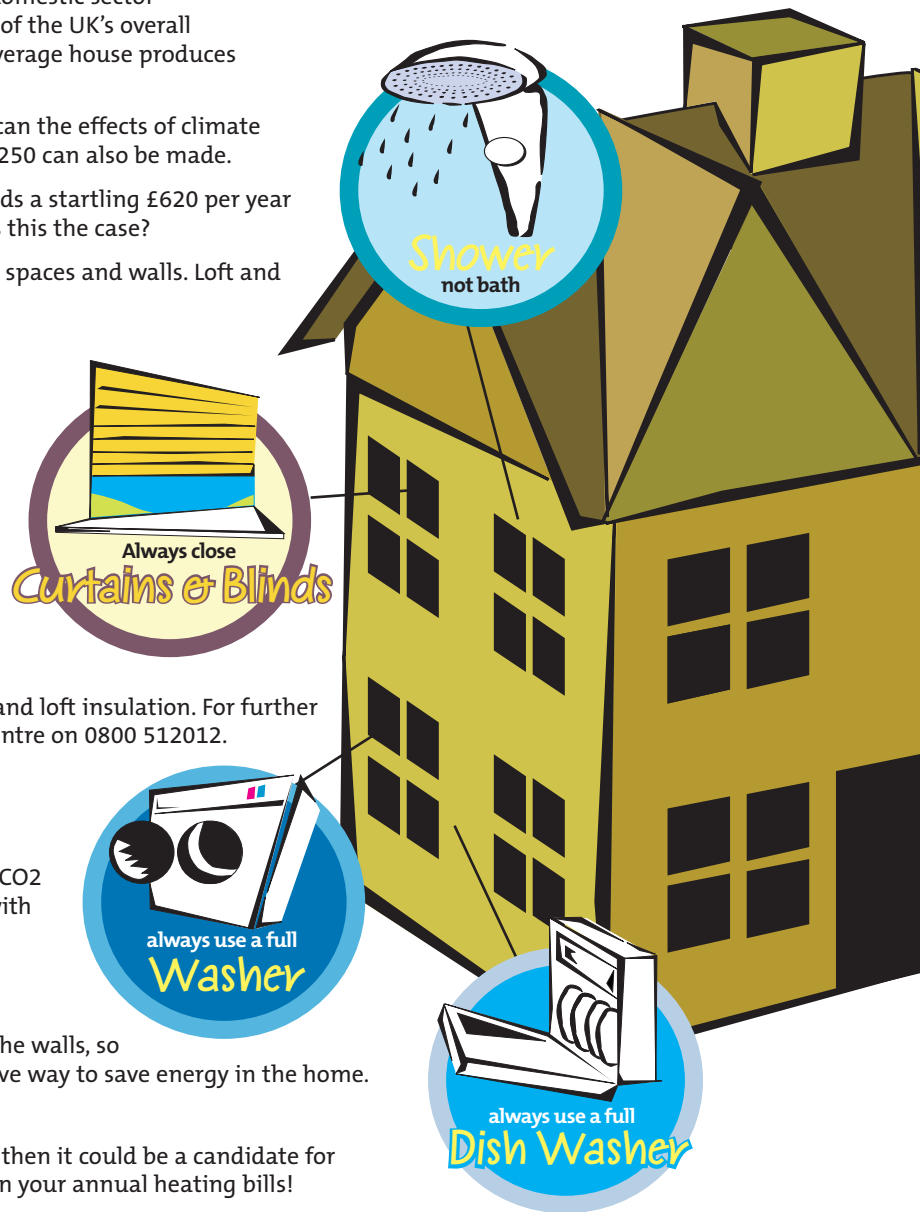
### Draught Proofing and Ventilation

In a typical home 20% of all heat loss is through ventilation and draughts. There are many measures you can undertake to reduce heat loss from your home. By fitting simple draught proofing materials to your windows and doors yourself, you can save £10 - £20 a year. You can also draught proof floors by applying a regular tube sealant to the gap.

Remember without ventilation your home gets stuffy and kitchens and bathrooms in particular can suffer from condensation. So whilst it's fine to draught proof internal doors, don't lock up your kitchen and bathroom windows. You should always ensure that gas and electric appliances have adequate ventilation.

### Double glazing

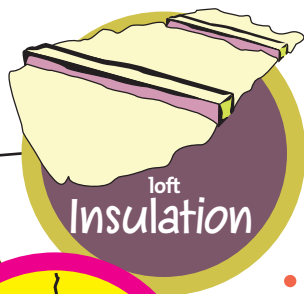
If you don't already have double-glazing in your home, it's definitely worth thinking about. If you can't afford to replace all the windows, why not choose the rooms that cost you the most to heat? You could reduce heat loss through windows by half. If you're on a budget, fitting secondary glazing could be the answer. It's less expensive than replacement double-glazing and will still save money by cutting heat loss and draughts.





## What can I do today? - simple measures to do today

- Turning your thermostat down by 1°C could cut your heating bills up by 10% and save you around £30 per year.
- Is your water too hot? Your cylinder thermostat shouldn't need to be set higher than 60°C/140°F.
- Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows.
- Always turn off the lights when you leave a room.



- Don't leave appliances on standby and remember not to leave appliances on charge unnecessarily.
- If you're not filling up the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher, use the half-load or economy programme.
- Only boil as much water as you need (but remember to cover the elements if you're using an electric kettle).
- In just one day, a dripping hot water tap wastes enough water to fill a bath. Make sure they are turned off.



- Replace your light bulbs with energy saving recommended ones: Just one can reduce your lighting costs by up to £78 over the lifetime of the bulb and they last up to 12 times longer than ordinary light bulbs.
- Do a home energy check. Just answer some simple questions about your home and we'll give you a free, important report telling you how you can cut up to £250 a year on your household energy bills. Why not visit [www.saveyour20percent.co.uk](http://www.saveyour20percent.co.uk) and complete a home energy check call 0800 512 012 and find out more about saving energy.

### Energy efficiency labelling

When shopping for new appliances, always look for the energy saving recommended logo. It's your guarantee that the product will save energy, cost less to run and help the environment.



### Generate Your Own Energy

Renewable energy is derived from inexhaustible sources such as wind, the sun, sea, or replaceable sources such as waste products and crops. It's a long-term way to tackle climate change.

Renewable energy is no less reliable than energy generated from more traditional sources and using it does not mean that you have to change your lifestyle or your appliances. Using renewable energy can be as simple as using the sun for drying clothes or you can take advantage of more sophisticated renewable technologies, for example installing systems which use the sun's heat and light to generate energy.

For further information contact the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre on 0800 512012



### Car

Transport, in particular car use, represents a major source of carbon dioxide emissions. Road transport is responsible for 25 per cent of the UK's total carbon dioxide emissions.

Be a good driver, change the way you drive and reduce your fuel consumption and your car's carbon dioxide emissions by:-

- Not over revving your engine and driving smoothly
- Slow down – driving at 90mph can use up to 60% more fuel than driving at 70mph
- Use air conditioning sparingly
- Look after your vehicle – regular servicing, check the tyre pressures, travel light
- Share your journeys where possible



### Type of car

If you'd like to help reduce your impact on the environment, why not choose a low carbon vehicle? Cars now have emission ratings (similar to energy savings on white goods) so you'll know how clean it is. Ask at the dealership on purchasing a new car. Driving a more fuel efficient car will not only reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the journeys made by lowering fuel consumption, but will also result in savings in fuel expenditure.

### Type of fuel

Petrol and diesel engines emit different levels of different pollutants. Neither fuel is cleaner, but diesel engines are more fuel efficient so produce less carbon dioxide. Use LPG or biodiesel – there are around 1300 petrol stations around the country selling cleaner fuels.

## Regional

The North East region is particularly active in responding to the challenge of climate change.

As part of the **UKCCP** consultation on climate change a conference for Climate Change Challenges for the North East was held in November 2004. The consultation process in the North East was led by Sustaine. Over 500 people were consulted and their views have been incorporated into a regional response.

The requirement to address climate change is increasingly being incorporated into regional strategies. The Regional Spatial Strategy will provide planning guidance to be followed at a local level and will include targets for provision of renewable energy supply and improved energy efficiency in buildings.

The Regional Housing Strategy will also be looking to improve the sustainability of housing developments both in terms of overall environmental impact and energy efficiency improvement.

**The Integrated Regional Framework** – The First Regional Sustainable Development Framework (RSDF) – ‘Quality of Life in the North East: Towards a Regional Framework’ was published in 2002. The publication of the Regional Government White Paper – Your Region, Your Choice’ introduced a new era in policy making. The need for greater integration of regional policies and strategies, with sustainable development at the core, led to the redrafting of the North East RSDF to the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF).

There are 17 objectives in the IRF, which were selected following consultation with key stakeholders and represent the key issues facing the region. Many of the objectives impact upon climate change.

**CarbonNeutralNewcastle** is an initiative that is gaining pace. Businesses (both public and private sector) and residents are encouraged to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to as close as possible to zero, and to offset the remainder through payments that fund low carbon technology and tree planting. The initiative aims to move Newcastle towards the world's first CarbonNeutral city, act as a catalyst to change the attitude of businesses and residents towards climate change, and maximise the take up by businesses of the available grants for energy efficiency. It should also stimulate investment in low carbon technologies and generate a fund for clean technology and tree planting. The initiative is available to

businesses and residents in the North East region as well as Newcastle itself.

The North East is fortunate to host one of only three pilot **Energy Saving Trust Advice Centres**. The Energy Saving Trust North East advice centre is an exciting development that



offers comprehensive advice and support on all aspects of energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport energy. Having recently expanded the geographical coverage the advice centre now encompasses the whole of the North East of England region, with offices in Billingham and Newcastle.

The advice centre's expert advisors offer free, independent advice, which helps homeowners decide on simple and effective solutions to make their homes more energy efficient. This includes impartial telephone advice, the providing of home energy checks as well as advice on national and local grants and offers.

**Tees Valley Climate Change Steering Group** – Darlington is a member of the Tees Valley Climate Change Steering Group, along with each of the other Tees Valley local authorities. The Steering Group has employed a full time Climate Change Officer, who will develop a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Tees Valley. The Tees Valley and Darlington Climate Change Strategies will be mutually supportive of each other.





## Darlington's Response

Darlington Partnership is leading Darlington's response to climate change.



The strategy in the next section together with the Action Plan that will follow provides the focus for Darlington's response. In addition Darlington is also working in partnership with the Tees Valley local authorities and other partners to develop a Tees Valley strategy to provide regional cohesiveness.

Although climate change is a problem on a global scale, it is at the local level that action is needed. By tackling climate



change local communities can improve quality of life, whilst also benefiting from added benefits of job creation, health improvements and local economic growth. Everyone in Darlington is responsible for taking an active role in

adapting to and reducing the adverse impacts of climate change (see centre pages for what you can do).

The Greenhouse gases already released over the last 100 years will affect Darlington's weather. As many of these changes are irreversible, there is the need to ADAPT to them to minimise any adverse impacts and take advantage of any opportunities that might arise. Action is also needed to reduce and slow down any further impacts through MITIGATION measures.

Darlington's Community Strategy makes clear reference to working towards sustainable development and specifically to combating climate change. Through signing the Darlington Declaration, Darlington has committed to tackling the

problems related to climate change and act locally to deliver and contribute to the UK Climate Change Programme. Much progress is already being made in Darlington in tackling this global issue at the local level, but much more remains to be done.

## Examples of actions to tackle Climate Change in Darlington

### The Local Motion

In 2004 Darlington beat competition from 51 other towns to be chosen by the Department for Transport as one of three



sustainable travel demonstration towns in England (the other two being Peterborough and Worcester).

Darlington's sustainable travel demonstration initiative encourages residents, schools and businesses to walk, cycle, use public transport or car share wherever possible when making a journey in and around Darlington.

The initiative aims to help people choose ways of travelling that will benefit their health and the environment. By changing the way we travel now – by increasing the amount of journeys that we walk and cycle, for instance – we will improve our lives in the future. Clearer roads, cleaner air and a healthier environment, improved personal wellbeing and a better quality of life – they're all achievable.

### Biodiesel in the Council Fleet

During 2005 a fleet of more than 200 Darlington Council vehicles was switched to greener fuel. All of the Council's diesel engines are now using biodiesel, which is a blend of mineral oil, ultra low sulphur diesel and plant oils. The fuel was first tried in February 2005 and proved such a success that it has now been extended to all of the Council's diesel fleet. The fuel costs the same as diesel, but helps to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. It is also more cost effective and efficient as it produces more miles to the gallon.

## Energy Audits of Council Buildings

Energy audits of all of Darlington's Schools have been undertaken to identify areas where energy is being wasted or poorly managed. The results will be used to produce no cost and low cost action plans for schools to use to improve efficiencies. Energy audits of public and operational buildings will also be undertaken.

## Green Energy

Darlington Council has subscribed to a 3 year contract of Green Energy. Green Energy is energy supplied from a renewable source. 100% of the Council's electricity consumption is derived from Green Energy, including street lighting.

## Energy Saving Trust – Save Your 20%

The 'Save Your 20%' theme is to encourage individuals to adopt multiple energy saving measures in their everyday lives to help reduce 20% of their energy consumption and in turn do their bit to prevent climate change. By calling your local Energy Advice Centre on 0800 512 012, you can get information on grants and offers available to assist in Saving your 20%. Households in Darlington have benefited from reduced rate cavity wall and loft insulation. See 'What You Can Do' to see how you can improve your Energy Efficiency through low/no cost measures.



## Energy Efficiency and Business

Capita are improving energy efficiency on site. The company has been monitoring energy consumption within the buildings, whilst also promoting and raising awareness for employees of the benefits of switching electrical appliances and lighting off at the end of the day, both in terms of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and in saving money. Capita have also undertaken a water survey and have installed water management systems on site.

Northumbrian Water Group has a Climate Change strategy. Actions within the strategy include tree planting and woodland management around properties, energy audits on major sites and monitoring carbon dioxide emissions and using biofuel within their fleet.

A number of local businesses in Darlington have produced workplace travel plans, in an attempt to encourage employees to use alternative modes of transport to get to and from work. Reducing the number of cars on the roads will reduce congestion, whilst also reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

A green energy company has moved to new offices with plans to create five new jobs with help from a grant from Darlington Council. Such companies have a vital role in addressing the key issues of energy cost and sustainability and implementing more efficient use of energy resources by businesses and the public alike.

Local businesses can engage in reducing their impact on climate change by improving the energy efficiency of their operations, save money and reduce carbon emissions. For further information contact the Carbon Trust on 0800 085 2005 or visit [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk).

## Renewable Energy

The adopted Darlington Local Plan encourages the use of renewable energy. The new Local Development Framework, currently under consultation, will strengthen the use of renewable energy technologies within the Borough.

One example of such technologies in use in Darlington is at Harrowgate Hill Primary School where solar panels, to supply hot water on site, were incorporated into the design of the new school build. Plans are being developed to install a wind turbine to power computers in the school.

## Recycling

The amount of household waste sent to landfill is being reduced as a result of Darlington's recycling campaign and kerbside recycling service 'Recycle for Darlington'. This reduces the methane, one of the greenhouse gases, produced by the decomposition of waste in landfill.





# Darlington Climate Change strategy

Mitigation – reducing climate change by limiting the release of gases (largely from energy use including transport) that cause it.

## Reduce demand for energy

- **Fuel poverty** – to reduce fuel poverty in Darlington, ensuring that people have access to affordable warmth through efficient housing, heating systems and appliances.
- **Housing standards** – to improve housing standards with respect to thermal efficiency by utilising existing funding, grants, Energy Efficiency Commitment funds etc.
- **Street lighting** – continue programme of replacing older lighting units and their control gear with more energy efficient modern equipment.
- **Support** private sector to become more energy efficient through promotion, awareness raising and use of funds such as Carbon Trust loans.

## Use renewable sources of energy

- **Procurement** – to buy green energy and consider the energy efficiency of other procured items.
- **Planning** – to develop supportive policies (for example on wind turbines).

## Reduce vehicle use

- **Reduce vehicle use** promote reduced vehicle use, for example through the Local Motion initiative.
- **Promote purchase** of local food to reduce transport needs.

## Increase use of sustainable transport (walking, cycling, public transport)

- **Promote energy** efficient transport modes, for example through the Local Motion initiative.
- **Promote the health benefits** of walking, cycling and public transport.

## Decrease emissions from transport

- **Reduce emissions** from partners vehicle fleets.
- **Measure, monitor and report** on local air pollution levels.

## Increase resource efficiency by reuse and recycling

- **Promote** waste minimisation.
- **Promote** waste reuse.
- **Promote** waste recycling.

### Adaptation – changing our way of life to cope better with climate change

#### Lifestyle and building adaptations

- Adapt to climate change by examining and modifying where necessary buildings, settlements, livelihoods and lifestyles to cope with unpredictable, varied and potentially extreme weather.

### Awareness and Education to underpin mitigation and adaptation actions

#### Awareness raising and education to change behaviour and attitudes

- Use the Darlington Declaration as the focus of the Partnership's commitment to combating climate change.
- To integrate climate change issues into the Community Strategy.
- Promote the benefits including quality of life (more comfortable homes, access to amenities with less travel, cleaner, quieter, safer streets, healthier diet, healthier lifestyle with exercise built in, more active local communities, fairer and more equal access to services through less reliance on the car, fewer people exposed to flood risk).
- Make energy efficiency core work of the Partnership.
- Develop programmes of education, advice and promotion, using the expertise of the regional Sustainable Energy Centre. (Link into national events such as Energy Week. Staff inductions in large employers 'reduce your footprint').
- Major partners to develop Energy Policy – reduce fossil fuel reliance and develop more sustainable approach to energy. Avoid need for energy, use energy more efficiently, switch to less damaging sources of energy.
- Change behaviour and attitudes – to show that quality of life does not have to cause environmental damage.
- Demonstrate the health links – exercise, diet, pollution.
- Demonstrate regeneration links – employment, local economy.
- Contribute to and benefit from the Tees Valley Partnership and regional strategy.

# Next Steps

This strategy provides a framework for action and identifies our priorities for change.

The next step is to develop a detailed Action Plan to include milestones and targets. These must be both achievable and challenging.

The Action Plan will be developed by the Climate Change Sub Group on behalf of Darlington's Local Strategic Partnership. It will also be developed in partnership with our Tees Valley neighbours and the North East Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre to ensure a consistent and co-ordinated approach.

The Action Plan will deliver the strategy's priorities and be a catalyst for residents, businesses and other organisations to take action.













For further information on  
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