
Report To:	Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee	Date: 26 October 2010
Report By:	Head of Regeneration and Planning	Report No: R&E/SSC/KB/021
Contact Officers:	Stuart W. Jamieson	Contact No: 2402
Subject:	Scotland's Climate Change Declaration – Annual Report	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Council's draft Annual Report, attached as an Appendix, on our activity in terms of Scotland's Climate Change Declaration for approval and onward submission to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. APPENDIX

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Every Scottish Local Authority, including Inverclyde Council, signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in 2007. Min. Ref. Comm. Cttee 11.1.07 Para 42
- 2.2 The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities has requested the Council to submit an annual report which details our progress in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members:
- approve the draft Annual Report; and
 - agree to the submission of the document to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

Stuart W. Jamieson
Head of Regeneration and Planning

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2007, Inverclyde Council was one of the first Councils to sign Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.
- 4.2 The Declaration is a public statement where Councils acknowledge the reality and implications of climate change and their responsibility to respond effectively. The Declaration welcomes the actions of the United Kingdom and Scottish Governments and the opportunities for Councils to respond to climate change in partnership with others.
- 4.3 The Declaration also acknowledges that Councils have a key role to play in their collective response to the challenge of climate change and, by signing the document, Inverclyde Council has publicly demonstrated its commitment to action.
- 4.4 Signatories to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration are also committed to produce an annual statement, detailing their progress in mitigating, and adapting to, climate change.

5.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- 5.1 There are no financial implications attached to the contents of this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The promotion of environmental initiatives is a priority of the Community Plan 2008/18, the Single Outcome Agreement 2009/11 within Outcome 8: Environment and the Corporate Plan 2007/11 within Strategic Outcome 3: Safe, Sustainable Communities.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Environmental and Commercial Services and Property Resources and Facilities Management have been consulted regarding the content of this report.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to approve the draft Annual Report and agree to its submission to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration

Revised Reporting Template

2010

Section 1

Governance, Leadership and Management

Please describe and illustrate the leadership, governance and management of climate change by your local authority.

Governance

Inverclyde Council devised its flagship environmental policy - Green Charter - in 2009 with the aims of reducing energy and waste and promoting the sustainable use of resources in the Council and across the community (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/green-charter>).

A Green Charter Officer/Member Working Group was set up to oversee the implementation of the Charter. The Group subsequently agreed to also act as the Delivery Group for Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 8: Environment and, in recognition of this dual role, was renamed the 'Green Charter and Environment Group'. As well as Council Officers, the Group includes representatives from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Strathclyde Police and the Inverclyde Community Health Partnership.

The Group developed an Outcome Delivery Plan for Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 8 which includes a number of climate change-related actions. Progress against the Action Plan is reported on an eight-weekly basis to the Green Charter and Environment Group, to the Single Outcome Agreement Programme Board on a six-weekly basis and to the quarterly meetings of the Inverclyde Alliance Board.

The Council's Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee also considers items of a climate-change related nature, for example, flooding.

Leadership

The Green Charter and Environment Group is chaired by the Vice-Convener of the Safe, Sustainability Committee who is also the 'Elected Member Champion' for climate change. On the Group, he is supported by two Elected Members.

The Council's Lead Officer for Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 8 is the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Environment. On 21 June 2010, the Outcome Lead delivered a presentation on Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 8 to the quarterly meeting of the Alliance Board (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-2010/inverclyde-alliance-board-21-june-2010> [item 4]).

Management

The Corporate Director, Regeneration and Environment, the Head of Regeneration and Planning, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services and the Single Outcome Agreement Programme Manager are all members of the Green Charter and Environment Group.

In March 2010, the Green Charter and Environment Group agreed to the setting up of a Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 8 Sub-Group with the remit to develop, monitor, evaluate and report on the Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 8 Delivery Plan. Membership of the Sub-Group comprises the Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 8 Lead Officer (Chair), Head of Regeneration and Planning, Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, Single Outcome Agreement Programme Manager, Green Charter Unit Co-ordinator, Quality Improvement Officer, Education Services, Health Improvement Officer, Inverclyde Council/Community Health Partnership and James Watt College's Health, Safety and Environment Manager. The Sub-Group is also responsible for submitting regular updates on the Delivery Plan to the Green Charter and Environment Group.

The Council's Corporate Management Team considered a report in October 2009 which outlined

the potential impact on the Council of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme.

The Council later created a Carbon Reduction Commitment Working Group to ensure that it responds to the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme appropriately. Chaired by the Head of Regeneration and Planning, the Group comprises Officers from Finance Services and Property Resources and Facilities Management. The Corporate Director, Regeneration and Environment, is Inverclyde Council's Senior Officer Contact for the Scheme.

Strategies, plans and programmes

The Single Outcome Agreement 2009/11 refers to climate change under Outcome 8: Environment - Inverclyde is a sustainable and pleasant place where people want to live now whilst at the same time safeguarding the environment for future generations (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/community-planning/inverclyde-alliance-single-outcome-agreement-2009-2011/> [Page 96])

Reference to climate change is also made in the Inverclyde Alliance Community Plan 2008/18 at Outcome 5: Inverclyde's environment is protected and enhanced for future generations (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning/inverclyde-alliance-community-plan/> [Page 47])

Taking action to reduce our carbon footprint is one of the ways we will achieve the Corporate Plan 2007/11 Strategic Outcome 3: Safe, Sustainable Communities (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/about-our-organisation/> [Page 22])

The Council's suite of Performance Indicators includes climate-change related actions. Progress is reported annually to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee, including progress with reducing Inverclyde's ecological footprint. This is also an indicator in our Single Outcome Agreement 2009/11, included as part of Local Outcome 8. Progress against this indicator is included in the Single Outcome Agreement Annual Reports.

In May 2009, the Council formed its Green Charter Unit, comprising the full-time positions of Green Charter Unit Co-ordinator, Carbon Management Development Officer and Energy Efficiency Officer. The Green Charter Action Plan includes a number of climate change-related actions and was approved by the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee on 31 August 2010, together with the intention to report progress on a six-monthly basis to the Green Charter and Environment Group (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/committees/details/1384/> [agenda item 15]).

Section 1 Priorities for the year ahead

Priorities for the year ahead include:

- reviewing the membership of the Green Charter and Environment Group with a view to including other partners, as appropriate;
- continuing to report progress against actions in the Single Outcome Agreement 8 Outcome 8 Delivery Plan to the Green Charter and Environment Group, the Single Outcome Agreement Programme Board and the Inverclyde Alliance Board;
- reporting progress on the relevant Performance Indicators to the Policy and Resources Committee;
- reporting progress against the Green Charter Action Plan to the Green Charter and Environment Group; and
- submitting our refreshed Carbon Management Plan to the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee for approval with the request that the Committee receives future updates on progress against the Plan.

Section 2

Reducing the local authority's own 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions from its estate, services and functions.

What are your local authority's baseline emissions, actual emissions and emission reduction targets for its direct 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions? Please make it clear what emission sources are included, and where data has been sourced.

Inverclyde Council's emissions

Emissions source	2007/08 baseline tonnes CO2	2012/13 reduction target %
Energy use in buildings	9,947	15
Street lighting	2,975	3
Fleet transportation	1,555	5
Staff business miles	526	5

The above figures have been calculated from information included in the Council's Carbon Management Plan 2008/13.

What is your local authority doing to achieve its reduction targets?

In 2007/08, the Council took part in the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme, the end result of which was the production of our Carbon Management Plan 2008/13. On 27 May 2009, we successfully graduated from the sixth phase of the Programme (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/news/2009/jun/inverclyde-council-completes-carbon-management-programme/>).

The Council is already addressing many of the actions in its Carbon Management Plan. To complement that activity, we have embarked on the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Revisited Programme which provides support to Local Authorities who participated in their 2007/08 Carbon Management Programme.

With specialist support from the Carbon Trust, we will:

- establish a revised carbon baseline;
- review and refresh our current carbon reduction projects list;
- identify additional projects that may be required to deliver above the original, or revised, carbon reduction target;
- take forward the results of the Carbon Management Assessment Tool document that we recently completed; and
- assess the maturity of the carbon management model in our Council and examine how it could be made more effective in any update of our Carbon Management Plan.

From April 2011, the Council may be required to buy and surrender carbon allowances as part of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. In order to ensure that the Council is equipped to manage the new carbon trading process, we are participating in the Carbon Trading Public Sector Scheme 2010/11. This programme allows us to practice virtual carbon trading without risk or financial commitment.

The Council has also created a Carbon Reduction Commitment Working Group to ensure that we respond to the Scheme appropriately. Chaired by the Head of Regeneration and Planning, the Group comprises Officers from Finance Services and Property Resources and Facilities Management. The Council made an information disclosure to the Carbon Reduction Commitment Registry on 15 September 2010, in advance of the 30 September 2010 deadline.

Examples of initiatives that we have carried out or are currently carrying out to work towards achieving our reduction targets are:

- the Council launched its Green Charter last year with the aims of reducing energy and waste and promoting the sustainable use of resources. As part of this corporate initiative, every educational establishment in Inverclyde (43 in total) was required to develop a Green Charter and three year action plan to promote environmental sustainability at school (local) level. Components for establishment Green Charters include action on energy saving, action on recycling, water conservation and the journey to school. We believe we are the first Council in Scotland to adopt this approach to education for sustainable development;
- on 26 May 2010, our Education Service held a sustainability conference. Supported by Learning and Teaching Scotland, the aim of the event was to broker support for the three pilot 'environmental schools' which have been charged with developing and disseminating good practice in relation to environmental sustainability and the Schools Green Charter initiative. In the future, they will share their ideas and good practice with schools in Inverclyde and beyond. The conference was attended by pupils, teachers, Officers from various Council Services and staff from local businesses;
- the introduction of our Waste Strategy Initiative has led to a dramatic increase in our performance in a very short space of time. During 2009/10, we achieved our highest ever recycling rate of 30.3% (rising from 28% in 2008/09), together with a 2,900 tonne reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill. At our Materials Recycling Facility, recent adjustments to working practices, coupled with the introduction of a training programme via the Future Jobs Fund, have led to improved productivity and higher output of materials sent for recycling;
- as part of its School Estate Management Plan, the Council is committed (through the briefing process) to procuring new or refurbished school buildings that are appraised against current sustainability best practice, legislation and policy to ensure that we are reducing buildings' emissions as far as possible and in line with any whole life emissions management plan. Our PPP project, which is currently in progress with two primary schools operational from February 2010 and two secondary schools planned to open in May 2011, was supported by the Carbon Trust which resulted in the building designs significantly improving on building regulations;
- a report on flooding was approved by the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee in September 2009 (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/committees/details/1288/> [item 6]). A Flood Risk Management Group was subsequently established, comprising representatives from various agencies and riparian owners, with the aims of developing an action plan and addressing the issue of collective responsibility for flood risk management within Inverclyde;
- the Council is rationalising its operational property estate, reducing the number of old, energy-inefficient buildings and consolidating into a much reduced number of modern or refurbished, more energy-efficient buildings;
- to deal with potholes on our roads network, we began using a unique, sustainable system which comes with Highways Authority Product Approval Scheme certification. The system is seen as a 'right first time' method of repair which reduces waste and the need for freshly quarried material. A cost effective method of repair, the system will help to reduce our carbon footprint (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/news/2009/may/council-walk-wild-side-ease-inverclyde-pothole-problem/?pg=1>);
- the Council's Green Charter Unit, together with Lower Clyde Greenspace, launched its 'Wee Green Charter Grants' initiative in July this year. Grants of up to £500 are available to voluntary or community groups in Inverclyde to help with environmental activities that encourage wildlife, support biodiversity and reduce energy use and waste. Our 'Elected Member Champion', Councillor David Wilson launched the initiative. He is also Vice-Convener for Safe, Sustainable Communities and Chair of our Green Charter and Environment Group. We also launched our 'Wee Green Grants for Schools' initiative to help our educational establishments deliver their School Green Charter priorities;
- since 2009, our vehicle procurement evaluation process has taken account of environmental impact and both CO2 emissions and fuel economy play a key part in the evaluation matrix. We have taken advantage of the opportunity our Fleet Replacement Programme has provided and now have a number of £0 tax band rated vehicles on fleet, which help us to reduce our emissions and operating costs. All heavy commercial

vehicles purchased since the start of the Fleet Replacement comply with the latest stringent EURO 5 emissions regulations;

- our energy efficiency section is responsible for the utility data management of the Council's estate portfolio which involves collating electricity and gas consumption data for each individual site and benchmarking sites against each other. Profiles of a building's consumption can then be produced, giving greater detail of its energy performance over a period of time. This information is used to target buildings that are performing poorly in terms of energy, compared to buildings of a similar type. When such buildings are identified, we can take steps through the CEEF (Central Energy Efficiency Fund) scheme to reduce our energy consumption and ultimately our carbon emissions. The CEEF can be used to buy energy efficient technology, for example, solar panels, energy efficient boilers and energy efficient lighting products that, once installed, will help to reduce our emissions.

Section 2 Priorities for the year ahead

Priorities for the year ahead include:

- continuing to progress actions within our Carbon Management Plan 2008/13;
- successfully completing Phases 1 and 2 of the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Revisited Programme;
- submitting our refreshed Carbon Management Plan to the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee for approval with the request that the Committee receives future updates on progress against the Plan;
- benefiting from participation in the Carbon Trading Public Sector Scheme 2010/11;
- continuing to use our Green Charter to seek to influence the behaviour of our partners, stakeholders, customers and the citizens of Inverclyde;
- implementing our educational establishments' three-year Green Charter Action Plans;
- ensuring that residents are fully informed about recycling in Inverclyde by continuing to deliver our comprehensive and structured communication plan throughout 2010/11. In order to best meet our customers' needs and increase the amount of material sent for recycling, we plan to expand our current commercial cardboard recycling and separate commercial dry recycle collection service. We will maintain and promote positive working relations with our recycling partner to ensure standards and productivity at our Materials Recycling facility continue to improve. We will also continue with our current refurbishment and improvement programme of Neighbourhood Recycling Points to encourage recycling of glass and textiles and increase recycling rates in Inverclyde. We are currently preparing a tender for the treatment, diversion and recycling of our current residual waste arisings totalling around 34,000 tonnes per annum. Implementation of this initiative will allow the Council to work towards meeting its zero waste targets and reduce the amount of waste it sends to landfill for disposal;
- to further increase our recycling rate, the Council, together with other local authorities, is working towards the introduction of Council-wide food waste collection and treatment programmes. Working as part of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Waste Strategy Area Group, the green waste element is to be re-tendered and will contain an option for the treatment of food and garden waste to be collected on a co-mingled basis;
- implementing the recommendations of the Flood Plan to mitigate the risks and effects of flooding throughout Inverclyde;
- implementing the Local Transport Strategy 2010/15 (if approved by the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee in October 2010) to improve the movement of goods and people across Inverclyde and ensure good connections within Scotland and internationally;
- because a significant amount of the emissions generated by our vehicle fleet arise from the operation of refuse collection vehicles, we are operating or awaiting delivery of refuse collection vehicles fitted with three different types of innovative mechanical and electronic devices to help increase fuel consumption and reduce emissions. These devices include hydraulic pumps which store energy and hence reduce engine revs, electronic re-

mapping of throttle response to smooth operations between pick up points and alternative packing mechanisms which reduce the amount of moving parts;

- we recently accepted the offer of funding from Transport Scotland's 'Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Plan' and hope to utilise the funding to procure two 'Zero Emission' vehicles in the next six months; and
- in addition to reducing the emissions produced from our current fleet, one of the key driving forces behind reducing emissions and reducing operating costs is to increase fleet utilisation and therefore decrease our overall fleet size. As part of our Vehicle, Plant and Equipment - Procurement, Management and Maintenance Review last year, approval was granted for the procurement of a GPS Vehicle Tracking System, which is recognised as the industry standard for fleet and asset management. The system will bring a number of benefits, capturing live location-based information on our vehicle fleet and mobile workers to help improve operational performance. A tender specification is currently being prepared to procure a suitable system.

Section 3

Taking action to reduce the emissions from the local authority area

What are your local authority area-wide emissions? Please make it clear where data has been sourced.

Local authority area-wide emissions

Year	Ecological footprint gha/capita
2004	5.33
2006	4.68

These figures are provided by the Stockholm Environment Institute (<http://www.resource-accounting.org.uk/>). The 2006 figure is the most recent available.

Inverclyde's ecological footprint comprises the following components (sourced from <http://www.resource-accounting.org.uk/>):

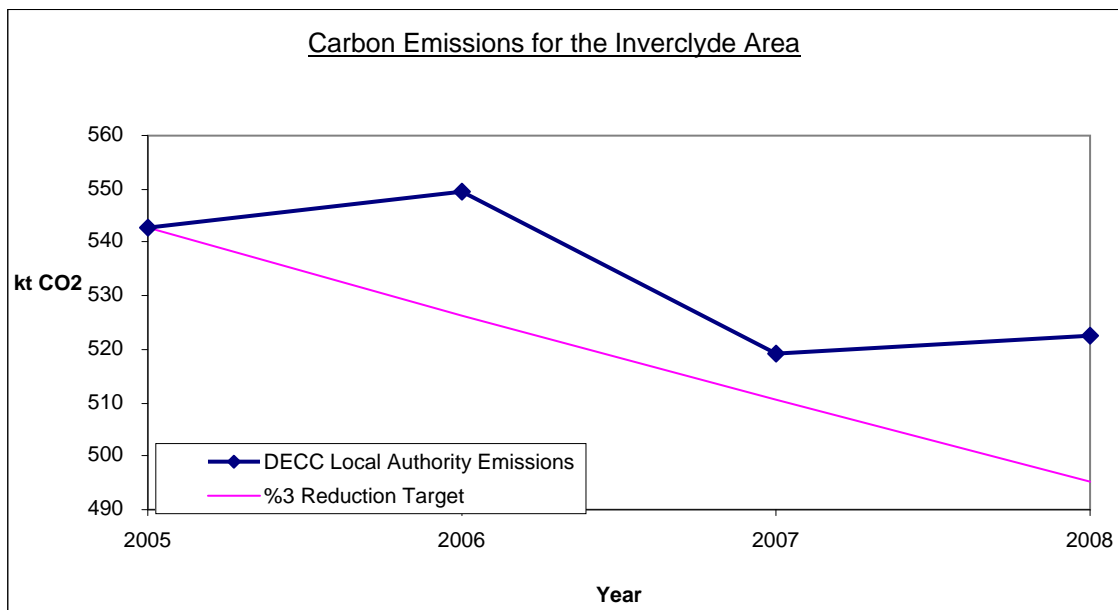
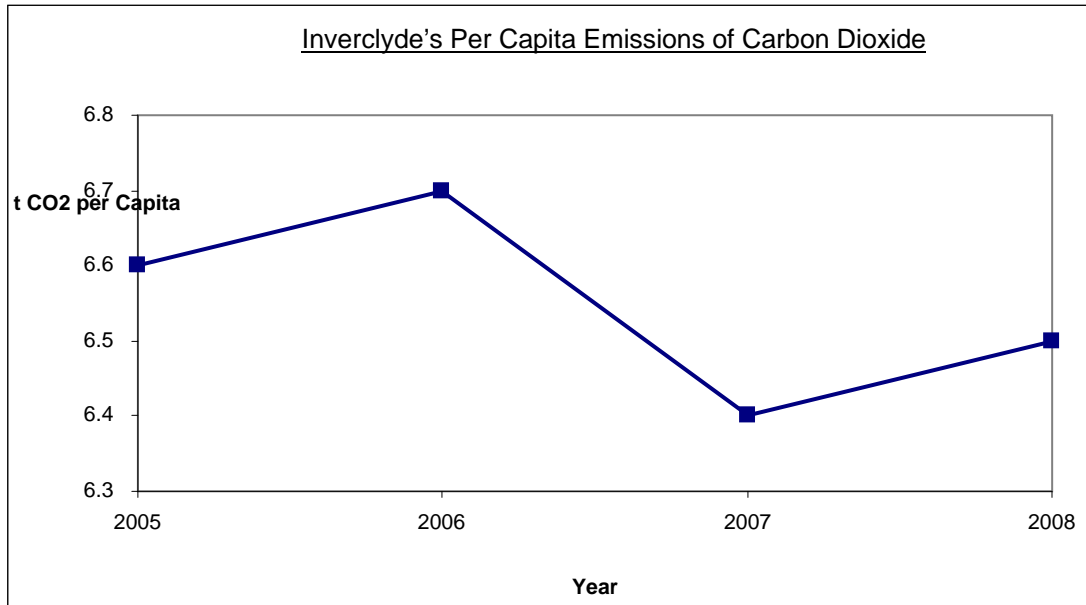
	Ecological Footprint gha/capita 2006	Ecological Footprint gha/capita 2004	Change
Housing	1.15	1.52	-0.37
Transport	0.86	0.84	0.02
Food	1.23	1.31	-0.09
Consumer items	0.60	0.66	-0.06
Private services	0.23	0.27	-0.04
Public services	0.51	0.59	-0.08
Capital Investment	0.09	0.12	-0.03
Other	-0.01	0.01	0.00

The ecological footprint of the Inverclyde area is an indicator within our Single Outcome Agreement 2009/11, Outcome 8: Environment, linked to National Indicator 32: 'Reduce overall ecological footprint' (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/community-planning/inverclyde-alliance-single-outcome-agreement-2009-2011/> [page 97])

Updates on these figures are included in our Single Outcome Agreement Annual Reports and in an annual report on Performance Indicators to our Policy and Resources Committee.

Department for Energy and Climate Change Local and Regional Total Emissions Data Release 2008

The undernoted graphs illustrate Inverclyde Council's data from the Department for Energy and Climate Change's Local and Regional Total Emissions Data Release for 2008 (http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn10_101/pn10_101.aspx).



In the above graph, a 3% per annum benchmark is included as a guide to year on year changes linked to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

What is your local authority doing to measure and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from your local authority area/communities?

The Council's suite of Performance Indicators includes climate-change related actions. Progress is reported annually to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee, including the progress with reducing Inverclyde's ecological footprint. This is also an indicator in our Single Outcome Agreement 2009/11, included as part of Local Outcome 8: Inverclyde is a sustainable and pleasant place where people want to live now whilst safeguarding the environment for the future. Progress against this indicator is included in the Single Outcome Agreement Annual Reports.

Inverclyde Council devised its flagship environmental policy - Green Charter - in 2009 with the aims of reducing energy and waste and promoting the sustainable use of resources in the Council and across the community (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/green-charter>).

A Green Charter Officer/Member Working Group was set up to oversee the implementation of the

Charter. The Group subsequently agreed to also act as the Delivery Group for Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 8: Environment and, in recognition of this dual role, was renamed the 'Green Charter and Environment Group'. As well as Council Officers, the Group includes representatives from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Strathclyde Police and the Inverclyde Community Health Partnership.

Section 3 Priorities for the year ahead

- continuing to use our Green Charter to seek to influence the behaviour of our partners, stakeholders, customers and the citizens of Inverclyde;
- the Council, together with other local authorities, is working towards the introduction of Council-wide food waste collection and treatment programmes. Working as part of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Waste Strategy Area Group, the green waste element is to be re-tendered and will contain an option for the treatment of food and garden waste to be collected on a co-mingled basis. The aim of these plans is to further increase our recycling rate;
- comply with the public bodies duties of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009; and
- in conjunction with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, we will continue to introduce JourneyShare to our staff to help them match their trips with others travelling on the same journey. The system also calculates the financial and CO2 saving for each user, compared with making that journey by car on their own (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/news/2010/oct/commuters-save-cash-new-scheme/>).

Section 4

Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

What is your local authority doing to adapt to climate change?

A report on flooding was approved by the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee in September 2009 (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/committees/details/1288/> [item 6]). A Flood Risk Management Group was subsequently established, comprising representatives from various agencies and riparian owners, with the aims of developing an action plan and addressing the issue of collective responsibility for flood risk management within Inverclyde. On 24 November 2009, we hosted an event as part of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Flood Awareness Campaign:

http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/2009/sepa_targets_inverclyde_in_its.aspx. Attended by more than 100 people, the initiative provided local people with the opportunity to find out more about flooding issues in Inverclyde and obtain information and advice on floor preparation and how to use the Floodline service. In addition to Scottish Environment Protection Agency staff, Council Officers were present at the event, together with representatives from the Scottish Flood Forum and other flooding partners.

To promote Energy Saving Week 2009, we worked in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust and LESS (Local Energy Saving Scheme) Inverclyde. We held an information session in each town in Inverclyde and engaged with one person every six minutes, complemented by the arrangement of 16 follow-up visits to our customers' homes.

Between January and March 2010, we set up a free Food Waste Cook School in each town and village in Inverclyde (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/news/2010/jan/ready-steady-cook-school/>). In partnership with the national Love Food Hate Waste Campaign, (<http://www.wasteawarelovefood.org.uk/>) the events helped people to try and reduce the amount of food waste they throw away. Participants also received information about home composting, food safety and the recycling of food waste packaging. The Food Waste Cook Schools were publicised in our Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Stronger Winter Campaign 2009, on our website and in the local press.

The Council's Green Charter Unit, together with Lower Clyde Greenspace, launched its 'Wee Green Charter Grants' initiative in July this year. Grants of up to £500 are available to voluntary

of community groups in Inverclyde to help with environmental activities that encourage wildlife, support biodiversity and reduce energy use and waste. Our 'Elected Member Champion', Councillor David Wilson launched the initiative. He is also Vice-Convenor for Safe, Sustainable Communities and Chair of our Green Charter and Environment Group. Alongside our Wee Green Charter Grants initiative, in September 2010, we launched our 'Wee Green Grants for Schools' initiative to support our educational establishments to deliver their School Green Charter priorities.

Section 4 Priorities for the year ahead

Our priorities for the year ahead include:

- implementing the recommendations of our Flood Plan to mitigate the risks and effects of flooding throughout Inverclyde; and
- in conjunction with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, we will continue to introduce JourneyShare to our staff to help them match their trips with others travelling on the same journey. The system also calculates the financial and CO2 saving for each user, compared with making that journey by car on their own (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/news/2010/oct/commuters-save-cash-new-scheme/>).

Section 5

Developing effective partnership working and climate change communications, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

Please describe and illustrate your local authority's partnership working on climate change.

Inverclyde Council devised its first Green Charter in 2009 with the aims of reducing energy and waste and promoting the sustainable use of resources in the Council and across the community (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/green-charter>).

A Green Charter Officer/Member Working Group was set up to oversee the implementation of the Charter. The Group developed into the Delivery Group for Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 8: Environment and, in recognition of this dual role, was renamed the Green Charter and Environment Group. As well as Council Officers, the Group includes representatives from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Strathclyde Police, the Inverclyde Community Health Partnership, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and a number of Council Services.

On 24 November 2009, we hosted an event as part of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Flood Awareness Campaign: http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/2009/sepa_targets_inverclyde_in_its.aspx. Attended by more than 100 people, the initiative provided local people with the opportunity to obtain information and advice on floor preparation, find out more about flooding issues in Inverclyde and how to use the Floodline service. In addition to Scottish Environment Protection Agency staff, Council Officers were present at the event, together with representatives from the Scottish Flood Forum and other flooding partners.

To promote Energy Saving Week 2009, we worked in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust and LESS (Local Energy Saving Scheme) Inverclyde. We held an information session in each town in Inverclyde and engaged with one person every six minutes, complemented by the arrangement of 16 follow-ups visits to customers' homes.

To promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2010, we worked with the Scottish Fair Trade Forum to arrange a visit to Inverkip Primary School by a Fair Trade olive oil producer from overseas (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/news/2010/mar/pupils-trade-takes-fair-trade-visitor/>). Many other educational establishments in Inverclyde also marked Fair Trade Fortnight 2010: activities included selling fair trade goods in St Michael's Primary School's tuck shop; pupils from Greenock Academy looked at fair trade in the context of inequality and poverty; and Rainbow Family Centre raffled fair trade products to raise money for the Fair Trade Foundation.

The introduction of our Waste Strategy Initiative has led to a dramatic increase in our

performance in a very short space of time. During 2009/10, we achieved our highest ever recycling rate of 30.3% (rising from 28% in 2008/09), together with a 2,900 tonne reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill. We recognise that our education and awareness-raising campaign is vital to achieving the aims of the Initiative. The success of the campaign is demonstrated through the high levels of participation in our Initiative and the fact that we do not have any significant issues with contamination. To further encourage recycling in Inverclyde, our communication campaign continued throughout 2009/10 when we engaged with more than 4,200 local residents at 123 presentations and public information sessions on recycling.

Between January and March 2010, we set up a free Food Waste Cook School in each town and village in Inverclyde (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/news/2010/jan/ready-steady-cook-school/>). In partnership with the national Love Food Hate Waste Campaign, (<http://www.wasteawarelovefood.org.uk/>) the events helped people to try and reduce the amount of food waste they throw away. The Food Waste Cook Schools were publicised in our Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Stronger Winter Campaign 2009, on our website and in the local press.

The Council's Green Charter Unit, together with Lower Clyde Greenspace, launched its 'Wee Green Charter Grants' initiative in July this year. Grants of up to £500 are available to voluntary or community groups in Inverclyde to help with environmental activities that encourage wildlife, support biodiversity and reduce energy use and waste. Our 'Elected Member Champion', Councillor David Wilson launched the initiative. He is also Vice-Convenor for Safe, Sustainable Communities and Chair of our Green Charter and Environment Group. Alongside our Wee Green Charter Grants initiative, in September 2010, we launched our 'Wee Green Grants for Schools' initiative to support our educational establishments to deliver their School Green Charter priorities.

On 26 May 2010, our Education Service held a sustainability conference. Supported by Learning and Teaching Scotland, the aim of the event was to broker support for the three pilot 'environmental schools' which have been charged with developing and disseminating good practice in relation to environmental sustainability and the Schools Green Charter initiative. In the future, they will share their ideas and good practice with schools in Inverclyde and beyond. The conference was attended by pupils, teachers, Officers from various Council Services and staff from local businesses.

Please describe what your local authority has done on climate change communications.

The following are examples of climate change communication work carried out by Inverclyde Council:

To complement the corporate Green Charter initiative and the Green Charter work being carried out by our educational establishments, a copy of the Council's corporate Green Charter leaflet was distributed to every pupil in Inverclyde from Primary 4 upwards (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/news/2010/sep/pupils-prepared-planet-priority/>).

In December 2009, we distributed a practical guide to help schools move forward with Education for Sustainable Development and in particular *environmental* sustainability. Entitled 'Sustainable Development – a guide for Inverclyde schools', the manual aimed to provide educational establishments with ideas and advice when developing their Green Charters and accompanying action plans.

We recognise that our education and awareness-raising campaign is vital to achieving the aims of our Waste Strategy Initiative. The success of the campaign is demonstrated through the high levels of participation in our Initiative and the fact that we do not have any significant issues with contamination. To further encourage recycling in Inverclyde, our communication campaign continued throughout 2009/10 when we engaged with more than 4,200 local residents at 123 presentations and public information sessions on recycling. Our education and awareness-raising campaign encompassed a wide range of communication methods in order to suit a variety of audiences and in 2009/10 we conveyed the recycling message via the Council website, the Council's 'InView' magazine, in the local press, through radio adverts, billboard and bus shelter advertising campaigns.

On 24 November 2009, we hosted an event as part of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Flood Awareness Campaign: http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/2009/sepa_targets_inverclyde_in_its.aspx. Attended by more than 100 people, the initiative provided local people with the opportunity to find out more about flooding issues in Inverclyde and obtain information and advice on floor preparation and how to use the Floodline service. In addition to Scottish Environment Protection Agency staff, Council Officers were present at the event, together with representatives from the Scottish Flood

Forum and other flooding partners.

The Autumn 2009 edition of our Council magazine contained an article about flooding, together with an advertisement from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency to promote Floodline, the national flooding information service. A copy of the magazine is delivered to every household in Inverclyde.

We distributed around 11,500 copies of our Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Stronger Winter Campaign leaflet during December 2009, including one to every primary school age child in Inverclyde. The leaflets included details of how to contact Floodline, as well as festive recycling information, tips on how local residents can support the Council's Green Charter initiative and hints on staying safe on the roads during cold weather (<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/news/2009/nov/new-inview-magazine/> [page 2]).

The Council set up a Council Tax Energy Efficiency Scheme from April 2010, part of the requirement placed on the Council by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to establish a Council Tax Rebate Scheme based on energy efficiency. The Scheme was initially publicised in a leaflet issued with our Council Tax Bills 2010/11.

Please describe what your local authority has done to build capacity on climate change – internally, with partners and/or with the community.

On 26 May 2010, our Education Service held a sustainability conference. Supported by Learning and Teaching Scotland, the aim of the event was to broker support for the three pilot 'environmental schools' which have been charged with developing and disseminating good practice in relation to environmental sustainability and the Schools Green Charter initiative. In the future, they will share their ideas and good practice with schools in Inverclyde and beyond. The conference was attended by pupils, teachers, Officers from various Council Services and staff from local businesses.

We successfully bid for Single Outcome Agreement monies to set up a Green Gym for the first time in Inverclyde, supported by the Inverclyde Alliance and the Inverclyde Community Planning Partnership. The Council, working in partnership with Inverclyde Leisure, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and health colleagues, is currently devising a programme of instructor-led environmental action days with the aim of providing people with a way to enhance their fitness and health while taking action to improve the outdoor environment and raise awareness of environmental issues. The Green Gym project will also simultaneously deliver cross-cutting benefits for the Single Outcome Agreement Outcomes relating to health and employability.

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 - the Council took part in the Scottish Government's pre-consultation workshop on public bodies climate change duties on 24 March 2010. It will also be represented at the Sustainable Scotland Network meeting on 7 October 2010 which will provide a briefing on the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Draft Guidance and an opportunity to discuss the consultation on the draft Guidance. The event will also allow discussion about local authority capacity building relating to the introduction of the new Public Bodies Climate Change Duties.

As the Council strived to reinforce the recycling message during 2009/10, we built on our positive working relations with other Council services including Education, Social Work and Safer Communities. Additionally, we established new links with local businesses, independent educational establishments, community groups and independent care providers which enabled us to reach new audiences with our recycling message. We have a positive working relationship with our recycling partners which has been strengthened during 2009/10, thanks to closer liaison and communications.

Section 5 Priorities for the year ahead

Priorities for the year ahead include:

- a community engagement event on Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 8: Environment is being organised by Inverclyde Alliance for 27 November 2010. At the event, Community Planning Partners will engage with local residents to find out what they view the key environmental issues to be and the respective role of communities;
- promoting our Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Stronger Winter Campaign 2010 which will include information on environmental initiatives like recycling and tips on how to support our corporate Green Charter;

- implementing a comprehensive staff awareness campaign to deliver key aspects of our Carbon Management Programme;
- recruitment of a Carbon Champions' Network in Council premises;
- the success of our Waste Strategy Initiative is dependent on the participation and co-operation of the Inverclyde community. To ensure that residents are fully informed about recycling in Inverclyde, we will continue to deliver our comprehensive and structured communication plan throughout 2010/11. We will also build on our positive working relations with other Council Services such as Education, Social Work and Safer Communities. Additionally, we will continue to establish new links with local businesses, independent educational establishments, community groups and independent care providers to enable us to bring our recycling message to new areas of the Inverclyde community;
- the arranging of publicity opportunities during the remainder of 2010/11 to encourage participation in our Council Tax Energy Efficiency Scheme including an article in our Council magazine which is delivered to every household in Inverclyde;
- from April 2011, the Council may be required to buy and surrender carbon allowances as part of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. In order to ensure that the Council is equipped to manage the new carbon trading process, we are participating in the Carbon Trading Public Sector Scheme 2010/11. This programme allows us to practice virtual carbon trading without risk or financial commitment;
- Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 - the Council took part in the Scottish Government's pre-consultation workshop on public bodies climate change duties on 24 March 2010. It will also be represented at the Sustainable Scotland Network meeting on 7 October 2010 which will provide a briefing on the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Draft Guidance and an opportunity to discuss the consultation on the draft Guidance. The event will also allow discussion about local authority capacity building relating to the introduction of the new Public Bodies Climate Change Duties; and
- Inverclyde Council took part in Audit Scotland's performance audit study entitled 'Improving energy efficiency - follow-up' in May 2010. The study looked at 'changes in public bodies' energy consumption and spending on energy since 2004/05 ... (as well as) how prepared participating public bodies are for the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme'.

External support that has been used to support training, learning and capacity building initiatives

The Council is already addressing many of the actions in its Carbon Management Plan. To complement that activity, we have embarked on the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Revisited Programme which provides support to Local Authorities who participated in their 2007/08 Carbon Management Programme.

With specialist support from the Carbon Trust, we will:

- establish a revised carbon baseline;
- review and refresh our current carbon reduction projects list;
- identify additional projects that may be required to deliver above the original, or revised, carbon reduction target;
- take forward the results of the Carbon Management Assessment Tool document that we recently completed; and
- assess the maturity of the carbon management model in our Council and examine how it could be made more effective in any update of our Carbon Management Plan.

From April 2011, the Council may be required to buy and surrender carbon allowances as part of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. In order to ensure that the Council is equipped to manage the new carbon trading process, we are participating in the Carbon Trading Public Sector Scheme 2010/11. This programme allows us to practice virtual carbon trading without risk or financial commitment.

The Council is a member of the Sustainable Scotland Network which is 'a network of sustainable development officers and advocates from Scottish local authorities' and 'exists to improve local government's contribution to achieving a sustainable Scotland'. The Network works towards this

aim by providing 'an effective support and improvement service on sustainable development'.
(<http://www.sustainable-scotland.net/>).

Climate Change Progress Highlights of the Past Year

Please use the following section to highlight the local authority's main climate change achievements in the past year. This can include processes, plans, projects, partnerships, events, investments, and actions.

The local authority's main climate change achievements in the past year include:

- the Council launched its Green Charter last year with the aims of reducing energy and waste and promoting the sustainable use of resources. As part of this corporate initiative, every educational establishment in Inverclyde (43 in total) was required to develop a Green Charter and three year action plan to promote environmental sustainability at school (local) level. Components for establishment Green Charters include action on energy saving, action on recycling, water conservation and the journey to school. We believe we are the first Council in Scotland to adopt this approach to education for sustainable development;
- LESS (Local Energy Saving Scheme) Inverclyde won a Silver Award at the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities annual awards event in March 2010:
<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/news/2010/mar/double-silver-inverclyde-excellence-awards/>
- we successfully bid for Single Outcome Agreement monies to set up a Green Gym for the first time in Inverclyde, supported by the Inverclyde Alliance and the Inverclyde Community Planning Partnership. The Council, working in partnership with Inverclyde Leisure, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and health colleagues, is currently devising a programme of instructor-led environmental action days with the aim of providing people with a way to enhance their fitness and health while taking action to improve the outdoor environment and raise awareness of environmental issues. The Green Gym project will also simultaneously deliver cross-cutting benefits for the Single Outcome Agreement Outcomes relating to health and employability; and
- we secured a place on the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Revisited Programme.