

Tomorrow's Norfolk, Today's Challenge'

– summary
of the county
climate
change
strategy.



Tomorrow's Norfolk
Today's Challenge

The issue

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing Norfolk today. As a low-lying coastal county with a growing population, Norfolk is particularly vulnerable. Higher sea levels, heatwaves, droughts and storms are all more likely as global temperatures rise.

The need to take action is now widely accepted, yet in Norfolk, annual emissions per person of carbon dioxide (CO₂) – the build-up of which in the atmosphere is the main cause of man-made global warming – are well above the national average (8.0 tonnes compared to 7.4 tonnes). Real progress on reducing emissions and adapting to climate change will only be achieved through concerted action across the whole community.



The strategy

'Tomorrow's Norfolk, Today's Challenge' is the climate change strategy for Norfolk, produced and endorsed by the county's eight local authorities. It is a key element in 'Norfolk Ambition', the county's Sustainable Community Strategy, which has set a target of an 11% reduction in carbon emissions by 2011.

The climate change strategy's twin goals are:

- to limit global warming by playing our part in reducing carbon emissions,
- to prepare for the consequences of unavoidable climate change.

Towards a Low Carbon Norfolk

Councils

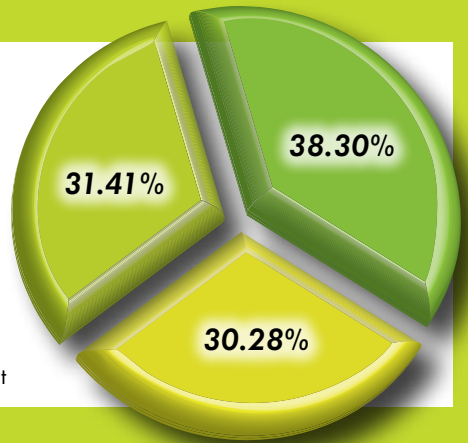
As major service providers, purchasers and energy users, Norfolk's county and district councils can lead by example and at the same time provide better value for money for tax payers.

Councils will set **reduction targets** and work co-operatively to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from major sources such as buildings, waste services, travel and transport.

Community emissions

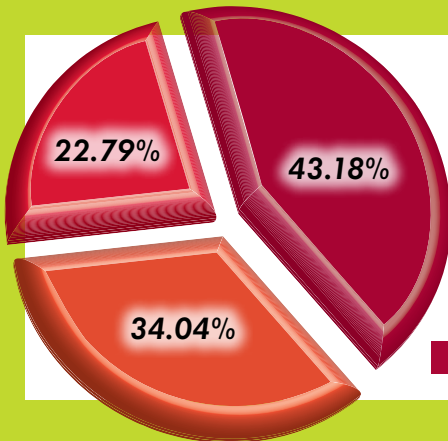
Proportion of emissions by sector: Norfolk (2006)

Industry and commercial	38.30%
Domestic	30.28%
Road transport	31.41%



Proportion of emissions by sector: UK (2006)

Industry and commercial	43.18
Domestic	34.04
Road transport	22.79



Norfolk's industry and business produce the biggest share of CO₂ emissions, but road transport is significantly higher than the national average, accounting for over 31% of the total, compared with just under 23% nationally.

Priorities for action

Travel and Transport

- Reduce the need to travel through development planning, smarter ways of working and promotion of local produce.
- Improve cycle and pedestrian routes, encourage the use of less polluting cars and promote car sharing schemes.
- Promote more efficient goods distribution networks.
- Reduce the carbon impact of road construction schemes.

Economy and Business

Work with the Sustainable Prosperity Group on 'Shaping Norfolk's Future' (the economic partnership for Norfolk) to make Norfolk a beacon of environmentally sustainable prosperity by:

- Simplifying business advice on energy efficiency and carbon reduction, with consistent messages and a single point for initial advice.
- Identifying and promoting best practice.
- Promoting waste recycling initiatives.
- Promoting local suppliers to reduce carbon emissions.
- Supporting innovation in sustainable technologies and low-carbon manufacturing.

Energy

- Ensure that Norfolk uses its strong base of engineering and research skills to exploit the commercial opportunities in the expansion of renewable energy technologies.
- Develop a Sustainable Energy Strategy for Norfolk to harness the full benefits of renewable energy.



Development and Housing

- Ensure national and regional climate change policies are adopted as minimum construction standards county-wide.
- Set 2016 as the year for achieving zero carbon development in Norfolk.
- Work with energy suppliers to encourage energy saving measures in existing private properties, and to target these where they will have the greatest benefit.
- Promote awareness and energy-saving behaviour change in the home through simplified advice services and schemes such as Community Champions.

Adapting to the Changing Climate

Even with effective action to control carbon emissions, some climate change is already inevitable, bringing increased risks of coastal and river floods, heatwaves and drought, new pests and diseases and loss of wildlife and habitats. On the other hand, hotter drier summers may benefit tourism, and bring new opportunities for farmers.

While action is already being taken in response to some risks – for example the location of new development – a comprehensive Adaptation Plan for Norfolk will be developed following the detailed assessment of the risks and opportunities.



Contact Details

Breckland Council

Tel: 01362 656 870

Email: contactus@breckland.gov.uk

Web: www.breckland.gov.uk

Broadland District Council

Tel: 01603 431133

Email: reception@broadland.gov.uk

Web: www.broadland.gov.uk

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Tel: 01493 856100

Email: enquiries@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Web: www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Tel: 01553 616200

Email: contact@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Web: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk County Council

Tel: 0844 800 8020

Email: information@norfolk.gov.uk

Web: www.norfolk.gov.uk

North Norfolk District Council

Tel: 01263 513811

Web: www.north-norfolk.gov.uk

Norwich City Council

Tel: 0844 980 3333

Email: info@norwich.gov.uk

Web: www.norwich.gov.uk

South Norfolk Council

Tel: 01508 533633

Email: reception@s-norfolk.gov.uk

Web: www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

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