



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

**we want
your views**
by 31 July 2008

Tackling climate change together

Climate change is a global issue we're addressing locally. That's why we want your views to help produce Portsmouth's Climate Change Strategy.

As a coastal city Portsmouth has many areas vulnerable to the effects of climate change and in a recent residents' survey, 61% of you said this was something you were concerned about.

With the city's total carbon emissions coming in at a whopping 1,277,000 tonnes – the same per capita as London, and over three times as much as Gosport – we need to start thinking about what we're going to do about it, fast.

Remember, climate change doesn't just mean rising temperatures – unpredictable weather is on the cards. Rainstorms will become more frequent and intense over shorter periods of time, increasing the risk of flooding.

What **the future** could hold



Unpredictable weather

It is predicted that Portsmouth will see an increase of 15-30% more rainfall during the winter and 30-45% less rain during the summer. As a coastal city it is vital we manage the risk of tidal flooding. We have a Portsea Island Coastal Strategy Study and are also working with the Environment Agency.

Economy

Residents could see price rises for fuel, food and energy. Businesses may also see their insurance premiums rise due to flood risks. Developments in the city will have to be low carbon and cater for sustainable lifestyles.

The maintenance of transport infrastructure and sea defences will also be costly.

Local flood risk

With rainstorms becoming more intense the risk of local flood increases. 72% of Portsmouth's industrial areas are considered at risk from flooding and current figures suggest by 2026, 60,000 Portsmouth residents will live in flood risk areas. A full risk assessment will be carried out looking at the potential problems Portsmouth could encounter with our changing climate. Residents will be kept informed on how to manage flood risk in their properties.

Tourism

Rising fuel prices and higher temperatures may encourage more people to take holidays at home, but this will also mean increased pressure on our local infrastructure.

Health issues

Hotter summers bring risks to the elderly, vulnerable and young. Heat related deaths are of particular concern to our older residents, while a reduction in cloud cover increases the risk of skin cancer. Rising energy prices could also mean more people are unable to afford fuel and vulnerable people could suffer during colder seasons.

Transport

We will need to promote sustainable transport options such as cycling, walking and public transport. Look at our Local Transport Plan on www.portsmouth.gov.uk for options on how we can make transport more sustainable in the city.

It's important that we adjust to climate change and turn some of the impact to our advantage. This could mean:

- › Boost in tourism
- › A growth in a diversity of harvests such as vineyards and olive groves
- › Grants for residents and businesses if you're looking at installing energy efficient products
- › An increase in renewable energy such as solar, tidal, biomass, sea water cooling, combined heat and power, heat transfer



How you can help your city

As a council we can't address climate change alone. We're committed to supporting Portsmouth becoming a low carbon city, but this means everyone from residents to businesses playing their part.

What we plan to do

There are four priority areas we think the Climate Change Strategy should focus on:

1 Reduce Portsmouth's carbon footprint

Our carbon footprint, calculated in 2005, stands at a whopping 1,277,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. That works out at around 6.8 tonnes per resident. If everyone lived like we do in Portsmouth, we'd need three planets supporting us to survive.

2 Adapt to climate change

We need to prepare for the predicted changes to our climate and minimise the cost this impact could have on the city.

3 Energy strategy for the city

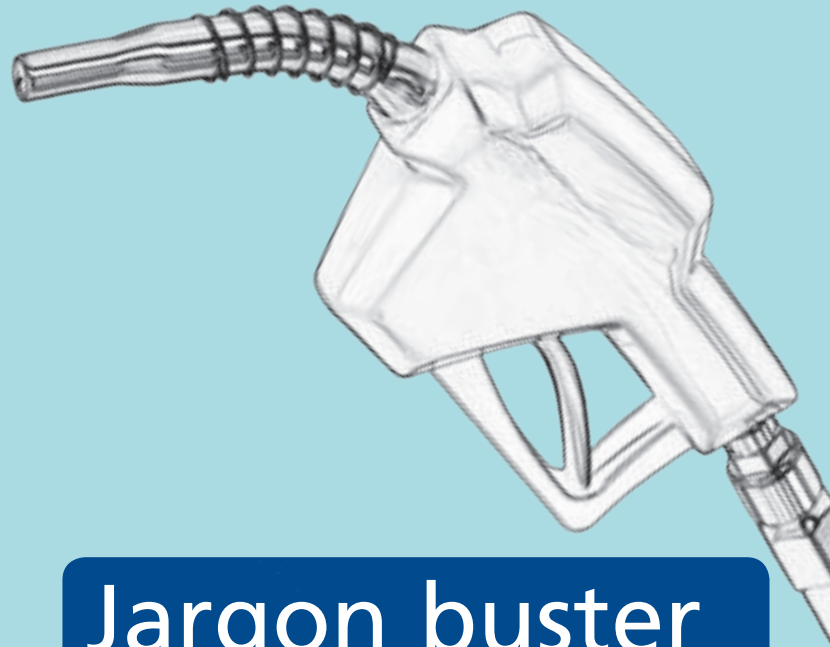
Securing our energy resources is vital if fuel stocks are reducing. First we need to be energy efficient and then look at alternative energy sources, and increase the amount of renewable energy used in the city.

4 Community involvement

We all have a role to play in securing the future of the city. We will work with both public and private businesses, voluntary organisations and you, to make sure that this strategy works.

But what do you think?

Our residents' survey showed 48% of you agreed that your actions could influence climate change.



Jargon buster

Carbon: often used as shorthand for carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Carbon dioxide: a naturally-occurring gas, which is also produced when fossil fuels are burned. It is the main greenhouse gas, and its increase in our atmosphere – along with the other greenhouse gases – is responsible for climate change.

Carbon footprint: the amount of CO₂ produced by individuals and companies. Activities such as travel, heating and shopping all form part of your carbon footprint.

Carbon neutral: when a person or company - through energy efficiency, carbon offsetting and other techniques - contributes no net CO₂.

Carbon offsetting: improving your impact on the environment by contributing to support projects which reduce CO₂ production.

Climate change: a change in global weather patterns, including temperature and storms. Climate change is partly influenced by greenhouse gases.

CO₂: the chemical name for carbon dioxide.

Fossil fuels: fuels such as coal, oil and gas, which are formed from the decomposed remains of plants and animals.

Greenhouse gases: these trap heat radiated from the earth, and contribute to global warming.

Renewable energy: sources of energy (such as wind and solar power) which don't rely on a limited supply of fuel.

Calculate your carbon footprint at www.actonco2.co.uk

Get in touch



If you've got ideas about how we can tackle climate change, we want to hear them. To keep this consultation sustainable we are using as little paper as possible.

You can find more information on our website. If you do not have access to the internet you can use the free computers available at the Civic Offices or in your local library. We can also send you a printed copy of the website information. Please recycle this if you don't want to keep it.

Here's how you can get involved:

- › Fill in the attached form and send us your views. You can also get extra information sent to you on suggested ways to tackle climate change in Portsmouth.
- › Read our climate change consultation web pages – www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/13093.html
- › Go to our website and give us your views through the e-form – www.portsmouth.gov.uk/sustainability
- › Contact the council for more information – email sustainability@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or phone our Climate Change and Sustainability Co-ordinator on 023 9268 8156
- › Attend your local neighbourhood forum during May-July – www.portsmouth.gov.uk/yourcouncil/1577.html or request a presentation to a relevant group

At the end of the consultation process we'll look at all the views to help us write the Climate Change Strategy. It will also include a detailed plan on who will do what, and when, to make the strategy a reality.

Do you understand the effects of Climate Change?

Yes No Some Don't know

Do you know how climate change could affect Portsmouth?

Yes No Some Don't know

Have we got our four priority areas right?

Yes No Some Don't know

What will we need to do to achieve these priorities?

What steps are you taking to tackle climate change?

Your contact details for more information – postal and email

I'd like more information about suggested ways we could tackle climate change in Portsmouth.

Name

Address

Email address

Return this form by 31 July 2008 to:
Portsmouth Climate Change Strategy
Portsmouth City Council, Strategy unit
Freepost PT705
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2YX

Email: sustainability@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Telephone: 023 9268 8156

You can get this Portsmouth City Council information in large print, Braille, audio or in another language by calling 9284 1559.