



HARINGEY AGENDA 21 COMMUNITY STEERING GROUP KEY RECOMMENDATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Sign the Nottingham declaration

Originally launched in 2000, over 100 councils (around a quarter of all local authorities) have now signed the Nottingham Declaration. This is a statement of a high level commitment by a council to taking action on climate change and is signed by the Chief Executive and Council Leader. The Declaration was relaunched in December 2005 (in a slightly reworded form) with the Energy Savings Trust now taking responsibility for the scheme. EST provides an action pack for councils to help them meet their commitments using a series of milestones. For more information, see: <http://www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/localauthorities/NottinghamDeclaration>. Here you can read the text of the declaration, see which other local authorities have signed, read FAQs and register for an information pack.

2. Develop a borough-wide climate change strategy

LBH should set out its response to climate change in a comprehensive overarching strategy that deals with both adaptation and mitigation. Such a document would bring Haringey's currently disparate efforts at mitigation (Carbon Management Programme; Home Energy Conservation Act obligations/SAP ratings; Decent Homes Standard; insulation grants; UDP policies on renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable construction and design; energy efficiency commitments under best value; lightbulbs distribution/information campaign; etc) under one umbrella and consolidate them. The adaptation part of the strategy should include measures such as building design for wet & windy winters, planting for hot dry summers, action on flood protection and the use of soft rather than hard surfaces in landscaping. The overall strategy would identify gaps in LBH's current response by drawing on best practice (see resources at the end of this document). The plan should measurably reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a borough-wide scale with progress set out in an annual monitoring report. The launch of the document would represent a significant public statement of commitment to act on climate change and would reflect positively on LBH as a borough.

3. Employ an adequate number of staff to carry out this work

Staff employed to work on energy efficiency will save the council money. The council has an annual energy bill of some £6million – so savings of just a fraction of this will be enough to justify staff costs. However Woking council has shown that £millions can be saved over a relatively short time period. Over a thirteen year period from 1990 Woking borough council made savings of around 50% in the council's energy consumption and 77% cuts in their carbon dioxide emissions, saving over £1M per year. Not to do this would be simply to miss a great opportunity. Salaries for staff should be resourced from core council funds with additional funds sought from NRF if necessary/appropriate. Annual savings should be ringfenced for future investment in an energy revolving fund.

Resources

Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom (UK Climate Impacts Programme, 2002)

London's Warming – The Impacts of Climate Change on London, Summary Report (UKCIP, 2002)

Strong and Sustainable Local Communities – A briefing for Haringey Residents (Haringey Federation of Residents Associations, 2005)

Nottingham Declaration and Information Pack (Energy Saving Trust, 2006)

Suggested 11 Simple Steps of Practical Measures (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers)

Leading the Way - How Local Authorities Can Meet the Challenge of Climate Change (Local Government Association, 2005)

Aims of Local Agenda 21 in Haringey

- *Agenda 21 is based on the principle of Sustainable Development which means 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (Brundtland 1987)*