

**Uttlesford District Council**

**Natural Resources Management - policy statement and  
improvement strategy**

**March 2010**

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***Foreword***

[Leader to provide]

## **Introduction**

This document states Uttlesford District Council's policy and describes its strategy for doing its part in addressing the causes and effects of climate change, conserving valuable resources such as energy and water, and dealing with related issues such as fuel poverty. It describes the present situation, our objectives, our plan of action and some of our successes so far.

The main objective of this strategy is to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions (principally CO<sub>2</sub>) from council operations and from the district as a whole, and to make preparations for predicted climate change impacts. The principal target is a 25% reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions under the Council's direct control by 2011/12 compared to 2006/07. The Council also has a target of reducing emissions on a per capita basis attributable to the district by 9.7% in 2011 compared to a 2008 baseline, as part of the Essex Local Area Agreement. Both these measures are monitored by central government under National Indicators 185 and 186 respectively.

### The Council will:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions arising directly from the Council and seek to reduce those arising from the district as a whole,
- Minimise the environmental impacts of new development, ensuring it adheres to the principles of sustainable development.
- Make preparations to ensure council assets and operations are resilient to predicted climate change impacts, and contribute to adaptation of existing buildings and infrastructure in the district and ensure new development is also 'climate proofed'.
- Improve environmental quality in the district by reducing the Council's own impacts and use of natural resources while assisting residents to do the same.
- Reduce the number of vulnerable households in fuel poverty through improving home energy efficiency, allowing more comfort to be derived from the same amount of heating fuel.

Local authorities have an important role in dealing with climate change. The new local authority performance framework includes indicators for a local authority's direct emissions (NI185) and climate change adaptation work (NI188) as well as district emissions per capita (NI186). (There are also indicators relating to fuel poverty (NI187), air quality (NI194) and biodiversity (NI197))<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, the government has adopted a legally binding target of 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050, and its Committee on Climate Change has set an interim target of achieving a 34% reduction on 1990 levels for the period 2018-22<sup>2</sup>. To deliver on this commitment the importance of and emphasis on local authority climate change work will only increase in the future.

## **Climate change impacts in the East of England**

Climate change for this region means hotter, drier summers with more chance of heat-waves and drought, and wetter, milder winters with more chance of storms and flooding. Overall

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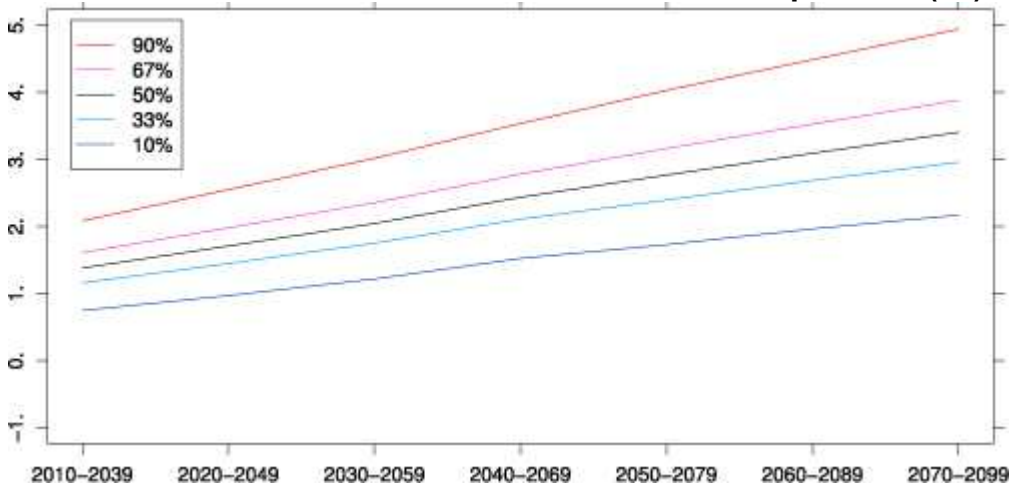
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/what/localgovindicators/indicators.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.theccc.org.uk/>

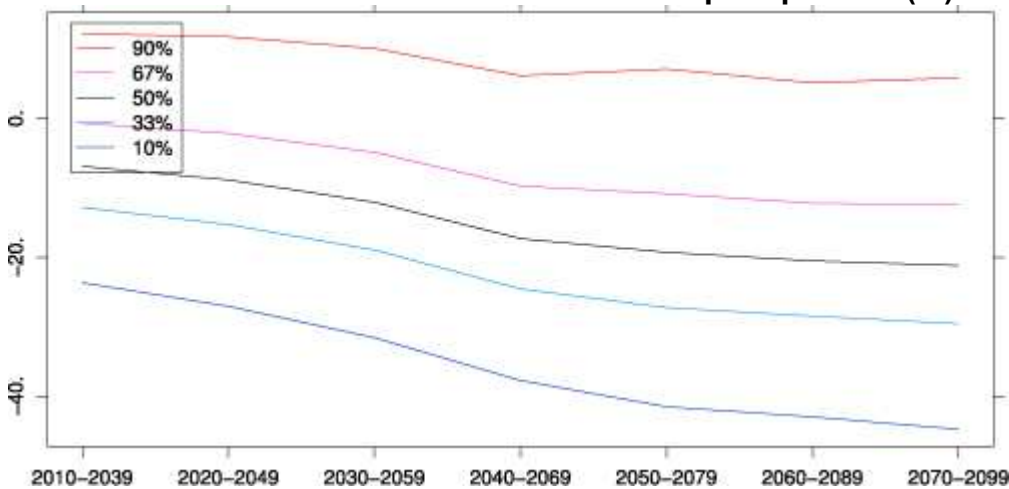
annual rainfall will reduce. Buildings will need to be built and upgraded to prevent overheating without reliance on carbon-intensive air conditioning, and infrastructure including railways, roads, water supply and drainage will need to be improved to deal with more extreme conditions. Further changes to lifestyles, patterns of work and the way services are delivered may be necessary in order to deal with the changed climate<sup>3</sup>.

These diagrams from the UK Climate Impacts Programme<sup>4</sup> show the extent of the changes in temperature and rainfall in the East of England under a medium emissions scenario.

**Increase in mean annual temperature (°C)**



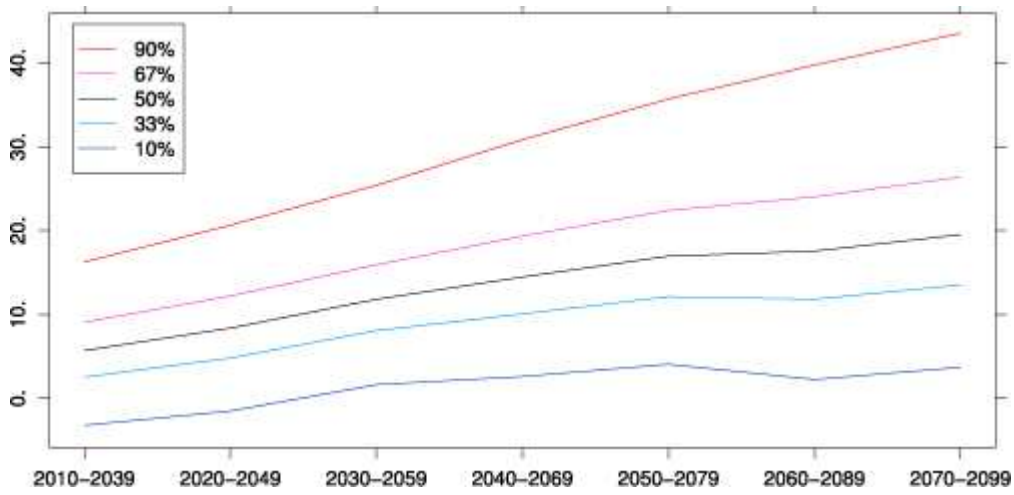
**Decrease in summer precipitation (%)**



**Increase in winter precipitation (%)**

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/action/regions/east-england.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ukclimateprojections.org.uk>



*Note: the different lines represent different probabilities. 50% is the central estimate. There is 10% chance the magnitude of change will be more than the red line, and 10% chance it will be less than the blue line.*

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## Environmental Baseline

### District CO<sub>2</sub>

According to figures from Defra, the district of Uttlesford emitted 650 kilotonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e overall, not including flights or traffic on the M11, in 2007, and amount equal to 9.0 tonnes per person. This is the measure of district emissions used for NI186. Focussing just on the domestic sector (mainly residential use of electricity, gas and heating oil) which is more easily comparable to other areas, emissions were approximately 2.7 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per person, while the national average was 2.4 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per person<sup>5</sup>.

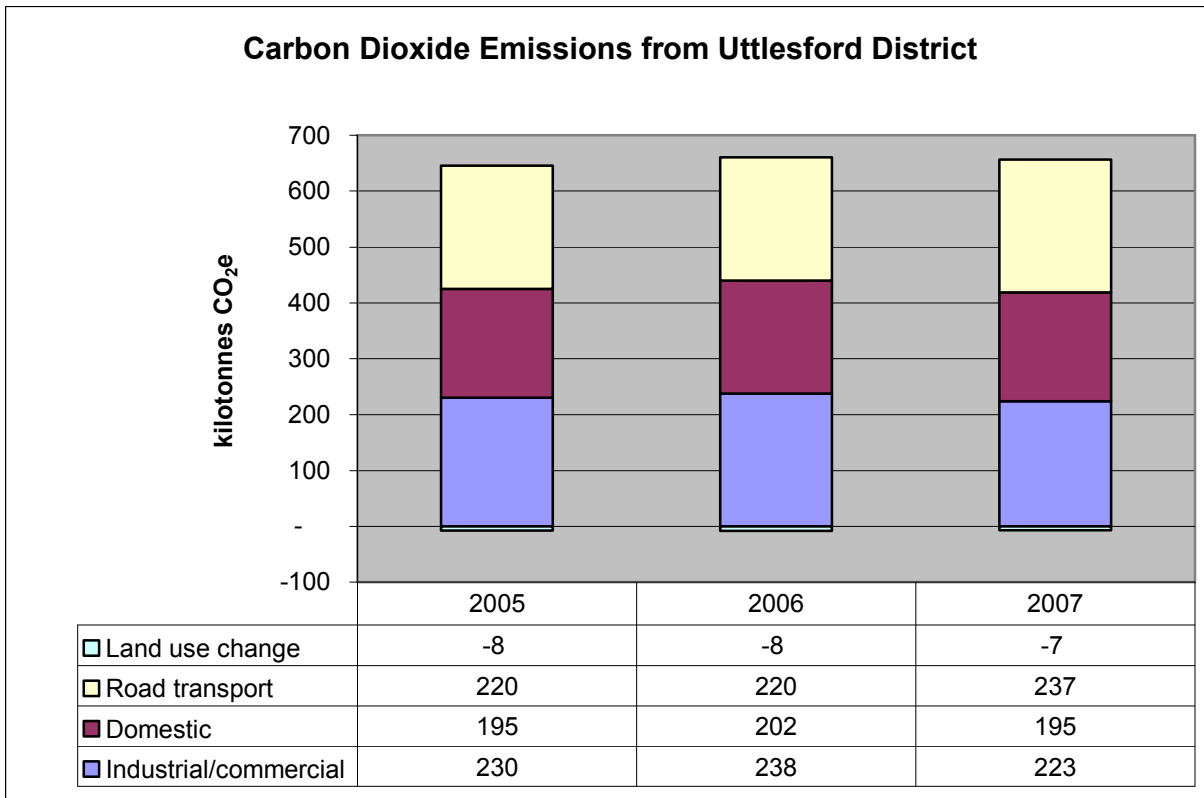


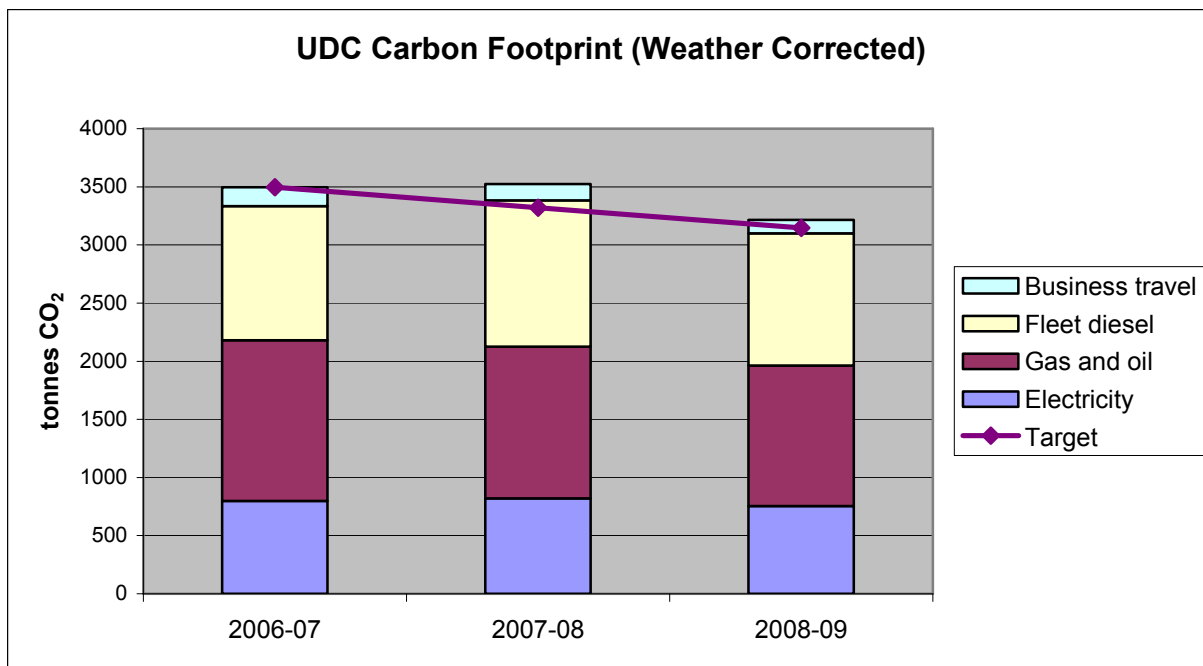
Figure 1

### Council CO<sub>2</sub>

The Council's direct emissions are essentially those that the Council pays for – electricity, gas, oil used in our buildings, diesel used for our vehicle fleet, business travel including car miles, rail journeys and flights. On this basis, the Council's emissions baseline (or 'carbon footprint') is given below. The total amount of greenhouse gas emitted by the Council in 2008/09 is estimated to be 3,303 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

Progress against target is taken using temperature corrected figures for gas and heating oil use, to cancel out the effect of colder or milder winters on emissions, as this is outside the council's control and does not fairly reflect carbon reduction efforts. How these emissions have changed over time is given in Figure 2. Further detail is given in Table 1.

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate\\_change/climate\\_change.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/climate_change.aspx)



**Figure 2**

Fuel	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Saving
Electricity	798	820	753	-5.6%
Gas	999	1060	1127	12.8%
Oil	161	168	170	5.5%
Fleet diesel	1151	1260	1137	-1.3%
Business travel	163	141	117	-28.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3272</b>	<b>3448</b>	<b>3303</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<i>Heating degree days (20 year average = 2178)</i>	<i>1828</i>	<i>2050</i>	<i>2338</i>	
Corrected gas and oil	1384	1304	1209	-12.6%
Total with corrected gas and oil	3496	3524	3216	<b>-8.0%</b>
Target	3496	3321	3147	<b>-10.0%</b>

**Table 1 - UDC carbon footprint (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)**

Where the Council purchases goods and services, or contracts others to deliver our services, the greenhouse gases associated with that item or activity 'belongs' to the Council as well. However, as this data is difficult to measure and acquire, it has not been included at this time. The figures shown here are the same as those reported to central government for NI185.

Other emissions related to Council activities but not directly attributed to it include staff commuting, council housing and domestic waste.

## Water

Uttlesford falls with the Three Valley's Water area of supply. Water use in this supply area is the highest in the country at 161 litres per person per day in 2008-09, compared to the national average of 145 litres per person per day ([www.ofwat.gov.uk/publications/los/rpt\\_los\\_2008-09](http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publications/los/rpt_los_2008-09), see section on security of supply).



The Council used approximately 25,800 cubic meters of water through its metered supplies in 2008-09. The amounts used split by different building types is shown below.

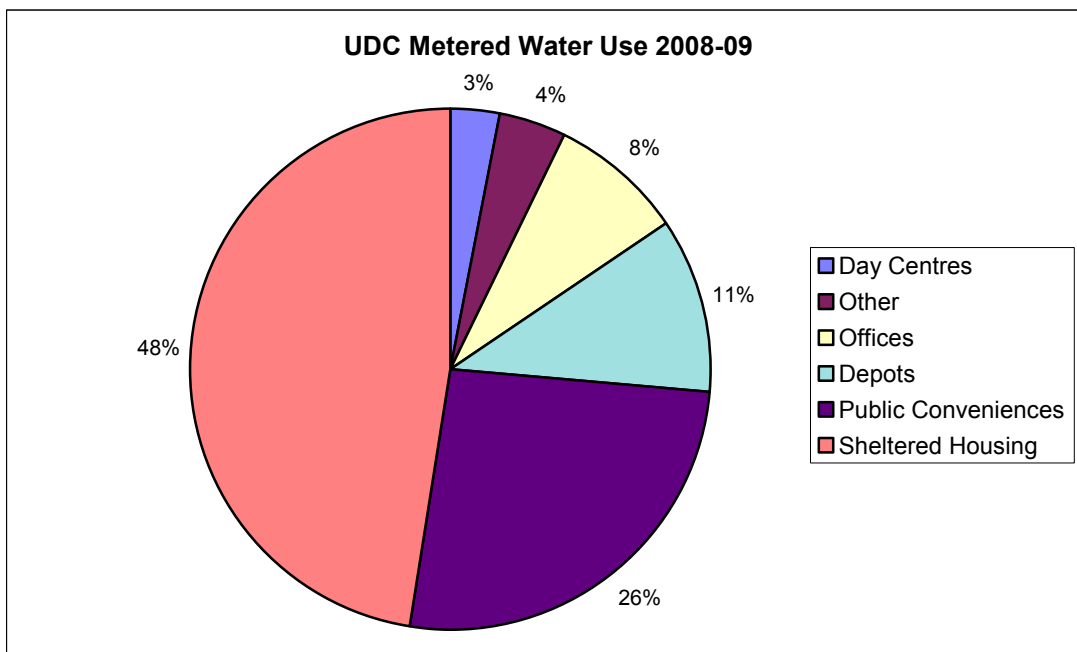


Figure 3

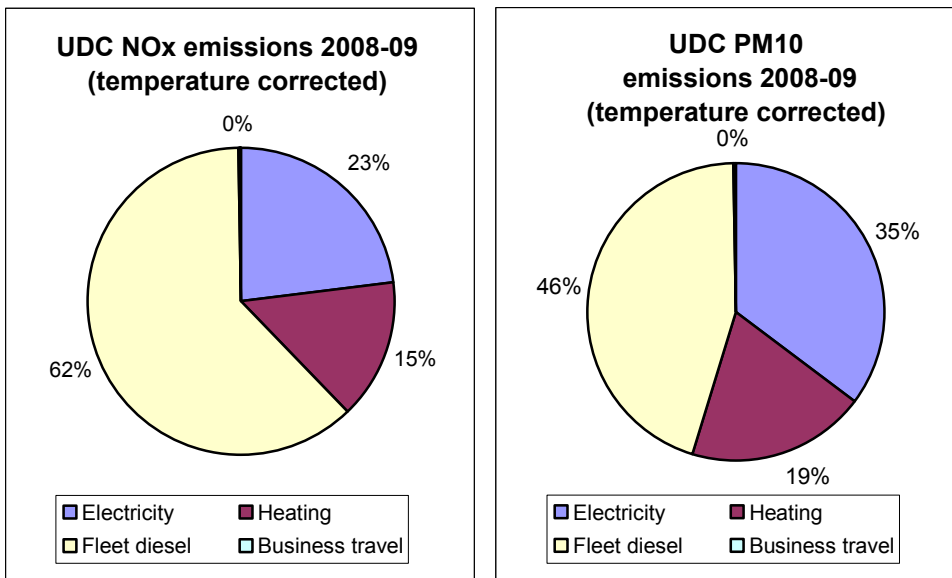
### Air pollution

As well as contributing to climate change, burning fossil fuels creates localised air pollution as well, which can cause respiratory problems. Air pollutants include oxides of nitrogen (referred to as NOx) and small soot particles (called particulates or PM10). Despite its rural nature the district has three air quality management areas, where air pollution has been found to be unacceptably high and has been targeted for improvement.

The Council's emissions of NOx and PM10 air pollutants are given in the figures below.

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change
NOx	7398	7742	7096	-4.1%
PM10	142	146	134	-5.6%

Table 2 - UDC emissions of air pollutants (kg)



**Figure 4– Split of air pollutants by source**

### Fuel Poverty

The council carries out an annual survey to find out the energy ratings (known as SAP ratings) of dwellings where those who may be vulnerable to fuel poverty live. These ratings are from 1 – 100 based on running cost, 100 being a house with no bills, and 1 having extremely high bills. A rating of 65 is thought to be sufficiently high to make a home cheap enough to heat that the occupant not likely to be in fuel poverty, a rating of 35 low enough that a person with a low income would be in fuel poverty. The results of the 2008 survey showed that 10% of vulnerable households had a rating less than 35, and 43% had a rating greater than 65. On average, social housing has higher ratings than private housing.

### Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the range of plant and animal species in any given area. Worldwide biodiversity is reducing dramatically due the pressure put on the natural world by human activities.

Uttlesford is rich in sites with biodiversity value. There are 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covering 623ha, the highest number in Essex. Hatfield Forest, the District's largest site covering 403ha is managed by the National Trust. In addition there are 2 National Nature Reserves in the District. There are 1781ha of ancient woodland which is 20% of the Essex total. There are 281 Local Wildlife Sites covering about 1600ha. 42 of these are Special Roadside Verge sites. Furthermore there are 8 Regionally Important Geological sites within the District.

## **Priority 1 – Corporate**

Local authorities can directly influence the use of natural resources within their own operations and use their regulatory powers and role as community leader to influence the district as a whole. To be effective, a council needs senior level commitment, an overarching strategy, realistic targets, monitoring and reviewing processes, staff and financial resources. Furthermore the sustainability concerns must be 'mainstreamed' through the organisation to make it part of normal decision making processes, including the purchases the council makes.

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### **Successes**

#### **Working with Energy Saving Trust**

Uttlesford District Council began on its path to developing a comprehensive response to climate change in 2004, when it participated in a special programme of assistance, 'key account management', with the Energy Saving Trust (EST). This led to the Council appointing its first Energy Efficiency Surveyor in 2005, a role 100% devoted to addressing climate change and reducing emissions. EST has continued to support Uttlesford's work on sustainable energy and climate change.

Pic: EST logo

Energy Saving Trust Website

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

#### **Nottingham Declaration**

On 27 January 2006, the Council implemented the EST's principal recommendation and signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. Uttlesford did this together with Braintree District Council, and the two councils also signed a protocol of joint working [**Error! Reference source not found.**].

Pic: Nottingham declaration signing

#### **Scrutiny review and first Climate Change Strategy**

Through 2006 the Scrutiny Committee carried out an investigation of climate change in relation to the Council. The Group reviewed a wide range of reports and news articles, sought out good practice of other councils and interviewed groups of council officers, collecting information and building support for action. Their report and recommendations were adopted in March 2007 and the first Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan were launched in October 2007.

Pic: from launch

#### **Natural Resource Management Working Group**

Work on the first Climate Change Strategy and its continuance into the new strategy is managed by a group of officers from across the Council's services. They meet monthly and report to the Environment Committee.

**Ashden Awards**

The Council was shortlisted in the 2008 Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy in the public sector category for its work in this area. The Council was one of only three local authorities to make it to this stage.

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**Action plan**

Task	How	Who	Resource	When	Milestones

## **Priority 2 – Energy, CO<sub>2</sub> and Water**

The energy and water use and CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate emissions arising directly from council operations are those a council has most responsibility for and have the greatest ability to influence. Local authorities operate buildings and vehicle fleets which are very visible to the public and their staff travel to visit the public and to meetings. Council staff must commute into work each day, which has its own carbon footprint and impact on air quality. Because of their visibility and accountability to the public, councils can set a strong example for others to follow by the way they manage their use of these natural resources and emissions of pollutants.

Changing staff habits, operational policies and ways of working will have an impact at minimal cost. Further improvements can be made through investment in efficiency, and renewable and low-carbon technologies. Becoming more efficient reduces costs so these measures can pay for themselves with the right financial mechanisms and ultimately save money for the council tax payer.

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### **Successes**

#### **The Carbon Trust Standard**

The Council has been successful in gaining accreditation to the Carbon Trust Standard, which is awarded to organisations that successfully measure, manage and reduce their carbon footprint. The Standard is intended to identify organisations that are taking real action to reduce their direct impact on climate change. UDC is now a Carbon Trust Standard Bearer, and can display the official logo. Other Standard Bearers include Woking Borough Council, the University of Sheffield, the British Museum, 3M, BT and BSKyB.

#### **Carbon Management Programme**

As part of its formal strategy for reducing its energy use and carbon emissions, the council has invested in a wide range of building improvements, including loft insulation, draught proofing, voltage optimisation, boiler replacements, heating controls upgrades, low energy lighting, point-of use water heating, timers on equipment, automatic computer switch off software. In addition, the council is making the transition to virtual servers, which will greatly reduce the number of physical servers we need, saving electricity. Along with good staff habits, this has contributed to a reduction in carbon emissions in the main offices of 17.3% in 2008-09 compared to 2006-07, This saving is expected to increase to 27% for 2009-10.

#### **Natural Resources Management Update**

Staff and councillors receive a monthly email updating them on Natural Resources Management including and data on energy and water consumption and production of waste at the main council office. The update has information on progress with carbon management and other work related to the NRM Strategy, including current projects, activities and achievements. There are tips and reminders for staff of save energy water and reducing waste.

#### **Solar array**

The council has its first renewable energy installation – and 5.8 kilowatt-peak solar electric array on the sheltered housing complex at Vicarage Mead, Thaxted, which was partly paid

for with a Government grant. Over the 21 months since its commissioning it has generated over 11,000 kilowatt-hours of carbon-free electricity.

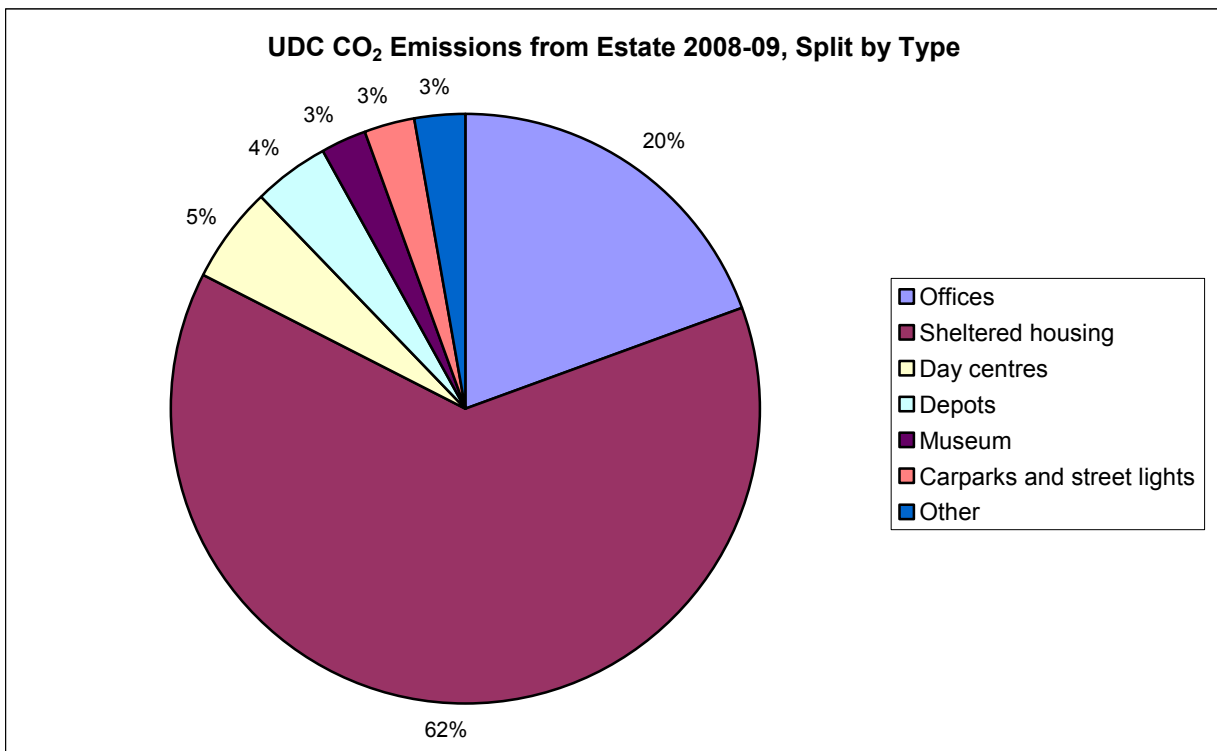
**Staff travel plan and car lease scheme**

The council promotes car-sharing on the staff intranet. The council lease scheme has special incentives to encourage users to choose lower emissions vehicles.

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**Council estate**

The Council’s property estate consists of the main London Road Office in Saffron Walden, thirteen sheltered housing sites, five day centres, a museum, three depots, car parks and street lights and many minor sites such as public conveniences, and sewage treatment plants (classified here as ‘other’). Total emissions from these sites for heating, hot water and electricity use were 1962 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> in 2008/09 (temperature corrected). Note: sheltered housing is included while other council housing is excluded because with the former, we manage operation of heating, hotwater and other communal services, while with the latter, tenants manage these themselves.



**Action plan**

Task	How	Who	Resource	When	Milestones

## **Priority 3 – Planning**

The planning system is the most powerful tool local authorities have influencing the physical make-up of their district. National planning guidance allows local authorities to adopt policies that require developers to reduce the environmental impact from the construction and operation of their developments. Local development documents offer excellent opportunities to set sustainability requirements. Conversely, the planning system can also present an impediment to reducing emissions, for instance by restricting the use of renewable energy technologies such as wind turbines and solar panels.

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### **What is a Zero-Carbon Home?**

The government has set an ambitious agenda for all new homes built after 2016 to be 'zero carbon'. The definition of zero-carbon has been hotly debated since this was announced. At the time of writing it would seem that not all of the emissions from activities occurring at the dwelling would need to be zero-carbon themselves, but a degree of offsetting would be allowed by a development exporting clean energy to existing dwellings nearby, or by improving energy performance existing dwellings in some other way.

Furthermore, the definition will not account for transport emissions arising from the new homes. Therefore it is vital that local planning policies ensuring there are local amenities that are easily accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.

Pic: house building image(s)

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## **Successes**

### **Energy efficiency requirement for home extensions**

Through a planning policy on home extensions introduced in November 2005, the Council requires cost-effective energy efficiency improvements like loft and cavity wall insulation to be carried out on existing dwellings when they are extended. In this way, the extra energy that is used and CO<sub>2</sub> that is produced by the extension is compensated for by improvements elsewhere. The policy has been successfully implemented by planning and building surveying officers since April 2006. We are the first local authority in the United Kingdom to introduce a requirement of this kind and it has been held up as good practice by

- National Energy Efficiency Awards 2006 (Highly Commended)
- Federation of Master Builders (2007)
- Local Government Association (2007)
- Parliamentary Select Committee for Communities and Local Government (2008)
- Audit Commission (2009)

The Council is lobbying central government for the approach to be made a nation-wide requirement of Building Regulations. There has been considerable interest in UDC's initiative from other local authorities and many have either adopted similar policies or are working towards adopting them.

### **Sustainable construction requirements**

Since mid 2008 the Council has required all new development to meet standards for sustainable construction and energy and water efficiency which are higher than the national minimums set by Building Regulations. All new dwellings must meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level Three and new commercial buildings must be BREEAM 'Very Good'. In addition, new developments must supply 10% of their energy needs from onsite renewable energy systems like solar panels. The Council launched these requirements by holding a free seminar for local builders and architects explaining them.

**Renewables study**

With the help of the Council, the local strategy partnership commissioned a study of the renewable energy potential of the district, including sources like the sun, wind, ground heat and biomass, which was completed in 2008. It found the district could to supply a large proportion of its own energy needs from clean sources. This study is informing the policies that will be contained in the local development framework, which will guide how and where new development will occur in the district in the future, and is available on the Council website.

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**Action plan**

Task	How	Who	Resource	When	Milestones



## **Priority 4 – Housing**

Local authorities already play an important role in the energy performance of housing. They are often landlords and also have obligations for reporting on and improving the efficiency of private sector stock. They also provide planning and building regulations approval and thereby hold considerable technical expertise in-house. Councils also have a role to play in 'climate proofing' housing to deal with expected climate change impacts.

Housing accounts for approximately 27% of UK carbon emissions and councils can play a greater role in achieving reductions by improving the energy efficiency of their own stock and promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy advice and incentives in the private sector.

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### **About Fuel Poverty**

Fuel poverty is where a household would need to spend more than 10% of its disposable household income (i.e. following housing costs) on heating fuel to maintain a healthy, comfortable temperature, recognised as being equal or greater to 18°C on average by the World Health Organisation. Prolonged exposure to living temperatures lower than this can lead to increase morbidity and mortality, particularly among the elderly, young children and the disabled.

This is evidenced by rates of 'excess winter mortality' – the difference between the number of deaths occurring during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding autumn (August to November) and the following summer (April to July). There were 36,700 excess winter deaths in the UK in the winter 2008-09, up from 24,690 the winter before<sup>6</sup>. The UK has a higher rate of excess winter deaths than most other Northern European nations. As well as people dying, there are far more people in fuel poverty who are suffering ill physical and mental health, which in turn creates burden on our health services.

The causes of fuel poverty are low incomes, people being dependent on expensive heating fuels and living in housing with poor energy performance. Although climate change will mean milder winters in the future, this is not sufficient in itself to address the problem. Only by making our housing stock highly energy efficient and moving away from fossil fuels for heating can we remove people from fuel poverty and keep them safe from economic circumstances (e.g. rising fuel prices, unemployment) drawing them back in again.

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### **Successes**

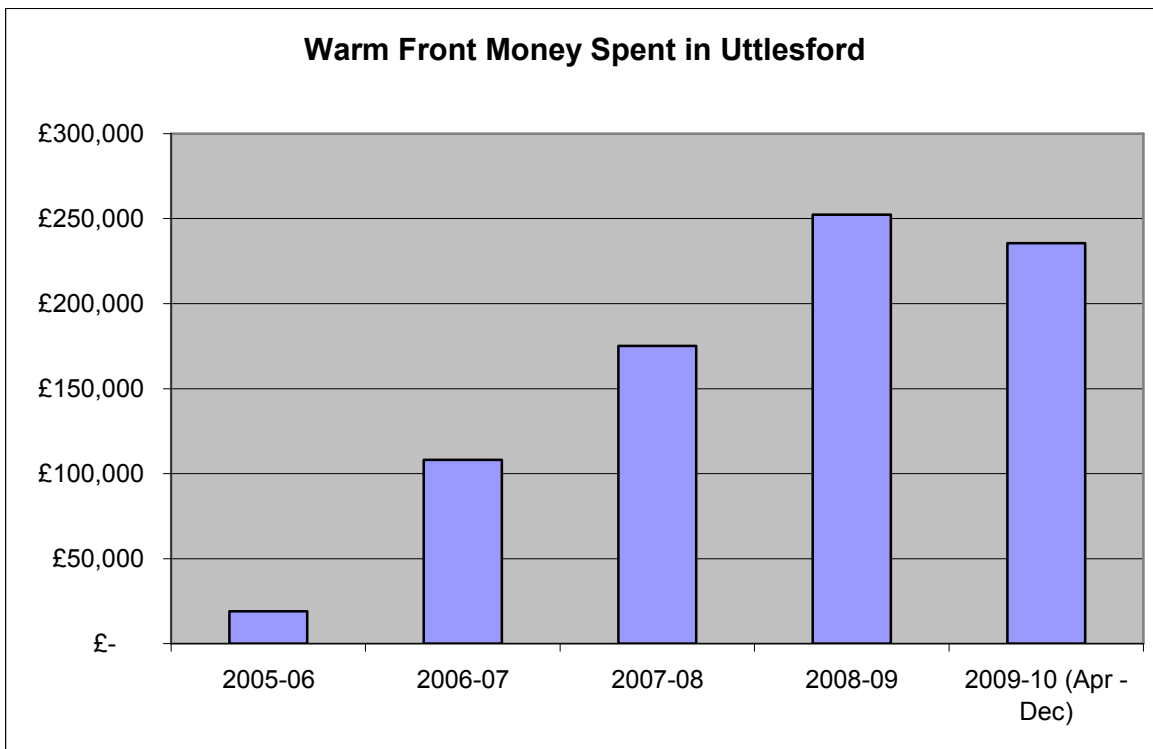
#### **Warm Front uptake**

Warm Front is a government scheme to improve energy efficiency and provide affordable warmth in low-income households. Thanks to promotional efforts by the Council and

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nea.org.uk/shocking-figures-show-devastating-rise-in-winter-deaths>

Uttlesford Futures, the amount of government money spent on central heating systems and insulation in underprivileged homes has increased every year since 2006/07, and this is expected to occur again in 2009/10.



**Herts Essex Energy Partnership**

In late 2008 the Council in partnership with fourteen other local authorities in Hertfordshire and West Essex secured £6.63M of funding for reducing carbon emissions and abating fuel poverty in private homes. The 'HEEP' scheme was launched in July 2009 and offers free insulation and energy-saving home improvements to those on means tested benefits to improve their home's energy (SAP) rating to above 65 if possible. Those not on benefits can get loft and cavity wall insulation for £99 each and interest free loans for bigger investments in advanced insulation and renewables. See [www.heepgrant.org](http://www.heepgrant.org) for more information and to enquire.

**Action plan**

Task	How	Who	Resource	When	Milestones

## Priority 5 – Waste and recycling

Waste generates greenhouse gas emissions both in producing it in the first instance, and then in the form of methane emissions when it degrades. Waste also requires that new raw materials are used to replace what has been thrown away, as well as taking up rapidly diminishing space in landfills. To deal with waste, the widely accepted approach is to first minimise the amount generated, then find new uses for items and materials directly, then finally reprocess it into usable raw material again, or put more simply: 'reduce, reuse, recycle'.

Local authorities collect domestic waste and the systems they use has a strong influence on how much waste that residents separate for recycling and how much goes to landfill. Their systems and promotional efforts also affect the amount of waste which is reduced and reused.

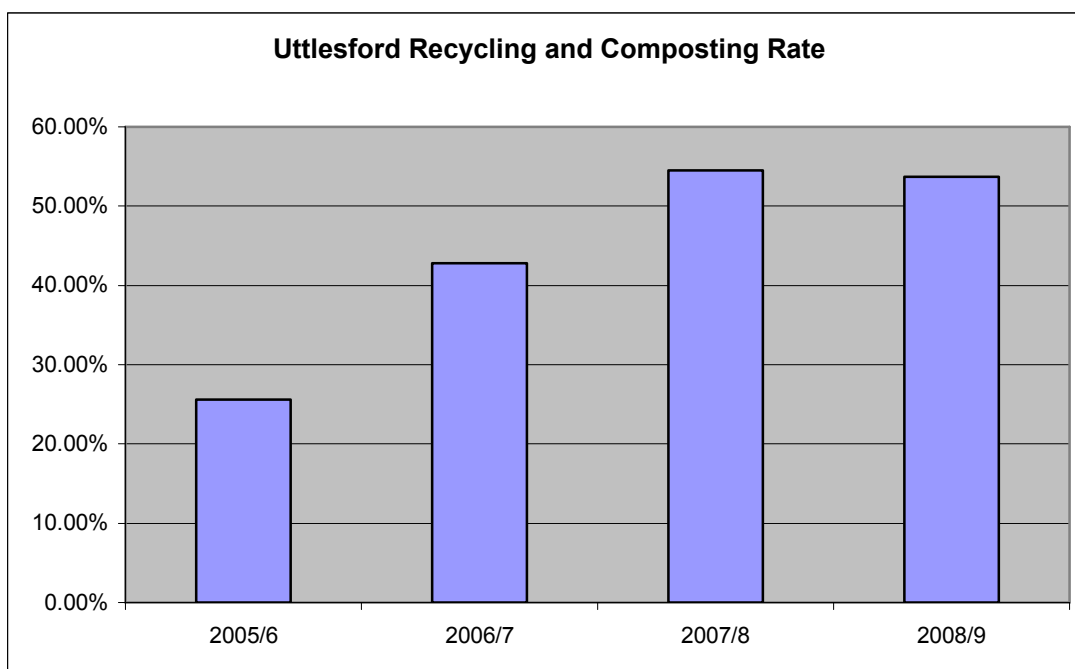
Local authorities themselves generate waste. Internal working practices, policies and systems as well as staff behaviour affect how much waste is generated, and how it is dealt with. To set an example, a local authority's waste and recycling practices should be as good or better than their expectations of residents.

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### Successes

#### New recycling system

The Council introduced a new 'three-bin' through the summer of 2006, allowing residents to recycle kitchen waste. This was followed by an expansion of the range of recyclables that the Council could take. The new system, along with the efforts of residents, is proving to be a success. In 2005-06 before the system was implemented, we recycled 26% of our domestic waste. By 2008-09 this had improved to 53.7%, the 10th best recycling rate in the country, and 20,731 tonnes fewer of domestic waste was sent to landfill.



Pic: three bins?

**Office recycling at the Council**

Staff at the council can recycle the same materials as residents can, including kitchen (food) waste. Recycling bins have been provided throughout the council offices and the number of general waste bins has been reduced. The volume of waste from the main office sent to landfill is being recorded and reported back monthly to staff and councillors.

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**Action plan**

Task	How	Who	Resource	When	Milestones

## **Priority 6 - Biodiversity**

The abundance and variety of life forms in the world is diminishing rapidly under the immense pressure of human development and its environmental impacts, and the United Kingdom is no exception. The biodiversity we are losing is of incalculable value, not least because its loss undermines the integrity of the natural systems that we are reliant upon for survival. Local authorities have an important role to play in co-ordinating action to preserve and enhance biodiversity.

### **Successes**

#### **In-house action**

The Council prioritises its work on biodiversity and works with others to protect, conserve and enhance the variety of wildlife species and habitats in Uttlesford to achieve the implementation of the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan. In March 2007 the Council adopted a corporate policy for biodiversity to take account of the Council's responsibilities under S40 of the National Environmental and Rural Communities Act 2006. The Council also has regard to NI 197 as part of the Essex Local Area Agreement 2 (2008-2011). From a revised baseline of 2 sites with Positive Conservation Management (PCM) this has increased by 55 sites with PCM by mid 2009.

As well as this, the Council leases 1.5ha of amenity land which is managed for public amenity and wildlife and coordinates the Special Roadside Verges scheme for the District. Under this, sites of species rich grassland are marked and managed according to rare plant species growing as each site. 50% of the verges have ecological surveys undertaken annually to monitor their botanical condition, and management adjusted accordingly.

#### **Advising the public**

The Council aims to promote public awareness of biodiversity and the wildlife and geology of Uttlesford District. Its initiatives include:

- Town and Parish Councils have been offered advice on managing land to promote biodiversity.
- Members of the public can take part in family holiday activities run by Council officers, to explore biodiversity at the Saffron Walden Museum and Bridge End Garden, Saffron Walden.
- Uttlesford residents are encouraged to consider the wildlife value of their gardens and to take part in annual bird surveys.
- Council officers played a leading role in the production of a CD and website on Integrating Biodiversity into Development – A Guide for developers and planners.
- Uttlesford was the pilot district for the Essex Biodiversity Project's Pond and Great Crested Newt survey.

#### **Working with partners**

The Council works with a wide variety of stakeholder groups to run joint projects and provide advice and input on important policies like the Local Development Framework. These groups include:

- Sustainable Uttlesford (Farming, Wildlife & Countryside Group)
- Uttlesford Futures (Environment Group)
- Nature Conservation Working Group
- Essex Biodiversity Partnership

Members include Essex Wildlife Trust, Essex County Council, interested members of the general public and others. In addition, the Council provides financial support to the Essex Biodiversity Project, whose Project Officer provides expert practical advice and technical support to organisations and individuals.

### Action plan

Task	How	Who	Resource	When	Milestones

## **Priority 7 – Community engagement**

Good councils engage with their communities, including individuals, businesses or other groupings or organisations based on common interest, providing them with guidance and leadership, involving them in decisions that affect them and working with them for the benefit of the local area. Councils can use such ‘soft’ influences on their communities to spread greater awareness and action on sustainability, climate change and the wise use of resources.

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### **Successes**

#### **Sustainable Uttlesford**

The Council facilitates Sustainable Uttlesford (formerly Local Agenda 21), a community-based environmental organisation consisting of officers, councillors and members of the public. Local Agenda 21 is worldwide initiative set up following the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Its purpose is to enable voluntary community action to protect the environment –‘think globally: act locally’. Local Agenda 21 groups are hosted by local authorities, but involve private individuals, businesses and other organisations.

While many LA21 groups around the country have become defunct, the enthusiastic volunteers of Sustainable Uttlesford have the backing of the Council. It organised the ‘Carbon Neutral Uttlesford’ Conference in February 2008, a ‘Sustainable Schools’ summit in June 2009, and lobbies the Council and Government actively on environmental issues.

Pic LA21 logo

#### **Sustainable Homes Network**

The Sustainable Homes Network is a not for profit community based organization set-up by Sustainable Uttlesford in 2006, supported by Uttlesford District Council. The Network is for any person, business or organisation with an interest in sustainability and building, extending or improving homes and gardens, and other types of buildings too.

The Network holds evening talks on where people can hear case-studies on local eco-homes and learn more about sustainable living. Ever year since its launch the network has held a ‘Sustainable Homes Show’ where the public can get independent advice and meet providers of environmentally friendly technologies and materials. Newsletters keep members up to date and the Network has also organised bulk discounts for members on home electricity monitors, thermal imaging and low energy LED lighting.

Sustainable Homes Network website: [www.sustainablehomes.org.uk](http://www.sustainablehomes.org.uk)

Pics: shows, logo

#### **Supporting the community**

Council officers have given numerous talks and lessons, attended events and done free energy efficiency surveys of community buildings to promote sustainability to schools, villages, churches and other groups in the District. Those helped include:

Chrishall St Nicholas and Holy Trinity C of E Primary School  
 Farnham Primary School  
 Great Sampford Parish Council  
 Widdington Parish Council  
 Saffron Walden Town Council  
 Hatfield Heath Primary School  
 RA Butler Primary School Saffron Walden  
 Ugley Village Hall Trust  
 Methodist Church Saffron Walden  
 Stansted Quakers  
 Stebbing Parish Council  
 Fry Art Gallery Saffron Walden  
 Wimbish Parish Council  
 Swards End Village Hall  
 Gt Chesterford Community Centre  
 Newport Village Hall  
 Leaden Roding Parish Council  
 Little Canfield Village Hall  
 Hadstock Parish Council  
 Great Dunmow Town Council  
 High Easter Village Hall  
 Arkesden Village Hall  
 Takeley Primary School  
 Manuden Primary School  
 Felsted Parish Council  
 Hadstock Parish Council  
 Debden Primary School  
 Carers UK, local branch  
 Over 70s Club, Saffron Walden  
 Saffron Walden County High School  
 Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College

## Action plan

Task	How	Who	Resource	When	Milestones



## ***Consultation and review***

We are interested in your views on this strategy and would welcome comments. In your response please consider:

- Have we missed anything?
- Is there a particular area that needs more attention?
- Do you think our targets are appropriate?

Feedback can be sent to the council by the following methods:

Email: [climatechange@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@uttlesford.gov.uk)

Website: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/climate+change](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/climate+change)

Post:

Uttlesford District Council,  
London Road  
Saffron Walden  
Essex CB11 4ER

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If you require this publication in an alternate format and/or language please contact Jake Roos on 01799 510 511 to discuss your needs. Contact this number to request further copies of this document, or visit our website.

Tel: 01799 510 511

Email: [climatechange@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@uttlesford.gov.uk)

Website: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/climate+change](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/climate+change)