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**SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Policy**

**2015/2019**

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Author	Sonya Daines
Owner	Democratic and Legal Services
Protective Marking	NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
Committee Approval Date	Draft for consultation Cabinet – November 2014
Council Approval Date	
Policy Date	
Policy Review Date	

## REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revised By	Version	Description of Revision
November 2014	Sonya Daines	0.1	Creation of Draft Strategy
February 2015	Sonya Daines	0.1	Revision of draft after consultation

## DOCUMENT REVISION APPROVALS

Approval	Name	Date
Cabinet – draft for consultation	Sonya Daines	November 2014
Cabinet – draft for adoption	Sonya Daines	March 2015

# Environmental Sustainability Policy

## Introduction

What is sustainable development? There are many definitions available but they all ultimately have the same meaning. The Brundtland Report definition is:

**”sustainable development’ is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.**

Scarborough Borough Council is committed to ensuring that, through its own activities, we have a minimal impact on the environment. In addition we actively seek to encourage both residents and visitors to minimise their own impact on their environment and will facilitate, as far as possible, this process.

This Policy sets out the Borough Council’s aims in relation to Sustainable Development, the principles we will adhere to and the mechanism by which sustainable development will form a cornerstone of all future Borough Council policies, strategies, activities and future developments.

## Aim

The aim of this Environmental Sustainability Policy is to safeguard and improve the lives of people in the Borough now and in the future by adopting through our own operations, and the encouragement of others, the principles of sustainability as set out in this policy.

## Objectives

Scarborough Borough Council is committed to caring for the environment and the principles of sustainability. The Council, in partnership with the community, recognises its responsibility for the environment, for the Borough’s current and future prosperity and the health and wellbeing of its residents.

One of our key aims is **Quality Environments** and it is acknowledged that one of the Borough’s greatest assets is its heritage - both the natural and built environment. The quality of the environment affects all our day-to-day lives. We need to protect it now, and manage, and improve it for the future.

## Relevant Performance Indicators and Corporate Targets

All policies and targets will be regularly reviewed in the light of new technology and legislation and other relevant changes, the key targets identified under this policy are:

## Corporate Targets

- A reduction in the percentage of people living in fuel poverty (High fuel costs low income definition\*)
- A 2% reduction per year in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Borough Council operations
- A reduction in the per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Borough
- An increase in recycling and composting of household waste
- A reduction in the amount of residual waste sent to landfill
- A reduction in the number of properties on the flood risk register

## Principles

In all our activities our aim shall be to:

- Minimise the consumption of energy, water and other natural resources and ensure that those we use are used efficiently
- Minimise the production of waste and reduce the impact of its disposal
- Reduce or prevent pollution and minimise emissions of greenhouse gases wherever possible
- Protect and enhance the diversity of nature
- Increase the use of local resources to satisfy local needs
- Pursue the social, health and economic needs of the local community while minimising environmental impacts

In our operations we will:

- Work corporately to place sustainability at the heart of our strategies and programmes.
- Develop and implement systems to monitor our sustainable performance against sustainability targets
- Consider the environmental consequences of our present and future activities and adopt working practices that minimise damage to the environment
- Limit the risk of environmental accidents and ensure emergency plans are in place should such an event occur
- Ensure that all the Council's suppliers recognise and take steps to address environmental matters relating to their products and services, and encourage environmental standards at least equal to our own
- Look for continuous improvement and report publicly on our environmental performance
- Ensure that employees have access to appropriate training to raise awareness and competence in sustainability principles and their application
- Through the Local Development Framework (LDF) and other planning policy guidance, promote sustainable development principles and enhanced standards in new developments and regeneration projects.

\*Fuel poverty in England is measured by the Low Income High Costs definition, which considers a household to be in fuel poverty if: they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level) and were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line

To achieve this we will use our influence as a community leader to:

- Foster a shared sense of purpose and responsibility amongst all the people of the Borough toward sustainable development
- Promote sustainable development within the community and raise awareness about sustainability
- Encourage others to behave in a sustainable manner through good example and best practice
- Work in partnership with other organisations to promote the social, environmental and economic well-being of the Borough
- Use our influence within Local Partnerships to encourage the application of sustainability principles within the Borough

## **Implementation**

The Sustainability Working Group will take a corporate overview of the Borough Council's performance in these areas, monitor and investigate any underperformance in relation to relevant targets and develop new initiatives to support sustainability in the Borough.

The Working Group will also take an overview of all policies and strategies and ensure that these are monitored and updated as necessary to ensure they remain fit for purpose in relation to sustainability issues.

# Environmental Sustainability Strategy

## Introduction

The most widely used definition of Sustainable Development is:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. (The ‘Our Common Future’ Report, World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987, p. 43).

Sustainability is about ensuring that the earth's resources (e.g. metals, minerals, coal, oil, gas and water) are used wisely and our environment such as land, water and air on which we depend is looked after now for the benefit of present and future generations. Sustainability is about protecting and enhancing the environment whilst promoting economic success by using resources wisely so that they are of benefit and enjoyment to present and future generations, whilst meeting the social needs in the community.

Carbon sinks are natural systems that suck up and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The main natural carbon sinks are plants, the ocean and soil. Due to human activity such as removal of trees and plants and the increased amount of carbon in the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels these carbon sinks are becoming weaker.

It is therefore important that we all take account for the environmental impacts of our activities. For example, to live sustainably we need to live within the limits of the Earth's environment and resources. The Borough is one of the most beautiful parts of the world and it is important that we all look after it for everyone to enjoy because sustainability is about ensuring a better quality of life for all, both for today and in the future.

Sustainable Development is a very broad subject and it would be very difficult to cover the entire subject within one strategy. The Council's Sustainable Communities Team and Economic Development Team cover the Economic and Social aspects of Sustainable Development. This strategy will mainly concentrate on the environmental aspects of sustainable development which is spread over various services within the Council although sustainability is a complex issue and the actions in this strategy also impact on economic and social aspects.

The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) Living Planet Report suggests that globally, we are consuming 30% more than the planet can sustain in the long term. If everyone in the world lived as we do in Europe, we would need three planets to support us. Therefore we need to reduce our impact – our ‘ecological footprint’. This means changing our lifestyles so that our requirements remain within the one planet that is actually available to us.

This strategy compliments the Council's Corporate Plan and Sustainability Policy; the Council also operates a Sustainable Procurement Policy. This strategy will provide the Council's objectives over the next 5 years, with yearly action plans being presented to Committee to monitor this strategy's progress over its lifetime.

## **Our vision**

The Borough covers a total area for 330 square miles which includes 42 miles of beautiful coastline and the North Yorkshire Moors. There are 3 main towns within the Borough, Scarborough, Whitby and Filey, with a total population of 108,793 and 56,720 households.

Our vision is for:

'A sustainable Borough that focuses on improving the quality of life for all who live and work within the Borough without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

## **Our mission**

'To safeguard and improve the lives of people in the Borough now and in the future, by addressing through our operations and the encouragement of others, the principles, priorities, objectives and actions as highlighted in this strategy.'

## **Our priorities**

- 1. Improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty**
- 2. Reduce waste, increase recycling and improve use of resources**
- 3. Encourage and promote the use of more sustainable forms of transport**
- 4. Enhance parks and open spaces**
- 5. Promote healthier life styles**

## **Key achievements to date**

- In May 2013 the Council opened Choices4Energy, an independent unbiased energy advice centre. Choices4Energy provides advice to all residents on how to reduce energy and water consumption, information on energy suppliers and advice on switching, the different types of insulation, eligibility for funding, heating options, information on smart meters and renewable technologies.
- The Council introduced glass to its kerbside recycling scheme across the Borough.
- A Greener Business Action Plan tool guide has been developed that businesses can adapt/use and this has been publicised to businesses

- A number of Salix funded energy efficiency schemes have been completed on various council buildings at a total cost of £65,633, with annual savings of £41,843 being achieved. Individual projects include:
  - Pool covers at Scarborough and Whitby at a cost of £19,300, with annual savings of £8,567 and payback over 2.25 years, combined annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings 68.7 tonnes.
  - Modern boiler controls at Scarborough and Whitby swimming pools at a cost of £12,300, with annual savings of £9,517 and payback over 1.3 years, combined annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings 76.3 tonnes.
  - Passive infra-red motion sensors across 40 public conveniences at a cost of £19,117, with annual savings of £6,440 and payback over 3 years, combined annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings 44.7 tonnes.
  - Lagging projects at 4 sites at a cost of £8,238, with annual savings of £8,072 and payback over 1.02 years, combined annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings 55.0 tonnes.
  - Loft insulation project at 4 sites at a cost of £3,373, with annual savings of £1,393 and payback over 2.4 years, combined annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings 7 tonnes.
  - Cavity wall insulation at 3 sites at a cost of £3,305, with annual savings of £1,414 and payback over 2.3 years, combined annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings 7.2 tonnes.
- The Council has signed up to the WWF bronze pledge to improve the way it purchases wood and paper.
- Introduction of iPads for Councillors and officers has significantly reduced use of paper, photocopying/printing and postage. All Members access meeting agendas, reports and minutes via their iPads.
- Successful funding bids made by the Esk Valley Community Energy Group for a 50 kw hydroelectric turbine.
- Successful CERT (Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) funding for a 'wrapping up Yorkshire' scheme for free cavity wall and loft insulation for all residents launched in January 2012.
- Bus map that draws together key bus routes to encourage alternative forms of transport have been produced for the 3 main towns in the Borough - Scarborough, Whitby and Filey.

The following sets out what we will do towards delivering our priorities over the next 5 years. The contributions which can be made by both the Borough's communities (working in partnership with the Council) and the direct contribution which can be made by the Council are considered for each priority.

This strategy will be supported by a more detailed annual action plan which will be monitored and progress reported to Committee.



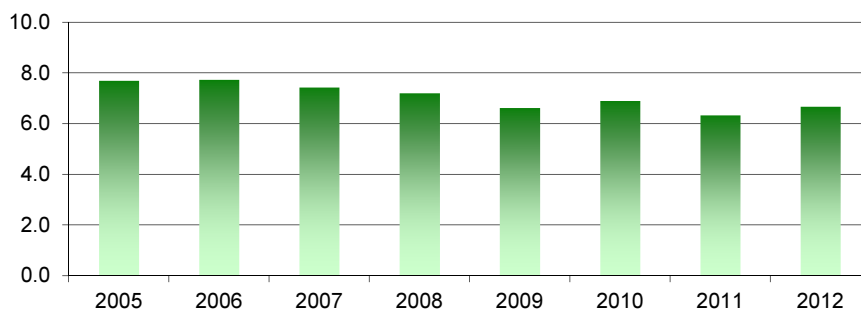
## Priority 1 - Improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty

### Communities

The UK has a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 34% below 1990 levels by 2020, 50% by 2027 and at least 80% by 2050 and a target of 15% renewable energy from final consumption by 2020. We acknowledge that the Borough can help contribute to the achievement of these targets. The Government's Community Energy Strategy and Fuel Poverty Strategy are currently out to consultation. Both stress the important role that local authorities have to play in improving energy efficiency, fuel poverty, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the take up of renewable technologies.

#### Scarborough Borough's per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (tonnes) between 2005 and 2012.

Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the main greenhouse gas accounting for 82% of the UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2012. National trends have shown increases between 2009 and 2010 and between 2011 and 2012, largely due to variations in temperature. Between 2011 and 2012 the Borough's per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increased by 5.2% mainly in the domestic sector and industrial & commercial sector. This is in line with the national trend which is due to increased use of gas - 2012 was a cooler year than 2011 - coupled with the fact that, due to high gas prices, there was an increased use of coal for electricity generation. The graph below show the Borough's total per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 2005 to 2012.

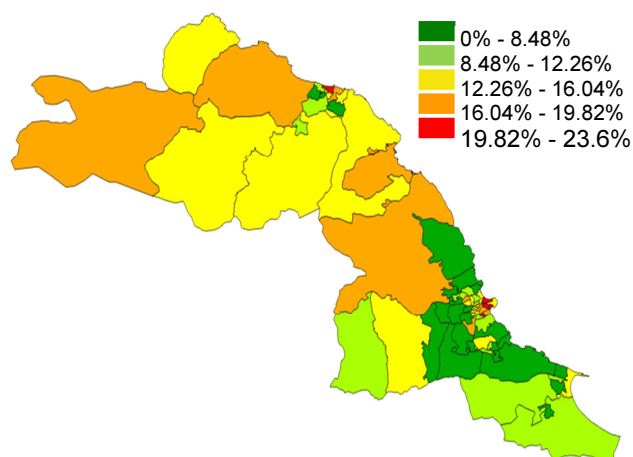


Source: Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change) comprising of data from UK GHG (Green House Gases) Inventory and local energy consumption stats.

Improving the energy efficiency of domestic properties in the Borough will not only help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but also reduce fuel poverty in the Borough. The Borough has 12.1% of households classified as fuel poor (low income/high costs definition) and is ranked 57 most fuel poor area out of 326 local authorities in England.

## 2012 Fuel Poverty\* by Lower Super Output Areas

Fuel poverty is measured using the low income, high costs definition. A householder is in fuel poverty if they have acquired fuel costs that are above average and if they were to spend that amount they would be left with an income below the official poverty line. There has been a national reduction in the percentage of householders in fuel poverty from 10.9% in 2011 to 10.4% in 2012. Similarly, the Borough has also seen a reduction from 13.5% in 2011 to 12.1% in 2012. There are three main things that affect fuel poverty are income, the energy efficiency of the property and energy consumption/price. The map below shows the percentage of households in fuel poverty by lower super output areas within the Borough.



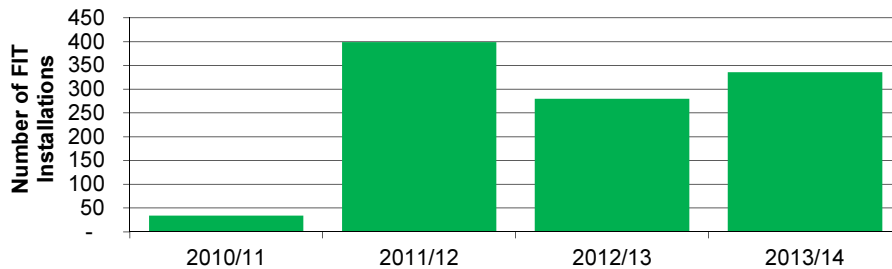
Source: Percent of households in fuel poverty – DECC comprising of data from the English Housing Survey

\*Fuel poverty in England is measured by the Low Income High Costs definition, which considers a household to be in fuel poverty if: they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level) and were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line

The Council currently operates an Energy Advice Centre called Choices4Energy which was established in May 2013 to provide help and advice to residents on switching energy supplier, availability of funding for various energy efficiency measures, information on renewable technologies, energy and water saving tips. The work of the service has now expanded to establishing oil buying clubs across the Borough and a collective switching initiative.

### **FIT (Feed-in-Tariff) Installations**

The FIT (Feed-in-Tariff) is a Government scheme whereby householders who install accredited renewable electricity generation technologies are paid for the electricity generated and exported back to the national grid. Nationally the number of FIT installations has reduced by 26% between 2012/13 and 2013/14, but locally has increased by 21% over the same time period. The graph below shows the number of accredited FIT installations within the Borough between 2010/11 and 2013/14.



The Council published its draft Local Plan for consultation in May 2014 which includes the following policies:

- ENV1 'Low Carbon and Renewable Energy' which sets out the issues that will be taken into account in dealing with proposals for the development of renewable energy proposals.
- DEC1 'Principles of Good Design' which specifies how the layout, orientation and design of buildings and their energy efficiency are regarded as an inherent part of securing good design.

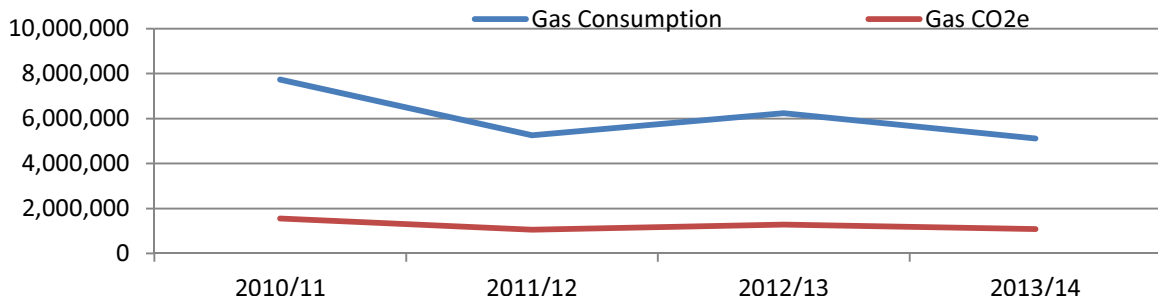
### **Council**

The Council has a major role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the Borough. We intend to practice energy efficiency throughout all our premises, plant and equipment, wherever it is cost-effective to do so. The primary focus should be by way of "reduced consumption" through improvements such as basic housekeeping.

Wherever possible, reduction in the consumption of traditionally generated energy will be achieved through energy awareness, efficiencies, design improvements and appropriate purchasing prior to commission of alternative forms of generation, i.e., renewable energy.

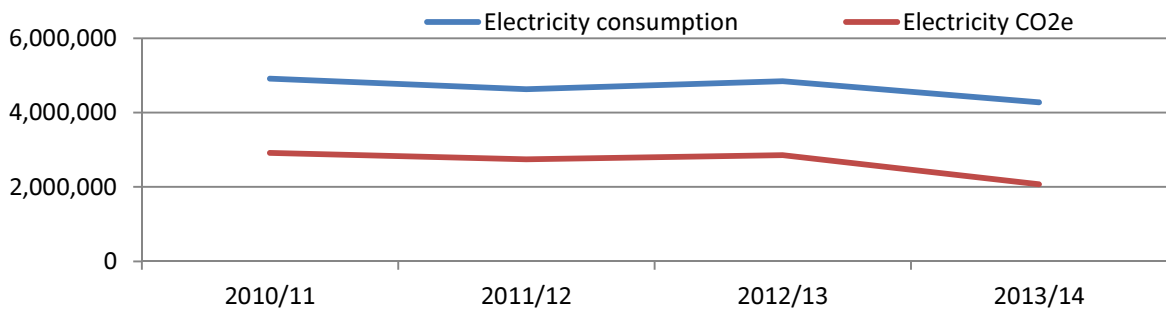
### **Council operations gas consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

The Council has to produce a greenhouse gas emissions report every year. The graph below shows the Council's gas consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by its buildings. Gas consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced have reduced between 2012/13 and 2013/14 by 18% and 14.9% respectively.



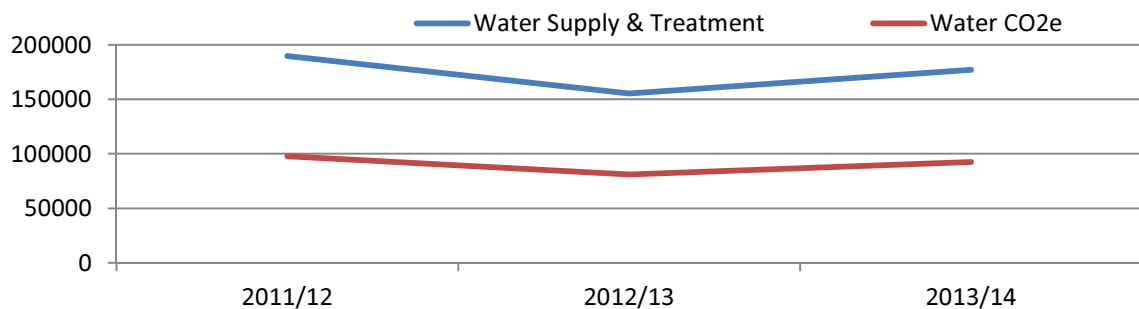
### Council operations electricity consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The graph below shows the Council's electricity consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by its buildings. Electricity consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced have reduced between 2012/13 and 2013/14 by 11.7% and 27.6% respectively.



### Council operations water consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Below the graph shows the Council's water consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by its buildings. Both the water consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced have increased between 2012/13 and 2013/14 by 14.1%.



Conversion factors used to calculate gas, electricity and water CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:  
 2013/14 – 2013 DCFCarbon Factors used  
 2012/13 – 2012 GHG Conversion Factors – updated Apr 2012 used  
 2011/12 – 2011 GHG Conversion Factors – updated Aug 2011 used

## Where we want to be

What we aim to do	How this will be measured	Where we are now
<b>Communities</b>		
Reduce fuel poverty within the Borough	Percentage of households in fuel poverty	12.1% of householders were classified as fuel poor in 2012
Encourage the installation of renewable technologies	Number of FIT and RHI installations across the Borough	336 FIT installations completed across the Borough during 2013/14.  The RHI scheme was only introduced in April 2014 so no baseline data is available.
<b>What we aim to do</b>	<b>How this will be measured</b>	<b>Where we are now</b>
Reduce energy consumption through behavioural changes and improve energy efficiency	Household energy consumption	2012 Average ordinary electricity consumption 3,423 KWH.  2012 Average economy 7 electricity consumption 5,720 KWH.  2012 Average gas consumption 14,058 KWH.
Reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions within the Borough	Per Capita emissions in the Borough	6.7 tonnes per capita CO <sub>2</sub> emissions in 2012.
<b>Council</b>		
Reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions produced by the Council's operations	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions produced from electricity, gas and water consumption, business travel and the council's fleet.	In 2013/14 the council operations produced 4,930.54 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, a 17.9% reduction on 2012/13.

## Priority 2 - Reduce waste, increase recycling and improve use of resources

### Communities

The Government wants to move towards a 'zero waste economy'. This doesn't mean that no waste exists - it's a society where resources are fully valued, financially and environmentally. It means we reduce, reuse and recycle all we can, and throw things away only as a last resort. Minimising the amount of waste generated makes good

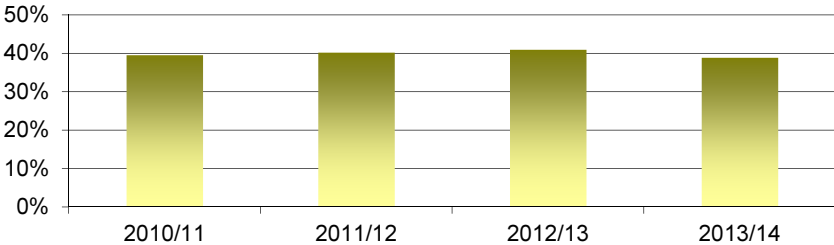
environmental sense, as it conserves natural resources, saves energy in production, reduces the risk of pollution and the demand for landfill space. The Borough currently operates an alternate weekly kerbside collection of household waste and recyclables which has recently been expanded to include glass.

There is now a need to reduce the amount of waste produced in the first place, thereby offsetting the costs and environmental impacts of the generation, collection, treatment and disposal of waste. Waste needs to be regarded as a resource, and the availability of re-useable products needs to be advertised by working with individuals and groups involved in waste re-use.

The Council contributes to the Country Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2006 – 2026 which provides the strategic vision for managing waste and improving resource recovery in York and North Yorkshire. In 2013/14, 38.8% of household waste was sent for recycling, composting or re-use within the Borough, and 513.9kg of household waste per household was sent to landfill. The partnership aims to recycle or compost 50% of household waste by 2020.

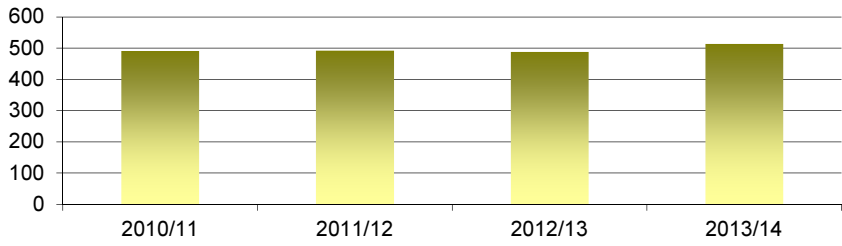
**The Borough’s household recycling rates for the last 4 years**

The Council monitors the percentage of household waste that is sent for recycling, composting or reuse. In 2013/14, 38.8% of the Borough’s household waste was sent for recycling, composting or reuse, a 2.1% reduction on the previous year. This compares to an England average of 41.9% of household waste recycled, composted or reused.



**The Borough’s kgs of household waste to land fill for the last 4 years**

The Council aims to reduce the amount of residential waste sent to landfill. In 2013/14, 513.29kg of household waste per household was sent to landfill which equates to an increase of 24.99kg in comparison to 2012/13. The England average for 2013/14 was 503.74kg of waste per household sent to landfill.



## Council

The Council's IT infrastructure, and its business processes and procedures are continually being reviewed to deliver more sustainable, cost effective and environmental friendly solutions. Plastics, paper and tins are widely recycled across all council premises. The number of desktop printers is continually being reduced and staff are encouraged to think before they print or use more efficient printing equipment. The introduction of I Pads has significantly reduced paper usage and volumes of print across the organisation.

## Where we want to be

What we aim to do	How this will be measured	Where we are now
<b>Communities</b>		
Reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions within the Borough	Per Capita emissions in the Borough	In 2013/14 the council's operations produced 4,930.54 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, a 17.9% reduction on 2012/13
Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and increase recycling rates	Percentage of household waste sent for recycling  Reduced the Kg of household waste sent to landfill per household.  Satisfaction with Household waste collection and Recycling services	In 2013/14 38.8% of household waste was sent for recycling, composting or reuse.  In 2013/14 513.29kg of household waste per household was sent to landfill.  81.0% of residents were satisfied with the household waste collection service in 2013/14.  58.2% of residents were satisfied with the household recycling service in 2013/14
Make our streets and open spaces cleaner, through prevention and enforcement of environmental crime, such as fly tipping, litter and dog fouling.	Number of fly-tipping incidents  Satisfaction with street cleansing services	In 2012/13 there were 3,939 fly-tipping incidents within the Borough.  59.5% of residents were satisfied with the street cleansing services.

Council		
Reduce waste and inefficiencies across the Council's operations.	Reduce the amount of paper used by the Council	In 2013/14 4,205,725 prints were produced across all printing devices.
	Increase the amount of waste recycled by the Council	In 2013/14 870 boxes of A4 white paper were used which equal 2,175,000 sheets of paper.

### Priority 3 - Encourage and promote the use of more sustainable forms of transport

#### Communities

The Planning Department has the responsibility, through its policies, to aim to achieve the use of more sustainable forms of transport by locating development close to public transport routes, requiring employers to consider Green Travel Plans, reducing car parking provision in new developments and providing for convenient facilities for walking and cycling.

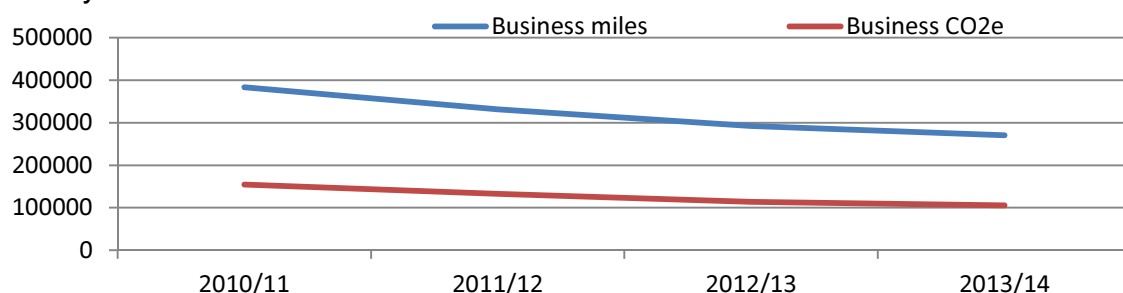
#### Council

Local authorities are encouraged to promote the use of Travel Plans to assist their wider aims of reducing pollution, congestion and improving the local environment and health. Travel Plans help with minimising the environmental impacts resulting from Council staff and Members commuting; and through travel on Council business which includes green fleet operations.

In addition, the introduction of new technologies provides opportunities for improved journey planning, and increased mobile and home working to cut down on unnecessary travel.

#### Council car business miles and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The Council is required to produce a greenhouse gas emissions report every year. Below the graph shows the Council's business miles travelled and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by car business travel. The number of business miles travelled and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced has reduced between 2012/13 and 2013/14 by 7.5% and 7.2% respectively.





## Where we want to be

What we aim to do	How this will be measured	Where we are now
<b>Communities</b>		
Reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions within the Borough by encouraging/promoting the use of more sustainable forms of transport, eg, public transport, car sharing, cycling, walking	Per Capita emissions from transport in the Borough	In 2012 there were 1.5 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per person for the transport sectors.
	Increase the percentage of council employees travelling to work in more sustainable forms of transport.	<p>In 2011 29.7% of council employees walked to work.</p> <p>In 2011 9.0% of council employees cycled to work.</p> <p>In 2011 5.7% of council employees used public transport to work.</p>
<b>Council</b>		
Reduce car business miles and carbon footprint	<p>CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced from business travel and the council's fleet.</p> <p>Reduce car business miles</p> <p>Increase the percentage of business miles travelled on public transport such as trains etc.</p>	<p>In 2013/14 1,577,423kg CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were produced from the council's fleet; a 5.6% reduction on the previous year.</p> <p>In 2013/14 105,658kg CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were produced from car business travel; a 7.2% reduction on the previous year.</p> <p>In 2013/14 2,043kg CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were produced from public transport business travel.</p> <p>270,429 business miles were travelled by car in 2013/14.</p> <p>21,106 business miles were travelled on public transport in 2013/14.</p>

## Priority 4 - Enhance parks and open spaces

### Council

The importance of parks and green spaces to our quality of life is enormous, not least by breaking down social barriers and pulling communities and people together and, if they are easily accessible, neighbourhoods become better places, giving us more contact with the natural environment. Trees and shrubs reduce pollutants and green spaces allow water to soak away, aiding water management. Our Parks and open spaces also act as carbon sinks.

Parks contain a range of important natural and semi-natural habitats, including mature woodland, formal gardens and expanses of green water. These areas help to increase the ecological diversity of the local environment, important for wildlife and flora, and, in addition, are highly valued by local people who enjoy the peace and tranquillity that the natural environment offers. It is recognised that the issue of climate change is becoming more important with greater use being made of parks and green spaces. Greater consideration must be given to the inclusion of natural planting, including wider use of native species.

The Borough has around 356.5 hectares of parks and 204.6 hectares of green spaces to maintain which are home to many types and species of plants and animals. We need to do all we can to ensure that these plants and animals are protected and can thrive.

### Where we want to be

What we aim to do	How this will be measured	Where we are now
<b>Council</b>		
Make our streets and open spaces cleaner, through prevention and enforcement of environmental crime, such as fly tipping, litter and dog fouling.	Number of fly-tipping incidents  Satisfaction with street cleansing services	In 2012 there were 3,939 fly-tipping incidents.  59.9% of residents were satisfied with the street cleansing service in 2013/14
Improve our network of parks and green spaces, conserving, protecting and enhancing biodiversity	Satisfaction with parks and open spaces  Increase in the number of people using our parks and open spaces	72.2% of residents were satisfied with the Borough's parks and open spaces in 2013/14.  81.9% of residents use the Borough's parks and open spaces in 2013/14.

## Priority 5 - Promote healthier life styles

### Communities

There are a number of ways in which promoting healthier lifestyles can assist in delivering improvements to Environmental Sustainability.

Improving our parks and open spaces will not only benefit the environment and wildlife but, through encouraging their usage, residents benefit from improved health and wellbeing. Use of parks and green spaces is known to improve mental health as well as the positive impacts on health generated by increased physical exercise. We support a number of Friends Groups who aim to encourage community involvement in and usage of our parks and green spaces.

Improving the energy efficiency of homes, as well as helping to reduce fuel poverty, contributes to the reduction in illness and death caused by living in cold, poorly insulated and damp homes.

We also aim to encourage communities to either grow their own fruit and vegetables or source locally produced products, resulting in a well-balanced diet and improvements to the environment through reduced transportation of products.

### Council

Encouragement of employees to walk or cycle to work can result in improvements to their health and wellbeing, through increased physical activity, as well as environmental benefits through reduction in CO2 emissions. We currently provide secure storage for cycles and access to showers and changing facilities at our main Town Hall site, and have promoted the Cycle to Work scheme on a number of occasions.

### Where we want to be

What we aim to do	How this will be measured	Where we are now
<b>Communities</b>		
Improve our network of parks and green spaces, conserving, protecting and enhancing biodiversity	Satisfaction with parks and open spaces  Increase in the number of people using our parks and open spaces	72.2% of residents were satisfied with the Borough's parks and open spaces in 2013/14.  81.9% of residents use the Borough's parks and open spaces in 2013/14.
Encourage the production and consumption of local produced products.		

<b>Council</b>		
Encourage employees to walk, cycle or use public transport to work.	% of staff using each mode of transport	<p>In 2011 29.7% of council employees walked to work.</p> <p>In 2011 9.0% of council employees cycled to work.</p> <p>In 2011 5.7% of council employees used public transport to work.</p>