

lowcarboncities



State of Play audit - Bristol

Regional population: over 1 million
Sustainable Cities Index rating: 3rd
(Forum for the Future)

To ascertain the current level of activity around carbon reduction and climate change across the cities participating in the Low Carbon Cities Programme (LCCP) a series of telephone interviews were carried out with representatives from across the cities. This flier presents the results of the Bristol audit.

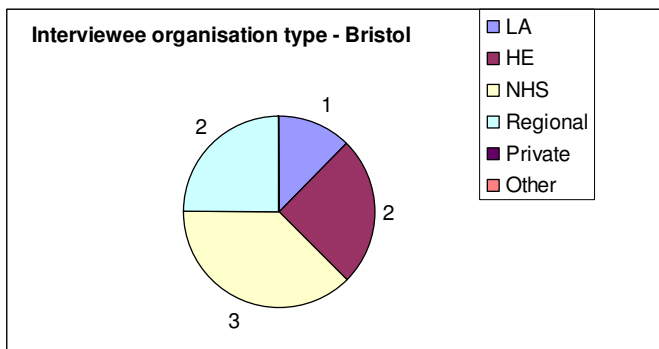


Figure 1 Interviewee organisation type

The organisations participating in the audit are:

- Bristol Primary Care Trust
- Bristol University
- Government Office South West
- United Bristol NHS Trust
- Bristol Partnership
- University of the West of England
- Bristol City Council
- North Bristol NHS Trust

Carbon Management matrix

The Carbon Trust's Carbon Management matrix was used to score the organisations based on their performance in the five areas defined in the table overleaf.

Five of the eight organisations have Environment Strategies. Three of these strategies have been signed off at a corporate level and a fourth will be signed off in the near future. One organisation has a specific Climate Change Strategy and another incorporated climate change issues within its Community Strategy. All of the strategies contain carbon dioxide

| Category | Description | Rating out of 5 |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Policy | Whether the organisation has a climate change policy and action plan with targets, which is signed off and implemented. | 3.4 |
| Organisation | Whether climate change/ carbon management has political support from the highest level of the organisation and is the full time responsibility of an individual or integrated into the responsibilities of many individuals. | 3.1 |
| Information and data | Whether externally validated CO ₂ emissions data is collated for buildings, transport, etc for a baseline year and at regular intervals. | 2.8 |
| Communication and training | Whether there is a formalised communications and training plan for all staff on carbon and energy related matters. | 2.5 |
| Finance | Whether there are effective internal financing mechanisms for carbon/ energy saving projects and the extent to which external sources of funding are utilised. | 3.6 |
| Monitoring and evaluation | Whether there are regular reviews of carbon management processes by core teams and senior management. | 3.5 |
| Average | | 3.1 |

(CO₂) reduction targets and are linked to other plans/ targets.

The targets listed by the interviewees are as follows:

- Estate to be carbon neutral by 2012.
- 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2010 (1990 baseline).
- 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions per m² by 2010 (met by 2007). New target to reduce CO₂ by 60% by 2050 (2004/05 baseline).
- 60% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2050 (2000 baseline).
- 30% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2012 (2001/02 baseline).
- 15% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2010, 3% year-on-year reduction in council's own emissions from 2007 leading to 60% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2050 (2000 baseline).
- 15% reduction in CO₂ emission by 2010 (2000 baseline).

The eighth organisation did not have a strategy or targets in place, however it is involved in setting up a climate change steering group whose remit is to develop a climate change action plan.

Seven of the eight organisations have monitoring in place to track progress with their implementation plans.

Communication

Annual reports, awareness raising workshops, staff surveys and environmental champions were all mentioned by two organisations each as key communication methods. Other vehicles mentioned by individuals were: staff newsletters and emails. One organisation mentioned that it has a specific Awareness Strategy.

Similar vehicles were used for training employees in climate change issues, e.g. newsletters and annual reports. Other

training techniques included induction training and internal workshops. One organisation mentioned the use of City & Guilds and Warm Front training courses.

Monitoring

Monitoring is in place for oil and gas use within seven of the organisations interviewed. The eighth organisation is based within the Council premises therefore, although they do not monitor their use, the overall building energy usage is measured.

Half of the organisations conduct some monitoring of transport fuel use for work related travel and fleet emissions and one further organisation is planning to introduce monitoring in this area. Three organisations monitor commuting practices, with at least one of these using staff surveys.

With regard to monitoring community energy use, both higher education interviewees stated that student halls of residence were included within their energy monitoring and one NHS interviewee confirmed that nurses' accommodation was included within their energy calculations. Another interviewee mentioned that their landlord accreditation scheme involved monitoring energy used within these properties.

Projects - Internal

Three respondents reported internal building related projects: the completion of building audits; a target of 20% recycled content of building materials; and the avoidance of air conditioning in a new building and an increase in lighting controls, presence detectors and better scheduling of heating across the campus. Three organisations had carried out heating projects: installation of an

efficient boiler plant; installation of a CH plant; and the installation of a mini district heating system between the organisation's buildings. There are plans to increase the capacity of this latter scheme from 1.6MW to 4MW and extend it to tri-generation (heating and cooling). Another respondent mentioned the use of climate change workshops to raise staff awareness.

Projects – External

External project examples included:

- Participation in the 'Chooseday' initiative – encouraging patients to travel by public transport rather than their cars.
- The local authority has an agreement with the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre to provide training and advice to tenants on energy efficiency.
- Eco-schools initiative with Bristol Schools: funded renewable energy kits for 15 schools. Worked with CSE and local sixth forms on Climate Change Challenge.
- Provide bus timetables to outpatients, travel information on website, cycle parking, car club cars and parking spaces.
- Provide support to organisations to develop Travel Plans. Also run the Green Commuter Club and Jam Busting June.
- Improving public transport infrastructure – joint free bus (United Bristol NHS Trust and Bristol City Council) for staff and patients.
- The Bristol Partnership is involved in organising the Green Capital Initiative. This involves encouraging organisations across Bristol to pledge to help Bristol become a low carbon city with a high quality of life. So far over 35 organisations have pledged.

No unsuccessful or rejected projects were reported and none of the interviewees provided details of planned projects.

Partnerships

The interviewees were asked whether they currently worked in partnership with any other organisations on climate change issues. The interviewees listed the following organisations:

- Avon & Somerset Energy & Environmental Management Group
- Bath and North East Somerset Council
- Bath University
- Bristol Partnership Green Capital Initiative
- Envolve
- Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges
- Forum for the Future
- Green Commuter Club

- South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership
- United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust
- Warming Bristol Project

One NHS interviewee stated that it would be good for local NHS energy/ environmental managers and similar people from other public sector organisations to meet up regularly to share ideas/resources.

Barriers to working in partnership

Barriers to successful partnerships were cited as: unclear requirements in terms of the input required from them; unclear programme outputs; low availability of staff time and partner organisations not agreeing common goals/ focus. One interviewee stated that networking with people in similar roles would help to alleviate barriers.

