

Climate Change Strategy Consultation Comments and Portsmouth City Council's Response.

From June to September 2008, the Climate Change Strategy Consultation document was out for consultation. In this document, we list the comments made and our responses to those comments. The consultation also included a question on what respondents were doing to tackle climate change. The answers to this are not included here, but are picked up elsewhere in the Climate Change work.

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COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION	
By efficient communications with residents of Portsmouth. Continued awareness programmes, local champions available for advice and support and also good signposting as to where advice and information is available.	Portsmouth City Council has a dedicated communications team that endeavours to keep residents informed through a variety of media. This includes Flagship, our web site and Neighbourhood Forums. Green champions have been set up successfully in some organisations, including our own, and we hope to encourage more businesses and voluntary sector organisations to consider having such local champions to help people with advice, support and information. Our housing service runs an accredited green scheme for tenants.
Community funding.	Details of any community funding opportunities available can be accessed through Portsmouth City Council's Democratic and Community Engagement service. Also, Portsmouth Council of Community Services (PCCS) (http://www.portsmouthccs.org.uk/) and the Big Lottery Fund (http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/) are other sources of information regarding community-funding opportunities.
Find out why Gosport's CO ² emissions are so much lower than Portsmouth's and adapt measures accordingly. Talk to China, Russia, India and co – stop wasting money on climate change. China is building one coalfield power station per month +.	We are partnered with Gosport Borough Council as part of the Carbon Management Programme so we are already sharing knowledge and skills between these two local authorities. We keep as up to date as possible on actions other countries are taking to help tackle climate change and will adapt or incorporate as many best practice examples as possible. It is the responsibility of developed countries (who have increased their CO ² emissions over time) to take action to help developing countries. Further information on country CO ² emissions is available at: http://www.breathingearth.net/
More awareness to public/businesses/voluntary organisations. More involvement from everyone in the city. Encourage public to engage. Reinforcing idea that everyone (residents, businesses etc) needs to contribute - it can't just be PCC	The Portsmouth Sustainability Action Group has representatives from all of these sectors. The fourth priority area of the climate change strategy focused on community involvement. The climate change strategy is also a multi-agency strategy to ensure ownership and involvement from as many people in the City as

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acting by itself.	possible.
The people of Portsmouth need a better understanding of what is likely effect on climate change.	The climate change strategy will have a section explaining the likely impact of climate change on Portsmouth.
Flush out precise objectives and means to achieve them.	This was the purpose of the consultation and the aim of the climate change strategy, which includes a multi-agency action plan.
Elect a mayor to drive this issue forward.	Portsmouth City Council's Constitution does not allow for a mayor to be elected to drive issues forward.
People's habits will not change overnight so there has to be long-term plans and ensuring young people take onboard change. Cut back on this 'want' 'want' society. Complete change in mind set for officers of the Council, residents, businesses and other stakeholders.	We have identified the education sector as having a major role to play in educating people about climate change and the need to change and adapt accordingly. We plan to include climate change within school curriculum wherever possible – including through the new Building Schools for the Future plans.
Develop a multi level strategy for getting the message over linked to quality of life in the city that demonstrates the difference between doing nothing and being positive.	This is the aim of the multi-agency climate change strategy for the City.
1. Put climate change at the centre of Core Strategy. 2. Visible, small successes.	The Portsmouth Plan (Core Strategy) consultation has taken place. Whilst climate change will be incorporated into the Portsmouth Plan there are also other important issues for it such as the economic situation.
Make people take a far more active role in preventing the climate changes using punitive measures if necessary.	We are very keen for people to take a more active role in adapting to climate change. However, we feel that punitive measures may not be the best method of engaging and encouraging people to get involved at this stage.
We need practical advice on what we can do. Major effects come from using energy sources - needs investment and subsidies.	It is anticipated that there will be a number of information points offering practice advice on what people can do. This will include information on our website and distributed through newsletters such as Flagship. Additionally, some of the actions in the climate change strategy action plan are focused on public exhibitions/ road shows /exemplar buildings being set up to offer practical advice on what people can do.
Provide the alternative facilities for people to adopt e.g. recycling, public transport etc.	We are working with various partners throughout the City to try and make alternative facilities an accessible, simple option for people.
The climate change priorities can be encompassed within e.g. the Vision for Portsmouth, Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Corporate Plan - but the key	We aim to embed the climate change strategy priorities into the other aspects of our business – such as LAA targets. It is intended that the climate change strategy priorities will become

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issue is to give them more prominence - make them the key issues around which other priorities are hung - or at least ensure a rigorous check of other priorities against the climate change drivers.	business as usual priorities rather than additional to many other priorities. There will be a clear link between the climate change strategy and PCC's Carbon Management Programme ensuring that all their work is joined up.
Make it easy to make a difference.	We aim to provide as much information as possible to people to make it easy to make a difference.
Measure what baseline data is currently available and then set SMART targets.	We aim to have SMART targets in our climate change strategy action plan.
Try to get as many local businesses and organisations signed up to a 'climate change charter' or similar to ensure they have developed clear action plans to reduce carbon emissions.	There will be an action plan within the climate change strategy to engage businesses and sign up to a pledge, which will have specific actions for local businesses to sign up to, helping to reduce carbon emissions.
Be a leader in the community on these issues. City Council needs to proactively push through changes, sometimes to force a change in people's practices. Lead by example, i.e. at the Council office.	We are changing our practices to lead by example – such as we have recently had a new recycling system within the Civic Offices and we are also in the process of installing energy efficient lighting too. We realise the importance of leading by example and the need to 'get our own house in order'. Our commitment and involvement through PCC's Carbon Management Programme is a testimony to this. However, it also emphasises the fact that we all can do more to improve our own organisations and hopefully seeing us make changes encourages others to do so as well.
Engage more people in discussions at social events; The bandstand, Pompey FC Football Matches etc.	This is a great idea, which we aim to include within our action plan for communications.
Make it so that the sustainable option (whatever it is) is the cheapest one.	Unfortunately, we do not have the power to change the prices of services provided by other organisations. We can encourage other businesses to make their sustainable options as cheap as possible. Sometimes, it may be necessary to think about the long-term investment of sustainable options, rather than just the short term costs. We do have a sustainable procurement strategy.
TRANSPORT	
Congestion charges on all 3 roads into Portsmouth.	Our transport officers have raised this idea with Members before and it is not politically popular or possible to implement at this time.
Park and ride deals.	We have recently been granted approval to trial a Saturday & Public Holidays Park & Ride scheme for a year starting in April. The service will operate from Lakeside North Harbour to the City Centre and The Hard.
Rebuild the railway stations at	This is something that would need to be

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Paulsgrove & Drayton & add a new one at Copnor Bridge.	decided by South West Trains ultimately, not Portsmouth City Council. Our transport team are aware that the Paulsgrove and Drayton railway stations could be rebuilt. However, a new one would not be added at Copnor.
Put the Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth tram route back on the agenda.	This proposal has been looked at in length previously but has been dismissed.
Electric buses.	The technology needed is not available. There is no infrastructure in Portsmouth for charging up electric buses.
Hire car pool for flat dwellers.	Car clubs are being encouraged across Portsmouth. Admiralty Quarter and Gunwharf Quays already have car clubs established. The City Council has recently introduced a further two vehicles in-conjunction with Commonwheels for staff use during the day but will also be available to the public in the evenings and at weekends. Commonwheels intend to introduce cars in locations across the city.
Reduce ferry engine emissions.	We continue to work with public transport providers to encourage them to do this.
Free public transport for everybody!	This is a lovely idea – but who would pay the costs of the public transport? Would residents be happy with an increase in council tax to cover this?
Make rail travel for Portsmouth employees cheaper/incentives.	Travel concessions are usually available for employees – they vary between organisations, we suggest you contact your HR team to find out what opportunities are available at your work place.
Facilitate cycling and cycle parking security.	Work travel plans should be created for staff, possibly with incentive schemes. Grants may be available to employers from SignPOST (http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/10991.html) for secure cycle parking as part of the Travel Plan Initiative Fund (TPIF). It is also possible to get a secure a bike box from the Police.
Improve public transport - I.e. cater for workers who do unsociable hours so they can leave their cars at home. Also at affordable fairs.	We are in continual negotiations with public transport companies with the aim to improve public transport services.
Reduce car usage.	We can encourage people to reduce their car usage by making them aware of other options available to them. However, we cannot force people to change their habits. The Local Transport Plan aims to enable this.
Put a charge on how much people drive instead of car tax, this may help stop school runs.	This is not within our remit.
Have a look at Portsmouth University	Portsmouth University already work with

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and include them - students should not be allowed vehicles.	students to discourage them from bringing vehicles on site by having extremely limited parking opportunities.
Limit cars to one per household.	Some areas of Portsmouth have to register for permits for their cars to be parked near to their homes. There is no legislation that can make us limit cars to one per household. However, the need to register and pay for car parking permits (as well as locating a parking space) may help discourage homeowners from having multiple cars.
Greater work with City businesses and organisations to identify sustainable green travel plans.	We are continually working to do this and have a dedicated Travel Plan Officer working for us.
1. Cycle lane along sea front prom (leisure use leads to daily use) 2. All footways wider than one metre to be shared use.	A seafront cycle consultation for the seafront has taken place - it is hoped that the findings from this will be available in the Spring. The minimum width footpath for shared use is three metres.
Improve traffic flow particularly around Milton by: bypassing Velder Avenue traffic lights, built a by-pass along Langstone Harbour, across Eastney Lake to Esplanade. Make a 'greenwave' traffic light sequence on Eastern Road (timing green lights).	This is a proposal that has been previously considered but was discounted for environmental reasons because Nature Conservation rules will not allow this to happen. The 'greenwave' traffic light sequence is already in place on the Eastern Road.
Councils get off soapboxes; not many cars can travel in top gear (least polluting) at 20mph thro city so put speeds back to 30mph and better education about cars killing people.	Portsmouth is the first city to become a 20mph city, which is something the Council is proud of. The speed limits are not planned to rise above 20mph.
Subsidising local businesses to install showers at work. It is not realistic to expect people who have to dress smartly for work to cycle unless they can get washed and changed when they get there.	We have been able to offer the Travel Plan Initiative Fund for the last two years. See http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/10278.html for more details. Effectively this is match funding up to £5000 for initiatives such as cycle parking and showers. We are hoping that we can offer this again next financial year but there is no guarantee on that.
Park and ride for PFC, no cars into Fratton.	This is something that the City Council and Portsmouth Football Club is actively looking into for next season.
City tax to most polluting cars.	Portsmouth City Council does not have the power to tax cars.
Much better public transport, especially to support evening activities.	We regularly liaise with the local transport providers and aim to make all areas of the City easily accessible by public transport. Ultimately, the transport provider decides the service timetables.
Have more cycle week or cycle route.	The local transport plan should address this

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	concern. There is currently a Seafront Cycling Strategy being designed with public consultation opportunities. We promote events such as Bike2Work (part of Bike Week) and the BIG Green Commuter Challenge to encourage use of alternatives.
Increase off road cycle lanes across the city. Encourage cycle hire schemes (I don't know of anywhere in Portsmouth that hires cycles) i.e. a park & cycle scheme rather than park & ride. Maybe include cycle hire at train stations, in Southsea and at Gunwharf quays.	We have investigated a city wide cycle hire scheme similar to France etc. but it is prohibitively expensive. However as part of the Healthy Towns Award we will be setting up bike recycling projects and hope to encourage a social enterprise that offers bike hire etc from key locations such as the seafront. Also we believe that Cycle World now offers a cycle hire service.
ENVIRONMENT	
Are there low energy bulbs for street lighting?	Yes there are low energy bulbs available for street lighting. However, in Portsmouth we do not install low energy bulbs for street lighting. The lights we use are actually energy efficient in terms of amount of light given out compared to the wattage. For example, we may install 5 of our current style of streetlights in a street. However, if we had low energy bulbs in our streetlights we would need twice as many, as they give out less light. The knock-on effects of this would then mean increased maintenance and electricity costs so it actually wouldn't be as sustainable as it sounds initially.
Make cheap loans or subsidies to help insulate all homes.	Information is available about this on our web site: http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/13133.html
Turn sea water to water.	This is very expensive to do in the South East and also increases carbon emissions. For these reasons, it is not an immediate option for Portsmouth.
Reduce in-shop heating substantially.	This is part of our ongoing awareness raising campaign with businesses
Stop paving over gardens and re-do those that have with porous blocking.	National legislation governs the controls for paving over gardens. We can raise awareness of the problems of paving over gardens but cannot stop people from doing so, if it is within the legal limits.
We need to look at sea defences really soon as these are vital to this city.	The Portsmouth Coastal Strategy focuses on this issue: http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/3726.html
Do not take away open spaces: they act as sumps for flooding.	The Portsmouth Plan protects existing open spaces from development.
Wind and sea turbines - e.g. across Langstone Inlet/Portsdown Hill.	An action in the climate change strategy is to conduct a feasibility study into renewable

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	energy options.
Termination of CO ² and Methane into the air must be at top of national agenda. We are 15 years too late.	Reduction of carbon emissions is key to the government's national and local agenda. We are signed up to two important national indicator targets to reduce our carbon emissions as a City and as a Council. One of the main objectives of the climate change strategy is to reduce carbon emissions in Portsmouth. It's important to be positive and look to the future not the past. Our energy should be focused on achieving change now and the benefits that will bring to future generations; rather than focusing on how late the start is.
Overhaul all drains and sewers.	This would be within Southern Water's remit not PCC's.
Also improve/build new incinerator/recycle facilities so we can recycle all recyclable materials.	The Portsmouth Energy Recycling Facility is excellent for recycling.
Ensure PCC, PCT, University etc change electricity provider to 'Good Energy' - all their electricity is from renewable resources, 100% not just the 5% of most electricity suppliers.	We can't promote our supplier but Portsmouth Sustainability Action Group can promote the benefits of green energy.
Fine shops that don't sell fair-trade and or organic.	It is not really within Portsmouth City Council's power to fine shops on this scale. We are keen, however, to encourage as many shops as possible to sell fair-trade, organic or locally produced food. We do also support local farmers markets across the City; as well as supporting allotments and encouraging residents to grow their own food.
Recycle more plastic.	We are working with residents and businesses to continue raising awareness about the sorts of items that can be recycled.
Allow no methane to escape unused.	The former landfill site in question has a methane recovery system in place which powers electricity generators located on site. In 2006 18,246 Mega Watt Hours of electricity were generated at the facility.
Micro power generation, council funded local projects.	There is an action within the climate change strategy action plan to conduct a feasibility study into this.
Flood risk drill.	The civil contingencies unit deal with emergency planning for such incidents. We also have a Coastal Strategy (http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/3726.html), which looks at the potential impact of such scenarios.
Minimum usage, minimum waste; website to exchange unwanted items and reduce waste.	This is a fantastic idea. We are aware that there is a web site called Freecycle where you can exchange unwanted items and reduce

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	waste.
'Show homes' - best practice.	It would be fantastic to have some best practice show homes available for residents to look around, this is something we are considering when formulating the climate change strategy action plan.
Dam the entrance to Langstone Harbour.	This is not an option for Portsmouth due to the nature in the area, which must be protected.
Use cut grass for energy; don't leave to rot on the common.	At the moment we don't have the infrastructure to do this. However, it is something that we could consider in the future.
Sort PCC buildings first, no lights blazing at night in Civic offices.	We are aware that we must practice what we preach and lead by example. We are in the process of having all of the lights in the Civic offices changed to sensor lighting so that they won't be blazing all night. This light changeover project is due for completion around May 2009.
Carbon offsetting is a misleading sham.	We believe that some schemes have very positive benefits to developing countries but this depends on the offsetting scheme. There is soon to be government guidance on recommended schemes.
Contingency planning for civil emergencies.	Our Civil Contingencies Unit deals with contingency planning for civil emergencies.
Work in Partnership with the Uni to be the forefront of climate research and development.	We are working in partnership with the University of Portsmouth. They regularly attend meetings of the Portsmouth Sustainability Action Group who will be the owner of the Portsmouth Climate Change Strategy.
I'm not convinced that 60% carbon reduction is going to be enough. If we're using 3 times what the planet can sustainably provide right now, that'd mean we need to aim for 66% just to stand still... and surely we need to drive things in the opposite direction? Wouldn't 80% be more realistic?	The government target is now 80%.
Invest in flood defences	The Portsmouth Island Coastal Strategy Summary (PICSS) is a programme for investment in flood defences: http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/3726.html
Swap the leaf blowers the lazy council use, for environmentally friendly brooms.	These are not feasible as they are not nearly as effective for the job.
Use Stamshaw Lake as tidal estuary to generate electricity at low tides.	This may not be possible as it is a Site of Scientific Special Interest. However, the climate change strategy action plan will have an action for a feasibility study to see if this is possible.
HEALTH	
Link to obesity strategy should be clearer.	There are links with health and the obesity strategy. The Primary Care Trust is a member

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	of PSAG who are overseeing the production of the climate change strategy.
DOMESTIC	
This city is already overcrowded. Stop building more homes/only build with allocated parking. It is an unpleasant experience to visit this city due to traffic and parking problems. Why don't you value quality of life for those already own/renting here.	National government set the housing targets for new build that we have to meet.
Don't jump on the bandwagon - dare to be different! Have a claim a tree scheme to plant in each back garden. Make B&Q, Home base etc have paint recycling bins for us.	These are all good ideas, which we will consider and raise awareness of where appropriate through our climate change awareness raising actions.
Be more specific: INSIST on new buildings being energy efficient/carbon neutral.	Policies to deal with this issue will be promoted through the Portsmouth Plan. We also have to abide by the Code for Sustainable Homes.
I live in a block of flats, all of the flats at the front have inadequate insulation. In the winter 60% of our heating leaves the front. We need new front doors and double glazed panels	It is not clear if this comment came from a private homeowner or a PCC tenant. A city insulation project is being considered for PCC tenants. Private homeowners can contact the Energy Savings Trust for information and potential grants related to home insulation.
We do need to adapt to climate change - hence why we pay council tax. Be energy efficient but not sentimental about 'renewables'.	All of this is covered in the climate change strategy.
Incentivise energy efficient home improvements.	Yes this is something we want to do and there will be an action in the climate change strategy to conduct a feasibility study into this.