

Leicester City Council's

Environmental Statement

Draft 4

28th October 2009

April 2008 – March 2009

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I. Statement from the Leader and the Chief Executive of the Council

Welcome to Leicester City Council's 12th Environmental Statement. Here, we report our progress from April 2008 to the end of March 2009.

The Council has long recognised the importance of the environment in people's quality of life and introduced the Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in 1998/99 to manage and improve its performance. Our 'One Leicester' vision for improving the city enshrines the twin goals of a beautiful, healthy local environment and a city whose overall impact on the world is sustainable. EMAS, and related initiatives addressing sustainable procurement and fair trade, are helping us to play our part in delivering these goals. We have actively worked with our citizens to promote a greater shared responsibility for green issues.

2008/09 saw the Council continue to deliver a wide range of practical environmental action, ranging from 'core' ongoing environmental services such as pollution control and waste management through to specific improvement projects. Highlights from some of those covered in this Statement include:

- *'Hot Lofts'* – free loft and/or cavity wall insulation provided to 1394 more home owners during the year (page 20);
- *School buildings* – we're reducing the 'carbon footprint' of schools as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Primary Schools Capital Programmes (pages 40-41 and 48) and secured Government funds to give Rushey Mead Secondary School a 'carbon neutral refurbishment' (page 51);
- *Environmental education* – 71 schools involved their pupils through the EMAS in Schools programme (page 64);
- *Recycled paper* – over 97% of paper we used had a high recycled content of 75% or more (pages 61-2);
- *Public transport* – work started on a new Park and Ride service from Enderby to the city centre (page 27);
- *'10,000 Trees'* – we're on course to reach our target for boosting Leicester's tree cover by 2011 (page 34).

We're aware, of course, that there's still a long way to go if the Council is to achieve its ambitious targets. So our practical action during the year was matched with work behind the scenes to plan our next steps – particularly those we need to take to reduce both the Council's and Leicester's 'carbon footprint' (pages 16 and 20). We also set up a thorough new system for measuring our own carbon dioxide emissions each year (pages 16 – 18) which will improve our ability to track progress.

The Council remains committed to meeting the high standards for environmental management of our services set through EMAS and has ambitious and aspirational plans to assist us to achieve our 'One Leicester' vision for a sustainable city.

II. Background

The City of Leicester

The City of Leicester covers an area of over 7,300 hectares and in 2008 had a population of 294,700 based on the Government's mid-year estimates. It is a multi-racial city, with nearly 40% of the population being of ethnic minority origin or mixed race. A large student population is associated with its two universities.

Historically, Leicester's economy has built up around manufacturing industries including engineering, hosiery and knitwear. Manufacturing remains a significant employer, but its ongoing decline across the UK is one factor behind the significant deprivation affecting parts of the city. Regeneration programmes over recent years, including the creation of a 'cultural quarter', have sought to address this.

Leicester City Council

Since April 1997, Leicester City Council has been a unitary authority, responsible for providing services such as household waste collection, environmental health, education, libraries, social services, housing, museums, leisure centres, roads, planning, parks and street cleaning.

The Council has 54 Councillors, elected from 22 wards. Its Cabinet oversees the provision of Council services and is made up of the following positions and portfolios:

- Leader – Strategy, Property and Communications
- Deputy Leader - Children and Schools
- Culture and Leisure
- Health and Community
- Regeneration and Transport
- Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods
- Adults
- Finance, Community Cohesion and Human Resources
- Environment
- Housing

Other Councillors sit on Scrutiny Committees that scrutinise and advise on Council and Cabinet activities. A system of regular Ward Community Meetings are held across all wards involving both Councillors and local residents.

The City Council manages approximately 400 buildings across Leicester where its staff are based. These include: 19 libraries, 10 sports and leisure centres and 109 schools and learning centres as well as its main offices at New Walk Centre and 12 other "Centrally Located Administrative Buildings" (CLABs). A number of depots also fall within this total; the main one being at Leycroft Road near the north-western edge of the city. Services including cleansing, highways maintenance, landscape services and housing repairs operate from these.

Over 15,000 staff (including manual workers, teachers, casual and temporary staff) work for the Council within 19 Divisions.

Leicester City Council and the Environment

For many years the Council has played an active role in stewardship of the city's environment, taking action itself and encouraging others to do so too. Its development of partnerships with other organisations to respond to environmental issues helped secure Leicester's award as Britain's first 'Environment City' in June 1990.

It jointly established Leicester Environment Partnership (LEP) in 2001 and helped develop both the City of Leicester Climate Change Strategy (October 2003) and the Leicester Environment Strategy (October 2004). The Council was awarded Beacon Council status for 'Maintaining a Quality Environment' in 2001 and for 'Sustainable Energy' in 2005.

One Leicester

Following the election of a new political administration in May 2007 the Council has worked through the Leicester Partnership to create a 25 year vision for Leicester to become "Britain's Sustainable City". The vision is called "One Leicester" and it forms the basis of both the City's Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan.

One Leicester identifies key environmental strengths and challenges and establishes priorities for the Council and its partners around "Reducing Our Carbon Footprint" and "Planning for People Not Cars" along with five other areas. It sets the policy framework for the Council's Environmental Policy and management system.

Systems of resource allocation and forward planning within the Council are being realigned around the One Leicester priorities and Strategic Directors have been appointed as 'champions' to co-ordinate and manage the Council's role in their delivery.

III. Managing Our Environmental Impact

The Council started to introduce its Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in 1997/98. The scheme provides a framework which is used throughout the authority to manage our varied environmental impacts and to achieve improvement. It is based on the European EMAS standard for good environmental management, which the Council has met consistently since 1999.

Schools are able to join the scheme on request and by April 2008 71 had done so (refer to section 18 for more details). In addition, from 2008/09 EMAS was extended to manage Leicester's city-wide programme of action to tackle climate change – which involves local partner organisations working with the Council through the Leicester Partnership.

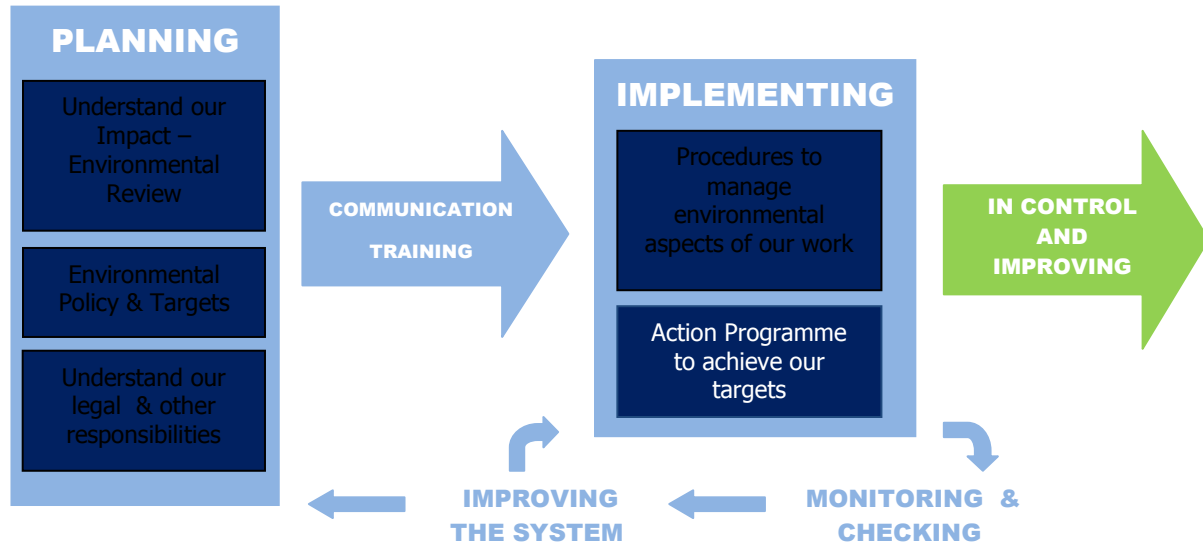
EMAS in a Nutshell

The starting point of the scheme is for the Council to get a good understanding of how its activities affect the environment (known as the 'significant aspects' of its activities), to identify the main impacts (the 'significant effects') and to set an Environmental Policy. To meet the EMAS standard the Council must also show that it is complying with environmental law.

The significant aspects of our activities are managed through a set of authority-wide procedures that apply to common activities, along with equivalent 'local work instructions' governing aspects which are specific to certain services. Information and training is provided to staff to ensure everyone can play their part.

The Council's significant effects are monitored and targets are set for improvement. Refer to later sections of this statement for details.

The Council's Internal Audit service checks that the system is being properly managed and complies with the EMAS Regulation. A management review is presented to the Cabinet annually. An independent 'Verifier' makes a yearly inspection to confirm whether EMAS in Leicester City Council continues to operate to the European standards. Figure III.I illustrates some of these key features of EMAS.

Figure III.I – Summary of EMAS in Leicester City Council

Responsibilities

The Chief Executive is the 'Authorising Officer' for EMAS, with day-to-day management of the system being the responsibility of the Environment Team. Progress reports and the annual review are taken to the Strategic Management Board and then to the Cabinet for approval, as are any key decisions that may be needed during the year.

Environmental Legislation and Commitments

Environmental legislation effectively sets the minimum standards which the Council must adhere to, and it was not prosecuted under any environmental law during this statement period: April 2008 to March 2009.

As a local authority, we must not only comply with environmental laws in the way we go about our day-to-day business; we have further responsibilities for enforcing legislation too. For example, the Pollution Control team enforces regulations to control air pollution from certain industrial processes in the city.

While individual services are responsible for ensuring that they comply with environmental laws, the Environment Team maintains a corporate resource of information which can be made available to colleagues on request.

From time to time the Council may make additional environmental commitments above and beyond legal requirements and those of its own policies and targets. During 2008/09 the Council made a new commitment by signing up to the Covenant of Mayors, which commits us to achieving new energy targets.

Staff Involvement

The effectiveness of EMAS relies on everyone playing their part, so communication is critical. A Procedures Manual is regularly updated by the Environment Team and circulated to all relevant services. The Council's intranet 'Insite' is increasingly used as a paper-free communication channel, but with hard copies of materials available for outlying sites where electronic access may not be convenient.

Environmental training is provided at a number of levels, ranging from introductory/new starters' courses through to sessions about environmental responsibilities for depot managers.

An Environment Network of volunteer staff from across the authority was launched in September 2008 to help promote environmental messages within the workplace. The Network helped deliver two campaigns during 2008/09:

- *The Big Switch Off* – promoting energy saving
- *The Big Paper Cut* – encouraging staff to save paper

Preparations were also made for the third campaign: *Breathing Space* – to be held in June 2009 encouraging car commuters to try an alternative.

Procurement of Goods and Services

The Council's purchase of goods and its outsourcing of a wide range of services is a key area of activity with environmental implications. The Cabinet adopted a Sustainable Procurement Policy in February 2009 which sets out the environmental, social and economic policies to be used in procurement decisions. A detailed set of guidance to accompany the policy will be available from autumn 2009. These replace the previous Guide to Environmentally Friendly Purchasing.

New procedures are being developed to implement the policy, taking a risk based approach to target more effort on those procurement decisions likely to have the greatest sustainability implications.

Contractors and suppliers will continue to be encouraged to adopt equivalent environmental standards to the Council, and monitoring of the delivery of outsourced contracts will continue to check that environmental standards are met.

Communicating with the Public About the Environment

As well as its promotion of environmental stewardship to the public and partner organisations, examples of which are outlined later in this statement, the Council has defined systems for enabling the public to make enquiries or complaints – and for dealing with them. Details of the main ones are provided in section V on Further Information.

Records of complaints are kept, and in 2008/09 the divisions within the former Regeneration and Culture Department, which includes the planning, waste collection, street cleansing and environmental health services, received and responded to just over 300 environmental complaints.

Leicester City Council's Environmental Policy

“Our vision is of a beautiful, vibrant, clean and green city that is a great place for people to live, but that does not create an unacceptable burden on the planet.” One Leicester – Shaping Britain's Sustainable City

The Council is committed to transforming Leicester into “Britain's sustainable city”.

Our Environmental Policy supports this goal. Through it we will use our powers and influence to protect and improve the environment and make continual improvement in our own environmental performance, as set out below.

Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

- Reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases and work with our partners to achieve reductions in the wider city.

Creating a Quality Local Environment

- Prevent or minimise pollution to air, water or land (including noise pollution, litter, fly tipping and the impact of car travel).
- Protect and, where possible, enhance the quality, extent and accessibility of Leicester's open space, trees and natural environment.
- Contribute to the creation of a sustainable built environment through the planning process and our own developments.
- Anticipate the effects of climate change and adapt our services to protect the City.

The Wise Use of Natural Resources

- Adopt energy and water-saving measures in our buildings and reduce the fuel used by vehicles on Council business, promoting equivalent measures across the City.
- Encourage the appropriate generation and use of renewable energy.
- Minimise waste and the impact of its disposal, based on the principle of reducing, reusing, recycling or composting and energy recovery before landfill of what remains.
- Use products and materials such as paper efficiently and specify goods that, wherever possible, have a minimal environmental impact in the extraction or sourcing of materials, manufacture, use and disposal.

Implementing the Policy

Scope of the Policy

We affect the environment through our services and policies, enforcement of laws and regulations and the choices we make when buying goods and services. This Policy covers all our activities and extends to schools by invitation.

Environmental Management

We will manage our impact and monitor compliance with this Policy through EMAS, fulfilling our environmental responsibilities and ensuring that all Council activities, and those carried out on our behalf, comply with or exceed statutory environmental requirements and any other relevant commitments we make.

We will take steps to understand and control any risks of harm to the environment resulting from our activities.

Involvement

We will enable the full involvement of Councillors and employees by providing training and other support. We will work with our contractors and suppliers to help them improve their environmental performance and ensure that, when working for the Council, they adopt equivalent environmental standards.

We will encourage the public and partners to take action too, through environmental information, advice and services.

Schools

We will encourage schools to adopt this Policy by joining 'EMAS in Schools'.

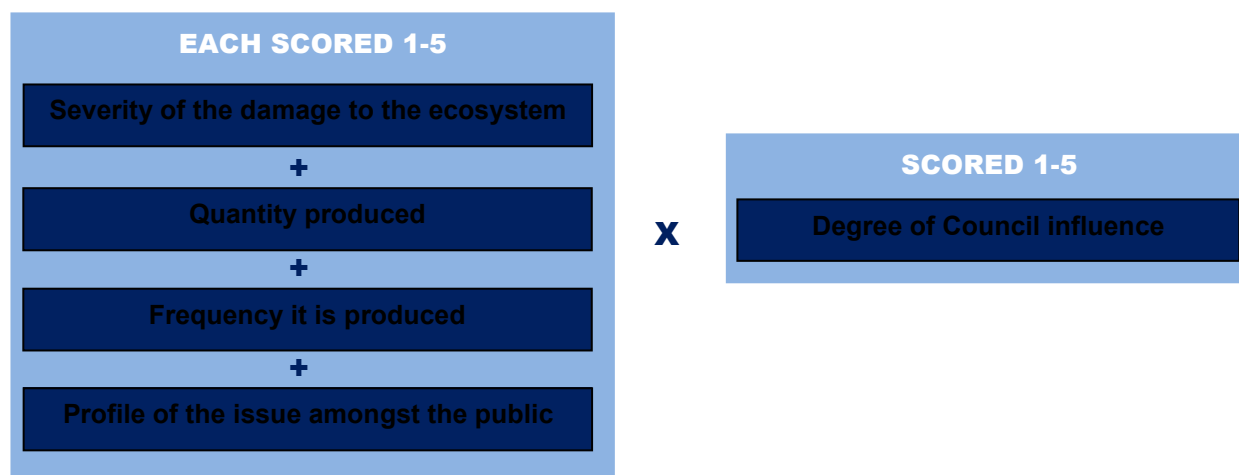
Accountability

This Policy was approved by the Cabinet on 8th December 2008 and will be reviewed annually. Its delivery is the overall responsibility of the Chief Executive. The Council will publicise its environmental performance each year to enable the people of Leicester to hold us to account.

Significant Environmental Effects

An environmental review of all Council activities was undertaken in 1997 which identified some 80 different environmental effects. A scoring system (see Figure III.II below) was used to identify those considered to be significant and a register of these was drawn up. Further significant effects were identified and added to the register in 2002/03 and 2008/09.

Figure III.II – How the Council Scored the Significance of its Environmental Effects



All of the significant effects are managed through EMAS and the Council has set itself objectives and targets for improving its performance against those it considers most significant. Table III.I lists all of the significant effects and details those with improvement objectives and/or environmental legislation relating to them. Some reasons for their environmental importance are also highlighted.

Table III.I – Leicester City Council’s Significant Environmental Effects

Significant Effects With Objectives And Targets For Improvement	Legal Compliance Requirements	Environmental Importance (key points only)
1. The Council’s carbon dioxide emissions	✓	The global threat posed by climate change.
2. Leicester’s carbon dioxide emissions	✓	
3. The Council’s contribution to air pollution	✓	Local health impacts.
4. Air quality in Leicester	✓	
5. Street cleanliness	✓	Contribution to Leicester’s attractiveness; health risks of litter.
6. The quality of the natural environment on Council owned land	✓	Needed for thriving urban wildlife; recreation and health opportunities for

7.	Council provision of public open space	✓	local people.
8.	The quality of the built environment on Council owned land	✓	Impact of building design and planning on a wide range of environmental issues – particularly energy use.
9.	The quality of Leicester's built environment	✓	
10.	The Council's vulnerability to the impact of climate change: 10.1 Flash flooding 10.2 Summer heatwaves and prolonged periods of increased average temperatures 10.3 Reduced summer water availability	✓	Risks to health and safety; damage to built environment; threat to wildlife.
11.	Leicester's vulnerability to the impact of climate change	✓	
12.	The Council's energy and fuel use	✓	Unsustainable levels of use of non-renewable resources; contribution to climate change.
13.	Leicester's energy and fuel use	✓	
14.	The Council's waste	✓	Unsustainable levels of use of non-renewable resources; environmental impacts of waste treatment options.
15.	Waste from Leicester	✓	
16.	The Council's use of water	✓	Environmental impacts of water storage, treatment and distribution.
17.	The Council's use of paper	-	Environmental impacts of timber extraction and paper manufacture.
18.	Education, awareness and action	-	Contribution of each of us to environmental problems and, potentially, to their solution.

Significant Effects Without Improvement Objectives And Targets	Legal Compliance Requirements	Environmental Importance (key points only)
a. The Council's use of timber	-	Environmental impacts of timber extraction.
b. The Council's use of peat	-	Environmental impacts of peat extraction.
c. Land use in Leicester	✓	Contribution to urban wildlife, recreation, health and amenity.
d. The Council's Hazardous Waste	✓	Pollution, health and safety risks.
e. Land contamination on the Council's own land	✓	
f. Land contamination in Leicester	✓	
g. Noise from the Council's own activities	✓	Detrimental to local quality of life.
h. Noise in Leicester	✓	
i. The Council's discharges to water	✓	Pollution risks; threat to wildlife.

j.	Leicester's discharges to water	✓	
k.	Dust and odour from the Council's own activities	✓	Health risks; detrimental to local quality of life.
l.	Dust and odour in Leicester	✓	
m.	The quality of Leicester's natural environment	✓	Needed for thriving urban wildlife; recreation and health opportunities for local people.

Our Environmental Improvement Programme

At a corporate level, environmental improvement is driven through a set of objectives and targets, with a programme of action to achieve them. The objectives and targets are detailed in sections 1 to 18 of this statement and a number of current actions from the programme are highlighted in these sections too.

The objectives, targets and actions are regularly reviewed in the light of monitoring results and other factors.

A complete review was carried out in 2008 and the Cabinet has approved the 36 objectives and 24 targets reported on in the following sections. In several cases there are specific objectives and targets for schools (either EMAS schools only, or all schools where appropriate).

At a divisional, service and site level, managers must take account of the authority's EMAS objectives and targets in their own programming of actions in their improvement plans. Currently, this applies to Strategic Improvement and Investment Plans provided at a divisional level.

IV. Objectives and Targets for Improvement

Table IV.I – Summary of Progress Towards the Active EMAS Targets in 2008/09

Objective (in Bold) and Target	Progress in 2008/09	On Course to Meet the Target?	Page Refs. for Details
1.1 Reduce the Council's carbon dioxide emissions 1.1 To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26.	Uncertain	Uncertain	18
2.1 Reduce city-wide carbon dioxide emissions 2.1 To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26	No information available	Uncertain	22
4.1 Improve air quality in the city 4.1a By achieving the 4 key point targets set in the Local Transport Plan for air quality (target date 2010). 4.1b Change in the number of vehicles crossing the Central Transport Zone cordon from 42,683 in 2004/05 to 43,963 in 2010/11. 4.1c Reduce the share of journeys to school by car (including vans and taxis but excluding car share journeys) from 24% in 2006/07 to 22% in 2010/11. (All schools)	Uncertain	Uncertain	28
	No information available	No information available	29
	Improvem ¹	x	30
5.1 Improve street cleanliness in Leicester 5.1 Relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of the following that fall below the acceptable level: a. Litter 10% by 08/09 b. Detritus 10% by 08/09 c. Graffiti 5% by 08/09 d. Fly posting 0% by 08/09	Standard Met	✓	32
	Standard Not Met	x	
	Standard Not Met	x	
	Standard Met	✓	
6.2 Improve the City's tree cover and condition 6.2a Plant 10,000 trees by 2011	Improvem ¹	✓	34
6.3 Improve the quality of Council-owned public open space 6.3b Achieve a 2% increase in the overall quality of provision by 2010/11 from a baseline average of 50% in 2008/09, as measured against the Green Flag Award Criteria 6.3c Increase park user satisfaction levels from 74% (2005) to 79% (2013)	No information available	No information available	35
	Improvem ¹	✓	35-36
6.4 Enhance the quality of the natural environment in school grounds (EMAS schools) 6.4 90% of EMAS schools to have a wildlife or food growing area by April 2012	No information available	No information available	36
8.2 Create sustainable school buildings 8.2 By ensuring that from 2007/08 all new or refurbished schools exceed* "very good" standards as defined by BREEAM (* to achieve an overall score of 65%)	No information available ¹	No information available	41
9.1 Create a sustainable built environment within the City 9.1 Increase the percentage of Planning Applications for Major	Worsening	Uncertain	42

¹ At the end of 2008/09 none of the Council's school building projects registered for BREEAM Design were complete. However, all four of the BSF phase 1 secondary schools were on target to achieve BREEAM "excellent" or "very good".

Developments applying Policy BE16: 75% in 2007/08 85% in 2008/09 90% in 2009/10			
12.1 Reduce the Council's total energy consumption 12.1a To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025	No information available	No information available	48
12.1b Buildings: To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025	Worsening	✘	49
12.2 Increase the Council's generation and use of renewable energy 12.2 From 0% of the energy requirement of all Council buildings in 1997 to 20% of the energy requirement of all buildings in 2020	No change	✘	50
12.3 Reduce schools total energy consumption. (All schools) 12.3 By an average of 1.43 % per annum between 2008/09 and 2025/26	No information available	No information available	50-51
12.4 Increase schools generation and use of renewable energy. (All schools) 12.4 To 20% of energy requirements in 2020/2021	No information available	No information available	51
14.3 Reduce the amount of school construction waste going to landfill. (All schools) 14.3 By ensuring the secondary schools within the BSF programme exceed target 4 from the Continuous Improvement Plan (All schools)	Worsening	✓	55
15.1 Reduce household waste and the percentage landfilled 15.1 To recycle 40% of household waste collected in 2009/10	Worsening	✘	56-57
16.1 Reduce the Council's total mains water consumption 16.1 By 5% of 2006/07 level by 2011/12	Worsening	Uncertain	58-59
16.2 Reduce schools' total mains water consumption (All schools) 16.2 By 5% of the 2006/7 level by 2011/12	No information available	No information available	59
17.2 Increase the use of recycled paper as a percentage of overall paper use 17.2 To meet the following standards for recycled paper use from 2009/10: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All publications, leaflets, flyers and posters to use at least 75% recycled paper. ▪ All site and volume photocopying to use 100% post consumer waste paper. ▪ All Council stationery to use 100% post consumer waste. ▪ All printing of web products (e.g. Link) to be 100% recycled paper. ▪ All basic digital colour low volume printing to be on 100% post consumer waste paper 	Standard Met	✓	61
17.3 Increase the use of recycled paper in schools (EMAS schools) 17.3 All EMAS schools to use recycled paper by 2012	No information available	No information available	62
18.2 Raise levels of environmental awareness and action within schools. (EMAS schools) 18.2 By annually increasing the number of Leicester schools participating in EMAS from 13 schools in 2003/4 to 90 schools in 2010/11	Improvement	✓	64-65

REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

1. The Council's Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Progress During the Year

Key areas of action in 2008/09 included the installation of energy saving measures for street lighting and the start of a programme of energy efficiency measures to Leisure Centres following the completion of detailed site surveys. The Council took part in the "Big Switch Off" campaign in October (see section 12) and the fleet manager reduced emissions from the fleet by continuing the programme of vehicle replacement with newer, more fuel efficient vehicles (see section 3).

However, a detailed analysis of the ability of planned actions to meet Target 1.1 concluded that a step-change in the level of action was required to achieve it. Refer to the section on Future Action below for details of the Council's response to this.

For the first time, we have been collecting comprehensive data on emissions from schools and this has underlined the significance of those from school buildings (see Chart 1b below) in particular. On the positive side we have secured Government funding to substantially replace primary and secondary school buildings in the city - with the potential to save more than an estimated 6,000 tonnes of CO₂ per annum through these programmes.

Chart 1a – 2008/09 Carbon Dioxide Emissions Reported for NI185 Shown by Major Source

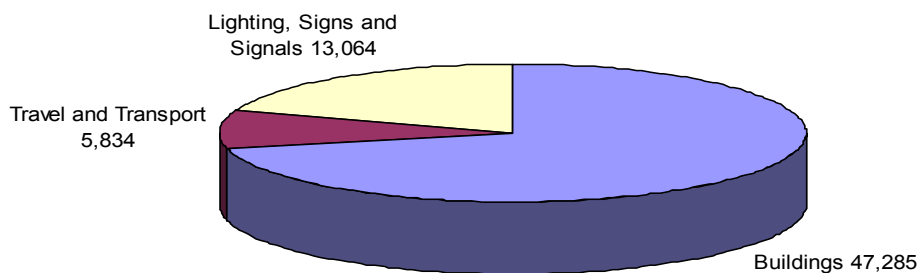


Chart 1b – Breakdown of NI185 Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Buildings

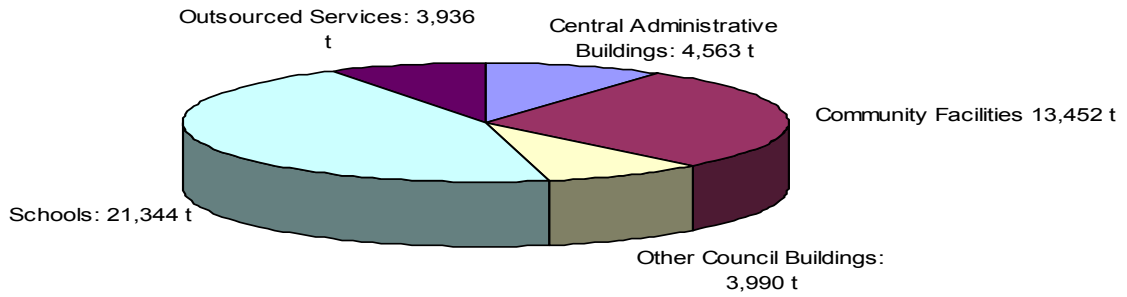


Chart 1c – Breakdown of NI185 Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Travel and Transport

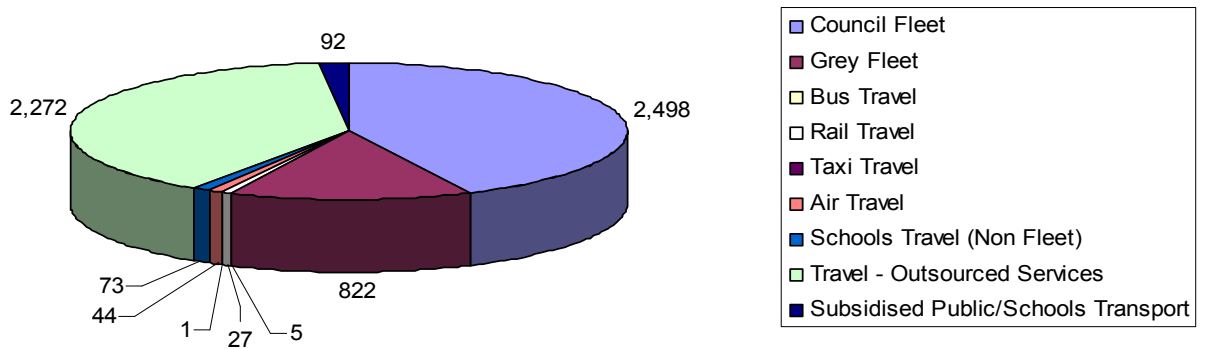


Chart 1d – Breakdown of NI185 Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Lighting, Signs and Signals

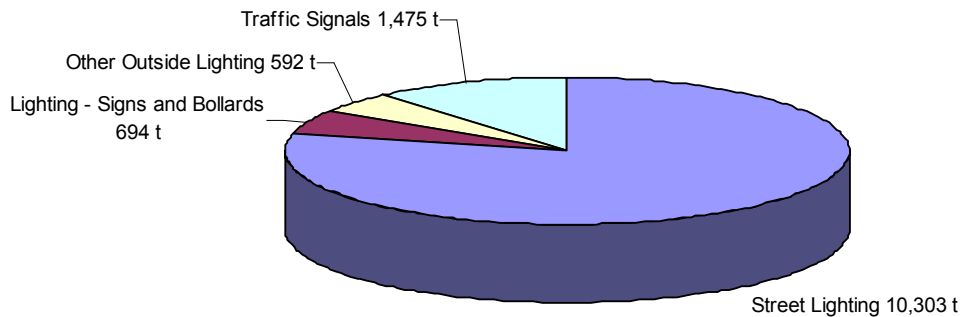
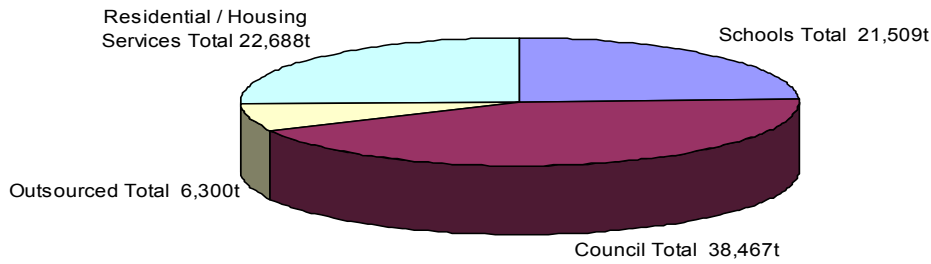


Chart 1e – Comparison of NI185 Direct CO₂ Emissions from the Council with Emissions from Schools, Outsourced Services and Housing Services



Objective 1.1: Reduce the Council’s Carbon Dioxide Emissions

TARGET: To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26

Progress in 2008/09	Uncertain	On Course to Meet the Target?	Uncertain
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Details

- Previously, progress towards this target has been assessed by DeMontfort University’s Institute for Energy and Sustainable Development (refer also to target 2.1 in section 2) which produced an estimate of the Council’s emissions for 2006.
- There hasn’t been a repeat of the DMU study during this reporting period so it isn’t possible to identify progress towards the target, based on the DMU data set.
- However, we have spent the year forming a new database of Council emissions to report to the Government on National Indicator NI185. As this indicator will be reported every year, this could offer the ability to monitor progress annually.
- However, the data sets covered by this database are slightly different to those used in the DMU study, so further work will be undertaken during 2009/10 to propose a way forward with collecting data for this EMAS target.
- The 2008/09 baseline figure reported to the Government for NI185 is 66,184 tonnes. A preliminary breakdown of this figure (see charts 1a – 1e below) indicates the importance of managing CO₂ emissions from Council buildings and in particular, those from school buildings.

Objective 1.2: Reduce Schools' Carbon Dioxide Emissions (All Schools)

TARGET: To be developed

Details

- During 2008/09 we have been collecting baseline data on carbon emissions from schools as part of the National Indicator NI185. This will be the first year we have had a comprehensive dataset for all schools in the city.
- The total emissions for schools (excluding fleet vehicles) is 21,509 tonnes. The breakdown of this figure is 21,344 tonnes arising from school buildings and 73 tonnes from school transport.

Future Action

Action to reduce the Council's carbon footprint will be managed by a new Strategic Priority Board for Reducing Carbon which will be up and running from June 2009.

From 2009/10 all services will be required to manage their individual carbon profiles more closely and to develop action at service level. The programmes for saving CO₂ from street lighting, buildings and from the fleet of vehicles will continue. In addition it is proposed to put further emphasis on driver training and staff awareness as extremely cost effective ways of reducing carbon and we will continue to participate in the annual Big Switch Off Campaign.

2. Leicester's Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Progress During the Year

Work on this issue by the Council and its partners is overseen by the Leicester Partnership (the City's Local Strategic Partnership) and "reducing our carbon footprint" is one of 7 key priorities in the Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy for the City: "One Leicester". Reflecting this, the Partnership selected city-wide carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions as one of the key performance measures in its Local Area Agreement (LAA) with the Government for the period 2008/09 – 2010/11. Emissions are reported for a new National Performance Indicator: NI186 (refer to the details for Target 2.1 below).

A Climate Change Board set up by the Partnership in 2008 commissioned the development of a work programme covering the three key CO₂ emitting sectors: domestic, transport and organisations. The programme included a number of proposed new projects as well as existing work. However, the difficulty in identifying resources for the new proposals along with a lack of clarity about the carbon reductions expected from the programme drew criticism from the independent Verifier (auditor) of the Council's EMAS system in December 2008. He recommended that a 'step change' was needed in the Council's and its partners' action to reduce emissions along with better evaluation of the CO₂ reduction expected from each initiative.

In response to this, work began in the last quarter of 2008/09 to evaluate and strengthen the work programme and is ongoing into 2009/10.

In parallel to this strategic work, a number of Council and Leicester Partnership initiatives continued to make a contribution to reducing the City's CO₂ emissions during the year. These included:

- *Awareness raising and promotional projects* - a programme was led by the Leicester Partnership's Head of Environmental Sustainability and its Climate Change Officer to involve businesses, community groups and the public in action on climate change (refer to section 18 for more details).
- *Hot Lofts* – roll-out of this scheme offering free loft and/or cavity wall insulation to private home owners on an area-by-area basis continued in 2008/09. A total of 1606 measures were completed in 1394 houses saving an estimated 1254.6 tonnes of CO₂.
- *Combined Heat and Power* – based on a feasibility study the Cabinet approved the next stage of preparations for an expansion of the Council's existing District Heating network, powered by Combined Heat and Power (CHP) generators. A decision was taken to outsource the extended network and a Project Manager was appointed.
- *Local Transport Plan (LTP)* – this ongoing programme of initiatives with a strong focus on encouraging 'modal shift' from car journeys to alternative (lower carbon) modes of travel continued (refer to section 4 for more details).

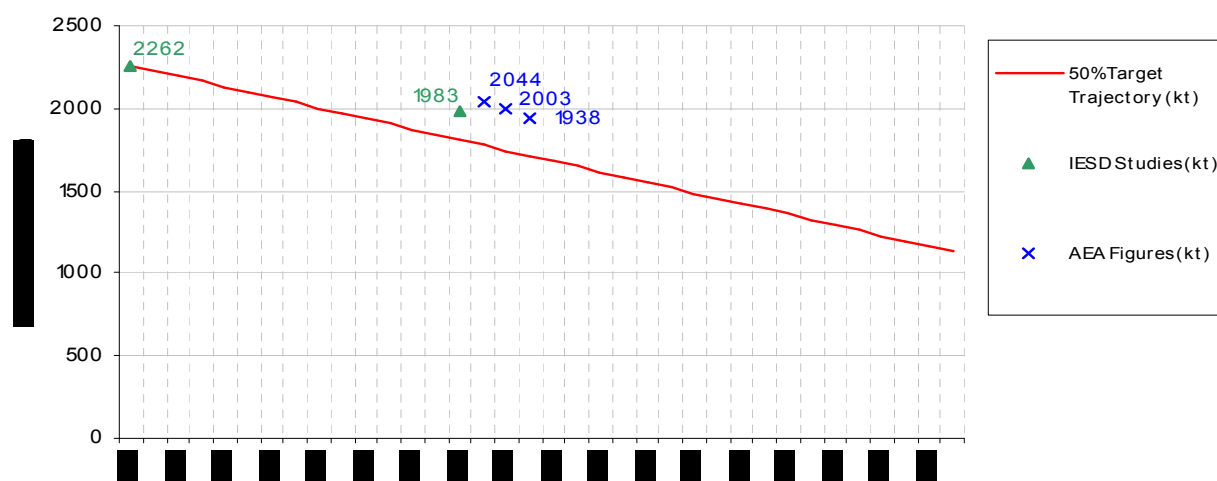
Objective 2.1: Reduce City-Wide Carbon Dioxide Emissions

TARGET 2.1: To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26

Progress in 2008/09	No information available	On Course to Meet the Target?	Uncertain
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Details

- The Council adopted this ambitious long term target in 1994, but until recently it was unable to assess progress towards it on a regular basis.
- A study undertaken by DeMontfort University's Institute for Energy and Sustainable Development (IESD) estimated the 1990 baseline carbon dioxide emissions to be 2,262,000 tonnes. Further work provided an estimate of 1,983,000 tonnes emitted in 2004 – suggesting that whilst a reduction had been achieved, the city was not on track to meet the target (refer to Chart 2.1).
- In 2008 the Government introduced a new set of National Indicators for local authorities which included, for the first time, a performance indicator for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from the local authority area: NI186. The Government commissioned AEA Technology to provide annual estimates of emissions from each local authority area. Although AEA use a methodology which probably has differences to the IESD, their estimate for 2005 is very similar to the IESD figure for 2004.
- The Council has therefore decided that it is valid to treat the two sets of figures as comparable, enabling these and future annual estimates from AEA to be used to monitor progress against the target trajectory set from the original IESD baseline figure.
- The three AEA estimates of Leicester's emissions, for 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively, show some progress towards target 2.1. However, when the two IESD estimates are considered alongside them, it is uncertain whether Leicester is on track to meet it. Breakdowns of the AEA figures show that substantial increases in emissions from the domestic sector are largely offsetting reductions achieved in the commercial and transport sectors.
- As the AEA figures are produced two years in arrears, the position at the end of 2008 will not be known until the end of 2010.
- Supplementing target 2.1, the Council and its partners adopted a shorter-term target in the Local Area Agreement for reducing Leicester's carbon dioxide emissions by 11.4% from 2005 levels during the three years of the LAA (2008/09 – 2010/11).
- Table 2.1 below presents Leicester's long and shorter term targets, along with the annual rate of progress required to achieve each one. The shorter term LAA target has not been formally adopted within EMAS, but provides an important stepping stone to achieving the long term EMAS target 2.1.

Chart 2.1 – Leicester’s Estimated Carbon Dioxide Emissions**Table 2.1 – Summary of Leicester’s Targets for Reducing City-Wide Carbon Dioxide Emissions**

Target Name / Description	Baseline Year	Baseline Emissions Level (t)	Finish Year	Target Emissions Level (t)	Annual Rate of Reduction to Achieve the Target (t)
EMAS Target 2.1	1990	2,262,000	2025	1,131,000	32,314
EMAS Target 2.1 (starting from 2006 actual position*)	2006	1,982,000	2025	1,131,000	44,789
LAA Target – 11.4% reduction from 2005 level by 2011	2005	1,985,640**	2011	1,759,277	75,454***

* This line included in the table to illustrate the extent of ‘catch up’ needed to achieve the 2025 target.

** This figure differs from the figure of 2044kt for the year 2005 shown in Chart 2.1 because it is based on an earlier Government estimate. As the LAA target is set by the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM), updating of the baseline must be agreed with GOEM. This is currently awaited.

*** Calculated based on the 3 years of the LAA rather than 6 years from 2005-11.

Future Action

Strengthening of the Climate Change Work Programme will continue in 2009/10 as a springboard to seek the additional resourcing needed for a ‘step change’ in CO₂ emissions reduction – and ultimately to achieve target 2.1.

For the domestic sector, funding to be sought is expected to include further roll-out of the Hot Lofts initiative, to match available funds already committed by British Gas under the Government CERT scheme and potentially to lever in further utility funds before this scheme ends in December 2012.

Work to influence new developments will continue through the application of Local Plan Policy BE16 (refer to section 9) and a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) providing detailed guidance to developers on addressing climate change will be drafted for adoption as part of the new Local Development Framework.

In the area of transport, continued delivery of the current Local Transport Plan will be complemented by the start of work on proposals for the next (third) LTP which will come into effect from April 2011. Delivery of CO₂ emissions reductions from transport will be one of the key outcomes required of the new plan, so all measures considered will need to be carefully assessed for their ability to contribute to this goal.

CREATING A QUALITY LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

3. The Council's Contribution to Air Pollution

Progress During the Year

In practice, there is a considerable overlap between the Council's actions to reduce air pollution emissions and those to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Probably the most significant action during the year was the annual Fleet Replacement Programme for the Central Vehicle Pool. The programme is designed to replace the whole fleet on an eight year cycle and 100 of the older vehicles were replaced in 2008/09. Due to steadily rising 'euro' standards that new vehicles must meet, each one will produce significantly less pollution for every litre of fuels used than the vehicle it replaces.

Objective 3.1: Reduce the Council's Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) and Primary Particulates (PM₁₀)

TARGET 3.1: To be developed

Details

- From 2008/09 the Government introduced a new set of National Performance Indicators for local authorities. These included a new indicator NI194: "Air quality - % reduction in NO_x and primary PM₁₀ emissions through local authority's estate and operations".
- The Council's performance against this indicator is reported to the Government annually. Calculations of estimated emissions are based on details of energy and fuel used by the Council combined with the types of vehicles, heating boilers and other equipment using the energy and fuel.
- This new requirement to report annually on progress against NI194 means that, for the first time, the Council has estimates for its NO_x and primary PM₁₀ emissions across its whole estate and operations, based on a recognised methodology common to all local authorities.
- The data provide a baseline from which a target can be developed and reported on in future Environmental Statements.
- Chart 3.1 illustrates the relative contributions of the different air pollution emissions sources to the Council's total. Aside from the electricity used in buildings and lighting, whose emissions will mainly occur at power stations rather than in Leicester itself, the Chart shows the importance of the Council's vehicle fleet and of transport undertaken by contractors delivering outsourced services as key sources of local air pollution. The main emissions source within the 'Transport – Outsourced' category is waste management, which includes refuse and recycling collection services.
- Looking at two areas of Council travel that have been monitored for a number of years, Tables and Charts 3.2 and 3.3 below present the latest data for fuel used by the Council vehicle fleet and for miles travelled by staff in their own cars on Council business (the 'grey fleet').

- Chart 3.2 shows a further reduction in fuel use, and this comes despite an increase in the size of the fleet during the year. Ongoing modernising of the fleet may be one factor behind this reduction.
- Chart 3.3 on 'grey fleet' mileage also shows a reduction, both from the previous year's total and from the baseline figure in 1999/2000. Whilst there have been fluctuations, the long term trend does appear to be a slight downward one. The reasons for this are not clear, although the EMAS procedure P23-1 for all staff "Travelling on Council Business" may have had some influence.

Chart 3.1 – The Council’s Estimated NO_x and PM₁₀ Emissions in 2008/09: Percentages by Source

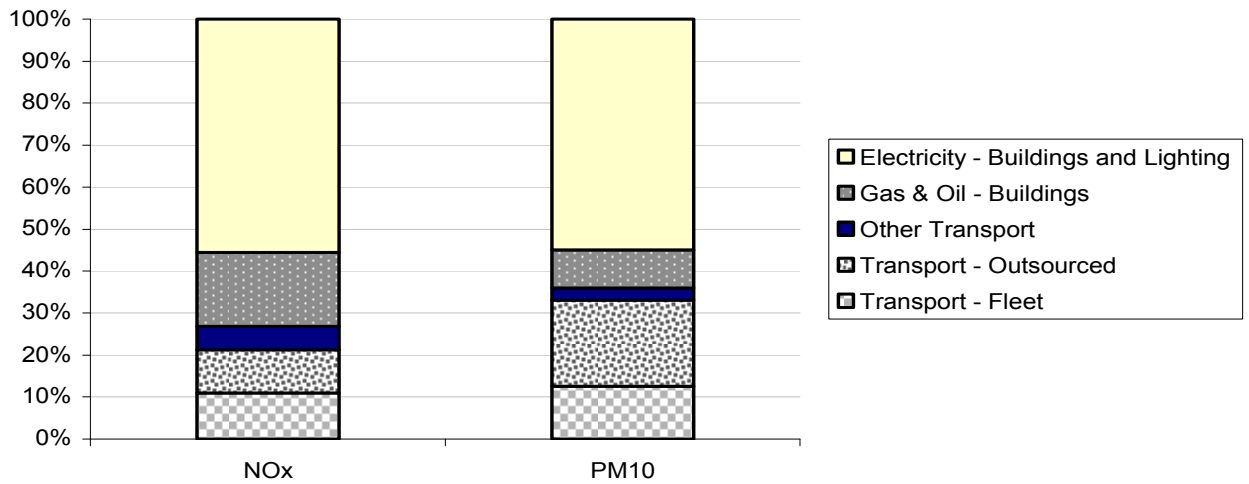


Chart 3.2 – Changes in Fuel Used by the Council’s Vehicle Fleet

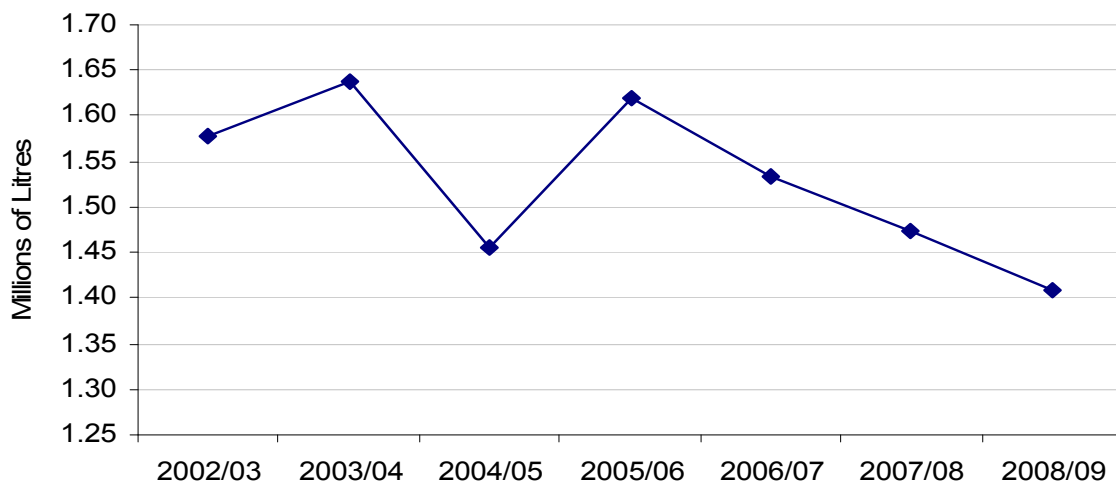
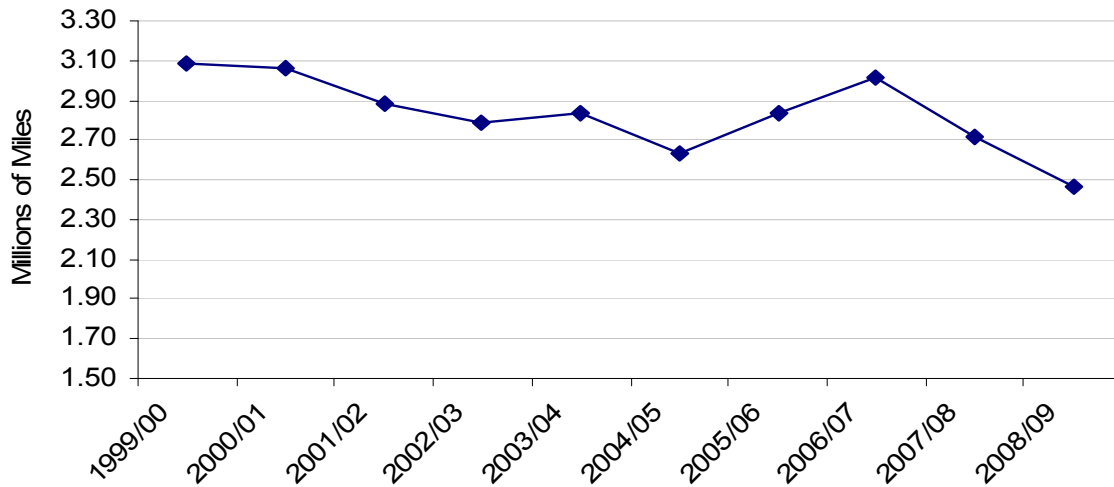


Chart 3.3 – Changes in Miles Travelled by Staff in Their Own Cars on Council Business



Future Action

A target will be set in the coming year for reducing the Council's air pollution emissions, with the help of baseline figures provided from Leicester's National Indicator 194 report.

In practical terms, the Fleet Replacement Programme will continue to reduce fleet emissions for every mile travelled. It is hoped to introduce some more electric vehicles into the fleet on a pilot basis, which could make a bigger contribution to emissions reduction locally in Leicester. Other potential lower emissions technologies will be investigated too.

Reductions in 'grey fleet' emissions will also be sought, with the roll out of a corporate Grey Fleet Project in 2009/10 aimed at combining both environmental and costs savings improvements.

4. Air Quality in Leicester

Progress During the Year

The Council's main activities to improve air quality in Leicester are its work in transport planning and management and in air quality management. Both areas of work are planned and delivered through the Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP), which incorporates Leicester's Air Quality Action Plan.

Progress during the year included:

- *Low Emissions Approach* - Further work to link the Council's efforts to tackle climate change with those to improve air quality, aiming to identify 'win-win' actions which reduce carbon dioxide and air pollution emissions at the same time.
- *Review of Air Quality Action Plan* – Despite being rated as 'excellent' by the Government when it was produced, the measures in the current Plan aren't enough to achieve the national/EU targets for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels. The Council commissioned experts from the Transport Research Laboratory to identify possible future options Leicester could consider for improving its air quality. The results of the work will inform the development of the next (third) LTP and Air Quality Action Plan, covering the period from 2011/12.
- *Local Transport Plan* – Work started on the Enderby Park and Ride site as well as the Humberstone Road Quality Bus Corridor. Staff resources for travel planning were increased, with the start of four new part-time secondees in the Travel Planning and Development Co-ordination Team. Completion of public realm improvements in the city centre significantly improved the infrastructure for cycling and walking.

Objective 4.1: Improve Air Quality in the City

The targets below are all from the second Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan. LTP target reference numbers are included in italics at the end of each target definition.

TARGET 4.1a: By achieving the 4 key point targets set in the Local Transport Plan for air quality (target date 2010) (*LTP8 – Key Outcome Indicator*)

Progress in 2008/09	Uncertain	On Course to Meet the Target?	Uncertain
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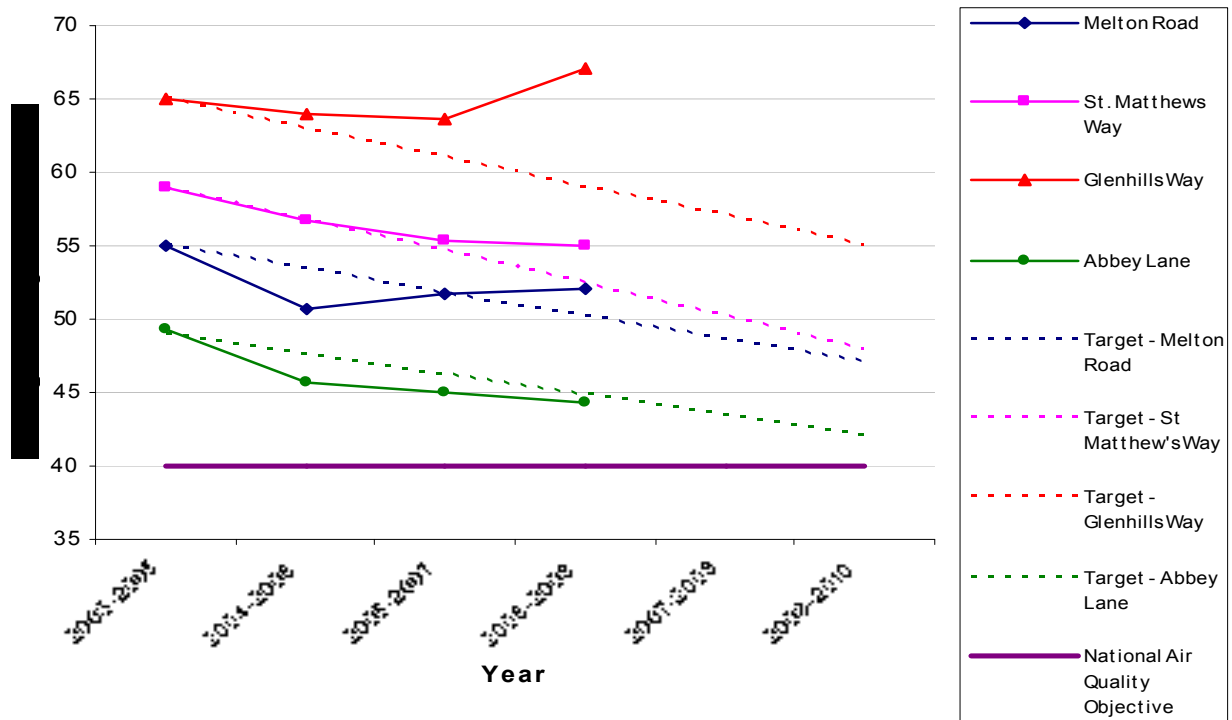
Details

- The 'key point' targets require reductions in the annual mean concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) as measured by the Council's automated monitoring equipment at four key locations listed in table 4.1a. The target concentrations are given in column 6 of the table.
- The data for these targets are reported in microgrammes per cubic metre (µg/m³) as three year rolling averages to reduce the impact of weather variations.
- Leicester's most recent Air Quality Assessment identified emissions from road transport as the main contributor to pollution from NO₂.
- The UK is required to meet European Air Quality Limits for long term exposure to NO₂ of no more than 40 µg/m³ annual mean levels. Leicester, in common with a number of other urban areas, currently experiences levels above this in certain

locations - including the key points referred to in the target.

- Predictions made for the LTP suggest that traffic in Leicester will increase. While improvements in the environmental performance of new vehicles and the Council's efforts to reduce congestion will offset this, the overall effect is expected to be to limit any improvements in air quality that can be achieved. Hence the Council's targets for the four key point sites fall short of meeting national/EU limits, as shown on Chart 4.1a.
- As the graph illustrates, current and past figures don't paint a clear picture of the extent of progress. No common long term trend is apparent across the four sites as a whole and the differing shorter term changes between the sites suggest that local factors are important. In conclusion, it is not yet clear whether the Council is on course to achieve its targets.

Chart 4.1a – Changes in Nitrogen Dioxide Levels at Leicester's Key Point Air Quality Monitoring Sites



TARGET 4.1b: Change in the number of vehicles crossing the Central Transport Zone cordon from 42,683 in 2004/05 to 43,963 in 2010/11 (LTP6 – Intermediate Outcome Indicator)

Progress in 2008/09	No information available	On Course to Meet the Target?	No information available
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Details

- When the LTP was developed, modelling suggested that the measures to be introduced would have the effect of limiting the growth of traffic entering and leaving the city centre during the morning peak period (7am – 10am) from 10% to 3% over

- the five years of the plan. The figure of 3% was the basis for target 4.1b (LTP6).
- Data for reporting on this target was collected through an annual ten-day survey.
 - However, the Government has recently removed the requirement for this indicator to be monitored, so target LTP6 has been removed from the LTP and the annual 10 day survey no longer takes place. Target 4.1b will therefore be removed from EMAS (see Future Action, below).
 - The volume of traffic entering and leaving the Central Transport Zone continues to be measured each year though - through a one-day 'Strategic Cordon Survey' (SCS). Whilst the figures are not directly comparable to those previously reported for target 4.1b due to the differences in survey methodology, data from the one-day surveys is presented in Chart 4.1b below to give an indication of progress in limiting traffic growth. A trend line representing 3% growth has been plotted for comparison.
 - Chart 4.1b shows an overall reduction in morning peak-time traffic between 2004/05 and 2008/09 as measured by the SCS. If this trend continues, it puts us on course to stay well within the original predicted trend. Ultimately, if traffic growth can be limited, this should contribute to managing air quality.
 - There are a number of factors likely to affect levels of traffic in the city centre including: retail and residential developments and policies in the LTP to promote alternatives to car travel. The current economic downturn is almost certain to depress travel levels.

Chart 4.1b – Change in the Number of Vehicles Crossing the Central Transport Zone Cordon



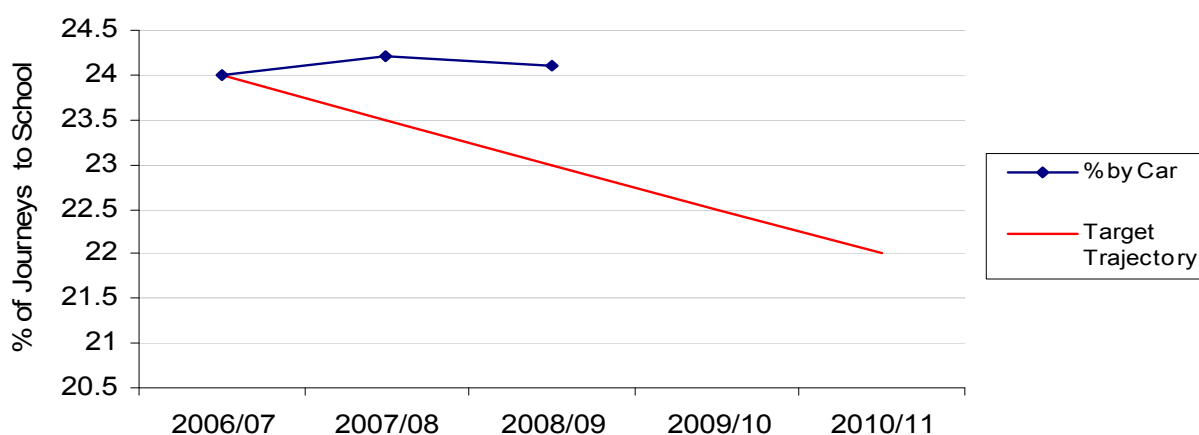
TARGET 4.1c: Reduce the Share of Journeys to School by Car (Including Vans and Taxis but Excluding Car Share Journeys) From 24% in 2006/07 to 22% in 2010/11 (All Schools)

Progress in 2008/09	Improvement	On Course to Meet the Target?	x
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Details

- Target 4.1c is taken from the Local Transport Plan.
- The data for measuring progress towards this target is provided through the Government's annual schools census. It's based on a sample including all schools with a school travel plan plus 50% of those without.
- As Chart 4.1c shows the schools surveyed have not, so far, been able to achieve an overall reduction in the percentage of journeys made by car; the figure for 2008/09 is 24.1%. So the Council is not yet on course to meet its 2010/11 target.
- The reasons for the lack of progress towards the target shown by these figures are not clear, as work on School Travel Plans has continued during the year. 70 schools had Travel Plans in place by the end of 2008/09.

Chart 4.1c – Changes in the Percentage of Journeys to School Made by Car



Future Action

The Council will continue to work towards the current targets by delivering the programme of action set out in the LTP. In parallel with this, proposals will be developed in partnership with Leicestershire County Council for the third LTP – incorporating a new Air Quality Action Plan.

Improving air quality will be one of the aims of the next LTP and amongst the evidence used to inform its proposals will be the review of the current Air Quality Action Plan recently completed by the Transport Research Laboratory and a new Air Quality Assessment which will begin in the coming year.

It is proposed to remove the current target 4.1b from the EMAS programme, in response to its removal from the LTP. Whilst a new target 4.1b is not proposed to replace it, figures for traffic entering and leaving the city centre will continue to be reported to provide an indication of changes in city traffic – the main factor contributing to air pollution.

5. Street Cleanliness

Progress During the Year

The streets in the City are cleaned at varying frequencies from a guaranteed daily clean to a minimum of a weekly clean. This includes the footpath, highway channel, shrubs and grassy open spaces. The Council's Graffiti Removal Team is responsible for removing graffiti and fly posters.

The City Wardens can also call upon these services. The Wardens operate in 11 wards and their duties cover a wide range of issues including: litter, graffiti, fly-posting, nuisance parking (vehicles for sale or being repaired on the highway), leaflet distribution, dog fouling and bins left on the streets.

During the year:

- Performance targets on litter and fly posting were met.
- Performance on removing deposits of detritus and graffiti fell short of new targets although these targets have been revised to reflect more realistic levels of performance within existing resources.

Objective 5.1: Improve Street Cleanliness in Leicester

The targets below are National Performance Indicators.

TARGET 5.1a: Reduce the % of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below the acceptable level to 10% by 2008/09 (NI 195a)

TARGET 5.1b: Reduce the % of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of detritus that fall below the acceptable level to 10% by 2008/09 (NI 195b)

TARGET 5.1c: Reduce the % of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of graffiti that fall below the acceptable level to 5% by 2008/09 (NI 195 c)

TARGET 5.1d: Reduce the % of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of fly posting that fall below the acceptable level to 0% by 2008/09 (NI 195d)

Progress in 2008/09	Uncertain	On Course to Meet the Target?	a – Met b - Not met c - Not met d - Met

Details

- NI195 requires an annual reduction in litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting and targets were set for the 2008/09 reporting period.
- The data shows that the targets were met for litter (10% or below) and fly posting (0%). The 10% or below target for detritus was not met with a score of 13% obtained. The target of 5 % or below for graffiti was not met either with a score of 14%.

- The data for these targets are reported in % of *relevant land* assessed at an *acceptable level*. A detailed methodology is provided by the Government for making these judgements.
- The good performance on litter reflects a well resourced service. City wardens, introduced in October 2008, are based in 11 city wards and are proactive in removing placards and fly posters.
- Graffiti in particular can be problematic on private property where the owner does not wish to pay for subsidised removal for fear of the graffiti returning.

Table 5.1 – Relevant Land and Highways That is Assessed as Having Deposits of Litter, Detritus, Graffiti or Fly Posting Below the Acceptable Level

Category	2008/09 Performance	Target for 2008/09
Litter	9%	10% or below
Detritus	13%	10% or below
Graffiti	14%	5% or below
Fly posting	0%	0%

Future Action

New targets have been set for performance against NI195 in 2009/10 as follows:

- a. litter - 10%
- b. detritus - 13%
- c. graffiti - 14%
- d. fly posting - 0%

They are proposed for adoption as the new EMAS target 5.1.

These targets are considered more realistic within existing resources. However, an analysis of detritus and graffiti removal operations in individual wards will establish if it is necessary to target resources in particular wards to improve the overall scores.

6. The Quality of the Natural Environment on Council Owned Land

Progress During the Year

A habitat survey of Leicester's open spaces, completed in 2007/08 and reported in the previous Environmental Statement, revealed 9 Local Wildlife Sites owned and managed by the Council to be in 'unfavourable-declining' condition. This represents a challenge for the Council to turn the situation around.

Since then the Council's ecologist has been working with the Parks Service to address the problems through the Management Plans for these sites. Many of the declining habitats are grasslands, and part of the problem stems from the difficulty in scheduling the cutting and bailing at these sites within a very tight work programme, yet to allow the plants to set seed – the timing of which is weather dependent.

In terms of the wider quality of the Council's public open space, the Parks Service has continued to develop a Greenspaces Strategy for the city. This is expected to be put before the Cabinet in the autumn of 2009 for approval. Other progress has included:

- Planting of nearly 3000 new trees during 2007/08 and 2008/09 as part of the 10,000 Trees project – involving the public in deciding where the trees should go through the Ward Community Meetings;
- Continued development of a database of trees and woodlands across the city by the Trees and Woodlands Team. The database will store details of maintenance carried out / scheduled and tree condition for all Council owned trees.
- Drafting of a new Biodiversity Action Plan for the city, in partnership with Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire, to replace the current plan: "Wild About Leicester".
- Launch of a Garden Watch survey with Groundwork to involve the public and gain new information about wildlife in back gardens.

Objective 6.1: Protect and Improve the Network of Local Wildlife Sites

TARGET 6.1: Under development

Details

- In 2008 the Cabinet agreed the following basis for a new target to improve Wildlife Sites: *"Maintain the area of Local Sites at or above the 2008/09 baseline and increase the percentage (by area) that are assessed as being in a favourable or recovering condition"*. It was intended that this target would align with a new national performance indicator for improving Wildlife Sites: NI197 Improved Local Biodiversity. Details about how this indicator would be measured were being finalised by the Government at the time.
- The Government has now confirmed that NI197 will measure the percentage of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented. In practice, positive conservation management can be demonstrated by evidence from: a site management plan, grant funding for conservation management (through a recognised scheme), site-specific action contained in a Biodiversity Action Plan and/or the issuing of advice about conservation

management to the site owner.

- We propose to amend the wording of the EMAS target to realign with NI 197, as given under Future Actions below.
- In the absence of an agreed EMAS target for 2008/09, this Statement presents details of both the Council's performance against NI197 during the year and of the condition of Leicester's Local Wildlife Sites. It is intended to continue to report both these aspects in future years as the condition data can indicate the situation for wildlife 'on the ground' while NI197 indicates efforts to improve it.

Table 6.1a – Leicester City Council Performance Against National Indicator 197: Improved Local Biodiversity

Year	Total No. of Sites	No. of Sites with Positive Conservation Management	NI197 Measure: % of Sites with Positive Conservation Management	Target
2008/09	31	14	45%	No target set for 2008/09.
2009/10	-	-	-	65%

Table 6.1b – Condition of Leicester's Local Wildlife Sites in 2008/09

Condition	All Sites		Council Owned Sites	
	No. of Sites	% by Area	No. of Sites	% by Area
Favourable – Improving	0	0	0	0
Favourable - Stable	13	27	12	32
Unfavourable – Recovering	3	23	3	31
Unfavourable – Declining	10	21	9	23
Suffered significant decline / damage	5	29	4	11

Objective 6.2: Improve the City's Tree Cover and Condition

TARGET 6.2a: Plant 10,000 trees by 2011

Progress in 2008/09	Improvement	On Course to Meet the Target?	✓
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Details

- A net total of 2,986 trees was planted up to the end of 2008/09. (The net total takes account of trees removed during the year.)
- With project milestones to achieve 3000 trees planted by the end of 2008/09 and 6800 by the end of 2009/10 the current total is more or less on track to meet the 10,000 target by the end of March 2011.
- The 10,000 Trees project includes schools and Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire are working with schools to involve them in tree planting in their grounds.

Objective 6.3: Improve the Quality of Council-Owned Public Open Space**TARGET 6.3a: Under development****Details**

- In 2008 the Cabinet agreed that a target should be investigated for increasing the quality of City and District Parks specifically. These are the two highest categories of parks in terms of the range of functions they are expected to fulfill.
- A proposed target, set out under Future Actions below, will be put to the Cabinet in autumn 2009 for approval.

TARGET 6.3b: Achieve a 2% increase in the overall quality of provision by 2010/11 from a baseline average of 50% in 2008/09, as measured against the Green Flag Award criteria.

Progress in 2008/09	No information available	On Course to Meet the Target?	No information available
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Details

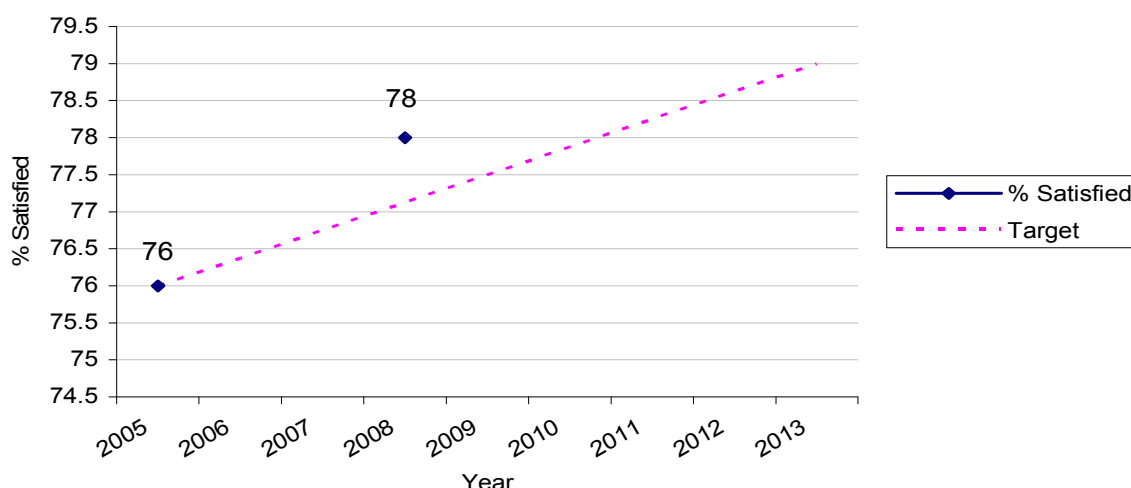
- The Council uses the Green Flag Award criteria to measure the quality of its open spaces.
- The baseline assessments were carried out by consultants in 2007/08 as part of a wider Open Space Study for the Council.
- It is planned to update the original assessments biennially and the first update is currently underway. The results will be available in the 2009/10 Environmental Statement.

TARGET 6.3c: Increase park user satisfaction levels from 74% (2005) to 79% (2013).

Progress in 2008/09	Improvement	On Course to Meet the Target?	✓
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Details

- As Chart 6.3c shows, the Council is currently on track to meet this target. However, the baseline figure of 74% quoted has been found to be incorrect. The chart shows the correct 2005 figure of 76%.
- The data is sourced from MORI surveys commissioned in 2005 and 2008.

Chart 6.3c – Percentage of Users Satisfied with Parks

Objective 6.4: Enhance the Quality of the Natural Environment in School Grounds (EMAS Schools)

TARGET 6.4: 90% of EMAS schools to have a wildlife or food growing area by April 2012

Progress in 2008/09	No information available	On Course to Meet the Target?	No information available

Details

- Figures are not currently available, but will be included in the 2009/10 Statement.

Future Action

Efforts will continue, on a site-by-site basis, to turn around the decline of the 9 Local Wildlife Sites referred to earlier.

With the current Biodiversity Action Plan: “Wild About Leicester” finishing at the end of 2009, the new plan will be completed and adopted by the start of 2010. The 2009 Garden Watch project, led by Groundwork, is planned to lead into a series of annual single-species surveys for the public to get involved in from 2010.

Subject to Cabinet approval in the autumn of 2009, the new Greenspaces Strategy will set the framework for maintaining and improving the overall quality of Council-managed open spaces in the coming years. The Strategy will guide the targeting of resources towards improving the quality and accessibility of green spaces in priority areas.

The following new targets will be put before the Cabinet in the autumn of 2009 for approval:

- Proposed Target 6.1*:** Increase the percentage of local wildlife sites that have received or are receiving positive conservation management to 65% in 2009/10.

* This is the Council's target for improving wildlife habitats in line with the national performance indicator NI197.

- ***Proposed Target 6.3a*: Increase the number 'Green Flag' parks from 6 to 10 by 2013.***

* This target is also being proposed as part of the Greenspace Strategy which will go before the Cabinet in the autumn of 2009.

7. Council Provision of Public Open Space

Progress During the Year

During the year, the Parks Service continued to develop a new Greenspace Strategy for the Council which, when approved, will form the basis for prioritising resources to best meet Leicester's needs for public open space. Preparation of the new Local Development Framework also continued during the year, with public consultation completed on a draft of the Core Strategy (the overarching policy document). The LDF will be important in protecting public open space in the future.

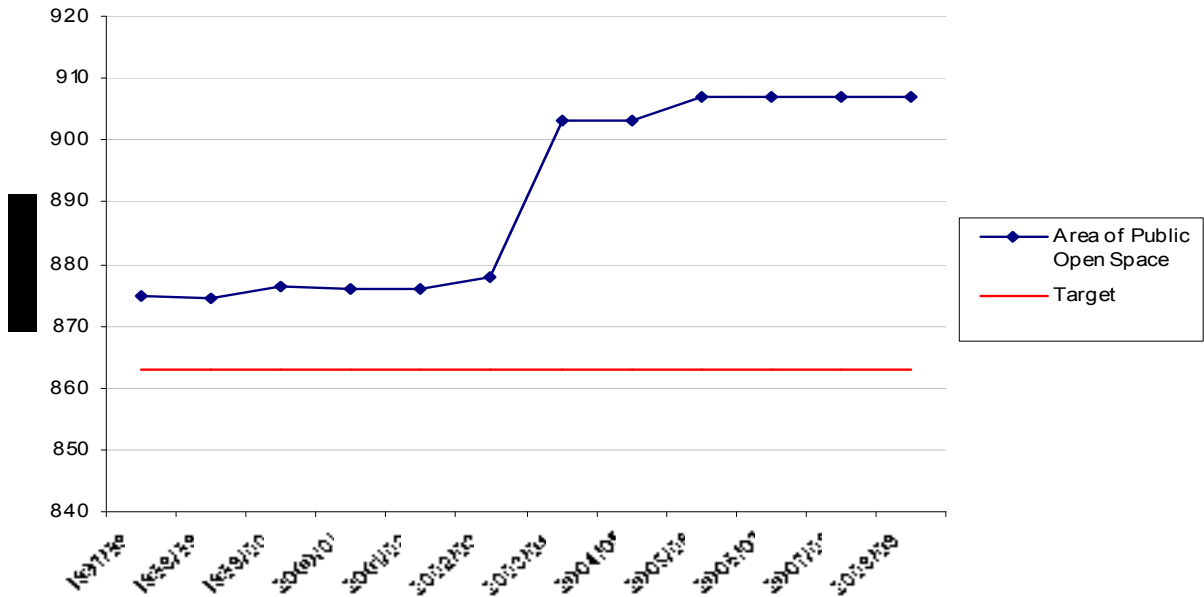
Objective 7.1: Provide Leicester People With Enough Accessible Public Open Space

TARGET 7.1: Under development

Details

- An Open Space Study commissioned by the Council as part of the evidence base for the new Local Development Framework proposed a set of standards for open space provision in Leicester - in relation to both the area provided and its accessibility ie the distance people have to travel to reach it.
- These standards took account of a range of factors including national Planning Policy Guidance, levels of provision in other UK cities and local factors specific to Leicester.
- As well as informing local planning policy development, the Study has provided an evidence base for the development of a new Greenspace Strategy for the city by the Parks Service, incorporating the recommended open space standards within the long-term goals for parks and opens spaces development.
- The previous EMAS target for public open space provision was removed from the programme in December 2008 and will be replaced with a target which aligns with the goals of both the LDF and Greenspace Strategy .
- In the meantime, any net gains or losses of Council owned public open space will be monitored and reported in the Environmental Statement.
- There were no losses or gains of Council owned public open space during 2008/09, as illustrated in Chart 7.1 below.

Chart 7.1 – Area of Council Owned Publicly Accessible Open Space



Objective 7.2: To Retain a Net Area of Open Space in School Grounds (All Schools)

TARGET 7.2: To be developed

Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The data collection methodology for this objective is still being developed through the Property Services' PAMIS system and a target for the minimum area of open space in school grounds to be retained will be set when the data collection methodology has been established.

Future Action

Both the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework and the Greenspace Strategy are expected to go before the Cabinet for approval in the late summer or autumn of 2009.

8. The Quality of the Built Environment on Council Owned Land

Progress During the Year

The Council regularly needs to build new buildings or refurbish old ones. Currently most of its building work is for schools. The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, for example, is the Council's largest capital investment for the last 50 years. There are sixteen secondary schools due for re-build or major refurbishment, with capital funds reserved for a Secondary Pupil Referral Unit and Secondary Special Schools. BSF is being led by the Leicester Miller Education Company Limited, a joint venture company between the local authority and the private sector.

It is important that Council buildings are built to minimise their impact on the environment and the Council is seeking to adopt the BREEAM* environmental construction standard for new buildings and major refurbishments over £1,000,000.

* Refer to details section below for Target 8.1.

Objective 8.1: Create a Sustainable Built Environment on Council Owned Land

TARGET 8.1: To be developed

Details

- BREEAM (the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology) is a widely used suite of environmental construction standards that cover many of the Council's environmental objectives.
- BREEAM standards can be applied to most common building types including offices and schools. The BREEAM Design assessment rates a building design from 'pass' through to 'outstanding'. The rating is based on an overall score that is calculated by awarding credit scores based on achievement across a wide range of environmental issues. The assessment is undertaken by an independent, qualified assessor and the BREEAM certificate is issued by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) on project completion.
- The Council is considering adopting the BREEAM environmental construction standard for new buildings and major refurbishment over £1,000,000. Major refurbishments will be required to achieve a BREEAM Design rating of "very good" and new buildings "excellent".
- If the standard is adopted, it will form the basis for EMAS target 8.1.

Objective 8.2: Create Sustainable School Buildings

TARGET 8.2: By ensuring that from 2007/08 all new or refurbished schools exceed* “very good” standards as defined by BREEAM (* to achieve an overall score of 65%)

Progress in 2008/09	No information available	On Course to Meet the Target?	No information available
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Details

- At the end of 2008/09 none of the Council’s school building projects that had been registered for BREEAM Design had actually been completed. However, all four of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) phase 1 secondary schools were on target to achieve BREEAM “excellent” or “very good”. The BSF phase 1 schools are: Beaumont Leys Specialist Science School, Fullhurst Community College, Soar Valley Community College and Judgemeadow Community College.
- The schools currently being refurbished or rebuilt as part of the Primary School Capital Programme will target BREEAM “very good”.

Future Action

The sustainable construction standard based around BREEAM that is being developed for new Council buildings and major refurbishments (see 8.1 above) will form the basis of a target for Objective 8.1.

Building Schools for the Future phase 2 has commenced. The schools in phase 2 will also be designed to achieve BREEAM “excellent”.

9. The Quality of Leicester's Built Environment

Progress During the Year

In April 2008 a new requirement was introduced for developers submitting applications for Major Developments to include an Energy Statement. The Statement should identify the overall energy requirement of a new development and demonstrate how the required on-site renewable percentage will be met. During the year the Leicester Better Buildings Project continued to provide advice to developers and planners, both on appropriate renewable technologies for developments and on the preparation of Energy Statements.

Work also started on the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Climate Change. This is intended to form part of the new Local Development Framework (LDF), which will be adopted in 2011 and includes tackling climate change as a priority for the planning system locally. The SPD which will offer guidance to developers and planners on interpreting the LDF policy in practice.

Objective 9.1: Create a Sustainable Built Environment Within the City

TARGET 9.1: Increase the percentage of Planning Applications for Major Developments applying Policy BE16:

75% in 2007/08

85% in 2008/09

90% in 2009/10

Progress in 2008/09	Worsening	On Course to Meet the Target?	Uncertain
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Details

- Local Plan Policy BE16 requires planning conditions to be applied to consents for Major Developments, specifying a percentage of the energy demand of the development to be provided by on-site renewable sources. In 2008/09 this was 12%.
- Target 9.1 is to increase the percentage of applications where these planning conditions are applied to the consent.
- Since implementation in April 2007 performance has exceeded the target figure for the first full year, as indicated in Table 9.1, and not quite achieved the target compliance outcome for the period 2008-09.

Table 9.1 – Percentage of Planning Applications for Major Developments Applying Policy BE16

Year	Actual Performance	Target
2007/08	84.3%	75%
2008/09	79.5%	85%
2009/10	-	90%

Future Action

Over the coming year the priorities will include to:

- Improve the levels of compliance with energy policy by training planners, supporting developers with guidance and streamlining monitoring and reporting.
- Identify the most cost effective way for development to deliver low and zero carbon outcomes, including building fabric and services efficiency, as well as energy sourcing. Investigate the scope for local community energy networks to contribute to these outcomes and the means by which this approach could be pursued.
- Prepare a first draft of the Climate Change SPD for public consultation.

10. The Council's Vulnerability to the Impact of Climate Change

10.1 Flash Flooding

10.2 Summer Heatwaves and Prolonged Periods of Increased Average Temperatures

10.3 Reduced Summer Water Availability

Progress During the Year

Climate change adaptation is the anticipation of, and preparation for, key impacts of climate change across the complete range of Council services and estate. The impacts predicted by the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) include hotter, drier summers, milder, wetter winters and more frequent extreme weather events such as localised flash flooding, heat waves and increased storminess.

During 2008, the Council undertook a comprehensive risk assessment of the vulnerability of its services to these predicted impacts. The process identified issues considered to require immediate attention and these were categorised under three new EMAS significant effects:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 10.1 | Flood risk |
| 10.2 | Summer heatwaves and prolonged periods of increased average temperatures |
| 10.3 | Water availability |

A description of the key action taken towards these three significant effects is provided below:

10.1 Flood risk

- Mapping of the highway drainage infrastructure is the vital first step in order to identify flood hotspots and to be able to respond to these through amended maintenance regimes for clearing gullies and culverts, etc. The mapping is approximately 80% completed with footways and verges still outstanding.
- In order to ensure that emergency response procedures are adequate to cover the eventuality of a major flood affecting the road network, an Emergency Management Local Flood Plan was completed in July 2008. Attention has now focused on implementing the flood plan, developing community flood plans and training flood wardens.

10.2 Summer heatwaves and prolonged periods of increased average temperatures

- A key action for the City Council estate is to develop a pro-forma to enable the assessment of the risks of the impact of climate change on new developments. A supplementary planning document is to be developed to help manage city-wide projects through the planning process.

- A national heat-wave plan produced by the NHS is now available on the Internet. The Council is reviewing the opportunity to plant trees to shade and cool the urban areas in a tree strategy. Work started on this in summer 2008. In addition, elected members are committed to a manifesto to plant up to 10,000 new trees with consultations taking place through Ward Community Meetings in 2008.

10.3 Water availability

- The Council will need to identify buildings and infrastructure most susceptible to subsidence and introduce regular maintenance inspections to check for damage. A guidance note will be developed for all responsible officers that includes instructions to conduct annual inspections and to inform of any suspected subsidence. Any new project must give due consideration to the suitability of trees and shrubs to reduce the subsidence risk.

The Council also considered the vulnerability and cost to its services of extreme weather events that have already occurred over the previous 8 years in a project known as Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP). The key findings of this project were that weather events between 2000 and July 2008 have cost Leicester City Council £3.56 million, and have severely impaired the Council's service provision on several occasions. Weather events have also benefitted the Council; mainly due to increased attendance at events and the recent trend of reduced gritting requirements.

The Council's work on adaptation was showcased at the regional conference in January 2009 (refer to section 11).

Targets for each of these significant effects will be set over the next twelve months and reported in the 2009/2010 Public Statement.

11. Leicester's Vulnerability to the Impact of Climate Change

Progress During the Year

This new 'Significant Environmental Effect' was adopted by the Council as part of EMAS in December 2008. Specific objectives and targets were not proposed at that stage, but a target has been set in Leicester's Local Area Agreement and this target, together with an accompanying Objective, will be proposed to the Cabinet in November 2009 for inclusion in EMAS (see Future Action below).

The Council completed a comprehensive risk assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate for its own services in 2008, enabling priority risks to be identified and an action plan to be developed (refer to section 10). It also completed stage one of a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) identifying the vulnerability of local authority services to extreme weather events over the last 8 years and providing an estimate of the impact on resources.

Building on this work, subsequent LCLIP stages 2 and 3 have involved other key organisations from the Leicester Partnership and 13 partners provided data on their current level of understanding and activity.

A regional conference: Adaptation 2009, organised and hosted by the Council in partnership with the Government Office for the East Midlands in January 2009 was successful in sharing experience with peer organisations outside the city – attracting 180 delegates.

Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Rutland County Councils have agreed to work together to deliver the next stages of work towards NI188, as all three have key partners in common.

Future Action

The Council has begun engaging with partners to identify how prepared they are for inevitable climate change. In the next phase of work (level 3), it aims to encourage the identification of major weather and climate vulnerabilities and opportunities that affect the delivery of the Leicester Partnership's objectives, and to inspire partners to embark on a risk assessment process for their own service delivery.

A key task will also be to write a climate change adaptation action plan for the sub-region of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. A Climate Adaptation Research Officer has been appointed to undertake this work and will be in post from September 2009. The work is being financed by the East Midlands Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (EMRIEP), co-ordinated by the East Midlands Regional Climate Change Coordinator and StudentForce for Sustainability and supported by the UK Climate Impacts Programme.

A work plan has been agreed between the three counties in the sub-region and will be used by all other local authorities in the East Midlands. By utilising this 'common methodology' it will be possible to share tasks, avoid duplication of work, learn from each other and compare results.

The following Objective and Target will be proposed to the Cabinet in November 2009 for inclusion in EMAS:

Proposed Objective 11.1: Prepare for Leicester to address the risks and opportunities of a changing climate.

Proposed Target 11.1: To achieve the following levels of preparedness* in assessing and addressing the risks and opportunities of a changing climate:

<i>April 2009</i>	<i>April 2010</i>	<i>April 2011</i>
<i>Level 2</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 4</i>

* Levels defined in Guidance for National Performance Indicator NI188: Planning to Adapt to Climate Change.

THE WISE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

12. The Council's Energy and Fuel Use

Progress During the Year

Due to the close links between the Council's energy and fuel use and its carbon dioxide emissions, the progress reported below will be relevant to section 1 of the Statement too. Key areas of work during the year were:

- *Energy in Buildings Survey and Investment Programme* – A survey of Leisure Centres was completed, identifying energy efficiency measures that could achieve 38% carbon dioxide reductions. The measures feasible immediately could achieve 26%, with others needing to be written into planned maintenance programmes. Implementation began in 2008/09 and will continue over several years.
- *Energy efficient street lighting* – Schemes were completed in Victoria Park, the Clock Tower and the Town Hall and Methodist Church.
- *The Coleman Primary School* – The extension at Coleman Primary School has just been completed. It includes a wind turbine, photo-voltaic cells, thermal hot water and straw bale insulation. The extension will be opening in September 2009.
- *Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme* - 100 of the older vehicles from the Central Vehicle Pool were replaced in 2008/09 with new models, expected to be more fuel efficient.
- *The Big Switch Off* – Over the two hours of the Big Switch Off, Intelligent Metering data from eight buildings showed a 10.1% reduction in electricity demand compared to the average for a Friday in September/October.

Objective 12.1: Reduce the Council's Total Energy Consumption

TARGET 12.1a: To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025

Progress in 2008/09	No information available	On Course to Meet the Target?	No information available
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Details

- In 2008 the Cabinet agreed to widen the existing target for reducing energy use in buildings to cover all the Council's energy use. This resulted in the new target 12.1a above. It was further agreed to set a series of sub-targets for each element of energy use, that would between them achieve the overall 50% cut. The existing target for buildings was, for the time being, retained at its existing level of 50% (see target 12.1b below).
- During 2008/09 the Council expanded and improved its systems for collection and interpretation of energy data to enable reporting of carbon dioxide and air pollution figures to central Government for the new National Performance Indicators NI185 and NI194. These new indicators are explained in more detail in sections 1 and 3 respectively.
- Data collected for NI185 and 194 from 2008/09 onwards will form the basis for reporting on target 12.1a and its sub-targets in the 2009/10 and subsequent

- Environmental Statements.
- Reporting of energy and fuel use will be aligned with the reporting of carbon dioxide emissions, as the two are closely related.

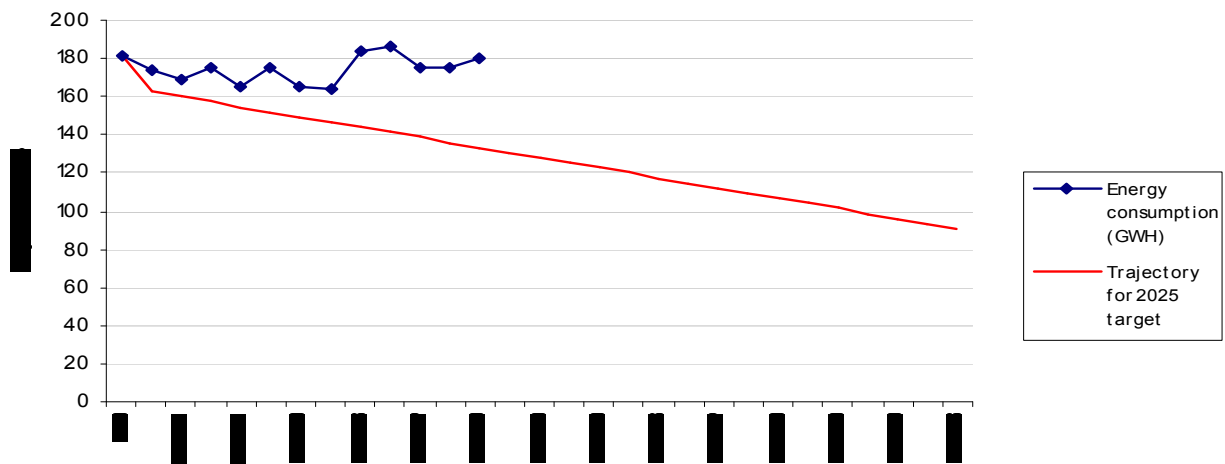
TARGET 12.1b (Council buildings): To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025

Progress in 2008/09	Worsening	On Course to Meet the Target?	x
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Details

- The figures illustrated in Chart 12.1b below are based on the same definitions and reporting methodology used in previous Environmental Statements.
- There are notable differences from the energy figures used in reporting to central Government for NI185 and 194. During 2009/10 the Council will review its methodology for reporting its buildings energy use for EMAS to consider whether it should be aligned with reporting for NI185 and 194.
- A small increase in use during 2008/09 is shown in Chart 12.1b, although variations in the timing of billing can be responsible for fluctuations of this size.
- However, as the Chart shows, the Council is not on track to meet Target 12.1b and only appears to be holding its energy use steady compared to the 1990 level.
- There are a number of factors influencing this. The winter of 2008/09 was cooler overall than any of the previous five winters, which will have influenced heating energy use. Another factor is changes in the Council's portfolio of buildings. The opening of Knighton Tennis Centre as a new facility in 2008, for example, will have added to the energy demand. These factors may have offset any reductions from energy efficiency measures installed during the year.

Chart 12.1b: Energy Use in Council Buildings



Objective 12.2: Increase the Council's Generation and Use of Renewable Energy

TARGET 12.2: From 0% of the energy requirement of all Council buildings in 1997 to 20% of the energy requirement of all buildings in 2020

Progress in 2008/09	No change	On Course to Meet the Target?	x
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Details

- When this target was originally set, the Council's objective focused on increasing its *use* of renewable energy and it worked towards the target by buying renewably generated 'green tariff' electricity from the National Grid.
- However, the rising cost of 'green tariff' electricity, driven by increasing demand, led the Council to stop buying it during 2006/07. As a result, the percentage of the buildings energy demand supplied quickly declined to reach zero in 2007/08.
- The new objective 12.2 was approved by the Cabinet in December 2008 and now reflects the importance of local generation of renewables – not just their use. Target 12.2 will be revised to reflect this in the coming year.
- Whilst the loss of green tariff electricity is disappointing, the Council now buys its hourly and half-hourly metered electricity from 'good quality' Combined Heat and Power (CHP) sources. CHP makes much more efficient use of fuel to generate heat and electricity, resulting in lower carbon dioxide emissions for each kilowatt of electricity produced.

Objective 12.3: Reduce Schools Total Energy Consumption (All Schools)

TARGET 12.3: By an average of 1.43% per annum between 2008/09 and 2025/26

Progress in 2008/09	No information available	On Course to Meet the Target?	No information available
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Details

- Details of schools energy use in 2008/09 have been gathered as part of the Council's reporting for National Indicators NI185 and 194 (refer to section 1 for details). The figures for school buildings are presented below in Table 12.3.
- These figures will form the baseline from which progress towards Target 12.3 is judged in future years.

Table 12.3 – Energy Used in School Buildings in 2008/09

	Energy Used (kWh)	Percentage
Electricity	19,964,162	25.45
Natural Gas	56,943,817	72.59
Burning Oil	1,339,187	1.71
LPG	192,687	0.25
TOTAL	78,439,854	100.00

Notes for Table 12.3:

1. The figures cover all state funded schools in Leicester. These include Samworth Academy, a number of voluntary aided schools and BSF schools. The Council is not responsible for these schools' buildings, but is required to include them for reporting of NI185/194.
2. The figure for buildings energy use includes an element of estimation, as some schools were unable to provide information.

Objective 12.4: Increase Schools Generation and Use of Renewable Energy (All Schools)

TARGET 12.4: To 20% of energy requirements in 2020/21

Progress in 2008/09	No information available	On Course to Meet the Target?	No information available
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Details

The Council is not able to monitor progress towards this target and it will be reviewed together with target 12.2 during 2009/10.

Future Action

Action in 2009/10 will include (subject to funding being available):

- *Energy in Buildings Survey and Investment Programme* – Continued introduction of energy saving measures recommended for Leisure Centres and carrying out a review to produce proposals for the central administrative buildings (CLABs).
- *Street Light Dimming* – Two major programmes, funded through the Regional Efficiency and Improvement Partnership and Spend to Save respectively, will install controllers to dim street lights later at night, saving a significant amount of energy.
- *Driver Training Programme* – Introduction of a one day training course for drivers of fleet vehicles, to develop safer and more fuel efficient driving skills.
- *Rushey Mead School* – The BSF phase 2 school has been awarded Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) funding for a carbon neutral refurbishment. This will involve a comprehensive range of energy efficiency measures such as low energy lighting, better thermal insulation, improved controls. A virtual energy centre will also provide pupils with real time data on energy use. Renewable energy technologies such as solar thermal hot water, photovoltaic cells, wind turbine and small scale hydro from the local brook will also be installed.

13. Leicester's Use of Energy and Fuel

Progress During the Year

Leicester's work to reduce energy and fuel use is key also to its efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, so a number of areas of progress are described in section 2 of this statement which looks at Leicester's carbon dioxide emissions. The details below supplement section 2, looking in more detail at energy efficiency in housing.

Until 2008 the Council's EMAS target for city wide energy related to increasing the average 'SAP' rating of the housing stock. SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) is the Government's approved method for assessing energy efficiency in houses. We demonstrated good progress in increasing the average SAP rating of Council housing, but have not been able to establish an average SAP rating for private sector households to allow us to track progress in the same way across all tenures.

However, information about energy efficiency improvement measures carried out to the city's housing stock is collected and reported annually as part of Leicester's Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) returns. It covers all housing tenures and is expressed in terms of "percentage improvement in energy efficiency". There is also a figure produced for the resulting reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions too.

HECA legislation is likely to be repealed but Leicester will continue to gather domestic energy efficiency information as the basis for estimating progress towards a CO₂ reduction target for the household sector.

The following projects or programmes made a significant contribution during 2008/09:

Energy efficiency in Council owned houses

- The Housing Capital Programme continued to support annual central heating boiler replacement work, heating controls upgrades, topping up of loft insulation and installation of double glazed replacement windows.
- All of the Council's standard cavity wall properties have been filled with insulation material but we have been awarded funding to fill non-standard cavities in system built houses and flats (see Future Action, below).

Energy efficiency in privately owned houses

- Leicester's Hot Lofts project, in partnership with British Gas, has made a significant impact on reducing domestic CO₂ emissions for the private sector (details in section 2).
- The Home Energy Team provides advice and information to help private homeowners invest in energy efficiency and also works with partners to maximise the amount of Government funding spent on energy efficiency for low-income households in the city.
- We secured National Growth Point funding of £400,000 over 2 years (up to March 2010) for an energy efficiency / renewable energy scheme in the private sector.

Objective 13.1 - Reduce Leicester's total energy consumption

TARGET: The need for a separate energy target will be reviewed in light of the close links to existing carbon dioxide reduction targets.

Future Action

- 1,055 'non-standard' cavity walls in system built houses and flats will be used to insulated using funding from the Social Housing Energy Saving Programme.
- An expansion of the Hot Lofts scheme is proposed – having been agreed by the Council's Reducing Carbon Priority Theme Board as being one of the most cost effective schemes per tonne of CO₂ saved.

14. The Council's Waste

Progress During the Year

All Council services produce waste. It is a large and varied waste stream - ranging from old traffic lights to the waste paper produced in the offices - that is managed by several companies. These companies do not provide dedicated vehicles for the Council's waste, which is collected alongside the waste of other organisations. For this reason it is very difficult to monitor the amount of Council waste produced.

Despite this difficulty work continues within the Council to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Progress during the year included:

- The appointment of a Waste Minimisation Officer and a pilot recycling scheme for paper, card and other recyclables in a mix of city centre administrative buildings and community buildings.
- Continued good performance on limiting the amount of construction waste produced as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme; phase 1 projects being limited to 7.16 m³ per £100,000 of completed work.

Objective 14.1: Reduce Council Waste and the Percentage Landfilled

TARGET 14.1: To be developed

Details

- A bid for funding to establish a corporate waste production database was unsuccessful, so progress on the development of a monitoring system and improvement target has been limited.
- The pilot recycling scheme highlighted above will aim to establish recycling rates, residual waste and levels of contamination. It is hoped that information from the pilot scheme may help to set an improvement target in the future.

Objective 14.2: Reduce Schools' Waste and the Percentage Landfilled (EMAS Schools)

TARGET 14.2: To be developed

Details

- Obtaining data on the amount of waste produced by schools has also proved problematic. Initially, the school children were involved in monitoring waste production and although this had educational benefits the quality of the data collected was not suitable for long term monitoring.
- Discussions have taken place with some of the waste management companies servicing the schools. These will be progressed further in the hope that the companies can provide the data.

Objective 14.3: Reduce the Amount of School Construction Waste Going to Landfill (All Schools)

This target is a performance indicator from the BSF project.

TARGET 14.3: By ensuring that the secondary schools within the BSF programme exceed target 4 from the Continuous Improvement Plan (All schools)

Progress in 2008/09	Worsening	On Course to Meet the Target?	✓
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Details

- At the end of 2008/09 levels of construction and demolition waste produced in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) phase 1 projects were 7.16 m³ per £100,000 of completed work. This exceeds both BSF target level 1 (less than 43m³) and target level 2 (less than 65m³).
- This is a higher level of waste production than the 2007/08 rate of 2m³ per £100,000 of completed work, but nonetheless maintains the good overall performance in terms of waste minimisation being achieved in the BSF programme.
- There is more information about BSF and the environment in Chapter 8.

Table 14.3 – The Amount of Construction and Demolition Waste Produced in BSF Phase 1 for Every £100,000 of Completed Work

Year	Construction and demolition waste produced (m ³ per £100,000 of completed work)	BSF Level 2 Target (m ³ per £100,000 of completed work)	BSF Level 1 Target (m ³ per £100,000 of completed work)
2007/08	2.0	Less than 65	Less than 43
2008/09	7.16	Less than 65	Less than 43

Future Action

Work will continue to establish a methodology for collecting data on Council waste production and the pilot recycling scheme will be expanded into more buildings. The Council and Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire will work in partnership with Biffa, the main schools waste contractor, to ensure that all EMAS schools use the free plastic, glass and paper recycling service provided by them and to make them aware that Biffa also offer a free cardboard recycling scheme.

15. The Waste from Leicester

Progress During the Year

One of the main services provided by the Council is the collection of household waste. This service is undertaken on behalf of the Council by a private contractor: Biffa Leicester. Every week the collection service visits over 120,000 dwellings across the city. The recyclables collected from the green kerbside collection boxes, together with the residual waste in the wheelie bins, are taken to the "Ball Mill" at the Bursom Business Park for processing. Here, the residual waste is processed and sorted by machinery to separate recyclable and compostable waste and 'floc' for sale as a refuse-derived fuel. Compostable waste is taken to an anaerobic digester at the Severn Trent sewage treatment works at Wanlip where gas is produced from it for use as a fuel to generate electricity. The digestate is further treated to produce a soil conditioner.

Waste is also collected for recycling from the string of "bring sites" across the city and the two Community Recycling Centres.

Objective 15.1: Reduce Household Waste and the Percentage Landfilled

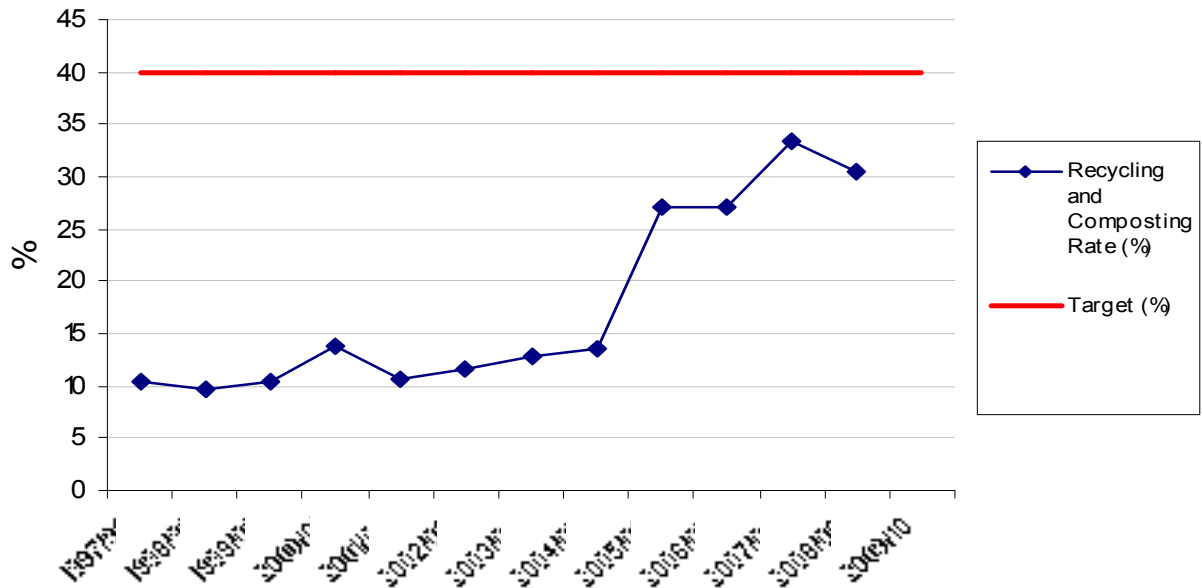
TARGET 15.1: To recycle 40% of household waste collected in 2009/10 (NI 192)

Progress in 2008/09	Worsening	On Course to Meet the Target?	x
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Details

- This target, for improvement against the National Performance Indicator NI192, requires the Council to increase the amount of household waste recycled and composted.
- The data shows that following an increase from 10.3% in 1997/98 to 33.5% in 2007/08 there was a reduction in 2008/09 to 30.6%.
- The suspected reasons for the decline in 2008/09 were problems with the technology in the recycling facility. These problems were addressed by the facility operator, Biffa Leicester, in the last quarter of the year. In order to achieve the target of 40% in 2009/10 more promotion of the kerbside recycling scheme is needed to increase participation.
- When the production of refuse derived fuel (known as 'floc') from the household waste is included in the overall figure then it goes up to 43% for 2008/09. This fuel is used for example in cement kilns. Production of refuse derived fuel is not included within the definition of recycling for National Indicator 192.

Chart 15.1 – Changes in the Percentage of Leicester’s Household Waste Recycled or Composted



Future Action

Further promotion of the kerbside recycling scheme will take place to increase participation and so increase recycling and composting.

16. The Council's Use of Water

Progress During the Year

During 2009 the partnership water saving project with Severn Trent Water reported in the 2007/08 Environmental Statement was rolled out to the remaining schools, with 42 taking up the offer of free water saving upgrades. For those schools with fully operational Intelligent Metering of their water use, significant water savings are being confirmed. However, gaps in the Intelligent Metering network mean that the full water savings across all schools can't be calculated.

An attempt to gather water usage figures directly from schools to allow a baseline to be set for future monitoring was unsuccessful (see details for Target 16.2 below).

Further expansion of the programme into some of the Council's central administrative (CLABs) buildings, expected to take place in 2009, has been delayed but is expected to take place in the coming year.

Objective 16.1 – Reduce the Council's Total Mains Water Consumption

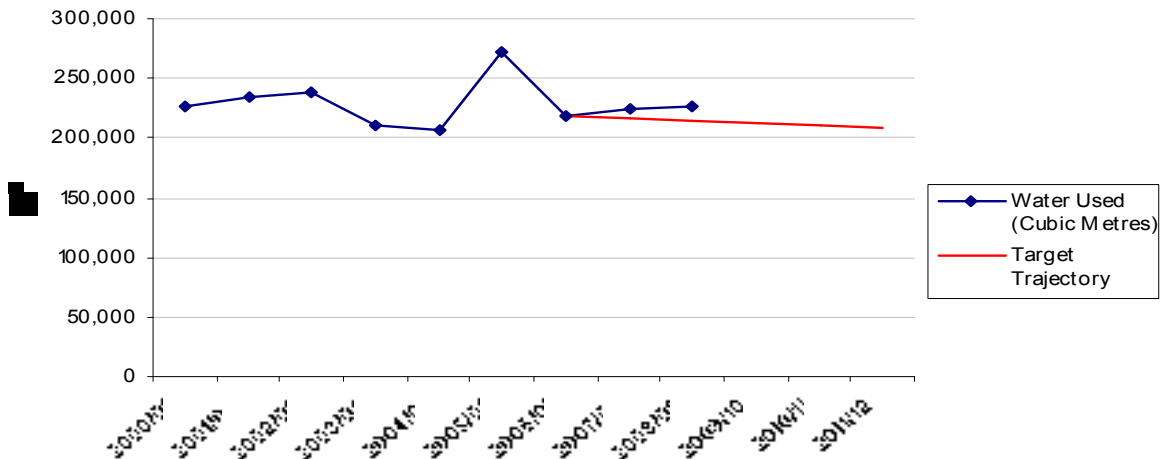
TARGET 16.1: By 5% of 2006/07 level by 2011/12

Progress in 2008/09	Worsening	On Course to Meet the Target?	Uncertain
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Details

- Council water demand arises from a combination of day-to-day requirements in buildings plus a wide range of services to the public ranging from golf courses, bowling greens and swimming pools to street cleaning operations.
- Chart 16.1 illustrates the usage figures since 2000/01 alongside the trajectory for achieving the target.
- Whilst the 2008/09 usage shows an increase on the previous two years, variations in the timing of the billing mean that it is not possible to conclude with certainty whether there is an overall upward trend. Hence, it is currently uncertain whether the Council is on course to meet its target.
- The installation of Intelligent Metering equipment in many Council buildings over recent years – enabling significant leaks to be more easily detected and dealt with, might be expected to show an impact on usage levels, which is not apparent from the graph.
- However, the main focus of investment in water saving measures during 2006/07 and 2007/08 has been in school buildings, which may help to explain the lack of a clear downward trend in water use in corporate Council buildings.

Chart 16.1 – Council Water Use



Objective 16.2: Reduce Schools’ Total Mains Water Consumption (All Schools)

TARGET 16.2: Reduce schools’ total mains water consumption by 5% of the 2006/07 level by 2011/12

Progress in 2008/09	No information available	On Course to Meet the Target?	No information available
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Details

- When this target was set, it was anticipated that monitoring of schools’ water use would become possible through the installation of intelligent metering by the Energy Team. However, technical issues have prevented its full roll-out to schools and comprehensive monitoring has not been possible to date.
- During 2009 an attempt was made to gather water use billing data directly from schools by ‘piggy-backing’ on another piece of work requesting data from them about their energy and fuel use for the new National Indicator NI185 (refer to section 1). This proved difficult due to the time involved for school staff and difficulties interpreting the information on the bills. The result was that data was received from only a small proportion of schools.
- The potential to monitor this schools target will be reviewed over the coming year.

Future Action

It is hoped to progress the roll-out of the partnership with Severn Trent Water into some of the Council’s central administrative (CLABs) buildings in the coming year as originally intended. If this goes ahead, it is hoped to begin achieving a clear improvement towards Target 16.1.

It is also planned to begin making data from the Intelligent Metering system (for gas and electricity use as well as water) available on-line to Council staff – encouraging them to introduce ‘good housekeeping’ measures in their buildings by giving them the chance to see the impact of their actions on screen the next day.

17. Council Use of Paper

Progress During the Year

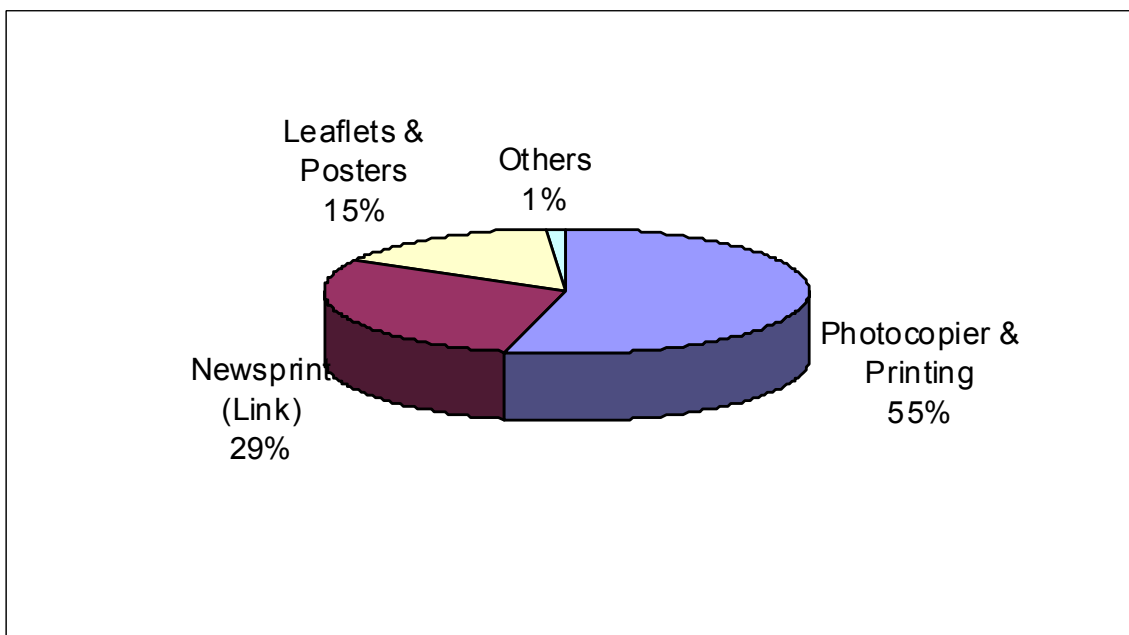
- All print procurement is now routed through the Print Procurement Unit which provides the opportunity to monitor the use of paper; this has not been possible in the past.
- In February 2009 the Council’s Environment Network (refer to section III for details about the Network) held a promotional campaign: ‘The Big Paper Cut’. The campaign was intended to raise staff awareness of paper use and paper wastage. It challenged people to try and spend a day without using paper or to reduce their use as much as possible.

Objective 17.1: Reduce the Quantity of Paper Used

TARGET: Under Development

Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ From the beginning of the 2008/09 financial year the Print Procurement Unit has collected and monitored print procurement figures. ▪ The Council used a total of 63,966,414 sheets of paper (expressed as A4 sheets) in 2008/09 ▪ Chart 17.1 illustrates how this figure is broken down by category.

Chart 17.1: Paper Used by Type



Objective 17.2: Increase the Use of Recycled Paper as a Percentage of Overall Paper Use

TARGET 17.2: To meet the following standards for recycled paper use from 2009/10:

- All publications, leaflets, flyers and posters to use at least 75% recycled paper.
- All site and volume photocopying to use 100% post consumer waste paper.
- All Council stationery to use 100% post consumer waste.
- All printing of web products (e.g. Link) to be 100% recycled paper.
- All basic digital colour low volume printing to be on 100% post consumer waste paper

Progress in 2008/09	Standard Met	On Course to Meet the Target?	✓
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Details

- In December 2008 the Cabinet approved Target 17.2 as the standards to be met for recycled paper use.
- From the beginning of the 2008/09 financial year the Print Procurement Unit has collected and monitored print procurement figures, which enable us to monitor whether the standard is being met.
- The figures in Table 17.2 show that the standard was met in 2008/09.

Table 17.2 – Quantity of Paper Used by Type and Recycled Content

Type of Material	Examples of Use	% Recycled Available	% used meeting highest recycled content	Percentage of overall paper use
White photocopying paper	Site and volume photocopying	100% post consumer waste	100%	43.53%
Newsprint	Printing of web products (e.g. Link)	100%	100%	29.11%
Silk, satin papers/board	Quality publications, leaflets, posters	75%	100%	15.28%
Stationery paper & basic digital colour print paper	Printing of all Council stationery & digital colour low volume print	100% post consumer waste	100%	9.29%
NCR paper	Carbonless forms	None currently available with recycled content	N/A	1.38%
Tinted paper	Tinted paper for	No suitable	N/A	1.01%

	photocopiers	paper currently available		
High quality digital colour print paper	Digital colour low volume print	Currently testing	N/A	0.40%

Objective 17.3: Increase the Use of Recycled Paper in Schools (EMAS Schools)

TARGET 17.3: All EMAS schools to use recycled paper by 2012

Progress in 2008/09	No information available	On Course to Meet the Target?	No information available

Details

- Figures are not currently available, but will be included in the 2009/10 Statement.

Future Action

Efforts will continue to find increased recycled content paper for use in leaflets, posters, carbonless form paper and digital colour low volume printing. Work will also continue to increase staff awareness about the use of paper and encourage behavioural change to reduce the quantity of paper used.

A CARING COMMUNITY – MAKING LEICESTER A GREAT PLACE

18. Education, Awareness and Action

Progress During the Year

At the start of 2008/09 an Environmental Sustainability Team was created. The team, which is hosted by the Council, brings together two existing posts to work on behalf of the Leicester Partnership (Leicester's Local Strategic Partnership). Its role is to promote environmental action by organisations and individuals in the city, with a particular focus on climate change.

During the year the team has organised a series of events and initiatives designed to raise the profile of environmental sustainability issues and to stimulate action. These included:

- *“Climate Change – What’s Your Plan?”* – a scheme launched in 2007/08 as a means for involving businesses and other organisations in tackling climate change. Continued promotion during the year contributed to a running total of 48 visits made and 34 Climate Change Action Plans completed through the scheme to date.
- *“Reducing the Carbon Costs of Your Business”* – a half day event run in partnership with Business Link.
- *“God’s Fragile Earth”* – an initiative with Leicester Diocese including an event at Leicester Cathedral at which 8 world bishops spoke, attracting 500 people.
- *“The Big Switch Off”* – a one-day mass effort across Leicester and Leicestershire by the local authorities, schools, businesses and public to save energy by switching off any appliances and lights not in use.
- *“Greening the Laughs”* – offered environmental assessments to Leicester Comedy Festival venues with ‘The Green Room’ award for the best. 10 venues took part.
- A partnership with community group Transition Leicester involving a workshop and screenings of “A Crude Awakening” and “The Power of Community” to invited audiences from the business, public and voluntary sectors.

A number of other teams in the Council, plus contracted services and partner organisations also promoted environmental action in the community during the year or played an enabling role. For example:

- *Energy Team* – encouraged homeowners to install loft and cavity wall insulation through the Hot Lofts scheme (refer to section 2).
- *Sustainable Transport Team* – promoted cycling, walking and bus use through an active programme of campaigns and initiatives.
- *Travel Planning and Development Co-ordination Team* – supported employers in the development of Travel Plans.
- *BIFFA Leicester* – encouraged resident participation in the recycling services for household waste (refer to section 15).
- *Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire* – supported 71 schools to implement EMAS (see Target 18.2 below).

Objective 18.1: Increase Action by the Public and Partner Organisations to Improve Leicester's Environmental Sustainability

TARGET 18.1: To be developed

Details

- Objective 18.1 was amended in 2008 to focus directly on environmental action by the community rather than on awareness – for which the previous target was achieved.
- The Cabinet agreed that a new target should be developed during 2009/10 for the revised objective.

Objective 18.2: Raise Levels of Environmental Awareness and Action Within Schools (EMAS schools)

TARGET 18.2: By annually increasing the number of Leicester schools participating in EMAS from 13 schools in 2003/04 to 90 schools in 2010/11

Progress in 2008/09

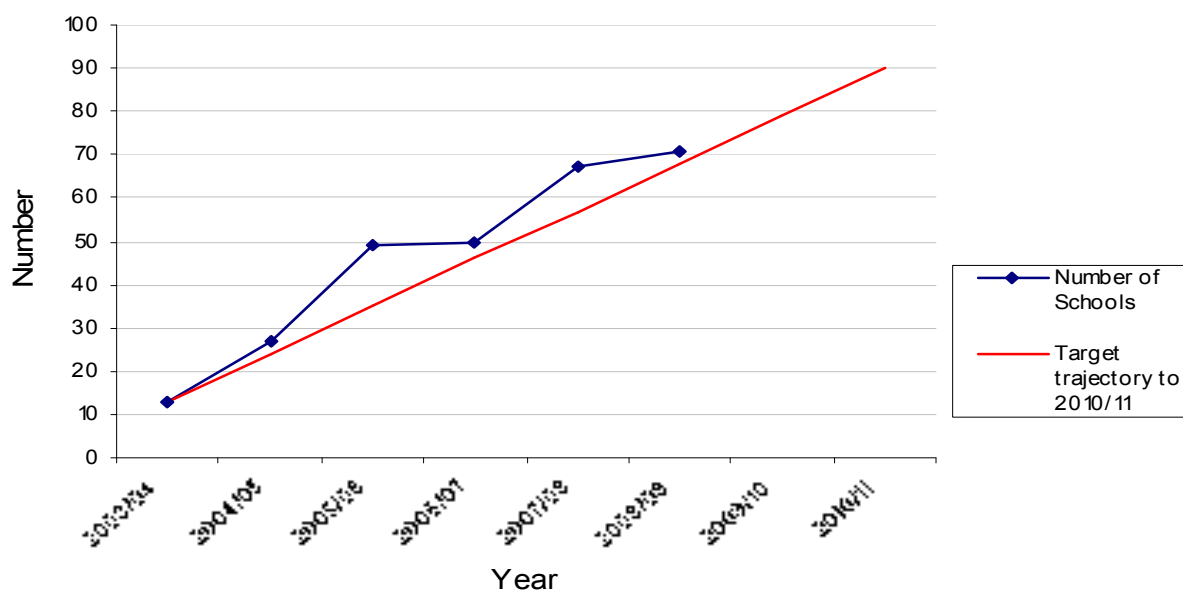
Improvement

On Course to Meet the Target?



Details

- The city is nationally recognised for its work to incorporate schools within the scope of the EMAS environmental management system and has a target of including 90 schools by 2010/11.
- At the start of 2008/09 71 schools had signed up for EMAS through the support programme provided by the local environmental charity Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire. All of these schools were included in the updated system scope following the November 2008 EMAS verification.
- 71 schools is an improvement over the 2007/08 figure of 67 schools and remains on track to meet the 2010/11 target (refer to Chart 18.2).
- EMAS in schools aims to raise the environmental awareness of youngsters across the city and reduce the environmental impacts of schools.

Chart 18.2 – Changes in the number of Leicester schools participating in EMAS

Future Action

A Communications Strategy for climate change will be developed during 2009/10 and an appropriate target or set of targets for raising awareness and inspiring action outside the Council will be investigated for inclusion in EMAS.

Work on specific promotional projects will include:

- Continuing to build up an annual programme of promotional events and initiatives, including an expanded Big Switch Off, continuation of Greening the Laughs and development of a regular annual campaign: “Breathing Space” to encourage car commuters to try an alternative travel mode for their journey to work.
- Continued roll-out of “Climate Change – What’s Your Plan?” to businesses and community organisations.
- Seeking funding to continue the Hot Lofts initiative (refer to section 2 for details);
- Further support for employers – particularly those based in the Central Transport Zone – to develop Travel Plans.
- A promotional campaign to encourage the public to use recycling services.

V. Further Information

The Council encourages people to protect the environment by providing or signposting appropriate information, advice and opportunities for involvement. Publications including the Council's Link magazine (distributed to every household), the Leicester Mercury and other media including the Council website are regularly used to publicise information about progress and new initiatives.

The details below are provided to help you find further information you might want – whether it relates to Leicester's environment, progress by the Council and its partners or action that you or your organisation could take.

Finding Out More About What's Going On

EMAS in Leicester City Council

Statements of progress such as this one are published every year. These and other details can be found on the Council's website (www.leicester.gov.uk) by clicking on the "Environmental Information" button at the bottom of the home-page. We encourage you to give us feedback on ways we can improve our environmental performance. If you have suggestions or a specific query about the scheme, contact the **Environment Team**:

Environment Team
 Regeneration, Highways and Transport Division
 Leicester City Council
 New Walk Centre A13
 Leicester LE1 6ZG
 Tel: 0116 252 6775
 Fax: 0116 255 2451
 E-mail: emas@leicester.gov.uk

One Leicester

One Leicester is an initiative developed by the Leicester Partnership to improve the city. It is based on a 25 year 'vision' for Leicester. Details of the One Leicester vision and what's going on in the city are available on the One Leicester website: www.oneleicester.com

Making a Complaint or Reporting a Problem

Leicester City Council deals with complaints and problems relating to many different aspects of the local environment including: noise, bonfires, dust and odours, litter and fly tipping, condition of pavements and management of parks and open spaces. To report an environmental problem or make a complaint or enquiry, you can contact the Council in any of the following ways:

- **Environment Line: 0116 252 7001** To report environmental problems including noise nuisance, dog fouling, fly-tipping, pollution, blocked drains and potholes.
- **Waste Management Line: 0116 252 7002** For enquires about recycling, requests for new and replacement wheelie bins, and bulk collections.
- **Parks and Green Spaces Line: 0116 252 7003** For information on grounds maintenance, play areas, woodlands, events on parks and to report litter.
- **General Enquiries Line: 0116 252 7000** If you have a general enquiry about any Council service or are unsure who you need to contact, please call this number.
- Alternatively you can submit you query using our online form at <http://eforms.leicester.gov.uk/AF3/an/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=fj4a7eEmLdX&serviceID=218> or
- Visit the **Customer Service Centre**, B Block, New Walk Centre, or
- Write to the City Council at New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG

Getting Involved

If you or your organisation would like to get involved in improving the City and its environment, here are some ideas:

Individuals

- Go to Leicester's **Climate Change Website** (<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/climate-change.asp>) for help and ideas about cutting your Carbon Dioxide emissions and signposts to further information about action you can take to protect the environment.
- Visit Leicester's **Eco House** at Western Park to see at first hand what you can do. (For directions and opening times, go to www.gwill.org.uk or telephone 0116 254 5489 or 222 0258.
- Join the **People's Panel** to have your say about Council services and issues affecting Leicester. To find out more or apply to join, contact the Council's Partnership Executive Team. Telephone 0116 252 6173, e-mail: peoplespanel@leicester.gov.uk or write to: People's Panel, Partnership Executive Team in B Block at the Council's New Walk Centre address.

Organisations

- Contact the Leicester Partnership's **Environmental Sustainability Team** for ideas about what your organisation can do. Ask about the "Climate Change – What's Your Plan?" initiative for businesses and other organisations to get involved in. Contact Debbie Hill on 0116 252 6741 or by email to debbie.hill@leicester.gov.uk
- Go to the **Environment City Website** (www.environmentcity.org.uk) for ideas and links to further information about what organisations can do.

Council Staff

- Find environmental tips for your workplace in the **Environment Network** pages on Insite. Go to: <http://insite.council.leicester.gov.uk/regeneration-and-culture/resources/et/environment-network>
- Council staff will also find plenty of guidance in the **Green Work Guide**. The Guide is, available on Insite (go to the Environment Team section within Regeneration and Culture, click on EMAS and you'll find the Guide available as a download).

- For details about EMAS environmental procedures you should be following in the workplace, visit the **Staff Handbook** on Insite and click on the EMAS link.

Schools

- Go to www.emasinschools.org.uk for a wealth of ideas for action, or contact Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire to join the EMAS in Schools programme and get expert support. E-mail: gforrester@gwll.org.uk or telephone 0116 222 1596.