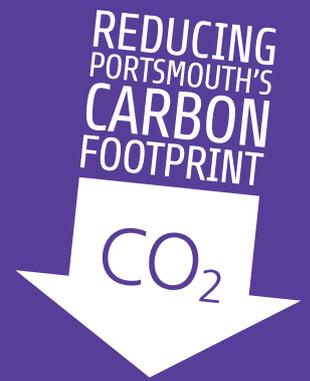


Portsmouth Climate Change Strategy



This is an excerpt from the Portsmouth Climate Change Strategy.

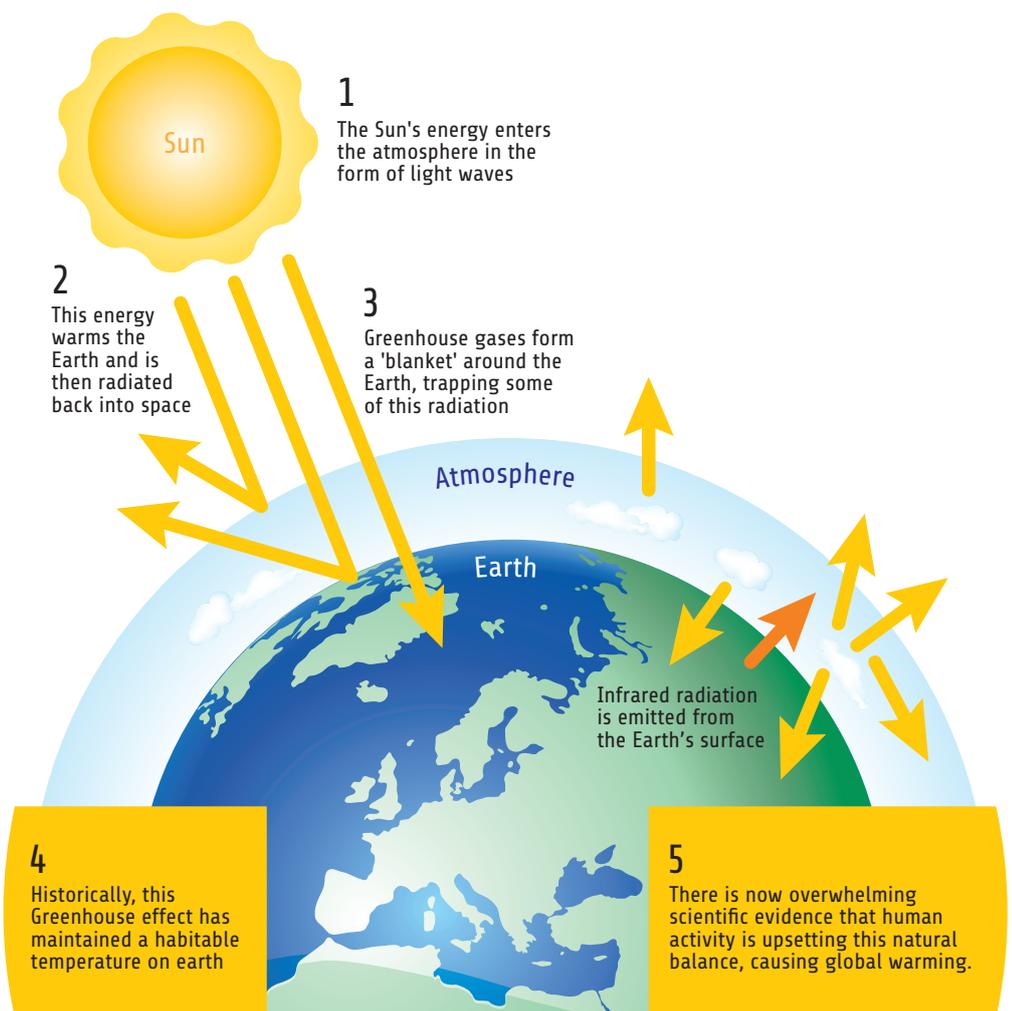
Read the full document online at www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/15773.html



A lot of effort has been made to ensure that we are working together across the city in a co-ordinated way to tackle climate change. Portsmouth Sustainability Action Group (PSAG), which has developed this strategy, brings together public organisations, businesses and the voluntary and community sectors. We need to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to inevitable climate change and ensure our energy is provided in a sustainable way. The best way to do this is through working together and effective community involvement. This strategy clearly sets out how we plan to do this as a city.

The greenhouse effect

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Fourth Assessment 2007 (FAQ 1.3 Fig 1)



Climate change is a global issue that requires dramatic action on a local level. The future of Portsmouth must be low-carbon and resource-efficient.



Climate change is now a well-recognised phrase and it is accepted by scientists and governments as the most serious environmental challenge facing us in the 21st century. The scientific evidence clearly shows that the activities of humans are making a significant contribution to climate change.¹

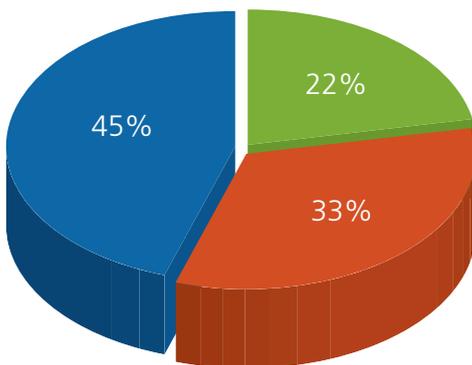
The UK was the first country to agree a Climate Change Act (November 2008), which commits the UK to reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 80% on 1990 levels by 2050. Reducing UK CO₂ emissions will be a huge challenge.

Climate change is a global issue that requires dramatic action on a local level. The future of Portsmouth must be low-carbon and resource-efficient. Key partners across the city have a responsibility to lead by example and we are looking forward to continuing the successful work that we have already started.

The latest figures available (Defra 2006) show that Portsmouth's carbon emissions stand at 1.2 million tonnes per year. This is made up of 543,000 tonnes from the industrial and commercial sector; 401,000 from the domestic sector and 258,000 tonnes from transport, which equates to 6.13 tonnes per person.

Portsmouth CO₂ emissions

Source: DEFRA, 2006



- Industrial and commercial
- Domestic
- Transport

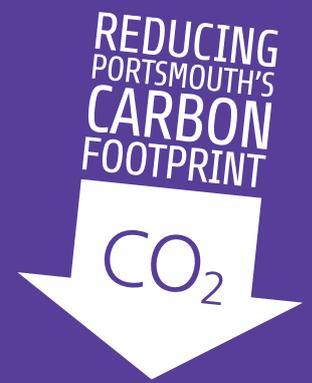
What does climate change mean for Portsmouth?

Predictions for the 2080s

- Summers will be hotter by 2-6°C and will have 30-45% less rainfall
- Winters will be warmer by 1.5-3.5°C and have 15-30% more rainfall
- Greater frequency and intensity of extreme events – storms, floods, heat waves and drought
- Solar radiation in the summer could increase by up to 10%
- Sea level rise could be as much as 1m

The important point to note is that weather will become increasingly unpredictable and the problems of potential runaway climate change and tipping points make accurate predictions impossible.

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Fourth Assessment Report 2007



Priority 1: Reduce Portsmouth's carbon footprint

What we're aiming for:

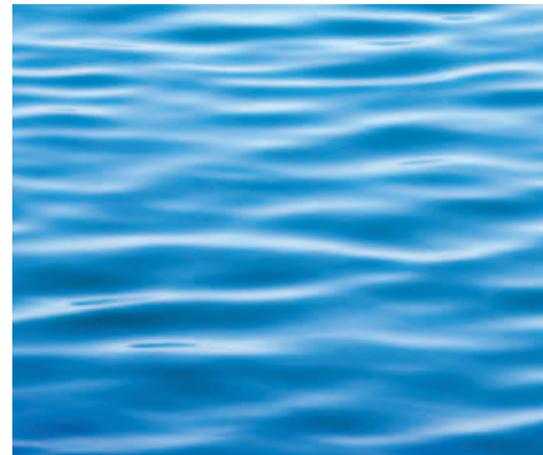
- More energy-efficient homes, businesses and public sector buildings
- More cycling, walking, public transport use and car-sharing
- Better integrated sustainable transport infrastructure: more cycle routes, bike parking, bus lanes
- Green business opportunities
- Sustainable procurement across the city
- Reduced amount of waste sent to landfill



Priority 2: Adapt to climate change

What we're aiming for:

- Risks of climate change are known and planned for
- Water is used efficiently in the city
- The impact of any emergency arising from climate change would be minimised, with a rapid and appropriate response
- Lower impacts from floods
- The coastline is fully protected
- New plant species that suit the climatic conditions introduced



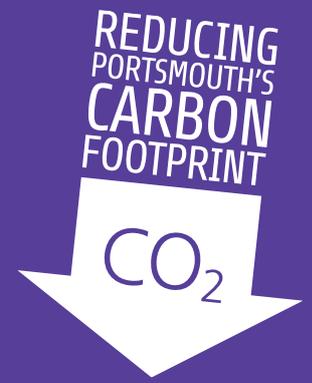
Priority 3: Energy strategy for the city

What we're aiming for:

- Higher proportion of energy used within the city will come from renewable/decentralised sources
- Renewable/decentralised energy installations – both domestic and commercial, will be developed around the city
- Better public understanding and take up of renewable/decentralised energy
- Reduced tariffs for renewable/decentralised energy produced in the city



Tackling climate change in Portsmouth will be a challenge for everyone involved. However, it is a challenge that as a city we are ready to embrace.



Priority 4: Community involvement

What we're aiming for:

- All sectors of the community will understand climate change issues and will be taking action
- People are aware of their responsibilities and know their own carbon footprint
- Residents are reducing their carbon footprint and water use
- Businesses and organisations know their carbon footprint and have a carbon reduction plan
- Businesses and organisations know their level of water use and are reducing it



Action plan

The climate change strategy action plan details what partners across Portsmouth will be doing to help deliver this strategy. The action plan will be monitored and updated by PSAG.

Some top actions include

- PCC committing to reduce its carbon footprint by 30% by 2014
- University of Portsmouth to reduce its energy consumption by 20% by 2012
- Gunwharf to reduce its energy use by 10% by 2010
- A stakeholder workshop to be held to produce a detailed action plan for low-carbon transport
- Conduct a feasibility study into the potential for a decentralised city energy scheme
- Carry out a public awareness campaign across the city in the form of an exhibition to be placed in libraries, museums, businesses etc.
- Publish a local climate impact plan which identifies the impact of extreme weather events.

Conclusion

This is the first city-wide climate change strategy for Portsmouth and hopefully it has set out the main issues along with the key actions that need to be taken.

A low carbon society will look very different to the one we live in today. For the UK to meet the 80% carbon reduction target set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 a transformation needs to take place. This transformation will provide a large number of opportunities and Portsmouth will definitely benefit from being ahead of the game rather than chasing behind.

This is an excerpt from the Portsmouth Climate Change Strategy.
Read the full document online at www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/15773.html