

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Annual Review 2011



Introduction

Welcome to the second Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Annual Review, covering our activities and projects as at the end of 2011. Our members include all of the county's local authorities, as well as a number of other community and business partners - a full list can be found at the back of this document.

We have a shared interest in supporting Suffolk's communities, businesses and residents to reduce their carbon emissions and realise the economic benefits of lower energy consumption and adapting in advance to the future impacts of climate change. We benefit as a member of the Creating the Greenest County partnership from top-level support for our activities and through the wide recognition this initiative has achieved across Suffolk. In addition, Creating the Greenest County is a priority within 'Transforming Suffolk', Suffolk's Community Strategy 2008-2028.

Our key objective is to support the people and businesses of Suffolk in taking practical, positive action to tackle climate change, save on energy bills and support the growth of a more resource-efficient economy. We provide a range of services and a community leadership role in this hugely important area.

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership 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. For further information on the Partnership's projects and services, please see: www.greensuffolk.org/

I am very pleased to introduce the second Annual Review of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership.

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 – none more so than in the challenging economic times we now face. And making small changes to the way we do things now in order to anticipate the impact of future climate change and resource scarcity is just as prudent, and will ensure we maximise our potential to grow and prosper into the future.

So please take a moment to look through the report – and see where you can help us work together to achieve our goals.



Suffolk County
Councillor Judy Terry,
Portfolio Holder for
Greenest County,
Economy & Skills

Value for money

Our Partnership approach and strong reputation for delivering projects in support of this agenda means we have been able to draw in significant levels of external funding (to date more than £1.5 million) to deliver initiatives that achieve results. In addition, we have provided services which have generated potential annual savings to businesses of more than £1.3m and supported communities to draw in almost £200k in external funding. This provides great value for money for Suffolk's local authorities.

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership's work supports the targets within the UK Climate Change Act 2008, as well as our commitments as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Local

Government Group and the Department of Energy and Climate Change. This sets out how both parties will work together to help and encourage all councils to take firm action to:

- reduce the carbon emissions from their own estate and operations
- reduce carbon emissions from homes, businesses and transport infrastructure, creating more, appropriate renewable energy generation, using council influence and powers; and
- participate in national carbon reduction initiatives at the local level, particularly the roll out of the Green Deal, smart metering and renewable energy deployment.

Business support

● Environmental Business Advisor

Groundwork East of England has been delivering resource efficiency audits for Suffolk's small and medium sized business and social enterprises since 2008. The audit provides an overview of a business's carbon footprint and a set of recommended prioritised actions for reducing energy spend and CO₂(e) emissions.

Since April 2009, we have audited more than 200 businesses, providing potential annual savings of over 6750 tonnes of CO₂(e) and more than £1.3mn of potential energy savings.

Case Study: Ashton KCJ

Ashton KCJ is a solicitors firm with three offices based in the eastern region of the UK. The energy review carried out focused on their offices in Bury St Edmunds. Although significant progress has already been made, a potential to make further energy saving measures was identified. Our Business Advisor highlighted that Ashton KCJ could save up to £7,589 and 14.24 tonnes of carbon per year. It was highlighted that significant cost savings (nearly £3,500 a year) could be made simply by reducing the cost of their electricity tariff. Further savings could be made by implementing targets for reducing energy use.

When asking Ashton KCJ about their experience with the service, Alison Budge, Partner, said, "Having an energy review has helped us see what we are using now and how we can improve in the future to save money and help the environment".



An Environmental Business Advisor (right) takes a customer through their audit report (Newton Commercial, Leiston)

Business support continued

● Suffolk Carbon Charter

The Suffolk Carbon Charter is a unique scheme that recognises carbon reduction measures in Suffolk's small to medium-sized enterprises. The Charter was developed by Groundwork East of England as part of the ANSWER Project, with the support of European Regional Development Funding through the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme. Within this project 47 charter assessments were offered free to businesses within Suffolk. At the time of writing there are now 19 businesses in Suffolk at Bronze level, 13 at Silver level and 8 at Gold level, with the remaining 7 currently being determined by the independent panel which oversees the award process.

Case Study: The East of England Co-operative



The East of England Co-operative is the largest independent retailer in East Anglia with over 200 outlets. It prides itself on

utilising local (less than 30 miles from store) suppliers and is currently implementing a phased refurbishment of its stores to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs and associated carbon footprints. The Society wants to support smaller companies and understands that it is not easy for them to obtain accreditations, such as ISO 14001.

As a result, the East of England Co-operative has become a 'Pathfinder Partner' for the Suffolk Carbon Charter: a large organisation that has signed up to the Charter's aims of promoting sustainable business practices. They offer support through promotion and financing to spread the message and facilitate uptake through their supply chains and beyond.

Energy Manager for the East of England Co-operative, Glyn Lee, said, 'The Charter is an excellent way for SMEs to demonstrate their commitment to reducing their impact on the environment whilst keeping their internal costs low'.

The full price for Charter Accreditation is currently £550 and the Society is committed to subsidising a number of its suppliers' accreditation assessments.

● Low Carbon Champions

Provided by the Green Light Trust and supported through the European Regional Development Fund, with match-funding from Suffolk County Council, this project provides up to 30 hours of mentoring for nominated 'low carbon champions' within Suffolk's small to medium-sized and social enterprises. These are supported to develop an action plan in response to a resource-efficiency audit carried out by the SCCP Business Advisor Service or equivalent regional providers and in applying for funding to assist in the implementation of actions to reduce their carbon footprint and energy spend.

130 businesses will be supported over the three years of the project.

Case Study: Broadland Holiday Village

Situated on the south side of Oulton Broad, the company specialises in letting holiday accommodation with brick bungalows, wooden lodges and static caravans. Energy usage has been monitored for the last six years and managing its use is a priority to the company. Broadland has already started to reduce its energy use by:

- Replacing 21 old lights in the Gym with low energy bulbs that save 2 tonnes of CO₂ per year
- Installing double glazed doors from pool hall changing rooms to reduce heat loss
- Replacing the pool cover for one with increased thermal properties
- Installing sensors in toilets
- Insulating loft space and building a new gym extension with high levels of insulation, double glazing and low energy lighting
- Replacing the pool heating system with a more energy efficient model with estimated carbon savings of 17-20 tonnes per year.

Through the project, more such initiatives will follow.

"Looking after your energy procurement and carbon footprint is overall good business. It's the right thing to do as an individual, an organisation and for our communities. The holiday sector is keen to promote

Business support continued

its green credentials alongside environmental issues and sustainability more generally. At Broadland Holiday Village we take this seriously and on the Low Carbon Champions project we're learning more about what we can do operationally and how we can better engage our staff and customers."

Chris Stannard, General Manager,
Broadland Holiday Village



● SABRE (Support and Advice to Businesses on Renewable Energy)

Launched in 2011, SABRE offers small to medium-sized and social enterprises in Suffolk the opportunity to fully appreciate their potential to generate renewable energy by providing them with

independent and impartial support and advice on the investment opportunities created by Feed-in Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive. This support is designed to help them generate their own energy, reduce their carbon footprint and even generate an income for their organisation. The project will support 120 businesses in total over three years.

Everyone who takes part in the project will receive a free independent and impartial Renewable Energy Feasibility Review from Groundwork East of England and further support and advice. This is a three year partnership project between Groundwork East of England and Suffolk County Council on behalf of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

Case Study: Clare Park Lake Golf Course

Clare Park Lake Golf Course (Clare Park) is a nine hole golf course near Clare, Suffolk. Estimated potential cost savings of approximately £2,073 per year were identified through a SABRE Renewable Energy Feasibility Review carried out in October 2011. Opportunities for the site with biomass, ground source heat pumps and solar PV were highlighted.

The SABRE team at Groundwork East of England will now be working with Clare Park to help them determine the most appropriate microgeneration technology to install.



Clare Park Lake Golf Course

Community support

John Taylor and Dan Wheals, the Partnership's Community Advisors, provide support to Suffolk communities on a range of issues, from advice to village hall committees on energy saving measures and renewable energy options to technical support in accessing funding, as well as developing web resources and facilitating and supporting community environmental action events. Dan, working for Groundwork East of England on behalf of the Partnership, is focussed on Suffolk Coastal communities whilst John covers the rest of Suffolk.

Since April 2010 for instance, community projects which have received John's support have successfully applied for £196k of funding. This does not include uncaptured savings in energy bills which will have been generated through his advice, or the ongoing revenue benefits from the Feed-in-Tariff scheme following a community's successful installation of renewable energy technology.

Dan has directly worked with seven communities on carbon reduction and climate change action through the Suffolk Coastal Community Environmental Action Fund. He has also worked with the Environment Agency and the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning

Unit to create a successful emergency planning pilot workshop.

A 'Community Renewables Toolkit' has been published, which provides community groups with information on how to secure funding, technical guidance on technology types and other useful information.

Case Study:

Kingsfleet Primary School in Felixstowe started working with the Suffolk Coastal Community Environmental Action Advisor following its participation in a Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership survey. Although interested in this agenda they are starting from scratch with a very limited time resource. Dan has successfully encouraged them to relate the curriculum to issues such as recycling, energy use and monitoring and they have met with parents to discuss proposals with plans to start in January and to create lesson plans to share with other schools. Dan has linked them to the Suffolk 'we are what we do' campaign to enable them to engage students and parents.

Shared Sustainability Support Officer

On 8 August, the partnership formally launched our 'Shared Sustainability Support for Planners' service in conjunction with Climate Consulting Ltd.

Running for eighteen months, the Partnership are offering a programme of free support to Planning Policy and Development Control teams in both Babergh District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council as a pilot study for the region as a whole. The officer will assist teams to develop policies in support of sustainable development, supporting their subsequent

implementation through direct support with individual planning applications. Further support to all Suffolk authorities is also available as part of this project.

We hope that a series of projects that will benefit the authorities within the former East of England region will also emerge from this work.

The project is supported by Climate Change Skills Funding (£80k) from Sustainability East and Improvement East.

Suffolk Climate Action Plan refresh

Launched in July 2009, the Suffolk Climate Action Plan details the Partnership's project work across the county in support of our joint agenda. There are 67 listed actions across 12 sectors, from 'Energy' to 'Communications'.

This summer we started a process to update the Plan with an on-line survey, sent to around 250 organisations across the county. We received 89 responses from 77 separate organisations, achieving our aim of engaging with a new

Suffolk Climate Action Plan *continued*

generation of stakeholders. Organisations that responded covered the public, private and voluntary sectors, expanding the reach of our cross-sector partnership.

Following this important first step, workshops were held in early September 2011 in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. The events, intended to

engage more fully with those expressing an interest in further involvement, attracted a broad range of participants and generated a great deal of highly useful feedback.

We will be publishing, following further consultation, a revised Plan in 2012.

FOCUS – on The Milburn Energy Centre

The Milburn Energy Centre is being established as part of the Milburn Construction and Building Services training centre at West Suffolk College. It has been part-funded by the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership and will be open by late spring 2012.

Its purpose is twofold. Firstly, to provide high quality training and educational facilities for young people and adults, including school visits, apprentice training and up skilling experienced tradesmen, in the installation and maintenance of low carbon, renewable energy equipment and building technologies. Secondly, to showcase and demonstrate a wide range of low carbon

construction systems, energy saving technologies and sustainable products, for businesses and householders. The Centre will encourage the take up of energy saving systems by providing impartial information and guidance on systems available, costs, benefits and grants available, including the Green Deal.

Babergh District Council, Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council are partners in the project and will be able to use the Centre in their engagement with householders and businesses, promoting opportunities for energy efficiency and waste reduction.

Suffolk Green Buildings Network

The Suffolk Green Buildings Network, developed with Partnership support in 2009, exists to promote environmentally sustainable construction and building management in Suffolk.

The network aims to celebrate the achievements of those in Suffolk who have successfully taken steps to develop 'green' building projects, whether it is a change to an existing building or an entirely new development. These examples are intended to challenge and inspire others to take green steps of their own. It does not have a membership and is there for anyone to participate in on a completely flexible basis.

The Suffolk Green Buildings Network is led by the businesses, charities, communities and people of Suffolk. It has been created according to the wishes of a group of stakeholders and the agenda



Mill Green Brewery, Edwardstone, Suffolk Green Buildings Network Case Study and winner at the 2010 Creating the Greenest County Awards in both the 'Business Building' and 'Small Business' categories

of the network is shaped by the feedback that the Creating the Greenest County team receive from the users of the network.

Further information

Contact:

David Walton

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership,
Economy, Skills and Environment Service Office,
Suffolk County Council,
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Rd, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2BX

Tel: **01473 264842**

Email: **david.walton@suffolk.gov.uk**

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

Adnams plc
Anglian Water
Babergh District Council
Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership
Bright Green East of England
Business Link East
Carbon Trust
Climate Energy
Constructing Excellence in the East of England
Country Landowners & Business Association
Department for Communities & Local Government
Earth & Reed
Energy Saving Trust
Environment Agency
Essex & Suffolk Water
Forest Heath District Council
Forestry Commission
Green Energy Nayland
Greene King
Groundwork East of England
Ipswich Borough Council
Jackson Civil Engineering
Lord Deben
Mid Suffolk District Council
Mid Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership
Modece Architects
Muntons plc
National Farmers Union
National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners
National Trust
Natural England
New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
One Ipswich Local Strategic Partnership
OrbisEnergy
Port of Felixstowe
Renewables East
SITA UK
Source East
St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Suffolk Action with Communities in Rural England
Suffolk Association of Local Councils
Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership
Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Suffolk Coast Forum
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership
Suffolk Community Reuse & Recycling Network
Suffolk County Council
Suffolk Energy Action Link
Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership
Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit
Suffolk Primary Care Trusts
Suffolk Resilience Forum
Suffolk Strategic Partnership
Suffolk Waste Partnership
Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Sustainability East
Sustainable Bungay
Tastes of Anglia
Transition Ipswich
University Campus Suffolk
Waste & Resources Action Programme
Waveney District Council
Waveney Local Strategic Partnership
West Suffolk College
Western Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership
Wow Widgets