

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

The District Council is committed to improving its environmental performance and reducing the environmental impact of its work.

The District Council aims to reduce its carbon emissions in line with Government targets and has in place management practices to deliver such improvement, measure progress and report both internally and externally.

Reductions in carbon use by the District Council will be achieved by reducing travel, increasing the energy efficiency of our buildings and plant, reducing waste and increasing sustainable procurement. The focus will be on direct reductions in carbon emissions, as soon as possible, rather than a reliance on indirect carbon offsetting to achieve carbon neutrality.

The District Council:

- Signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in October 2007, making a public commitment to tackle climate change.
- Employs a full time Energy Conservation Office who works through the Kent Energy Centre to provide free and impartial advice on all aspects of energy efficiency and renewable energy to all residents.
- Has a Staff Travel Plan which identifies targets to reduce the reliance of carbon emitting travel. The Council ran a Green Transport week for staff during the summer of 2007 flagging up the benefits of car sharing, using public transport, walking and cycling.
- Recycles 33% of household waste including waste sent for composting.
- Works with the voluntary sector to encourage residents to take up composting, which reduces the gasses that contribute to global warming.
- Has adopted a Sustainable Community Action Plan to build sustainable communities and reduce carbon use.
- Has an Environmental Purchasing Policy and looks to replace major items of plant and equipment with energy efficient alternatives.
- Is part of an energy buying group for the purchase of green energy.
- Monitors carbon dioxide emissions from its buildings.
- Has introduced specified improvements and fuel additives to its fleet of vehicles leading to a reduction in carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions.

- Works with the County Council and local schools to encourage school children to walk to school. Sevenoaks District Council gives presentations and provides information for school children and their parents to encourage them to walk to school or car share and assists with the setting up of walking buses.
- Runs an annual “Streets Ahead” project which aims to encourage alternative ways to travel to school such as walking, buses, cycling and car sharing. This valuable and fun project is in the form of a survey which is carried out by primary school children.
- Is part of Kent Car Share which is run by Kent County Council. It allows anyone who lives and works in Sevenoaks District to sign up to the scheme.

The District Council compares the performance of its built estate against national data as part of the National Best Value Benchmarking Scheme. The following table shows the comparison based on the latest figures available (2006/07).

INDICATOR	NATIONAL MEDIAN	SEVENOAKS D.C.
Energy cost/m ²	£7.88	£2.81
Energy consumption/m ²	216.58 kWh	66.11 kWh
Water cost/m ²	£1.45	£0.61
Water consumption/m ²	0.755 m ³ /m ²	0.6 m ³ /m ²
CO ² emissions/m ²	0.055 tonnes	0.0318 tonnes