

# **Scotland's Climate Change Declaration**

East Lothian Council Report 2011

## Introduction

East Lothian Council (the Council) re-signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in March 2008. The Declaration is a public statement wherein local authorities acknowledge the reality and implications of climate change and their responsibility to respond effectively. The Declaration also welcomes the actions of the UK and Scottish governments and the opportunities for local authorities to work in partnership with others in responding to climate change. All of Scotland's 32 local authorities have signed the Declaration.

As a signatory to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration (SCCD), the Council is committed to taking action across a range of key areas. These can be summarised as:

1. Providing effective **leadership, governance and management** on climate change;
2. Reducing the local authority's **own direct greenhouse gas emissions** from their estate and services;
3. Taking action to reduce **emissions from the local authority area**;
4. Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to **adapt to the impacts of climate change**;
5. Developing effective **partnership working and climate change communications**, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

This Report focuses on these five key areas, and outlines the steps the Council took over the past year towards the SCCD commitments. The reported data relates to financial year 2010/11 (FY10/11). The report will be sent to the Sustainable Scotland Network which is co-ordinating the submission of annual SCCD reports on behalf of COSLA and Scottish Government.

## Section 1: Governance, Leadership and Management

The Council's [Corporate Plan \(2008-2012\)](#) identifies climate change and continuing demands on the earth's resources as key challenges both locally and globally and endorses work on the Council's carbon management plan.

Environment is the lead department for the Council on co-ordinating progress on SCCD. The Senior Environment and Consumer Services Manager is lead officer reporting to the Executive Director of Environment. However, it is clearly recognised that developing the SCCD commitments is a cross-cutting corporate matter affecting the whole Council. There is therefore a cross-departmental Carbon Management Team, overseen by a Project Board comprising Heads of Service from across the Council, together with the Cabinet Spokesperson on Environment.

The Council has worked closely with its community planning partners in developing a new [Single Outcome Agreement for East Lothian \(2011\)](#), which highlights sustainability as a cross-cutting issue. Protecting and enhancing the environment is also a key priority along with reducing our carbon footprint and demand on finite resources.

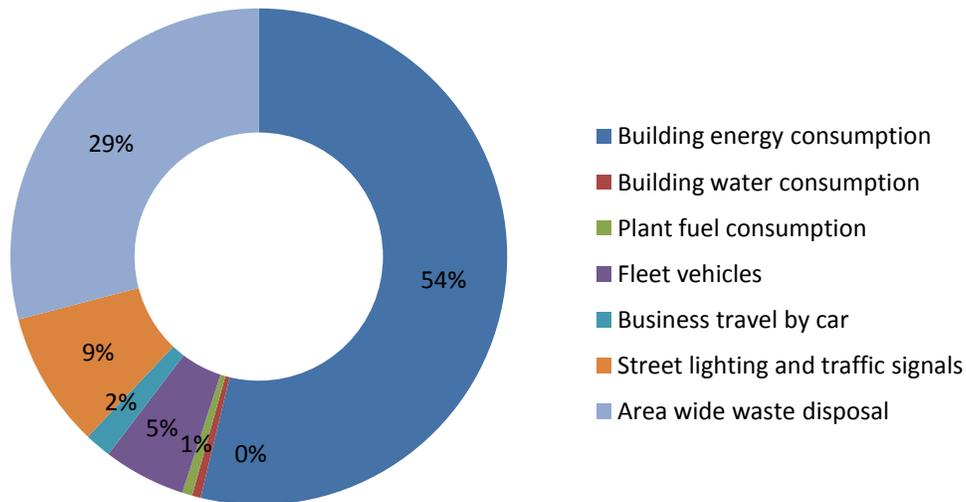
### Priorities for the year ahead

- Continued implementation and monitoring of the Carbon Management Plan;
- Development of procedures to ensure the climate change implications of plans and policies are fully considered as required by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (CC(S)A);
- Review of existing council policy to identify those that conflict with CC(S)A obligations;
- Continued reporting on Carbon Reduction Commitment;
- Reporting on the [Single Outcome Agreement for East Lothian \(2011\)](#); and
- Raising the profile of sustainability and climate change issues within the council, partners and wider community.

## Section 2: Reducing the local authority's own direct greenhouse gas emissions from their estate and services

The total GHG emissions associated with the Council's operational activities in FY10/11 are estimated to be 35,004 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. A breakdown by source is shown below:

**Figure 1. Breakdown of emissions by source (FY10/11)**



The Council has developed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Plan to provide a corporate framework to achieve its reduction targets. The aims of the Plan are to:

- Reduce carbon emissions across Council operations by 25% by 2014 (5% per annum for the duration of the Plan);
- Embed carbon management into the Council's policies and practices across all service areas;
- Communicate carbon management objectives, initiatives and achievements to all Council employees, to improve participation in initiatives; and

Particular progress was made during FY10/11 in the following areas:

- Revision of carbon footprinting methodology to meet current best practice;
- Improved energy metering and monitoring systems;
- Building energy efficiency improvements;
- Office rationalisation through the *WorkSmart* project;
- Consolidation of evening and weekend lets;
- Continued upgrading of street lighting to more energy efficient white light;
- Confirmation of a £10million investment in the installation of renewables across the Council's estate;
- Purchase of electric vehicles and installation of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles;
- Ongoing installation of speed limiters and vehicle management (tracking) systems;
- Pilot food waste reduction project in primary schools;
- Improvement to the recycling facilities at John Muir House and Brunton Hall;
- Further expansion of recycling provision in rural areas, schools, Council offices etc;
- Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Participation.

### **Priorities for the year ahead (2011-12)**

- Photovoltaic (PV) installations across the estate;
- School web portal to enable easy monitoring of energy consumption;
- Further investment in energy control improvements to buildings;
- Further feasibility studies and trialling of low carbon and renewable building technologies (such as a biomass boiler on the John Muir House campus);
- Energy awareness training for key staff teams; and
- Purchase of further low carbon vehicles and installation of further charging points for electric vehicles;
- Fuel efficient driving training for key fleet drivers;
- Office composting initiatives;

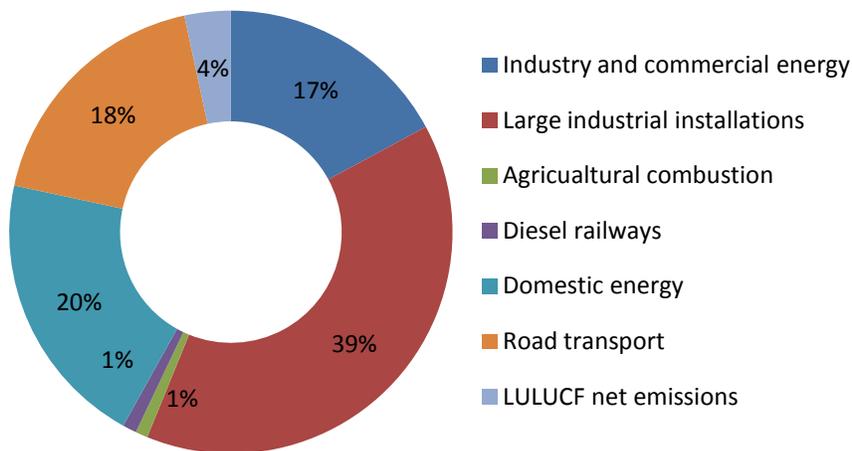
### Section 3: Taking action to reduce the emissions from the local authority area

In line with SSN guidance the Council has used [Department of Energy and Climate Change \(DECC\)](#) and [Stockholm Environment Institute \(SEI\)](#) estimates of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for East Lothian as a whole.

DECC employs a **production based methodology where the emissions associated with the production and processing of fuels (including electricity) are allocated to the end-user**. It excludes offshore oil and gas, aviation, shipping, exports and the embodied GHG emissions associated with imported goods and services.

The most recently available data relates to 2009 and estimates that area wide emissions in East Lothian are 1.112 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is equivalent to **11.5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita** (see below for a breakdown by source), which is significantly greater than the Scottish average of 7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This disparity reflects the presence of Lafarge cement works in the county as a major source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Scotland<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 2. Breakdown of per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by source (DECC 2011)**



<sup>1</sup> Please note that Cockenzie power station is not included in these figures because the methodology attributes electricity emissions to the end-user.

However, the [NI186 indicator dataset](#), which is a subset of the local and regional data produced by DECC, remove emissions from motorways, diesel railways, land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), and EU ETS industrial installations, such as Lafarge. This therefore provides a fairer picture of emissions per capita in East Lothian that are within the scope of influence of the local authority.

The most recently available NI186 data estimates that during 2009 total emissions within the scope of influence of East Lothian Council were 629,100 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is equivalent to **6.5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita**, which is slightly below the Scottish average of 6.8 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita.

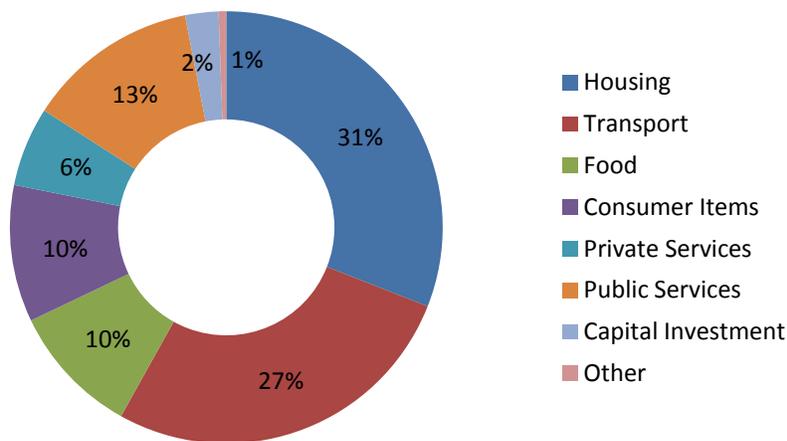
When compared to 2005 this represents a 10% reduction in total emissions (as shown below) and a 14% reduction in per capita emissions. The majority of these emissions reductions were associated with electricity consumption by industry and commercial businesses, but there has also been a reduction in domestic energy emissions and the emissions associated with transport.

**Table 1. Comparison of NI186 emissions between reporting periods (DECC 2011)**

Year	Total emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> )	Annual percentage change	Percentage change since 2005
2005	695,330	-	-
2006	703,940	1%	1%
2007	707,100	0.4%	2%
2008	712,390	1%	2%
2009	629,100	-12%	-10%

SEI uses a **consumption based methodology**, which includes the embodied emissions associated with goods and services. The most recent figures available estimate that in 2006 East Lothian's carbon footprint<sup>2</sup> was 1.163 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is equivalent to **12.53 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita**, which is exactly the same as the Scottish average and represents a 3% reduction when compared to 2004. A breakdown by source is shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3. Breakdown of per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by source (SEI 2010)**



SEI also produces a GHG footprint which includes all six Kyoto GHGs. The most recent figures available estimate that in 2006 East Lothian's GHG footprint was 1.553 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. When compared to SEI's carbon footprint for East Lothian the emissions associated with food show the most significant rise. This is due to the CH<sub>4</sub> emissions associated with food production, which have a global warming potential 25 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub>.

Per capita this is equivalent to **16.74 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e**, which is very similar to the Scottish average and represents a 2% increase when compared to 2004. The majority of this increase was related to transport, which saw a 14% increase in emissions and offset reductions in the emissions associated with capital investment, food and consumer items.

<sup>2</sup> Defined by SEI as including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions only as opposed to all six Kyoto greenhouse gases (GHGs).

In common with most UK local authorities, ELC is not directly measuring carbon emissions from the area. Therefore the DECC and SEI data, which is summarised below, provides the best available estimate of area-wide emissions. However, it should be noted that while the DECC figures have a narrower scope than the SEI figures; they are official government statistics and considered to be more robust.

**Table 2. Summary of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates for East Lothian**

<b>Methodology</b>	<b>SEI CO<sub>2</sub> 2006 (2010)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>SEI GHG 2006 (2010)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>DECC 2009 (2011)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>NI186 2009 (2011)<sup>4</sup></b>
<b>East Lothian (ktCO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	1,163	1,553	1,112	629
<b>East Lothian (tCO<sub>2</sub>/capita)</b>	12.53	16.74	11.5	6.5

In addition to the progress with reducing the Council's own emissions, the following practical actions to reduce GHG emissions in East Lothian are of note:

- In partnership with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) and Eaga, the Council ran a community discount PV offer for residents in Haddington, North Berwick, Longniddry, Aberlady, Gullane and Dirleton; and
- A council tax discount was offered on properties that installed energy efficiency measures.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.resource-accounting.org.uk/downloads/scotland/east-lothian>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate\\_stats/gg\\_emissions/uk\\_emissions/2009\\_laco2/2009\\_laco2.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_stats/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2009_laco2/2009_laco2.aspx)

### Section 3 Priorities for the year ahead

- Launch the *East Lothian Green Deal* – A low cost loan facility for energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies;
- Develop a Local Transport Strategy to promote sustainable transport in East Lothian; and
- Continue to support local transition groups and initiate them in areas that are inactive.

## Section 4: Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to adapt to the impacts of climate change

### What is East Lothian Council doing to adapt to climate change?

- As a member of ELCPP the Council has developed an [East Lothian Environment Strategy \(2010-15\)](#) which includes climate change adaptation;
- The Council has produced an [Local Climate Impacts Profile \(LCLIP\)](#) for East Lothian;
- The Council has weather emergency response plans in place, developed with SEPA, Lothian & Borders Police and other partners;
- Business continuity plans are part of the Council's service management framework;
- Established a corporate emergency planning group to improve co-ordination and understanding;
- Ran a community planning partnership wide workshop about improving resilience in East Lothian with local community group Sustaining Dunbar;
- Working with local community groups to raise awareness; and
- Strategic Planning – working with partner authorities to develop a South East Scotland Plan (SESPan);

### Priorities for the year ahead

- Developing a better understanding of the UK Climate Change Impacts Data 2009 (UKCP09);
- Raising awareness of adaptation issues with Councillors and Senior Management across the Council;
- Working with local community groups as part of community planning initiatives to raise awareness and consider local actions;
- Developing business continuity/ risk management framework within ELC to raise awareness of climate change impacts; and
- Continued assessment of flood risk and preparation of flood risk management plans as required by the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

## **Section 5: Developing effective partnership working and climate change communications, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements**

The Council has worked closely with its community planning partners in developing a [Single Outcome Agreement for East Lothian \(2011\)](#), which highlights sustainability as a cross-cutting issue. Protecting and enhancing the environment is a key priority along with reducing our carbon footprint and reducing demand on finite resources.

The Council organised an East Lothian Environment Forum in 2008 to establish community priorities in developing an [East Lothian Environment Strategy \(2010-15\)](#), and set up a steering group with community planning partners and interested residents, to oversee the development of the strategy including wider community liaison and consultation.

The Eco-schools programme is supported across the county's schools with 18 Green Flag awards, 26 Silver and 35 Bronze. In FY10/11 95% of local authority schools in East Lothian had achieved at least one award.

### **Climate Change Communications**

- The Council, local schools and other partners participated in Earth Hour (March 2011). East Lothian came fourth in WWF's ['lights-out' league table](#) of 100 authorities across the UK; and
- Various local press articles.

### **What East Lothian Council has done to build capacity on climate change – internally, with partners and/or with the community.**

Most of the work to date has been around mitigation e.g. Carbon Management Plan (see

Section 2). Community Planning Partners (Fire, Police, NHS, etc.) are also doing work around energy efficiency, reduction of emissions etc. Community Planning Partners are also being encouraged to sign/ support the SCCD commitments.

There is a growing interest in the “Transition” movement in local communities, particularly [Sustaining Dunbar](#); similar initiatives are developing in [Haddington](#), [North Berwick](#) and some of the rural villages. Sustaining Dunbar again received funding from Climate Challenge Fund to develop their [Resilience Action Plan](#) and other sustainability projects.

The Council has continued to develop links with these groups and is broadly supportive of the “Transition” objectives towards more resilient communities.

### **Priorities for the year ahead**

- Monitoring and reporting on progress by community planning partners towards climate change related outcomes in the SOA, including the East Lothian Environment Strategy;
- Continued support for Eco-schools;
- Developing the work of the East Lothian Environment Forum particularly in the context of local community planning initiatives; and
- Raising profile of sustainability issues including climate change within the council, partners and wider community groups.

## Climate Change Progress Highlights of the Past Year

Main climate change achievements in FY10/11:

- Exceeding interim annual targets from the Carbon Management Plan (11% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions against FY07/08 baseline);
- Positive recognition East Lothian's approach to sustainable development and environmental issues in an [independent environmental review](#) of all SOAs in Scotland;
- Increasing the number of local authority schools with an eco-school award to 95%; and
- Participating in Earth Hour March 2011, with East Lothian coming in fourth place on the [WWF participation league table](#);

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