

South Gloucestershire Council
Climate Change Consultation
Council Offices
Castle Street,
Thornbury
Bristol
BS35 1HF



21st February 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

South Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy – Low Carbon South Gloucestershire Plan 2012 – 2015

The following are the comments of the Cotswolds Conservation Board. The Board was established by Parliament in 2004 and has two statutory purposes:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds AONB
- To increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB

In fulfilling these purposes, the Board has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of people living in the AONB.

The Board adopted a Climate Change Strategy for the Cotswolds AONB in June 2012. A number of the actions and measures in the South Gloucestershire draft climate change strategy compliment those in the AONB strategy.

The actions in the South Gloucestershire draft climate change strategy are comprehensive, but, along with what the Council is able to achieve and is currently delivering, are sold short in section 1 of the document.

Section 1

Page 6 – Low Carbon Emissions.

To state that carbon emissions from land use, land use changes and forestry are beyond local control and influence is not correct. South Gloucestershire Council can influence these through the planning system, by supporting other organisations such as the Forest of Avon Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust and Cotswolds Conservation Board. The Council can also respond to consultations on EIA Regulations governing forestry and change of land use.

Conserving, enhancing, understanding and enjoying the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Renewable energy.

Page 10 – reliance on individual planning applications. South Gloucestershire can be proactive through policy. This is actually reflected in some the actions in the strategy and should be highlighted here.

The introduction section needs to include a section covering the reduction of carbon emissions by cleaning up and retro-fitting existing energy production and use by industry, business and the public sector. Actions for this are included in the strategy and the opportunity to highlight this area in the introduction should be taken.

Action Plans

Low carbon Council

An area missing is the emissions from travelling to work by Council staff (non-business mileage). Although covered in other actions plans, it would be useful to highlight this here too and including in the green travel plan.

Energy efficiency of assets – investing in lighting, heating control and insulation in schools should be extended to cover all the Councils assets such as offices and other buildings.

Develop renewable energy in council buildings – biomass and waste wood are only two sources of renewable energy. The Council should also be exploring ground source heat, air source heat, solar heating and photovoltaic energy.

Emissions from outsourced products/procurements – good to see included in the strategy. The Council should lead by example by including school meals and staff canteen. If this has already been done, take the opportunity to highlight this in the strategy.

Low Carbon Travel

Improve accessibility of low carbon travel modes – need to include timetable coordination. For example between rail and bus.

Low Carbon Economy

The priority of this action plan is for businesses. However, this action plan is also very relevant for the public sector, which should also be leading by example.

Influence resource efficiency – climate change advice is delivered in the Cotswolds AONB by the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Low Carbon Energy

The Board particularly supports the recognition of the need to protect the local environment in the third issues paragraph.

If you wish to clarify or discuss further any of the above comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Connelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Connelly
Land Management Officer

