

lowcarboncities



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The Low Carbon Cities Programme is funded by Defra and delivered by Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust

For further information contact: lccp@aeat.co.uk



Low Carbon Cities Programme

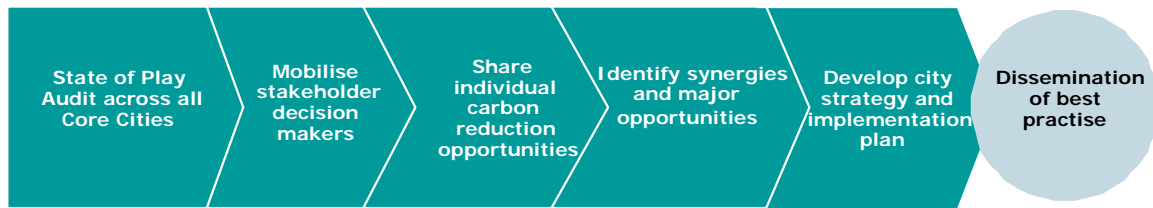
Supporting Bristol, Leeds and Manchester in developing city-wide carbon reduction strategies

Overall we are aiming for significant carbon savings through joined up citywide low carbon strategies. The vision is that of a citywide carbon reduction target led by the public sector, supported by the private sector and owned by the entire community.

Cities have a huge impact on UK carbon emissions, because of the numbers of people who live and work in them, and because of the example they can set. Proactive cities like London have demonstrated that where the governing bodies use their influence imaginatively they can have a very significant effect on reducing citywide carbon emissions going beyond their spheres of direct control. The LCCP aims to emulate and extend this approach, making it a model for all cities, towns, and indeed local authorities, to utilise.

The key partners integral to success are the main public sector bodies (local government, NHS, universities) with other major influencers of city carbon emissions such as housing associations, large businesses and appropriate consumer, community, faith and voluntary groups.

LCCP 5 Step Process for 3 Core Cities



A clear city-wide carbon reduction strategy process (LCCP process) will be used within each of the three core cities, which will include developing shared goals between the key public sector components of that city, agreeing governance arrangements and ownership, carrying out a carbon footprint for the city, identifying key carbon saving options, developing a tailored and appropriately resourced action plan and implementing the plan. The proposed programme will assist Government in meeting its commitment to engage with core cities and will develop valuable lessons and tools to be disseminated to all cities and local authorities.

Both the Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust have considerable experience working in partnership with major cities. Experience shows that key aspects of success for cities and local authorities alike include:

- Local government commitment and leadership, both strategically and politically.
- True partnerships with delivery bodies, including shared goals and targets.
- Clear responsibilities for all concerned with clear accountability.
- Imaginative financing arrangements with 'buy-in' from finance directors.

The LCCP will support this approach in core cities by providing inspiration and guidance (and potentially ongoing support through existing Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust LA programmes) to assist the city partners through the process to achieving carbon savings. The approach will be tailored for each individual city but there are clear steps along the way to maintain momentum. The programme was kicked off early January 2008 and will be completed by early June 2008.

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Developing a Leeds Climate Change Strategy

Around 715,000 people live in Leeds city and over 100,000 people commute to work in the city centre on a daily basis. Across all sectors, Leeds is responsible for over 6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum.

Leeds City Council, in partnership with the Leeds Initiative (the Local Strategic Partnership) and almost 100 organisations, published the draft Leeds Climate Change Strategy on the 4th February. Comments on the draft strategy have been invited from stakeholders across the city by 17th March. This consultation period will be enhanced by Leeds' involvement with the Low Carbon City Programme which is encouraging greater engagement of organisations across the city, and the setting of effective carbon targets. Two stakeholder workshops were held on the 11th and 12th February to identify particular opportunities for organisations working together. Over 30 people attended from the public and private sectors, all contributing positively to opportunities for reducing carbon emissions. Further workshops took place on the 10th and 11th March, with specific actions to implement carbon reduction initiatives both in the short and longer terms.

Councillor Steve Smith, Leeds City Council's executive board member with responsibility for sustainability and chair of the city's climate change strategy group, said

"We are delighted that Leeds has been selected to participate (as one of three Core cities) in the Low Carbon City Programme to build upon the good work already invested in the draft climate change strategy. The timing of the LCCP enables us to invite more stakeholders into the process in order to develop a more effective strategy, with clear opportunities and actions, ready to officially launch in the summer."

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Bristol Partnership moves LCCP forward

Bristol, with a population of over 400,000, is the hub of a successful developing city region. The largest urban area in the South West, the city region has a combined population of about 1 million. The city was ranked third in Forum for the Future's Sustainable Cities Index¹. Among the 8 Core Cities in the UK, Bristol has the third highest average earnings (£23,692), the lowest unemployment rate (2.5%) and the highest ranking in the UK Competitiveness Index. It is also a leading city in the Innovation Index and one of England's six 'Science Cities'.

However, Bristol's continued economic success brings with it growing and new problems and challenges, such as congestion and environmental pressures. Bristol's carbon footprint is around 2.3 million tonnes per annum from housing, industry and commerce and road transport (excluding motorways).

The [Bristol Partnership](#) brings together leaders from the public, private, business, community and voluntary sectors to establish priorities for joint action and develop a long-term strategic framework for Bristol. The Partnership identified tackling climate change as a priority in the city's first Community Strategy in 2003 and adopted a target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2050. Bristol City Council adopted a Climate Protection and Sustainable Energy Strategy in 2004 and has completed the first action plan.

In March 2007, the Bristol Partnership launched the Green Capital Initiative to accelerate progress towards making Bristol 'a low carbon city with a high quality of life'. As part of this initiative organisations in the city were asked to pledge to develop their own action plan and so far around 40 organisations have done this. A Momentum Group was also set up to steer and sustain momentum in leading and managing change.

The Low Carbon City Programme (LCCP) will be delivered under the banner of the Green Capital Initiative, contributing to the achievement of the stretching goals. The LCCP will help Bristol build upon its existing climate change strategy and develop a citywide action plan working with partners who have pledged under the Green Capital Initiative.

On the 14th January 2008, key stakeholders were brought together in a lively workshop aimed at understanding the overall context of LCCP, developing the new Action Plan and outlining the direction for the city to take over the next few months. The workshop

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<http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/files/sustainablecities07.pdf>

provided an opportunity for the stakeholders to express their views and provide information on a wide range of issues including:

- The advantages of a citywide approach.
- Strategies that have an impact on carbon emissions in Bristol.
- Services and initiatives which seek to mobilise carbon reduction by individuals.
- Services and initiatives which seek to mobilise carbon reduction by businesses and organisations.
- Projects or initiatives within organisations (i.e. in-house projects).

The Project Lead from Bristol City Council, has now completed face to face state-of-play audits with the majority of key public sector organisations in Bristol, and a governance and delivery structure for LCCP is now in place to take forward development of Bristol's carbon action plan.

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Manchester is up for the climate change challenge

The LCCP project in Manchester is uniting organisations and individuals across the city region including all ten councils which make up the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA). The project is building on past successes and will inform the development of a joined up approach across the area.

The city is making real progress, having secured senior level commitment to develop the programme from AGMA Chief Executives and Leaders as part of work already underway to develop a strategic approach to tackling climate change. A stakeholder event was held on 29th February at the 'green events' venue, Bridgewater Hall. It was attended by over 50 people nominated by AGMA's strategic leadership, including all ten local authorities and other key partners from the public private and third sectors, and has already resulted in a flurry of activity, enormous interest, and important links being formed.

Early discussion with the AGMA leads on environmental issues has highlighted, Manchester wish to focus their LCCP activities on five key areas:

1. Develop and liaise with key partners on implementing a model for a Climate Change Agency, with national support and city region wide authority. Once in place it will co-ordinate and drive the delivery of strategic objectives and actions and help to join up existing initiatives and agencies.
2. Build upon previous carbon foot-printing studies to develop a carbon footprint, budget and indicator set which utilises the DEFRA greenhouse gas emissions inventory, informed by BERR's final energy use data and local work including the GM EMIGMA database. This will result in the ability to drill down from a strategic overview to gain a picture of the carbon intensity of commercial, domestic and transport activities and plans, and will identify major emission sources and the key factors influencing emissions performance. LCCP will use this to help inform the development of the LCCP toolkit in line with local authority performance framework reporting requirements.
3. Map existing action, and put in place effective governance measures to organise action across the city region, including better links between existing projects, integration into key programmes and identifying new priority work streams.
4. Develop carbon saving action plans that will cut across energy, transport, buildings, housing, waste, procurement and urban planning issues, and will assign clear responsibilities for actions.
5. Develop an outline strategy that encompasses the priority areas described above.

The LCCP outputs will be integrated into work on a groundbreaking Multi Area agreement. They will inform the 'mini Stern' review that will pinpoint the changing market conditions brought about by climate change and the redesign of Manchester's economic strategy as part of the Manchester Independent Economic review. It will play an important part in influencing the capacity, organisations and structures Manchester develops to address the issue of climate change. Benefits to the ten local authorities and other sector participants will include: an understanding of where they are the same

as, and different to the city region; a clearer picture of the priorities and interdependencies between the local authorities and areas and what needs to be done together; a toolkit they can all use to identify and manage performance; and an opportunity to showcase each organisation's work and transfer the knowledge to their neighbours.

Manchester City Region's approach to the Low Carbon Cities Programme is being taken forward through a supportive and flexible partnership. This partnership is between organisations within the Manchester city region (led by Mike Reardon from Manchester City Council and AGMA's Environment Commission Leads) and the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust. Manchester's Project Contact is Sarah Davies.

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LCCP website goes live

The LCCP website is now live at www.lowcarboncities.co.uk. The site provides information on the programme aims and timetable, the delivery team and details of events.

Further features will be added to the site in the coming weeks. These will provide all eight cities (the three core cities plus Birmingham, Liverpool, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield) with access to carbon baseline and footprint tools, and a forum where best practise can be discussed. The site will also provide a summary of the results of the State of Play audit that has been taking place across all 8 cities.

