

## Climate Local Commitment

### Commitments and actions template:

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#### Climate Local Sefton Council:

#### Our commitments and actions

Sefton Council signed the Climate Local Commitment on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 in recognition of the important role that local authorities have in tackling climate change.

In signing the Commitment we pledged to set locally-owned and determined targets and actions on both mitigation and adaptation and publish these within six months.

The table below sets out our priorities commitments the actions will undertake to deliver them. We will monitor our performance against these actions and report regularly on our progress. We will also regularly refresh this list of actions to ensure they are up-to-date and reflect local priorities.

## Low carbon pathways

In order to create an 'energy smart' low carbon future we make the following commitment(s)

### Energy & Environmental Management

<b>Commitment: Measure energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions on our estate and our services</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> CRC legislation places a statutory obligation on Council to monitor, report and purchase allowances per tonne of carbon emitted. We also bench mark our performance from this measure as well as ensure carbon reduction activities are appropriate		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Quantifying the local authority baseline estate emissions	CRC submission and annual report an GHG made	Annual/2014

<b>Commitment: Promote the use of clean energy and greater energy efficiency on Council land and property</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> Promotion of carbon reduction activities and reduced emissions will mitigate the Councils exposure to forecast increases in energy and carbon prices and help sustain services.		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Delivery of the 2011- 2016 Carbon Management Plan for existing council operations, council estate, street lighting & schools	Plans are maintained and percentage reduction target achieved by 2016 (against baseline)	Annual/2014
Work across the local authority on the installation of energy measures, the most efficient use of buildings, street lighting, and to develop proper monitoring systems	Level of monitoring and number of schemes implemented reported	Annual/2014
Deliver energy audits and support to Sefton Schools	25 audits and action reports completed per annum	ongoing/annual
Promoting more efficient use of energy by council staff, for example through an energy efficiency awareness programme	Promotional programme maintained	
Enable process that will allow installation of energy that is generated on-site from renewable	Process established	2015

<b>Commitment: Develop and implement a Sustainable Energy Action Plan for Sefton which will compliment the Liverpool City Region SEAP (and is required under Covenant of Mayors) to reduce carbon dioxide emissions across "the whole Sefton area"</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> The Council has made a public commitment to implement a Sefton SEAP. The SEAP will stimulate and monitor reduction of overall carbon dioxide reduction for the whole community of Sefton, including businesses and households		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Publication of Sefton SEAP and becoming a signatory to the EU Covenant of Mayors programme	SEAP published /Covenant of Mayors signed. Reporting biannually on the progress made against target of 20% emissions reduction by 2020 (2005 baseline)	April 2014

<b>Commitment: Raise awareness and educate the general public on mitigation and adaptation to climate change</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> The council's strategy to manage climate change will be maximised by public understanding and behavioural change.		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Direct Sefton householders to impartial energy advice support as provided by EST and Merseyside EPPLUS	2,000 each year (we can measure from data from epplus)	ongoing/annual
Providing educational services to schools	1,500 individuals visiting/receiving educational days at Eco Centre	ongoing/annual
Engagement with public via the Eco Centre	300,000 visitors per annum	April 2014

<b>Commitment: Support renewable and low carbon energy use to reduce Sefton's dependency on finite energy resources</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> Support of renewable energy will mitigate Seftons exposure to standard supply energy price increases		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Provide Sefton community advice on FiTs and RHI	Website developed	2014/ANNUAL

<b>Commitment: Promote measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through our health promotion work</b>		
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<b>Justification:</b> As part of the Council's statutory obligations under HECA. Sefton provides frontline services to advise and support households to access household energy improvements to make the home affordable to heat and improve health. Continuing this work will reduce damaging health impacts and also reduce emissions.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Offering or referring 800 households to energy conservation and fuel poverty advice	Number of Households	2014/ANNUAL

<b>Commitment: Work with Community groups to promote greater energy efficiency, reduce energy dependency and alleviate fuel poverty</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> The Council's ability to manage climate change will be maximised, by community involvement and continued behavioural change.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Training community groups, tenants and other local residents to provide affordable warmth advice	Number of groups, tenants and other local residents trained. 10 groups target	2014
Promoting awareness of Green deal, ECO and other mechanisms which householders can use to cut carbon	Market tested for GD & ECO partner and householder database maintained	2014

<b>Commitment: Using the planning system to promote energy efficiency and a low carbon community</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> The planning system is a powerful method to drive implement low carbon activities. This ensures the most cost effective and least disruption to implementing energy efficiency and low carbon technology at the pre-construction phase.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Map existing renewable energy technologies	Mapping completed	2015

<b>Commitment: Maintain political commitment and responsibility for taking action on climate change</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> In addition to Sefton recently signing up Climate Local and the Covenant of Mayors programme, it will be important to keep all members and key decision makers informed		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Provide up to date information to members and	Number of briefing and training sessions promoted	2014

other key decision-makers on the key benefits and opportunities of tackling climate change in support of Council priorities (social, economic, employment, environmental)		
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<b>Commitment: Integrate climate change into council decision-making processes</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> Tackling climate change in isolation of key decisions will lead to additional costs/strains on services to unacceptable levels. Long term planning and cost control will need to be adopted. Lack of engagement between departments (that may lead to a perceived immediate/short term gain) will need to be reduced.		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Integrating climate change priorities and targets into all key corporate projects, programmes and strategies	Key integrations declared	2015

<b>Commitment: Ensure organisational structures are in place to take forward action across the council</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> The council has adopted the Corporate Climate Change (combined carbon management and adaptation i.e. climate local one stop shop) group as the place for departments to report progress and raise challenges in tackling climate change. Continuing to maintain this group will ensure Climate change action is progressed		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Maintaining the carbon management and climate change group that's constituted of representatives from key departments and stakeholders to undertake delivery of key actions	Number of group meetings held	ongoing/annual

<b>Commitment: Identify and implement ways for our finance department to actively support climate change action</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> It is recognised that many projects that tackle climate change, lead to quantifiable savings being made. Maintaining and expanding the business case for such investment, with the finance department assistance will be essential		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Maintaining revolving funds ('spend to save schemes') to support projects with large potential energy savings and longer payback periods,	Number of projects supported or fund size maintained	ongoing/annual

reinvesting savings in further energy projects		
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<b>Commitment: Work with households to enable greater energy efficiency, reduce energy dependency and alleviate fuel poverty</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> The transition of householders from high to low carbon living will improve householder self resilience and decrease financial exposure to price rises in energy supplies.		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Work with the Green Deal as a partner, provider or advocate (or other mechanisms) to introduce retro-fit schemes, and encourage take-up of renewable energy.	Number of schemes implemented OR level of encouragement provided	2015

<b>Commitment: Take action on waste prevention</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> The engagement of Environment & Energy staff primarily focus on Energy and Climate Change as well as addressing carbon dioxide emissions from these sources. Education and empowerment activities regarding emissions from waste arisings are also inbuilt		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Raising community awareness and education on waste minimisation through a coordinated publicity campaign	Detail of level of community awareness provided	ongoing/annual

## Planning

<b>Commitment: Use the planning system to promote renewable energy development and a low carbon economy</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> To meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, and in accordance with the Council's wider policies and priorities, including the Sefton Economic Strategy, Sustainable Energy Action Plan and Home Energy Conservation Plan.		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Adopting planning policies that actively encourage renewable energy and decentralised energy generation, both large scale (e.g. onshore wind	Adoption of Local Plan policies.	2015

farms) and small scale (e.g. on-site renewable energy requirements for new build)		
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<b>Commitment: Establish planning policies and use the planning system to promote energy efficiency and a low carbon community</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> To meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, and in accordance with the Council's wider policies and priorities, including the Merseyside Local Transport Plan, Sefton Economic Strategy, Sustainable Energy Action Plan and Home Energy Conservation Plan.		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Using planning policy and/or building control to encourage or require developers to build homes with high energy standards.	Adoption of Local Plan policies, in line with emerging government advice on the suitability of such standards. Implementation of Building Regulations.	2015
Using planning policy and Local Plan site allocations to encourage developers to build in locations close to homes, jobs and facilities, to include provision for access by walking, cycling and public transport.	Adoption of Local Plan.	2015
Using planning policy to encourage renewable and decentralised energy generation (e.g. on-site renewable energy requirements for new build)	Adoption of Local Plan.	2015
To promote the provision of infrastructure for low carbon vehicles or superfast broadband, to help reduce transport emissions.	'Good practice' or demonstration project within Sefton.	2017

<b>Commitment: Work with local organisations to promote sustainable transport and work towards a low carbon transport system that supports our local economy, and delivers multiple benefits: such as reduced carbon emissions, improved air quality, reduced congestion, improved health and road safety</b>
<b>Justification:</b> To meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, and in accordance with the Council's wider policies and priorities, including the Air Quality Strategy, the Merseyside Local Transport Plan and the Joint Sefton Strategic Needs [Health] Assessment .

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Implementing planning policies that encourage the location of major visitor attractions and facilities in sites that are accessible by walking cycling, and public transport, and where appropriate encouraging developers to implement green travel plans	Adoption of Local Plan.	2015

## Transport

<b>Commitment: Work towards a low carbon transport system that supports our local economy, and delivers multiple benefits: such as reduced carbon emissions, improved air quality, reduced congestion, improved health and road safety</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> To meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, and in accordance with the Council's wider policies and priorities, including the Merseyside Local Transport Plan and the Air Quality Strategy.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
To offer Bikeability training to all Year 5 and 6 children in Sefton Primary Schools.	2013/14 – 2,250 children 2014/15 – 2,300 children (2012/2013 – 2,200 – achieved figures)	For 2013/2014 period For 2014/2015 period
To work with Primary and Secondary Schools on the development and refreshment of their school travel plan action plans.	5 schools 5 schools (2012/2013 – 11)	For 2013/2014 period For 2014/2015 period
To implement 20mph areas across Sefton's Residential areas.	2 areas per year 2 areas per year	For 2013/2014 period For 2014/2015 period
To ensure that all planning applications which meet the criteria as set out in Ensuring Choice of Travel SPD develop an adequate Travel Plan.	100% compliance	ongoing



## Low Carbon Economy

<b>Commitment:</b> To assist the Liverpool city region(inc. Sefton) with reducing carbon dioxide emissions, improving the low carbon supply chain, addressing fuel poverty and making SME's more competitive by reducing their energy consumption.		
<b>Justification:</b> To deliver key strategies Sefton has agreed in relation to the Carbon Reduction Act 2008		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Retrofitting of energy saving technologies within social housing. (the REECH project)	2,100 properties benefitting from energy saving technologies	December 2014
Energy assessments of domestic properties (Go Early project)	TBC	December 2014
Retrofitting of domestic properties with energy saving technologies (Go Early project)	TBC	December 2014
Energy assessments of SME premises (Go Early project)	26 premises assessed	March 2014
Retrofitting of SME premises with energy saving technologies (Go Early project)	6 SME premises	March 2014

## Climate resilience

In order to adapt to the risks and opportunities that our changing climate will present, we make the following commitment(s):

### Energy & Environmental Management

<b>Commitment: Produce and maintain a Climate Adaptation Risk Register for Sefton</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> To ensure all direct effects on Sefton are understood and managed for environmental, social and economic impacts over the 21st century		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Refresh the 2009 climate risk analysis carried out under National Indicator 188 and develop an initial risk register report for Sefton Council	Risk register compiled and report produced	April 2015

<b>Commitment: To better understand the effects of climate change outside Sefton that will impact Sefton</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> Climate change is likely to cause direct impacts outside Sefton which in turn could affect Sefton as a result (e.g. global food security, human displacement/migration and changes in the market)		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Identify and assess likely threats and opportunities (A key dependency for this action will be identifying a researcher). Project likely to be in two parts, firstly to identify main risks/opportunities, secondly to provide additional analysis to themes of particular importance	Report findings. (detailing magnitude of impact , likelihood and potential adaptive measures where possible).	April 2015

<b>Commitment: Encourage more service areas within the Council to take adaptive action and make their own Climate Local actions as appropriate.</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> The immediate pressure of Transformation within Sefton has diverted attention away from Climate Adaptation. Whilst key service areas have remained committed, inclusion of more service areas will contribute to a better response to Climate Change for Sefton		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Invite all service areas to re-commit to previously identified actions resulting from the 2009 adaptation risk assessment and commit in the annual refresh of climate local	Number of service areas invited and number of re-committed actions	April 2014
Engage with the newly reconfigured Public Health role the council will adopt in 2013 to identify roles and responsibilities and resultant actions (if any)	Engagement commenced and progress/actions reported	April 2014

<b>Commitment: Expand the climate local commitment to the wider community</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> Resilience and response to the effects of climate change can be maximised if Sefton engages with its wider community		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Investigate requirements for consultation with the wider community to identify specific threats and opportunities as well as appropriate responses and capacity to build	Report findings to Senior Management	2015

<b>Commitment: Provide knowledge, support and facilitation across Sefton Council to enable it to incorporate the anticipated effects of climate change across all levels of decision making</b>		
<b>Justification:</b> Climate change information is needed to support decision making within the Council		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>

Provide relevant climate change information and data for the purpose of developing and maintaining the Climate Change Risk Register. (A key dependency for this action will be identifying a researcher).	Information provided	October 2013 & and reviewed at regular/appropriate intervals
Provide assistance to owners of Climate Local actions in establishing 'next step/follow on' action to facilitate the process of adaptation.	Number of resourced actions developed and recorded as further climate local actions Unresourced actions reported to senior management.	2014 2014
Independently identify further actions to address the effects of climate change	Potential actions reported to senior management for approval	Annually

**Commitment: Commission research in to the longer term/high impact effects of climate change are identified, acknowledged and responsibly managed**

**Justification:** Several high risk effects of climate change have the potential within the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to have catastrophic effects on Sefton (e.g. flooding, heatwave and sea-level rise). Development of long term planning/stewardship should be a result of the risk management process. For example ensuring emergency planning/business continuity concerns can ultimately be reduced by long term planning (e.g. long term tree planting strategy to address heat stress or appropriate greenspace features to reduce flood risk)

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
To establish a corporate approach to long term planning that addresses the effects of climate change due to risk management. Part of action is likely to involve research in to the long term scenarios being analysed to provide support information (A key dependency for this part of the action will be identifying a researcher).	Long term structural planning embedded in plans	2015

**Commitment: Assist Emergency Planning so that any new Emergency and Business Continuity Plans are made with the anticipated effects of climate change and extreme weather considered**

<b>Justification:</b> The ability of all service areas to respond to an emergency or continue to operate or recover is not yet clear		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Climate change and extreme weather related support will be provided to Emergency Planning officers as they themselves assist service areas evaluate their own risks.	Number of service areas producing Emergency and Business Continuity plans that have considered Climate Change and extreme weather	Annual

<b>Commitment: To produce and publicise a concise/clear 5 year Climate Change public document</b>		
<b>Justification: To ensure the public are clearly informed about what action has and will be delivered to address Climate change</b>		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Bring together clear information from key council documents (e.g. SEAP, Carbon Management, HECA & Climate Local) and publicise on the council website a 5 year overview of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What work has been carried out to address climate change</li> <li>What work is in our plans</li> </ul>	Local Climate Change public document produced and publicised on the internet	April 2014

## Planning

<b>Commitment: Promote the resilience of natural systems</b>
<b>Justification:</b> In accordance with the Council's wider policies and priorities, including meet the Councils' 'biodiversity duty', the objectives of the Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework and the Shoreline Management Plan

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Promote the use of SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, permeable paving, on site water storage, trees/vegetation and other areas that boost resilience.	Adoption of Local Plan. Adoption of Local Flood Risk Strategy. Planning approval of a 'good practice' scheme each year Council implementation of a good practice scheme on its land	2015 2013  On-going 2015

Commitment: Build resilience into the Local Plan		
<b>Justification:</b> To meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, and in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan and the Council's wider policies and priorities, including the Local Flood Risk Strategy, the Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework, and the [draft] Liverpool City Region Green Infrastructure Action Plan.,		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Establishing policies that protect and enhance key green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity assets	Adoption of Local Plan.	2015
Direct new developments away from areas prone to flooding, through Local Plan site allocations and the development management process	Adoption of Local Plan. Adopt guidance for developers about the 'sequential test'.	2015 2014
Require developers to provide a site specific flood risk assessment where there is a known vulnerability	Number of developers advised Number of assessments received	2015

Commitment: Deliver a more resilient transport network
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<b>Justification:</b> There is an increasing threat to the transport network in Sefton from flooding		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Incorporating flood resilient design features into new developments and transport systems	Council adoption of a 'good practice' highways scheme each year	2016

## Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management

<b>Commitment:</b> We will seek to improve our understanding of flood and coastal erosion flood risk and include a consideration of climate change in this.		
<b>Justification:</b> In order to develop a sustainable approach to coastal erosion and flood risk we must consider climate change as policies are developed over a long timescale.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Publish the Local Flood Risk Strategy which will include our best understanding of current and future risk	Local Flood Risk Strategy published	2013 Review every 6 years

<b>Commitment:</b> We will seek to ensure that all development takes into account climate change in the design of their drainage systems and that development takes a sequential approach to dealing with flood water with the option of dealing with it at source being preferred.		
<b>Justification:</b> Prevention of increased flood risk is a key approach to managing flood risk.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
100% of planning applications taking account of advice of flooding provided by the Council	Percentage of planning applications taking account of Council advice	Reviewed on an annual basis

<b>Commitment:</b> Our construction and maintenance of drainage systems and coastal defences will take climate change into account.		
<b>Justification:</b> Risk will change as climate changes, as such our designs and maintenance regimes will have to reflect this.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
One maintenance plan developed for a drainage system which takes into account climate change	The maintenance plan developed	A minimum of one plan developed or reviewed each year. 2014

<b>Commitment:</b> We will improve the preparedness and resilience of the Council, Community and Businesses to flooding and coastal erosion.		
<b>Justification:</b> Coastal erosion and flood risk will always be present regardless of our other actions, as such we must prepare for it.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Develop advisory and awareness raising material and publish on web site.	Material developed and published	2013

### Emergency Planning

<b>Commitment:</b> We will work with Partners to build resilience across Sefton to the impacts of climate change		
<b>Justification:</b> Sefton's climate is changing, Sefton Council must work with partners to build and maintain resilient communities across Sefton		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Participate in the Merseyside Resilience Forum and share relevant authority information when required.	Number of meetings attended	Annual/2014



Update the Community risk register to include the effects of changes in climate e.g. new risks, changing likelihoods and changing impacts.	Annual update taken place	2014
Identify, map and understand climate/weather related vulnerabilities across Sefton. Promote and develop understanding with other lead agencies. Ensuring risk plans are in place when a need for one has been identified.	Vulnerability mapped	2015

<b>Commitment:</b> We will work with partners/lead agencies in the coordination of an Emergency response		
<b>Justification:</b> Sefton undertakes this role as a statutory duty		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Help develop a multi-agency plan for the distribution of water and provision of sanitation in the event of a heatwave/drought	Detail of multi-agency plan or stage of development	2015

<b>Commitment:</b> We will review all weather/climate related emergency responses to ensure continual learning and assist in the recovery phase		
<b>Justification:</b> Sefton has experienced incidences of flooding in recent years and is expecting more in the future. Sefton undertakes this role as a statutory duty		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Review the emergency responses to extreme events when they occur	Detail of review	Annual if event occurs
Maintain the recovery phase plan	Plans maintained	(2014/Annual)

## Guidance notes for councils

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1. Complete at least one action on mitigation and one on adaptation. Use the menu provided below to guide your choice of actions, or feel free to create your own.
2. Use the menu [insert link or reference] to guide your choice of commitments. This menu is not exhaustive and councils are welcome to include and develop their own commitments to suit local priorities.
3. For each action, please be Specific (what is you want to achieve, how will you go about achieving it), ensure it is Measurable (how much, how many, how will you know when the action or target is accomplished) and Timebound (when will it be achieved).
4. When completed and published, please send to the LGA