

# Climate Change Strategy

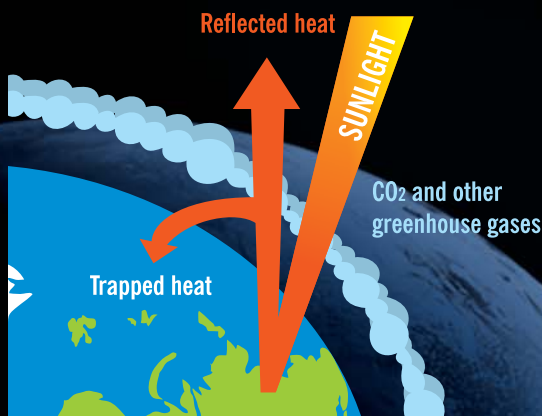
## Summary document

### Tackling climate change together

Woking Borough Council's Climate Change Strategy sets out policies and specific actions to help avert and adapt to climate change, and to ensure a sustainable future for the Borough. A key aim of the strategy is to help develop a collective community response. This is essential – residents and businesses have a vital role to play as well as the Council itself.

### What is climate change?

Mounting scientific evidence and debate leaves little doubt that climate change is happening and affects us all. The great thing is, we can all work together to help tackle it. The term 'climate change' refers to the warming of the Earth in the last 100 years. The diagram below illustrates this.



#### 'The Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming'

Greenhouse gases trap heat near the surface of the globe that would otherwise escape into space.

They make the world warmer than it would be if there was no blanket of gases – in fact without these gases the Earth would be a frozen, lifeless ball in space.

Man's activities are increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which will make the world warmer.

Predictions about the impact of this global warming include the following:

- a rise in sea level (as a result of the melting polar ice caps)
- a change in the pattern of rain and snowfall (meaning that some places will get wetter, whilst others get drier)
- a possible increase in the frequency of extreme weather events such as hurricanes and droughts.

Many scientists now agree that the greenhouse effect should be considered as one of today's most important long-term environmental problems.

### What does this mean for Woking?

Whilst climate change is recognised as a global issue, its effects are experienced at a local level. Inevitable effects such as temperature rises and changes in rainfall will have an impact on our everyday lives and the habitats around us. Flash flooding is an example of changing weather patterns caused by climate change. Parts of Woking were severely affected by flooding in 2000 and flood alleviation measures such as those planned for the Hoe Valley will help protect our Borough from future flood events (find out more about this project at [www.woking.gov.uk](http://www.woking.gov.uk)).

# Tackling climate change together

Woking's Climate Change Strategy has three main objectives:

- **reduction of Borough-wide CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions**
- **adaptation to climate change**
- **promotion of sustainable development.**

Regional estimates developed by Defra show that, in 2005, residents, businesses and visitors to Woking produced 604,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions. The Council is targeting a 60% reduction of these baseline figures by 2050.

The strategy is made up of 10 themes, each with a series of measurable actions and clear timescales.



Planning and regulation



Education and promotion



Energy



Green spaces



Waste



Water



Transport



Working with business



Procurement



Community and residents

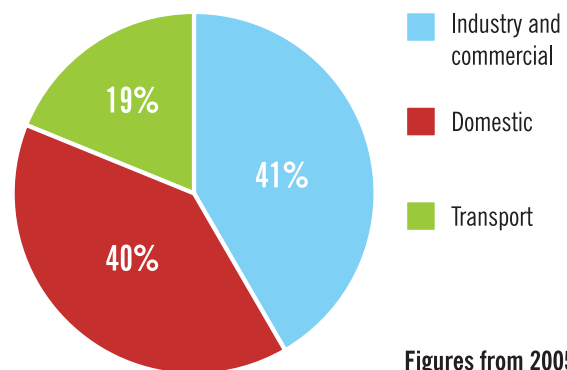
You can download a copy of the full Climate Change Strategy from [www.woking.gov.uk/environment/climatechangestrategy.pdf](http://www.woking.gov.uk/environment/climatechangestrategy.pdf)

## How you can help us

The Council has worked hard to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with its own buildings. To see some of the initiatives visit [www.woking.gov.uk/environment/climate/](http://www.woking.gov.uk/environment/climate/)

We now need to look at the Borough's impact upon climate change. This is where we need the help of the community and local businesses. As you can see from the chart, 41% of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced in Woking come from the industrial and commercial sector and 40% are from household emissions. By taking action in these two areas, we can make a huge difference to the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that is produced in the Borough.

### Breakdown of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Woking by end users



Thinking Globally  
Acting Locally

# Ten top tips for residents

By working with you, the Borough's residents, we can have greater impact and achieve more across our Borough. Here are 10 tips to help you do your bit to reduce your carbon footprint.

- 1. Energy efficiency** – as energy prices are on the increase, now is a good time to start saving energy and make your home more efficient. Investing in insulation and efficient lighting can mean huge savings. To find out how efficient your home is and for information on grants, visit the Energy Saving Trust at [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) or call **0800 512 012**.
- 2. Re-think waste** – with a little creativity almost everything can be re-used or recycled. Community furniture schemes and home composting are good ways of minimising waste. For more information, visit [www.surreywaste.info](http://www.surreywaste.info)
- 3. Getting around** – it's time to start thinking of different ways to get around. **Woking Cycle Town**: Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council have been awarded almost £2 million in funding to deliver a range of cycle initiatives in Woking such as building new cycle routes within the Borough and improving cycle storage facilities. **Car Hire Club**: In partnership with Enterprise Rent A Car, the Council will provide residents with a cost effective and convenient way of hiring a variety of vehicles over timeframes to suit you. This provides a great alternative to owning and maintaining a vehicle and cuts down the number of vehicles on the road and the associated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Find out more at [www.woking.gov.uk](http://www.woking.gov.uk)
- 4. Be water aware** – installing a water meter can help you waste less water and save you money. For more information, visit Three Valleys Water on [www.3valleys.co.uk](http://www.3valleys.co.uk) or call **01707 268 111**. Simple devices such as Hippos (which sit in your toilet cisterns) and water butts can help to reduce and reuse water. For more tips, go to Waterwise on [www.waterwise.org.uk](http://www.waterwise.org.uk) or call **020 7344 1882**.
- 5. Do it yourself** – visit Oak Tree House, Woking's demonstration water and energy efficiency house, to learn first hand about the measures that are available and which ones could work in your

home. For more information or to arrange a visit, call **020 7922 1669**.

- 6. Explore renewable energy** – as a home owner, you might be eligible for a grant of up to £2,500 through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme towards the cost of installing renewable energy technologies for heating or electricity - visit [www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk) or call **0800 915 0990**.
- 7. Be an ethical consumer** – try to shop locally to support your local community and avoid unnecessary packaging which is harmful to the environment. Remember to take a 'bag for life' with you so you don't need to pick up yet another plastic carrier bag. For more information, visit [www.ethicalconsumer.org](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org)
- 8. Greener gardens** – your garden has huge potential to be an eco haven. To find out how you can reduce water use in the garden, grow your own produce, attract wildlife and lots more visit, [www.windowonwoking.org.uk/sites/la21](http://www.windowonwoking.org.uk/sites/la21) or email [la21@woking.gov.uk](mailto:la21@woking.gov.uk)
- 9. How green is your employer?** Find out more about your employer's sustainability policies – perhaps you could encourage them to do more? Business Link offers companies tips and advice to help them become more sustainable and possibly save them money. For details, go to [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)
- 10. Get more involved** – find out what Woking Local Agenda 21, Woking's environmental group, is doing within the community. For more information, visit [www.windowonwoking.org.uk/sites/la21](http://www.windowonwoking.org.uk/sites/la21) or email [la21@woking.gov.uk](mailto:la21@woking.gov.uk)



# Ten top tips for businesses


As a business, there are many benefits to becoming more sustainable including reducing costs, improving company reputation and future proofing against legislation. The Council is keen to support local businesses in contributing to our Borough's carbon reduction targets. Here are 10 tips to help your business reduce its carbon footprint.

- 1. Together is better** – find out how other Woking businesses are doing their bit to reduce their carbon footprint through the Woking Chamber ([www.wokingchamber.org.uk](http://www.wokingchamber.org.uk)).
- 2. Become energy efficient** – saving energy is one of the fastest ways of saving your business money and reducing CO<sub>2</sub>. The Carbon Trust can help you calculate your carbon footprint and advise on how to reduce it. Find out more at [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk) or call **0800 085 2005**.
- 3. Create your own energy** – as energy costs continue to rise, investing in a renewable or sustainable energy technology to generate your own energy is becoming more financially feasible. It also sends out a strong message about your organisation's commitment to sustainability. Your business could be eligible for grant funding – for more information, visit the Carbon Trust at [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk) or call **0800 085 2005**.
- 4. Maximise your recycling potential** – find out how to reduce and recycle your business waste from WRAP at [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk) or call **0808 100 2040**.
- 5. Greener transport** – a new initiative by Woking Borough Council and Enterprise Rent A Car will provide a cost effective and convenient way of hiring vehicles over timeframes to suit your
- 6. Save water** – many companies can save up to 50% of their water costs through implementing simple and inexpensive water minimisation measures. For top tips, go to [www.envirowise.gov.uk/watertoptips](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/watertoptips) or call **0800 585794**.
- 7. Get more involved** – Business in the Community helps businesses to share their time, skills and resources within the community in social and environmental projects. Visit [www.bitc.org.uk](http://www.bitc.org.uk) or call **020 7566 8650**.
- 8. Purchasing power** – where possible, try to buy products from sustainable sources and avoid products with excess packaging. Think about sourcing Fairtrade certified products for your workplace, food outlet or shop. Visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) to find out more.
- 9. Get on your bike!** – encourage your staff to think about alternatives to travelling to work by car. Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council have won just under £2 million of government funding from Cycling England to be spent delivering cycling initiatives in Woking. Cycling is a great way to cut down your impact on climate change by reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and has added health benefits too. Find out more about the scheme at [www.woking.gov.uk](http://www.woking.gov.uk)
- 10. Find out more** – Business Link has more tips and advice to help you green your business and save money. Visit [www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast) or call **0845 600 9006**.



business and is a great alternative to owning and managing a vehicle fleet. Find out more at [www.woking.gov.uk](http://www.woking.gov.uk)

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 Printed on stock which is 80% recycled paper and 20% from sustainable sources

