

Tackling climate change at a local level

Woking was one of the first boroughs in the country to develop a Climate Change Strategy. It is recognised as one of the most comprehensive local authority strategies and covers all of the Borough's energy uses. It incorporates three overarching themes:

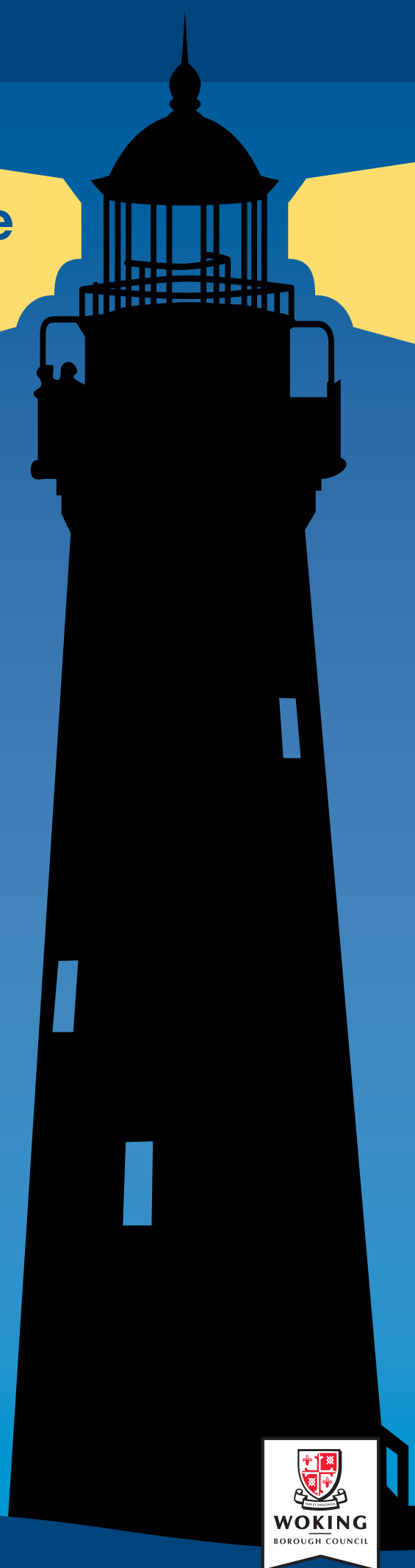
- reduction of CO₂ equivalent emissions
- adaptation to climate change
- promotion of sustainable development.

Global warming is the publicly recognised term for the concern over changes to the Earth's climate. It is important to act globally, nationally and locally on this issue. If we don't reduce greenhouse gases there will be an irreversible effect on the global climate.

This is why Woking Borough Council took the lead and developed its own Climate Change Strategy in 2002. Woking's strategy is set to meet the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution targets of 60% reductions of CO₂ equivalent emissions by 2050 and 80% by 2100 and aims to build on the Council's existing environmental successes.

By looking at the everyday needs of the public and the services provided by the Council, we hope that the Council, local residents and businesses can all work together to cut down the causes of climate change while making our living environment more sustainable.

Woking's Climate Change Strategy builds on the Council's environmental successes and takes a carbon neutral approach with a range of options which aim to reduce CO₂ equivalent emissions to try to minimise the Borough's contribution to long-term climate change. It also outlines further measures to enable the inhabitants and habitats within Woking to adapt to climate change.



The actions proposed in the strategy are intended to benefit our local environment and the people that live and work in it. The Council aims to set the standard for future action to alleviate the effects of climate change, to raise awareness among local people about the issues at stake and declare its intention to work in partnership with the local community to develop a more sustainable future for the Borough.

The strategy is an important working document for the Council because it sets out policies for best practice and restates its commitment to green issues. It also highlights how climate change will affect everyone and makes the case for all of us to do our bit.

Developing renewable and sustainable energy

Energy efficiency is the key to the Climate Change Strategy. Using energy more carefully will reduce CO₂ equivalent emissions and help promote sustainable development and well-being.

Woking is known for its innovative approach to developing renewable and sustainable energy projects. These have been facilitated through the Council's joint venture energy and environmental services company, Thameswey Energy Limited.

Example projects

Woking Energy Station

The Woking Town Centre CHP station is just one of a range of sustainable and renewable energy projects delivered by Thameswey Energy Limited, helping to meet the Council's Climate Change Strategy objectives. The CHP station uses combined heat and power technology together with heat fired absorption cooling to produce environmentally friendly energy services. It distributes electricity via private wire and heat and chilled water services via private pipe networks. Find out more at www.woking.gov.uk/environment/greeninitiatives/



Hybrolights

These hybrolights are powered by two forms of renewable energy: solar and wind. The energy is harnessed by four photovoltaic panels and a wind turbine. Each lighting column has a solar battery underground which, once fully charged, stores enough

energy to light the column for three to five days. As hybrolights use renewable energy, they produce less pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and carbon dioxide than standard street lights.

Find out more at www.woking.gov.uk/environment/greeninitiatives/



Albion Square Canopy

In 2004, Woking Borough Council gave the green light for the erection of a steel and glazed canopy above Albion Square, creating a stunning gateway to the town centre.

It is equipped with photovoltaic cells to collect solar energy to light the canopy.

The canopy is approximately 34 metres in length and 22.5 metres in width. The energy generated will be in excess of that required to light the canopy, and any surplus energy will be exported to other Council sites.

Find out more at www.woking.gov.uk/environment/greeninitiatives/



Woking – a Beacon Council for sustainable energy



In March 2005, Woking Borough Council was awarded Beacon Council status for Sustainable Energy. The award recognised the Council's achievements in the areas of energy efficiency and sustainable living including:

- the adoption of a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy
- a reduction in corporate energy consumption
- the development of a town centre Combined Heat and Power (CHP) station which provides electricity, district heating and cooling directly to local customers
- the use of a sustainable energy fuel cell that provides heat and power to the Pool in the Park and lighting for Woking Park.