

Climate change: the challenge for local authorities

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Key points

- **Local councils have a vital role – and every council must play its part**
- **Leading councils are showing what can be done**
- **National framework needed with proper resources**



The climate challenge

- **Our climate is changing and mankind is responsible**
- **If we don't act soon, catastrophic consequences for hundreds of millions**
- **Already seeing impacts**
- **Restrict global temperature rise to no more than 2 degrees C**



Climate Change Act 2008

- **Reduce emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050**
- **UK carbon budgets**
- **Need for action at all levels**



The role of local authorities

- **Key role in how we heat and power our homes**
- **Key role in how we get around**
- **Place-shaping**
- **Community leadership**



The benefits of action

- **Jobs and economic benefits**
- **Lower bills for householders**
- **Areas are more attractive places to live, work and visit**



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- **Local campaigns – council commitments to reduce area-wide emissions to 40% below 2005 levels by 2020**
- **Wales campaign – requirement on all councils to take action to cut emissions**



Councils with 40% by 2020 target or better

Birmingham

Islington

Bristol

Leeds

Durham County

Manchester

Haringey

Plymouth

Harrogate

Suffolk

Harrow

York



Local Carbon Budgets

- **One way to do it?**
- **Set in line with the science**
- **For all councils**
- **Adequate resources – finance and data**



Cutting emissions - energy

- **Renewable energy – wind, solar, hydro etc**
- **Renewable heat**
- **Demand as well as supply**



Cutting emissions - homes

- **Improve energy efficiency through better insulation - going beyond lofts and cavity walls**
- **Domestic-level renewables – Feed In Tariffs**



Cutting emissions - transport

- **Change how and how much we travel**
- **Better alternatives to the car**
- **Smarter Travel Choices**
- **Low-carbon vehicles**



Finance

- **Where are the cuts to be made?**
- **Ensure access to up-front capital for investment**
- **More flexibility in how councils use money locally**
- **Equitable and effective financial incentives**



Conclusion

The most successful local authorities of the future will be those that grasp the climate change challenge and take steps to plan and systematically implement solutions to slash emissions and mitigate the impacts





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