

2010-15

East Lothian Environment Strategy



Living within our means

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i. Foreword

This Strategy is a start to moving towards a more sustainable future for East Lothian. Our people, land and habitats are valuable assets. However, in common with other places, East Lothian faces challenges to the way we currently live our lives and the way in which we interact with our environment, including:

- Over dependence on depleting finite resources, e.g. oil and gas
- The pressure of new development
- Declining biodiversity
- The impacts of climate change

This Environment Strategy is a statement of commitment by the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership, which recognises:

- That everyone who lives, works and visits East Lothian has a part to play in addressing the local and global environmental challenges that face us.
- We as Community Planning Partners will show leadership and commitment to the vision for the East Lothian Environment Strategy and will support our local communities in addressing these challenges

The Partners support the Strategy vision that 'East Lothian is a place of opportunity for all, with a thriving low carbon economy, high quality environment, with healthy communities that are prepared for the challenges of climate change' and are committed to achieving the key objectives and policy recommendations that underpin the vision. They have also made a commitment to demonstrate leadership and will work with communities and businesses to develop a more sustainable East Lothian.



**Cllr Paul McLennan,
Chair, East Lothian Community Planning Board
Leader, East Lothian Council**



ii. Executive Summary

Our long-term vision is that:

East Lothian will be a place of opportunity for all, with a thriving low carbon economy, high quality environment and healthy communities that are prepared for the challenges of climate change

We will achieve this by:

- **Moving to a low carbon and more localised economy**
- **Reducing dependence on finite resources**
- **Recognising the importance of a well-looked after natural environment to the health and well-being of East Lothian's communities**
- **Encouraging more sustainable land use patterns**
- **Connecting communities and increasing use of sustainable forms of transport**
- **Developing and nurturing environmental education, responsibility and action**
- **Preparing for and managing the impacts of climate change**

This Environment Strategy is a start in moving towards a more sustainable future for East Lothian, by recognising that we live in an interdependent world, in which climate change, over consumption of resources and inequality are serious challenges. The East Lothian Community Planning Partnership accepts these challenges and will work with communities and businesses to develop a more sustainable East Lothian.

The Strategy is supported by the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership, with the aim of encouraging businesses and the wider community to adopt the principles in this document and consider their practical applications. It is an overarching Strategy, which informs and guides other strategies and plans. It is also intended to influence environmental decision making throughout East Lothian.

An Action Plan has been developed to take forward the priorities in the Environment Strategy; this is included in Appendix 1.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Strategy is a start in moving towards a more sustainable future for East Lothian by, recognising that we live in an interdependent world, where climate change, over consumption of resources and inequality are serious challenges to our current lifestyles. East Lothian's Community Planning Partners accept these challenges and will work with communities and businesses to develop a more sustainable East Lothian.

There is a growing recognition that our consumer culture's demands on finite resources and our dependency on fossil fuels are at the heart of these challenges. There are also difficulties in balancing limited public finances with improved health and well-being outcomes and local economy improvements, whilst maintaining a healthy and natural environment. All this fundamentally questions how we value what is important to us now and in the future.

We need to develop the ability to meet these challenges and promote the well-being of all our communities, and improve our quality of life, while creating wealth more responsibly through a sustainable local economy that conserves finite resources and contributes to protecting and enhancing the world's ecosystems.

This is hugely challenging, but it is also a real opportunity for communities to come together and link with others across the world, to build a way of life that is not only sustainable, but is potentially much more creative and satisfying. This will be our contribution to creating the right balance between local, national and global economies, which will help to increase individual well-being, reduce inequalities and promote environmental sustainability.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The Strategy aims to provide a focal point for future action to address environmental challenges such as depleting resources, dependence on fossil fuels and climate change. This document has been drafted by the East Lothian Environment Forum Steering Group and is promoted by the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership¹ (ELCPP). The Strategy demonstrates a commitment by the ELCPP within their powers and remit to address the environmental challenges we face and the steps required to tackle these. The ELCPP aims to encourage businesses and the wider community across East Lothian to sign up to the principles within the Strategy and their practical applications.

It is an overarching Strategy, with most of the actual work to be carried out as part of other strategies and plans, which will underpin this document. Information in the appendices provides links to further information and highlights relevant strategies and policies that support this document.

¹

www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk

1.2 STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

1.2.1 East Lothian Community Planning Partnership

ELCPP priorities for East Lothian are detailed in the East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement 2009 (SOA)², the Plan for the future of East Lothian, which is an agreement between Scottish Government and ELCPP.

The Environment Strategy is closely linked to the SOA, in which sustainability is an overarching theme. This Strategy has a longer timescale and draws in several outcomes from the SOA:

- **East Lothian has well connected communities with increased use of sustainable transport modes**
- **East Lothian has an attractive and healthy environment, with a rich diversity of wildlife, habitats and distinctive historic built environments, which enhances people's lives**
- **East Lothian will be a less resource intensive, oil dependent county, by reducing its ecological and carbon footprints by 80% by 2050**

1.2.2 Public Consultation

The ELCPP embarked on a wide consultation of the Environment Strategy during the summer of 2010 throughout East Lothian, which was open to individuals, community groups, businesses and Community Planning Partners. These responses have informed the finalised Strategy.

In addition, an Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the Strategy and the findings have also informed the final document.



Figure 1 Sustaining Dunbar Food Conference

²

www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/files/Final2009SOA.pdf

2. VISION, PRINCIPLES AND KEY OBJECTIVES

2.1 VISION

Our long-term vision is that...

East Lothian is a place of opportunity for all, with a thriving low carbon economy, a high quality environment and healthy communities that are prepared for the challenges of climate change

We will achieve this by:

- **Moving to a low carbon and more localised economy**
- **Reducing dependence on finite resources**
- **Recognising the importance of a well looked after natural environment to the health and well-being of East Lothian's communities**
- **Encouraging more sustainable land use patterns**
- **Connecting communities and increasing use of sustainable forms of transport**
- **Developing and nurturing environmental education, responsibility and action**
- **Preparing for and managing the impact of climate change**

2.2 PRINCIPLES AND OUTCOMES

The following seven principles and outcomes (emboldened bullet points in the text boxes) set the strategic framework for this Environment Strategy. In addition, text boxes have been included to explain some of the language used. A glossary is also included at the end of the document.

***Principle 1:
Moving to a low carbon and more localised economy***

This Strategy sets out the first steps that East Lothian must take to move to a low carbon economy. In order to achieve a more localised and robust economy, we need to develop capacity, which will create local jobs and benefit the community.

By 2015, East Lothian will be decarbonising and re-localising its economy. Substantial progress will have been made in reducing carbon emissions from all sectors of the economy including energy generation, buildings, industry, transport and agriculture. Opportunities for local heat and energy generation will be sought that will benefit our communities.

A **low carbon economy** refers to an economy that has a minimal requirement for carbon energy sources and is proposed as a means to prepare for and reduce our exposure to expected future supply problems and associated rising energy costs as well as minimising any impacts of climate change.

An **ecological footprint** measures global resource consumption. It calculates the total environmental burden humans place on the planet. It represents the area of land required to provide raw materials, energy and food, as well as to absorb pollution and waste.

A **carbon footprint** is a subset of an ecological footprint and is defined as the total set of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused by an organisation, event, individual or product and is usually expressed in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) or its equivalent of other GHGs emitted (CO₂e).

A **finite resource** is a natural resource that do not renew itself and which could potentially be completely used up, e.g. oil or coal.

An **ecosystem** refers to the combined physical and biological attributes of an environment. It is an area within the natural environment in which physical factors of the environment, such as rocks and soil, function together along with interdependent organisms, such as plants and animals, within the same habitat.

The Community Planning Partners are committed to supporting local businesses and opportunities to shop and work within East Lothian.



Figure 2 Haddington Farmers' Market

An increasing proportion of our food will be grown and processed locally. The number of allotments and community gardens will be increased, allowing more people to grow their own food, thus reducing food miles and cost to the consumer. In addition to these benefits, growing their own food can improve the health and well-being of individuals that do so.

We will achieve the following outcomes:

- **Locally produced and distributed renewable heat and energy supply will be encouraged, where appropriate**
- **Opportunities to encourage and support a local economy will be sought**

Principle 2:

Reducing dependence on finite resources

If everyone in the world consumed resources at the same rate as we do in East Lothian, we would need three planets to meet all our needs³. In addition, predicted rising energy costs - due to the pending peaking and decline of oil - will require us to take action to lessen the amount of energy we use. This will be achieved through reducing our dependence on fossil fuels: by building capacity across our communities; and improving local access to services, employment opportunities and affordable, energy efficient housing.

³ Resources and Energy Analysis Programme (REAP), Stockholm Environment Institute <http://www.resource-accounting.org.uk/>

Our long-term outcome is to minimise our dependence on finite resources, by reducing our ecological and carbon footprints by 80% by 2050. By doing this East Lothian will live within its means, by using the equivalent of only one planet's worth of resources.



Figure 3 Recycling facilities in Haddington

We will achieve the following outcomes:

- The sustainable use of finite resources, including energy, water, construction materials, etc. will be promoted
- Consumption will be minimised where possible and the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste will be promoted
- Residual waste will be disposed of, maximising recovery of energy and other resources

Principle 3:

Recognising the importance of a well looked after natural environment to the health and well-being of East Lothian's communities

East Lothian's land, habitats, air and water are significant assets. We acknowledge the fundamental link between people and place and the positive benefits that looking after our environment has on the health and well-being of ecosystems and ourselves.



Figure 4 Volunteers at Levenhall Links

Environmental quality

refers to various environmental factors that relate to both the natural and built environment (e.g. air and water purity, pollution, noise) and their impact on the overall quality of ecosystems and potential effects on human beings.

A **wildlife corridor** is an area of habitat, which allows connectivity between wildlife populations that are separated due to human activities, such as roads or development. They maintain biodiversity, allow migration, let populations interbreed and provide access to larger habitats.

Green / open space are the 'green lungs' of our towns and villages contributing to improving people's physical and mental health by providing places for informal recreation - walking, cycling, sitting, socialising and children's play - and 'breathing spaces' to take time out from the stresses of modern life.

The Development Plan is the [Edinburgh and the Lothians Structure Plan 2015](#) (ELSP), read in conjunction with the [East Lothian Local Plan 2008](#). The latter is supported by various Development Frameworks which are being produced to guide the planning of the major new developments within East Lothian, such as Blindwells New Settlement.

The ELSP will be replaced by a strategic development plan for Edinburgh & South East Scotland. This is currently being prepared by [SESplan](#), the Strategic Development Planning Authority, and a Proposed Plan is expected to be published in summer 2011.

The **East Lothian Housing Partnership (ELHP)** was established in February 2009 to oversee the development of the Local Housing Strategy 2012 - 2017 and monitor and evaluate the implementation of this. Housing Need and Demand Assessments are currently being carried out to inform the development of the [Local Housing Strategy 2012-17](#).

By 2015, efforts will be concentrated on reducing the decline of biodiversity, with increasing connectivity between wildlife habitat and improved management of urban and rural landscapes. Woodland area will be increasing and neglected green space will be brought into management.

We will achieve the following outcomes:

- **East Lothian’s environmental quality is monitored and improving**
- **East Lothian’s natural environment is valued, protected and enhanced**
- **Sustainable land management practices will be undertaken and promoted**
- **Wildlife corridors in urban and rural areas will be developed effectively, allowing wildlife to move and adapt in response to climate change**

Principle 4:

Encouraging more sustainable land use patterns

The scale of development required over the last 20 years or so has placed considerable pressure on East Lothian’s infrastructure, its landscapes and the character of its towns and villages. This growth is predicted to rise; a report by Registrar General⁴ shows a projected population increase of 33% in East Lothian over the next 25 years, which will undoubtedly put pressure on the area. We will need to balance development pressures with maintaining and protecting our open space.



Figure 5 Microwind at Sandersons Wynd Primary School

⁴ 2008 Based Population Projections for Scottish Areas: www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/popproj/2008-based-pop-proj-scottish-areas/index.html

This requires a response that encourages high quality design with a sense of place. At the same time, the need to maintain and improve, in a sustainable manner, the quality of the existing urban fabric must be recognised. Integrating open space with the urban environment helps to increase the attractiveness of our towns and villages and connects these to our rural landscape.

Around 30% of Scotland's carbon emissions are from energy used for heating and lighting our homes. Revisions to the planning system and building standards will ensure that new buildings and settlements will be built to high standards of sustainable construction and design, and will be net generators of energy.

There will be greater access to a range of affordable housing and local services. A programme of eco-renovations of existing buildings is required to ensure that East Lothian's older properties are made more energy efficient.

We will achieve the following outcomes:

- **Sustainable patterns and forms of development are encouraged**
- **The Development Plan Strategy is complemented by the adequate provision of services and facilities that serve the needs of the community**
- **Green space is promoted in East Lothian's towns and villages**

Principle 5:

Connecting communities and increasing use of sustainable forms of transport

We acknowledge that well connected communities with good transport services and communications linking people to jobs, health and other services are essential to achieving the sustainable vision we have for East Lothian.

By 2015, more resources will be diverted from supporting private mechanised transport, towards more sustainable forms of transport, and walking and cycling will be prioritised within towns. There will be wider and more varied opportunities for local employment so that the need to travel will be reduced. It will be easier, safer and more pleasant to walk and cycle on short journeys and public transport will be better integrated and more responsive to need. Furthermore, infrastructure will be developed to support new technologies, such as recharging facilities for electric vehicles.

Building capacity

describes activities, resources and support that strengthen the skills and abilities of people and communities, enabling them to take effective action and leading roles in the development of their communities.

Core Paths can be rights of way, farm tracks, promoted paths or other routes that can provide public access to the countryside and urban areas. Not all core paths will be suitable for all users, but everyone should have a choice of routes available to them locally.

Resilient communities have the ability to recover quickly from adverse situations, such as those anticipated with a changing climate. They can do this by actively influencing and preparing for economic, social and environmental changes, through activities such as establishing a local economy, producing and distributing low carbon/renewable energy locally, developing skills, and other such self sufficient measures. When times are bad, the community can call upon the numerous resources they have to pull together and bounce back.



Figure 6 Wallyford “Park and Choose”

We will achieve the following outcomes:

- **Move towards more sustainable forms of transport from single occupancy car use**
- **Public awareness and knowledge of sustainable transport options is increasing**
- **Accessibility to communication systems is increasing and greater use of local working models is promoted**
- **The health and well-being benefits of active transport (walking and cycling) are promoted**

Principle 6:

Developing and nurturing environmental education, responsibility and action

Everyone has a part to play when it comes to tackling climate change, whether it is the Community Planning Partnership, local community action, schools, businesses or individuals. Many of the environmental challenges we face could be resolved if each individual and organisation made changes to their habits and practices. Changing attitudes will deliver secure behaviour change; however, we acknowledge a prolonged and sustained effort is required for this to happen.

Key to achieving this is education, which will provide the knowledge and desire for change to happen. Awareness and understanding of local and global environment issues are essential to ensure that actively caring for the environment becomes second nature. However, tools to support behaviour change need to be in place, such as outdoor learning land to grow food and the core path network.



By 2015, development of practical skills and a sense of connection with nature will be increasingly valued. People of all ages will be actively encouraged to take up opportunities for learning new practical skills. Health and well-being will be improving as local communities become increasingly empowered and take more ownership of community assets. Community ownership of local renewable energy generation will be well established.

Figure 7 Gullane Apple Festival

We will achieve the following outcomes:

- **Local community action to address resource efficiency and climate change challenges is supported**
- **East Lothian’s communities will have an awareness, understanding and responsibility for the environment and are involved in the active management of their local environment**

Principle 7:

Preparing for and managing climate change impacts

Climate change presents a very serious threat to the environmental, social and economic well being of East Lothian. In addressing climate change, it is necessary to tackle both cause and effect: to mitigate emissions, so that climate impacts are less severe, but also to ensure that the Community Planning Partners, local communities and businesses are able to adapt to changes in climate, which are inevitable. In particular, we will take actions which build local resilience – both of local communities and of the local environment. Changes to land use will be encouraged to increase the ability of the local area to cope with extreme weather events and other potential changes to climate.



Figure 8 Stormy weather at Dunbar Harbour

Mitigation of climate change aims to slow down climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Adaptation to climate change attempts to respond to the predicted impacts of unavoidable climate change.

We will achieve the following outcomes:

- East Lothian will be prepared for and manage climate change impacts
- A clear set of 'local resilience' indicators will be developed and monitored
- East Lothian will contribute to the Scottish Government's objective to increase woodland planting by 50% across Scotland
- Land use which increases soil organic matter will be encouraged, as will the development of wetland habitats

3. REPORTING AND MONITORING

This Strategy has been drafted by the East Lothian Environment Forum (ELEF) Steering Group, as well as various officers from across the Community Planning Partners. The Environment Strategy Action Plan (appendix 1) will be the key mechanism for reporting on progress on the key principles in this Strategy.

To ensure that the Strategy meets its objectives and to maintain widespread support across the Community Planning Partners and wider community, it needs to be seen as an effective communication tool and an influence on environmental decision making across East Lothian.

The Strategy will be reviewed every two years by the ELEF Steering Group, taking into account the progress made, as well as changes in regional, national and international policy. The Action Plan will be reviewed annually.

An annual progress report will be produced and endorsed by the ELEF Steering Group for the Community Planning Partnership. This will include current progress and an outline of actions for the following year. Reporting on this Strategy will be an important contributor to the ELCPP Single Outcome Agreement outcomes.

APPENDIX 1: ACTION PLAN AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

1. Moving to a low carbon and more localised economy

Ref	Action	Targets and timescales	Who's involved?	Lead partner	Performance measure	Outcomes
Objective LC1: Locally produced and distributed renewable / low carbon heat and energy supply will be encouraged, where appropriate						
LC1a	Plan positively and seek opportunities to facilitate low carbon and renewable energy technologies for communities to produce their own energy.	To be developed	East Lothian Council – Planning and Policy Developers	East Lothian Council	ELC planning policies.	Move towards decarbonised energy provision.
LC1b	Construction and refurbishment and operation of Public Sector buildings to adopt best practice.	BREEAM Very Good ⁵ or equivalent as a minimum.	Community Planning Partners FES	ELCPP	Planning application criteria.	Improved environmental performance of buildings.
Objective LC2: Opportunities to encourage and support a local economy will be sought						
LC2a	Raise awareness of the carbon impacts of food on our plates, including production, transportation and waste issues.	Targets to be developed.	Community Planning Partners One Planet Food Local community groups	ELCPP	To be developed.	Reduced carbon impact of food on plates.
LC2b	Promote the environmental benefits of eating a diet of less intensively farmed, organic, locally produced food.	Targets to be developed.	Community Planning Partners One Planet Food Local community groups	ELCPP	To be developed.	Reduced carbon impact of food on plates. Associated environment and biodiversity benefits.

⁵ www.breeam.org/index.jsp

LC2c	Support local food growing initiatives, e.g. allotments, land share, community gardens, etc.	Targets within allotment strategy. Other targets to be developed.	Community Planning Partners Local community groups	Local community groups	To be developed	Reduced carbon impact of food on plates. Associated health, environment and biodiversity benefits.
LC2d	Improve accessibility to healthy, affordable and locally available food choices, e.g. food co-ops, farmers markets.	Targets to be developed.	East Lothian Council – Economic Development Scottish Enterprise	East Lothian Council	To be developed	Improved access to affordable locally produced food.
LC2e	Encourage and enable business opportunities in East Lothian	Targets within the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).	East Lothian Council – Economic Development Local businesses Scottish Enterprise	East Lothian Council	Indicators within the SOA	Development of a localised economy.
LC2f	Encourage skills training and retention	Targets to be developed.	East Lothian Council – Community Services Schools Community Planning Partners Voluntary sector Local businesses	East Lothian Council	To be developed.	Capacity building within local community.

2. Reducing dependence on finite resources

Ref	Action	Targets & timescales	Who's involved?	Lead partner	Performance measure	Outcome
Objective R1: The sustainable use of finite resources, including energy, water, construction materials, etc. will be promoted						
R1a	Increase the education and awareness of resource efficiency	Reduce East's Lothian's carbon footprint – targets to be firmed up once Public Sector Duty is published by Scottish Government	Community Planning Partners Schools Energy Saving Trust Carbon Trust Businesses Local community groups (e.g. transition network) FES	ELCPP	REAP software (Local Footprints Project) DEFRA	East Lothian will conserve energy and resources. Reduced vulnerability to energy security issues.
R1b	Development of policy tools and practice to reduce resource consumption, e.g. construction materials, water, food, consumables, peat based products.	To be developed once Public Sector Climate Change Duty becomes clear.	Community Planning Partners East Lothian Council – Planning, Community Housing & Property Maintenance Energy Saving Trust Carbon Trust Utility companies Local businesses Local housing associations Contractors	ELCPP	To be developed.	Reduced resource consumption Creation of local jobs.
R1c	Support Scottish Government target to eliminate fuel poverty as far as is reasonably practicable by	Fuel Poverty Strategy - eliminate Fuel Poverty as far	East Lothian Council – Community Housing Housing Associations Energy Saving Trust	East Lothian Council	Fuel Poverty Strategy reporting.	Eliminate Fuel Poverty in East Lothian as far as is reasonably practicable, by 2016.

	2016	as is reasonably practicable, by 2016.	Utility companies Changeworks			
R1d	Reduce carbon emissions from existing housing stock	Scottish Government's Energy Efficiency Action Plan includes a target to reduce energy consumption in Scotland by 12% by 2020, including the domestic sector.	East Lothian – Policy and Projects, Housing Strategy and Development, Environment Local Community Groups Energy Saving Trust	East Lothian Council	Indicators to be updated once Scottish Government targets are introduced for this area.	Households will be provided with assistance to reduce energy consumed within the household. Reduced energy bills. Increased number of households generating own energy. Switching to less carbon intensive sources of energy.
R1e	Development and implementation of Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme (or similar) in public sector Community Planning Partners	To be developed once Public Sector Climate Change Duty becomes clear.	Public Sector Community Planning Partners, e.g. ELC, QMU, Lothian & Borders Policy, NHS Lothian, Scottish Enterprise, Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue, etc. Carbon Trust	ELCPP	Carbon Management Plan and Carbon Reduction Commitment reporting.	Ensure that all CPP buildings operate in a resource and energy efficient manner.
R1f	Encourage sustainable procurement of goods and services across ELCPP	Public Sector CPP Sustainable Procurement policies	Community Planning Partners Scotland Excel	ELCPP	Policy review reports	Construction materials, food, energy, materials, consumables, etc purchased from sustainable sources. Drive demand for low

						carbon goods and services.
Objective R2: Consumption will be minimised where possible, and the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste will be promoted						
R2a	Reduce municipal waste through increased education and awareness of resource use	Scottish Government targets for recycling / composting of municipal waste: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% by 2010 • 50% by 2013 • 60% by 2020 • 70% by 2025 	East Lothian Council – Waste Services Zero Waste Scotland SEPA	East Lothian Council	Waste data returns to SEPA Annual reports	Diversion of waste from landfill. Reuse of waste material, e.g. composting, mulching, construction materials.
R2b	Reduce commercial and industrial waste	Landfill Directive targets Climate Change (Scotland) Act duties for waste producers	Community Planning Partners Business Environment Partnership Zero Waste Scotland SEPA	East Lothian Council	To be developed	Diversion of waste from landfill.
R2c	Reduce construction and demolition waste	Landfill Directive targets BREEAM target Local Plan Construction, building policies	Community Planning Partners Developers Zero Waste Scotland SEPA	ELCPP	To be developed.	Diversion of waste from landfill. Reuse for construction purposes, e.g. road construction, scalplings.

Objective R3: Residual waste will be disposed of maximising recovery of energy and other resources						
R3a	Develop options for long term residual waste treatment options	Scottish Government targets for municipal waste used for energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4% by 2010 • 14% by 2013 • 25% by 2020 • 25% by 2025 	East Lothian Council – Waste Services Community Planning Partners	East Lothian Council	Waste data returns to SEPA Annual reports	Diversion of waste to landfill

3. Recognising the importance of a well-looked after natural environment to the health and well-being of East Lothian's communities

Ref	Action	Targets & timescales	Who's involved?	Lead partner	Performance measure	Outcome
Objective NE1: East Lothian's environmental quality is monitored and improving						
NE1a	Actively encourage and support Scottish Water and SEPA in their programmes to further improve water quality in East Lothian's rivers, streams and coastal waters	Targets within the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)	East Lothian Council – Environment (Environmental Protection) SEPA	East Lothian Council	Indicators in the Single Outcome Agreement	Water quality of East Lothian's rivers, streams and coastal waters improved.
NE1b	Meeting statutory targets with regards to land and air quality	Statutory Local Air Quality Targets (Local Authority) Contaminated Land (Local Authority) Land Use Planning (SESplan)	East Lothian Council – Environment (Environmental Protection) SEPA	East Lothian Council	Annual reporting to Scottish Government	Air quality standards achieved for East Lothian
NE1c	Continue to implement initiatives to reduce litter, dog fouling and fly tipping.	Targets in the SOA	East Lothian Council - Environment (Environmental Protection and Community Wardens), Landscape and Countryside SEPA Lothian and Borders Police	East Lothian Council	Annual LEAMS score Indicators in the SOA.	Improved environmental quality. More responsible behaviour.

NE1d	Produce a State of the Environment Report	Target to be developed.	East Lothian Council – Environmental Protection	East Lothian Council	Indicators within the Single Outcome Agreement	State of East Lothian's environment reported.
Objective NE2: East Lothian's natural environment is valued, protected and enhanced						
NE2a	Implement Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)	Targets within LBAP	East Lothian Council - Landscape & Countryside East Lothian Biodiversity Partnership	East Lothian Council	Indicators in LBAP Action Plan	2013 LBAP vision achieved.
NE2b	Raise public awareness of biodiversity, geology, marine environment, etc.	Outdoor Education Strategy Ranger Management Strategy Management Plans LBAP	East Lothian Council – Landscape & Countryside (Ranger Services) Community Planning Partners	East Lothian Council	Number of events, talks, local groups	Increased awareness / responsible behaviour.
Objective NE3: Sustainable land management practices will be undertaken and promoted						
NE3a	Undertake an audit of green space	Undertaken 2009/10	East Lothian Council – Landscape & Countryside and Planning departments	East Lothian Council	Qualitative and quantitative audit	Improved understanding of green space across East Lothian.
NE3b	Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy	Targets to be developed within Action Plan	East Lothian Council – Landscape & Countryside and Planning departments	East Lothian Council	To be developed.	Agreed Open Space standards. Connected open spaces.
NE3c	Communities encouraged to engage in developing,	Number of Community	East Lothian Council – Landscape and	East Lothian Council	Number of groups	Number of Green Flags awarded. Local

	maintaining, improving and managing green space and green areas.	Gardens / Allotment Associations / In Bloom Groups	Countryside Community Planning Partners East Lothian Environment Forum Local interest groups		involved.	ownership, citizenship.
NE3d	Implement Coastal Tourism Strategy	Targets to be agreed	East Lothian Tourism Forum	East Lothian Tourism Forum	To be developed	Sustainable tourism development / businesses. Protection of natural heritage of coast.
NE3e	Development and implementation of Site Management Plans	Targets to be set out in Site Management Plans	East Lothian Council – Landscape and Countryside Friends of / interest groups Advisory Groups	East Lothian Council	Annual report	Well-managed, healthy natural environment.
NE3f	Raise awareness of the importance of soils for supporting biodiversity, agriculture, carbon storage, role in flood risk management, etc.	Targets to be developed.	East Lothian Council – Landscape and Countryside, Planning, Environment SEPA SNH NFU	East Lothian Council	To be developed	Increased understanding of soil functionality. Preservation of soils.
NE3g	Support the Scottish Soil Framework	Targets within Scottish Soil Framework.	Community Planning Partners SEPA	ELCPP	To be developed	East Lothian’s soils are protected and enhanced.
Objective NE4: Wildlife corridors will be developed effectively in urban and rural areas, allowing wildlife to move and adapt in response to climate change						
NE4a	Ensure landscaping for new developments are designed to support biodiversity	Targets within sustainability criteria – see B1b (to be	East Lothian Council – Landscape and Countryside, Planning Developers	East Lothian Council	To be developed	New developments enhance biodiversity rather than creating an

		developed)				urban barrier.
NE4b	Implement effective land management on the Council estate to support biodiversity in urban and rural areas	Targets to be developed	East Lothian Council – Landscape and Countryside, Planning	East Lothian Council	To be developed	Habitat links are created, encouraging wider landscape enhancement.

4. Encouraging more sustainable land use patterns

Ref	Action	Targets & timescales	Who's involved?	Lead partner	Performance measure	Outcome
Objective B1: Sustainable patterns and forms of development will be encouraged						
B1a	Implement Land Use Planning Framework, e.g. SESplan, East Lothian Local Plan 2008.	SESplan Major Issues Report published summer 2010 for consultation. East Lothian Local Plan adopted November 2008.	SESplan Joint Committee East Lothian Council – Policy and Projects Developers	SESplan	Indicators in SESplan	Implemented, agreed SESplan in place.
B1b	Development and implementation of sustainability criteria for developers for new buildings / homes	Targets to be developed and incorporated in Supplementary Planning Guidance	East Lothian – Housing Strategy and Development, Policy and Projects, Property Management, Waste Services, Transportation, Environment	East Lothian Council	Indicators to be developed.	Developers will be assisted in adopting more sustainable building practices.
B1c	Continue to improve and develop centres of towns and villages	East Lothian Local Plan 2008	East Lothian Council – Policy & Projects Heritage Lottery Fund Historic Scotland	East Lothian Council	Indicators in Local Plan	Regeneration of an area through a coordinated approach covering buildings, traffic and public realm improvements.
B1d	Seek opportunities to protect prime agricultural land from	To be developed	East Lothian Council – Policy & Projects	East Lothian Council	To be developed.	Land maintained for agricultural purposes and other soil functions, e.g.

	development.					providing habitats, storing carbon, etc.
B1e	Production of a policy on Housing Renewal Areas	Requirement of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006.	East Lothian Housing Partnership	East Lothian Housing Partnership	To be developed.	Upgraded housing and local amenities put in place, improving a specific area as a whole.
Objective B2: The Development Plan Strategy is complemented by adequate provision of services and facilities that serve the needs the community						
B2a	Seek opportunities for provision of local services and facilities within Development Frameworks	Targets within Development Frameworks	East Lothian Council – Policy and Projects Developers	East Lothian Council	Indicators to be developed	Access to local services and facilities.
Objective B3: Green space is promoted in the East Lothian’s towns and villages						
B3a	Seek opportunities to integrate open space with the urban environment.	Targets within SESplan / Local Plans	East Lothian Council – Policy and Projects, Landscape and Countryside Community Planning Partners Developers	East Lothian Council	Indicators within Development Framework / Local Plan – to be developed?	Green network created that links into central Scotland Green Network. Benefits to the health of individuals, communities and wildlife.

5. Connecting communities and increasing use of sustainable forms of transport

Ref	Action	Targets & timescales	Who's involved?	Lead partner	Performance measure	Outcome
Objective T1: A move towards more sustainable forms of transport from single occupancy car use						
T1a	Planning for future development – locating employment / shops / services close to housing, etc.	SESplan East Lothian Local Plan 2008	East Lothian Council – Planning Community Planning Partners Local businesses	East Lothian Council	ELC Planning department	Reduced need to access a vehicle for work, services, shops and leisure.
T1b	Consider how ELCPP can raise awareness and explore and review future opportunities to develop infrastructure, which supports new technologies such as recharging for electric vehicles	To be developed	ELCPP	ELCPP	To be developed	Infrastructure in place for low carbon vehicles.
T1c	Create path infrastructure for walking, cycling and horseriding	Targets within Core Path Plan	East Lothian Council – Landscape and Countryside Access Forum	East Lothian Council	To be developed	Connected path network of walking, cycling, horse riding.
T1d	Development and Implement East Lothian Access Strategy	Targets in Action Plans	East Lothian Council – Landscape and Countryside Access Forum	East Lothian Council	To be developed (Length of promoted / signposted paths?)	Connected path network of walking, cycling, horse riding.
Objective T2: Public awareness and knowledge of sustainable transport options is increasing						
T2a	Increase public awareness	Targets will be	SEStran	ELCPP	SEStran	Increased use of

	and promote benefits of sustainable transport modes	identified when Local Transport Strategy is developed.	Community Planning Partners Local interest groups		(information on take up of public transport / walking & cycling)	sustainable transport modes. Associated health benefits.
T2b	Mapping of barriers to identify the barriers to public transport use.	To be developed	SEStran East Lothian Council – Planning, Transportation Community Planning Partners	ELCPP	To be developed	Identify barriers to public transport use and use this information to shape / inform transport policy / decisions. Improved evidence base to lobby service providers / Scottish Government.
T2c	Consult with local communities to identify lack of access to public transport and examine the feasibility of alternative methods of service delivery.	Targets will be identified when Local Transport Strategy is developed.	SEStran East Lothian Council – Planning, Transportation Community Planning Partners	East Lothian Council	2010/11 – with development of Local Transport Strategy.	Alternatives identified for those unable to access public transport and where and when public transport is unviable.
Objective T3:						
Accessibility to communication systems is increasing and greater use of local working models is promoted						
T3a	Promote and increase accessibility to communication systems, e.g. internet access, online services, etc.	Percentage of population with internet access: 70% by 2010/11	East Lothian Council – Community Services Community Planning Partners	East Lothian Council	Scottish Household Survey (biannual)	Improved access to online services.
T3b	Promote greater use of local flexible working models, e.g. local hubs / home working	Targets will be identified when Local Transport Strategy is	East Lothian Council – Economic Development, Libraries	East Lothian Council	ELC Economic Development	Reduce commuting to and from Edinburgh.

		developed. ELC WorkSmart targets	Edinburgh Council (Edinburgh based ELC staff / EL based Edinburgh staff) Large Edinburgh based employers Community Planning Partners Local businesses			
Objective T4: The health and well-being benefits of active transport (walking and cycling) are promoted						
T4a	Increase awareness of routes around East Lothian for walkers, cyclists and horse riders	Targets to be developed	East Lothian Council – Landscape and Countryside, Environment SEStran NHS Lothian Health Promotion Partnership	East Lothian Council	To be developed	Increased use of non-motorised access routes by walkers, cyclists and horse riders in East Lothian. Associated health benefits.
T4b	Encourage active transport of children to school, through provision of safe routes to school, walking buses, cycling facilities, etc.	Targets within School Travel Plans	East Lothian Council – Education, Transportation	East Lothian Council	School Travel Plan reporting	Reduced private car use. Associated health benefits.

6. Developing and nurturing environmental education, responsibility and action

Ref	Action	Targets & timescales	Who's involved?	Lead partner	Performance measure	Outcome
Objective EE1: Local action to address climate change and resource efficiency challenges is supported						
EE1a	Support for local community and volunteer groups whose activities address climate change and resource efficiency.	Ongoing	East Lothian Environment Forum	ELEF	Number of local initiatives across East Lothian.	Local groups whose activities address climate change and resource efficiency. More resilient communities.
EE1b	Encourage local individuals / communities / businesses to sign up to initiatives / campaigns that address climate change, carbon reduction, etc., such as 10:10, Earth Hour, volunteering.	Ongoing	Community Planning Partners East Lothian Environment Forum	ELCPP	Area-wide carbon reduction	More resilient communities. Increased participation in environmental campaigns and action.
Objective EE2: East Lothian's communities will have an awareness, understanding and responsibility for the environment and are involved in the active management of their local environment						
EE2a	Participate in Local Footprints Project to explore how East Lothian's local and global environmental impact can be reduced.	Targets in the SOA	East Lothian Council – Environment (Sustainable Development) Local Footprints Project Community Planning Partners	East Lothian Council	Indicator in the SOA	The Local Footprints Project will be used to raise awareness and understanding of the local and global impact of consumption and to inform decisions to reduce that impact.
EE2b	Raise awareness of environmental stewardship among children and young	Target in the SOA Curriculum for	East Lothian Schools East Lothian Council	East Lothian Council	Indicator in the SOA	Responsible behaviour Better citizens

	people by continuing to support initiatives, such as Eco-Schools and Forest Schools	Excellence				
EE2c	Encourage Community Planning Partners to sign up to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration or similar	Ongoing	Community Planning Partners	ELCPP	Number of Community Planning Partners that sign up.	Community Planning Partners demonstrate their commitment to mitigate their impact on climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to predicted climate change impacts.
EE2d	Support events through the Environment Forum across East Lothian to raise awareness of climate change issues	Ongoing	East Lothian Council – Environment, Landscape and Countryside East Lothian Environment Forum Community Planning Partners	East Lothian Council	Number of events supported.	Residents and visitors will have a greater understanding of the environmental issues facing East Lothian.
EE2e	Raise awareness of local residents, staff, visitors and recreation users of individual environmental responsibility	Actions in Management Strategy, LBAP, etc	East Lothian Community Planning Partners East Lothian Environment Forum Local community groups VAEL	ELCPP	To be developed.	More responsible behaviour. Associated health and well-being benefits.
EE2f	Encourage volunteer action to actively manage local environment	Target in the SOA	Community Planning Partners East Lothian Environment Forum Local community	ELCPP	Indicator in the SOA.	More responsible behaviour. Associated health and well-being benefits.

			groups VAEL			
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7. Preparing for and managing climate change impacts

Ref	Action	Targets & timescales	Who's involved?	Lead partner	Performance measure	Outcome
Objective CC1: Preparing for and managing climate change impacts						
CC1a	Raise awareness and review local plans in light of Climate Change Adaptation Framework Impacts and LCLIP ⁶	Undertake LCLIP for East Lothian 2010/11.	Community Planning Partners Scottish Climate Change Impacts Programme Emergency Planning Response	ELCPP	Scottish Climate Change Declaration reporting (annually). To be developed	Report on climate change impacts and response for East Lothian
CC1b	Promote a range of soft engineering options, e.g. SUDS, wetland habitat to address flooding	Flood Risk Management Act ⁷ Development Planning Framework Flood Prevention Strategy.	Community Planning Partners SEPA Scottish Water	ELCPP	To be developed	Flood alleviation / prevention achieved through the implementation of soft engineering measures. Associated benefits to natural environment, e.g. habitat creation.
CC1c	Emergency planning for extreme weather events	Plans already in place.	Community Planning Partners	ELCPP	Plan review reports.	Emergency plans to deal with weather and related emergencies
Objective CC2: A clear set of 'local resilience' indicators will be developed and monitored						
CC2a	Develop and monitor a set of	To be	Community Planning		To be	Gaps in local resilience

⁶ Local Climate Impacts Project www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=278&Itemid=377.
⁷ www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/Flooding/FRMAct

	'local resilience' indicators.	developed.	Partners		developed.	identified and progress made to ensure East Lothian's communities are prepared for and can manage the impacts of climate change.
Objective CC3: East Lothian will contribute to the Scottish Government's objective to increase woodland planting by 50%⁸ across Scotland						
CC3a	Develop and implement programme of tree planting across East Lothian	In line with Scottish Government targets.	Forestry Commission Scotland Community Planning Partners		To be developed.	Increased area of woodland across East Lothian. Sequestration of carbon. Associated recreational and health benefits.
Objective CC4: Land use which increases soil organic matter will be encouraged, as will the development of wetland habitats						
CC4a	Encourage land use practices that increase soil organic matter and the creation of wetland habitats	To be developed.	Community Planning Partners		To be developed.	Improved soil quality and creation of wetlands, which aids the sequestration of carbon.

⁸ [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/SFS2006fcfc101.pdf/\\$FILE/SFS2006fcfc101.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/SFS2006fcfc101.pdf/$FILE/SFS2006fcfc101.pdf)

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT

A2.1 CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is widely acknowledged as the most serious environmental threat facing our planet. Greenhouse gas emissions, from the burning of fossil fuels (e.g. oil, gas, coal), are already making an impact on the world's climate.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded in 2007 that global temperatures are rising and that this rise was "likely to be caused by the actions of humans". It suggests that globally temperatures could rise between 1.1°C and 6.4°C and sea levels between 18cm and 59cm by 2100, which could lead to changes in local agricultural and ecological conditions, as well as more extreme weather.

The UK Committee on Climate Change has stated 'the world needs to aim to limit temperature increases to 2°C and to reduce the chance of a 4°C increase to very low levels. Failure to do this would result in adverse environmental impacts with significant human consequences: melting of the Greenland ice caps, extinction of large numbers of animal species, flooding, extreme weather events, ocean acidification and reduction in crop yields. Cutting the levels of greenhouse gases that we emit could significantly reduce the impacts of climate change. We must act now and act globally'.

Further information:

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is an intergovernmental scientific body for the assessment of climate change. It was established in 1988 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), with the aim of providing a clear scientific view on the current state of climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic consequences.

<http://www.ipcc.ch/>

Information on Climate Change on the **Scottish Government's** website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange>.

A2.2 IMPACTS ON SCOTLAND

Much of the change in climate over the next 30 - 40 years is already determined by our past and present emissions. Scotland will be increasingly affected by climate change in the future and it is essential that we act now to adapt and reduce our emissions. In fact, evidence shows that we are already experiencing the impact of climate change in Scotland⁹.

Observations show that since 1961:

- Temperature increases have been experienced in every season;
- Scotland has become 20% wetter;
- Growing season is now earlier and longer;
- There are 25% fewer days of frost; and
- There is a shortened snow season.

⁹ SNIFFER, A Handbook of Climate Trends Across Scotland:
<http://climatetrendshandbook.sccip.org.uk/>.

Climate change is already presenting challenges for our habitats and biodiversity, built environment and infrastructure here in East Lothian.

The UK Climate Projections 2009¹⁰ (UKCP09) predict expected changes in climate over the rest of the century. In Scotland, we can expect warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. If emissions continue at their present rate by 2050, the area will experience:

- Summer average temperature increases of 3.5°C
- Winter average temperature increase of 2.3°C
- A 16% decrease in summer precipitation
- A 12% increase in winter precipitation

UKCP09 also shows that sea level around Scotland will rise over the next century. Sea level is predicted to rise in Edinburgh by between 10.5 to 18.0cm by 2050 and 23.4 to 39.2cm by 2095.

Many aspects of society, environment and economy will be affected by climate change over the coming decades, key consequences include:

- Biodiversity – changing conditions will favour some species, but some will be lost as conditions become unsuitable for them.
- Agriculture – longer growing seasons may allow farmers to grow different crops; however, milder winters will bring new pests and diseases to crops, trees and biodiversity.
- Housing and buildings – potentially less demand for heating; however, increased cooling requirements.
- Land use – problems caused by flooding, erosion and drought, with changing patterns of crop suitability and land use.
- Transport – severe weather events and temperature increases could lead to disruption to road and rail services.
- Health – possible rise in heat-related deaths, but a potential fall in excess winter deaths related to cold. Sources of disease, such as bacteria and pest may thrive in warmer conditions and lead to new or exacerbated health problems.

Further information:

The **UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP)** was set up in 1997 to assist with the coordination of scientific research in to the impacts of climate change and to help organisations adapt to those unavoidable impacts. UKCIP publish climate change information on behalf of the UK Government that shows how the UK's climate may change this century. The current set of climate change information, UK Climate Projections was published in June 2009. <http://www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php>

The **Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SCCIP)** is an initiative that aims to bring together Scottish stakeholders to collectively address and prepare for the impacts of climate change. <http://www.sccip.org.uk/Default.aspx?pid=1>

¹⁰ <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

A2.3 DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

A2.3.1 Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act¹¹ 2009 is a key commitment of the Scottish Government and is the most far-reaching environmental legislation considered by the Parliament during the first ten years of devolution. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low carbon economy are key aims of the Scottish Government, to help create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

The aim of the Act is to create a statutory framework to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, with an ambitious interim target for a 42% cut in emissions by 2020. The reduction targets include emissions from international aviation and shipping, as well as emissions of all six greenhouse gases, which include carbon dioxide (CO₂).

The Act places a strong duty on all public bodies to make a full contribution to tackling climate change. Ministers are required to set annual targets to ensure delivery from 2010.

A2.3.2 East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement 2009

ELCPP priorities for East Lothian are detailed in the East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement 2009 (SOA)¹², the Plan for the future of East Lothian, which is an agreement between Scottish Government and ELCPP.

There are six themes throughout the SOA, with a group responsible for taking forward action to achieve the outcomes in the following areas:

- Children, Young People & Education
- Environment, Housing & Places
- Community Safety
- Enterprise & Skills
- Health & Social Care
- Tackling Poverty

The SOA was developed by the SOA theme groups, in discussion with the Community Planning Board. It was approved by partner organisations and signed off by the ELCPP in May 2009 and then with the Scottish Government in July 2009. This SOA covers a two-year period, e.g. 2009-11 and work on the SOA 2011 will commence at the end of 2010.

The Environment Strategy is closely linked to the SOA, with sustainability as an overarching theme. This Strategy has a longer timescale and draws in several outcomes from the SOA:

- **East Lothian has well connected communities with increased use of sustainable transport modes**
- **East Lothian has an attractive and healthy environment, with a rich diversity of wildlife, habitats and distinctive historic built environments, which enhances people's lives**
- **East Lothian will be a less resource intensive, oil dependent county, by reducing its ecological and carbon footprints by 80% by 2050**

¹¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/climatechangeact>
¹² www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/files/Final2009SOA.pdf

The SOA theme groups aim to achieve the outcomes in the SOA by working together to a set of action plans, which are called logic models. Each outcome has an action plan, which shows the activities that members of the group have agreed to carry out to achieve it.

The SOA theme groups meet regularly to check progress and update their action plans. They report quarterly to the Community Planning Board, as well as to the partnership groups in their area and to member organisations.

East Lothian Performs¹³ demonstrates how we are progressing towards achieving the outcomes set out in the SOA.

Further information:

The **East Lothian Community Planning Partnership** website provides details about the Partnership and the Single Outcome Agreement.

<http://www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk>

A2.4 LINKS WITH OTHER STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PLANS

The East Lothian Environment Strategy is an overarching Strategy, with most of the actual work to be carried out as part of other strategies, policies and plans, which will underpin this document. The information in this section refers to related strategies, policies and plans; however, this is by no means an exhaustive list.

Table A2.1 Links with other Strategies, Policies and Plans

Topic	Strategy / Policy / Plan
Carbon Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Carbon Management Plan, 2009-14 • NHS Lothian Carbon Management Plan, 2007-12
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Economic Development Business Plan, 2010-11
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woods for Learning Strategy, 2010-13
Environmental Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, published 2007 • East Lothian Air Quality Management Progress reports • Bathing Water Strategy for Scotland, published 2006 • East Lothian Contaminated Land Strategy • Scotland River Basin Management Plan, published 2009
Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe Weather Response Plan, 2010
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Local Housing Strategy, 2003-13 (development of the East Lothian Local Housing Strategy 2012-17 in progress) • East Lothian Fuel Poverty Strategy, 2008 • Development of East Lothian Local Housing Strategy, in progress, to be in place Spring 2011 • East Lothian Council Scheme of Assistance, 2010-12 • Links with the East Lothian Homelessness Strategy, 2009-14
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SESplan Main Issues Report published May 2010 for public

¹³ <http://eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/default.aspx?dowhat=15>

¹⁴ The East Lothian Local Housing Strategy 2012-17 will include a Strategy for Below Tolerable Standard Dwellings and a Policy for Housing Renewal Areas to be in place 2011

	<p>consultation until 27th August 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final SESplan due for publication 2011 • East Lothian Local Plan, adopted 28th October 2008
Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan, 2008-13 • Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Tourism Strategy 2010-12, in progress, to be in place 2010 • East Lothian Coastal Tourism Strategy, published 2010
Transport & Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Access Strategy, to be developed • Draft East Lothian Core Path Plan • East Lothian Cycling Strategy, to be developed • East Lothian Local Transport Strategy, to be developed • SEStran, Regional Transport Strategy, 2008-2023
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan, due to launch summer 2010

GLOSSARY

Active travel: Refers to travel and transport that focuses on physical activity (e.g. walking, cycling and scooting), as opposed to motorised and carbon-dependent means.

Anthropogenic: Refers to effects, processes or materials, which are derived by human activities.

Biodiversity: Is the term used to describe the variety of life on Earth. It includes every plant and animal, as well as micro-organisms, such as bacteria and viruses.

Building capacity: Describes activities, resources and support that strengthen the skills and abilities of people and communities, enabling them to take effective action and leading roles in the development of their communities.

Carbon: The term 'carbon' is often used as a shorthand reference to greenhouse gases, of which carbon dioxide is the largest element. Greenhouse gases, however, are often measured in terms of carbon equivalent impacts and hence the shorthand of carbon is often used.

Carbon cycle: Describes the way that carbon flows through the atmosphere, oceans, on land and in rocks (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)).

Carbon dioxide (CO₂): Is a naturally occurring gas that is also a by-product of burning fossil fuels and biomass, as well as land use changes and other industrial processes. It is the principle anthropogenic greenhouse gas that affects the earth's radiative balance. It is the reference gas against which other greenhouse gases are measured

Carbon Footprint: Is a subset of an ecological footprint and is defined as the total set of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions caused by an organisation, event, individual or product and is usually expressed in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) or its equivalent of other GHGs emitted (CO₂e). East Lothian's carbon footprint is 12.13 tonnes of carbon per capita.

Carrying capacity: Measures the ability of an ecosystem to support and maintain stable populations in balance with available resources.

Climate change: is defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods'.

Climate change adaptation: Attempts to respond to the predicted impacts of unavoidable climate change.

Climate change mitigation: Aims to slow down the impacts of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

CO₂e: Carbon dioxide equivalence is a way of measuring the climate impact of all greenhouse gases in standard form. Because they vary in their ability to trap heat in the atmosphere, and in the length of time they remain in the atmosphere, the effect of each gas is expressed in terms of an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide.

The **Development Plan:** is the [Edinburgh and the Lothians Structure Plan 2015](#) (ELSP), read in conjunction with the [East Lothian Local Plan 2008](#). The latter is supported by various Development Frameworks which are being produced to guide the planning of the major new developments within East Lothian, such as Blindwells New Settlement. The ELSP will be replaced by a strategic development plan for Edinburgh & South East Scotland. This is currently being prepared by [SESplan](#), the Strategic Development Planning Authority, and a Proposed Plan is expected to be published in summer 2011.

Ecological footprint: Is a measure of resource consumption. It calculates the total environmental burden humans place on the planet. It represents the area of land required to provide raw materials, energy and food, as well as to absorb pollution and waste. East Lothian's ecological footprint is 5.31 hectares (ha) per capita (three planets equivalent).

Ecological limits: Refers to the resource threshold beyond which any living system is unable to properly function.

Ecosystem: An ecosystem refers to the combined physical and biological attributes of an environment, in which physical factors of the environment, such as rocks and soil, function together with interdependent organisms, such as plants and animals within the same habitat.

Environmental quality: Refers to various environmental factors that relate to both the natural and built environment (e.g. air and water purity, pollution, noise) and their impact on the overall quality of ecosystems and potential effects on human beings.

Finite resources: Are naturally occurring resources that do not renew themselves and which could be potentially completely used up, e.g. oil or coal.

Green/open space: Greenspace Scotland defines greenspaces as the 'green lungs' of our towns and cities contributing to improving people's physical and mental health by providing places for informal recreation - walking, cycling, sitting, socialising and children's play - and 'breathing spaces' to take time out from the stresses of modern life. They bring the countryside into our towns and cities, and make it accessible from our 'backdoors'.

- Greenspace is any vegetated land or water within or adjoining an urban area. This includes:
- Green corridors like paths, disused railway lines, rivers and canals
- Woods, grassed areas, parks, gardens, playing fields, children's play areas, cemeteries and allotments
- Countryside immediately adjoining a town which people can access from their homes
- Derelict, vacant and contaminated land which has the potential to be transformed

Greenhouse effect: Earth's atmosphere traps solar radiation, caused by the presence of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which allow incoming sunlight to pass through but absorb heat radiated back from the earth's surface. Greenhouse gas concentrations are increasing in the Earth's atmosphere, due to human activity, which has a big impact on climate change.

Greenhouse gases: Nearly the entire Earth's atmosphere is made up of Nitrogen (78%) and Oxygen (21%) and whilst both of these gases are key in the vast number of processes that support life on Earth, they play almost no direct role in regulating the climate. This is carried out by some of the trace gases in the remaining 1% of the atmosphere, which occur in relatively small amounts, collectively known as 'greenhouse gases'. These gases are both natural and anthropogenic, and include water vapour (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄) and ozone (O₃) and the entirely human-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, known as halocarbons.

Low carbon economy: An economy that has a minimal requirement for carbon energy sources and is proposed as a means to prepare for and reduce our exposure to expected future supply problems and associated rising energy costs as well as avoiding any impacts of climate change.

Resilient communities: Describes communities that have the ability to recover from adverse situations, such as change, disaster, etc. associated with climate change. They can do this by actively influencing and preparing for economic, social and environmental changes, through activities such as establishing a local economy, producing and distributing low carbon / renewable energy locally, developing skills, such as gardening or the ability to mend and fix things, etc. When times are bad, the community can call upon the numerous resources they have to pull together and bounce back.

Wildlife corridor: A wildlife corridor is an area of habitat, which allows connectivity between wildlife populations that are separated due to human activities such as roads or development. They maintain biodiversity, allow migrations, let populations interbreed and provide access to larger habitats.