

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Annual Review



Introduction

Welcome to the first Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (SCCP) Annual Review. The SCCP consists of all Suffolk's local authorities and many other organisations, such as the Environment Agency, Energy Saving Trust, Groundwork East of England and University Campus Suffolk. It is one of the four partnerships working to Create the Greenest County in Suffolk.

Our key objective is to increase 'social capital' by enabling the people and businesses of Suffolk to take practical, positive action to tackle climate change, save on energy bills and help develop the low carbon economy. We provide a range of services and a community leadership role in this hugely important area.

SCCP aims to make Suffolk an exemplar in tackling climate change, and in particular to:

1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Adapt in advance of the changes that will occur due to the changing climate;
3. Change attitudes and behaviour about how we use natural resources;
4. Identify and communicate the economic, social and environmental benefits of taking action on climate change, and the costs of not taking action; and
5. Work in partnership across Suffolk to encourage individuals and organisations to be involved.

We hope you find this review informative and thought-provoking. If you would like any further information, please contact the Partnership Manager on David.Walton@suffolk.gov.uk.

Spokesperson's Introduction

I am very pleased to introduce the first Annual Review of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. This is a group of organisations which are working together to enable Suffolk's businesses, communities and householders to reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to climate change, in support of our pledge to Create the Greenest County in Suffolk.

Reducing our carbon footprint by making more efficient use of our resources, from the energy we use to heat our homes to the electricity we consume in our businesses, makes so much financial sense - whether times are good or bad. And making small changes to the way we do things now in order to anticipate the impact of future climate change is just as prudent.

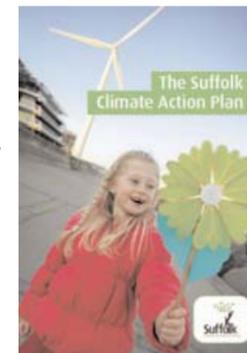
So please take a moment to look through the report - and if there's anything you'd like to know more about, we'd love to hear from you!



Councillor
Judy Terry,
Portfolio Holder
for Creating the
Greenest County

Suffolk Climate Action Plan (SCAP)

The SCAP is Suffolk's broad community-wide response to the issues we are presented with by climate change. It sets out how we are enabling communities, businesses and households to mitigate i.e. reduce our collective share of greenhouse gas emissions and adapt i.e. improve our resilience to its future impacts.



It is a snapshot of where we are now and details the first of many steps that will be taken to tackle the impacts of climate change in Suffolk.

We have made great progress in implementing the Plan since its publication in July 2009. By April 2010, 70 of the 75 actions, which are spread across twelve impact sectors including 'Transport' and 'Sustainable

Construction' were tracking at 'Green' level. This means they were either complete or on track for completion within the timescale committed to at the launch of the plan.

There is still a huge amount to do, but we hope that the remaining sections of this overview will give you an idea of the breadth of activity we are supporting and give you ideas as to how you can get involved.

Further information, including the SCAP itself, can be found at: www.greensuffolk.org/about/climate_change

Alternatively, if you would like a copy of the progress report detailing all the actions, please contact the Partnership Manager.

Creating the Greenest Communities

This is a network consisting of over 40 communities across Suffolk, which has been launched to provide support and training to new and established community groups. We aim to enable the sharing of best practice, ideas and resources throughout the county, so encouraging the development of further projects.

We launched the network at an event in Great Barton on 6th February, where officers from the Partnership were on hand to support the day and provide advice on funding opportunities open to community groups drawn from right across the county.

Wenhaston Energy Support Group hosted an event on 12th June to promote the role that community food enterprises can play in tackling climate change. We explored food co-ops as a way to buy food

economically in bulk, as well as ways to give communities a stake in local producers through direct investment and volunteer support.

On October 10th we ran a workshop to coincide with the global day of climate action 10:10:10, focusing on Green DIY skills and saving energy in the home. It was hosted by Old Hall Community in East Bergholt where participants had a go at making and fitting secondary glazing panels, added thermal lining to curtains and also insulated an old solid wall using a carbon sequestering hemp lime plaster. There was also a demonstration on how to use a thermal imaging camera to find areas of heat loss.

Further information, including contact details for our Community Advisor, can be found at: www.greensuffolk.org/at_home/communities



A Greenest Community event at Great Barton on 6 February

Low Carbon Champions

Launched on 1 April, the Low Carbon Champions project will offer 75 small-to medium-sized businesses the opportunity to receive:

- A free Environmental Business Advisor audit, with a tailored report and action plan;
- Thirty hours of mentoring for a member of staff to become a low carbon champion, providing them with the tools, skills and support they need to improve resource efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint of their business;
- An opportunity to receive a grant of up to £5,000 for implementing carbon cutting ideas;
- Assistance in achieving the Suffolk Carbon Charter, a recognised award for carbon management developed by the ANSWER project.

The project has recently won a prestigious Creating



The project's official launch at the Suffolk Show

Futures Award for the East of England 2010 in the category 'Sharing Best Practice', for outstanding support, guidance and advice towards developing a low carbon future.

Low Carbon Champions is a three year partnership project between Green Light Trust, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and Choose Suffolk.

It is financed by the European Regional Development Fund and Suffolk County Council.

Further information, including contact details, can be found on the Green Suffolk website: www.greensuffolk.org/at_work/low_carbon_champions

Environmental Business Advisors

The free Environmental Business Advisor Service, which is provided by the Climate Change Partnership and Suffolk Coastal District Council through Groundwork East of England, provided resource-efficiency audits to over 200 businesses between September 2009 and October 2010, generating potential cost savings in excess of £650k and potential annual savings of over 3,500 tonnes of CO₂(e). In addition to the business visits, the service attended eight business events, held five carbon cutting workshops for 55 delegates and made eight presentations to 137 business delegates.

The report produced for St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich identified just over £25,000 worth of energy saving opportunities, including looking again at their electricity contract, better heating controls and lighting upgrades. It also informed the Hospice that they could save almost £900 by increasing recycling.

At Snape Maltings, energy savings of over £12,000 a year were identified simply by upgrading light bulbs

'The report was excellent, definitely a good reminder of things to change'

Andrew Bruce, Facilities Manager,
St Elizabeth Hospice



Lighting at Snape Maltings

to more efficient models, whilst a further £21,872 of savings could be made through good housekeeping (turning lights off when not needed). Further improvements identified include modifications to the building itself could save almost £10,000 a year, and 110 tonnes of waste which could be saved from landfill by recycling.

Other businesses benefitting from the resource efficiency reviews included those involved in the hospitality sector (such as the Great House Hotel in Bury St Edmunds), manufacturing (e.g. Specflue), the care industry (Harkstead Barns), offices (Kerseys), solicitors and the charitable sector including churches, Halls and community centres. You can learn more about the service, as well as reviewing 25 case studies at: www.greensuffolk.org/at_work/services/environmentaladvisor

Suffolk Carbon Charter



The Suffolk Carbon Charter was launched in March 2010 and is now in a pilot phase, with

the first accredited businesses being recognised at an event in September 2010. The Charter is an innovative product designed to encourage improved energy-efficiency in Suffolk's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Charter will celebrate efforts made by SMEs across Suffolk, and encourage others to follow suit by providing an accessible energy management system.

The charter is awarded for a year at one of three levels:

- Bronze:** Monitoring energy use and adopting reduction policies
- Silver:** Significant reductions covering areas of major emissions.
- Gold:** Exemplary reductions that impact on business structure, and engagement with the wider community

The pilot is being run by Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency as part of the ANSWER Project (see below). Full details can be found at www.greensuffolk.org/charter

ANSWER



Suffolk County Council is leading the ANSWER project (A North Sea Way to Energy-efficient Regions). ANSWER is a three-year, European-funded project with a total budget €3.6million and 13 partners in five countries. Other UK partners are the Environment Agency, Ipswich Borough Council, the Chamber of Commerce and Norfolk County Council. The project's overall aim is to 'reduce emissions through increased energy efficiency'.

ANSWER activities are being delivered as part of the wider SCCP and Creating the Greenest County work, with particular activities over the past twelve months including:

- **Energywise** – running green events for small- and medium-sized enterprises
- Suffolk Carbon Charter
- Environmental Business Advisors
- Interest-free carbon loans
- Pilot league table of school energy use

Further planned activities include a public display of Ipswich emissions and a local "offsetting" fund. Full details can be found at: www.answerproject.eu

The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme



Investing in the future by working together
for a sustainable and competitive region

FOCUS – Eastern Carbon Reduction Initiative

The Eastern Carbon Reduction Initiative is a programme run by all 47 councils in the East of England that allows members of the public to get a single quotation price for home insulation, regardless of where they live. Insulation can cost as little as £149, and may even be free to those who qualify as members of the priority group (people claiming some forms of benefits, allowances or credits, as well as



households with one or more members aged 70 or over).

The website (www.easterncri.org) has an easy to understand, four-stage form to fill in. After all the details are completed, it gives a quotation, contact details for the company who will provide the service, as well as information about additional grants which can be applied for.

Greener Homes DIY Scheme

This scheme, run by 'Suffolk Energy Action Link' on behalf of the partnership, provides free energy-efficiency and insulation products for DIY installation. The products are provided to householders in targeted communities where there is already a commitment to the climate change agenda and a network of volunteers to help promote and drive the initiative.

Each participating community hosts a launch event where suppliers, installers and energy advisors are on hand to help people choose the most energy efficient products for their home.

'Amazingly well thought out and organised scheme, wouldn't have believed we could get all the fantastic products we did – thank you'

Everyone fills in a wish list of the products they would like to receive. Lower income householders will receive more but everyone can have something free. The maximum allowance is £350 and the lowest £50. Wish lists are collated and the goods delivered back to the community on a designated day for households to collect and subsequently install. The scheme is complimented by an interest free loan scheme run by a local credit union to support the installation of



Members of the public receiving advice at the Barrow event

additional energy efficiency products such as solid wall insulation and also for renewable installations.

Thirteen community events have been run to date across Suffolk with more planned over the next 6 months. Feedback from the events has been extremely positive.

For more information about the scheme, who can apply and what is available, visit: www.greensuffolk.org/communities/funding_opportunities/greener_homes_diy_scheme

Suffolk Green Buildings Network

In Suffolk we now have a growing number of green buildings that are cheaper to heat, cheaper to light and have less environmental impact. The Suffolk Green Building Network aims to bring together anyone with an interest in sustainable construction and building management, in order to inspire, share ideas and so promote green buildings as part of Suffolk's ambition to be the greenest county

Case studies featured on the website (www.greensuffolk.org/sgbn) include homes with small modifications to large, purpose-built buildings. Suffolk has numerous examples of environmentally sustainable buildings, including West Suffolk House in Bury St Edmunds, the UCS Waterfront Building in Ipswich and OrbisEnergy in Lowestoft, all of which

have a range of technologies and design aspects that reduce their environmental impact – important because buildings are responsible for nearly half the country's carbon emissions and water consumption, about a third of landfill and a quarter of all raw material use.

The website provides guidance and allows the public to see many layers of information, including details such as building design specifications. In addition, there is a programme of free workshops. The launch event, held at the Greenlight Trust's Foundry in Lawshall, focussed on biomass boilers, whilst a second workshop in June looked at ground and air source heat pumps, and an open day weekend in September saw a selection of buildings open their doors to the public.

FOCUS – on West Suffolk College



Sustainable Efficiency East (SEE)

West Suffolk College is a delivery partner in the SEE project led by Bedford College and funded by EEDA, the EU's European Regional Development Fund and Solutions for Business. Running until July 2012, the project works with small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) across the East of England to inform them of developments that could result in cost benefits to the business as well as addressing carbon reduction.

Activities will enable businesses to see how sustainable techniques such as insulation and maximising natural light, heating and ventilation can minimise energy consumption. Businesses will also be assisted through the introduction of new processes and systems within the workplace.

West Suffolk College is delivering the project in Norfolk and Suffolk. A successful first workshop for 16 employers was held in June, followed by support to review and improve business energy efficiency. Further workshops are planned across the county. For further information contact Lisa Bebbington on 01284 716286 or lisa.bebbington@wsc.ac.uk



Build with CaRe

Build with CaRe (Carbon Reduction) aims to work with a wide range of construction industry organisations across northern Europe in order to make energy-efficient building design the mainstream. West Suffolk College (WSC) is one of 18 partners including local and regional authorities, universities and colleges from 10 regions in 5 countries. Build with CaRe is a project partly funded by European Regional Development Fund, investing in the future by working together for a sustainable and competitive region.

WSC is developing learning materials, providing training and hosting awareness raising events for members of the construction supply chain, from architects and surveyors to small construction sub-contractors. A very successful conference was held at the college in April 2010 when 130 delegates heard presentations and attended workshops on various aspects of low carbon construction. The project has supported the setting up of a low carbon demonstration centre at WSC which will be used in training all levels of construction workers. For further information contact: elizabeth.bray@wsc.ac.uk



FOCUS – Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust East of England is a not-for-profit organisation set up to give free and impartial advice to people on how to save energy and money at home and when travelling. Energy Saving Trust offers advice on general energy saving tips and measures, renewable technologies, smarter driving advice and grants funding available to help

towards the cost of installing energy saving measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation.

Call your local Energy Saving Trust advice centre for free impartial advice: 0800 512 012 or email enquiries@est-eofe.org.uk. Alternatively, for more information, you can visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk



Value for Money

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is recognised at a sub-national level as an excellent example of partnership working. As a result, we have drawn in considerable amounts of funding in support of this programme of work. For instance:

- £250,000 from the European Regional Development Fund Competitiveness Programme for the 'Low Carbon Champions' project, supporting Suffolk SME's
- £240,000 from the East of England Regional Assembly's Housing Pot for the Greener Homes DIY Scheme

In addition, our Business Advisor service has generated potential annual savings for Suffolk businesses of over £650k (Sep 09 to Oct 10).

We look forward to reporting further success in generating funds and savings on behalf of Suffolk's communities and businesses!

The following organisations and Greenest County Delivery Partnership members are working together to deliver the Suffolk Climate Action Plan:

Adnams Ltd	Suffolk ACRE
Anglian Water	Suffolk Agricultural Association
Anglican Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich	Suffolk Association of Local Councils
Babergh District Council	Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations
BBC Radio Suffolk	Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership
BT	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Business Link Suffolk	Suffolk Climate Change Partnership
Climate East	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Country Landowners and Business Association	Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
East Anglia Food Link	Suffolk Community Recycling Network
Environment Agency	Suffolk County Council
Essex and Suffolk Water	Suffolk Energy Action Link
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership
Forest Heath District Council	Suffolk Preservation Society
Forestry Commission	Suffolk Primary Care Trusts
Groundwork East	Suffolk Resilience Forum
Ipswich Borough Council	Suffolk Strategic Partnership
Mid Suffolk District Council	Suffolk Tourism Partnership
National Farmers Union	Suffolk Waste Partnership
National Trust	Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Natural England	Tastes of Anglia
Renewables East	University Campus Suffolk
Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia	Waste and Resources Action Programme
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Waveney District Council
St Edmundsbury Borough Council	

Suffolk
Creating the Greenest County