



INTERIM ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT 2007 – 2008

INCORPORATING A CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR

HIGH PEAK

PRODUCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

ECO-MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SCHEME (EMAS)

MAY 2008



Forward

This is the Council's eighth annual environmental statement produced in accordance with the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme. This is an annual update of the full statement issued in May 2006. A copy of the 2006 statement which gives a description of the Council and the Borough is available via the Council website www.highpeak.gov.uk.

The last eight years has seen environmental management and especially energy and climate change rise to near the top of the political agenda. This year the Council has incorporated an outline climate change strategy into the annual EMAS statement. This ensures that an environmental auditor will have independently verified the information included in the climate change strategy. New national indicators for environmental sustainability will further embed mitigation and adaptation to climate change into our performance monitoring.

The Council is developing a strategic alliance with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council with the intention of sharing best practice and making efficiency savings. Staffordshire Moorlands holds ISO 14001 and upholds similarly high environmental standards. At this stage the alliance hasn't had any impact upon the performance of High Peak Borough Council reported in the statement.

The council welcomes the environmental management experience that Veolia and DC Leisure will bring to the delivery of waste and leisure services and looks forward to working in partnership to achieve continuous environmental improvement.

The information in this statement is presented around the four main headings of our environmental policy:

- To tackle climate change
- To manage resources
- To deliver a cleaner, safer and greener environment
- To comply with legislation and other requirements

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

A corporate priority for the Council is to safeguard the special social, cultural and environmental qualities of High Peak. The Council aims to deliver services that provide a better environment both locally and globally through the application of sustainable development policies.

The Council will manage environmental issues and objectives in accordance with the framework provided by the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). This policy aims to deliver continuous environmental improvement.

To tackle climate change we will:

- Reduce and make more efficient use of electricity, gas and vehicle fuels.
- Promote energy efficiency and install renewable energy technology where practical in our buildings and housing.
- Ensure that the services we provide and policies we develop take account of predicted changes to our climate.

To manage resources we will:

- Provide staff and residents with facilities to manage resources efficiently so that we reduce, reuse, recycle and recover value from waste where possible.
- Purchase products and services that demonstrate effective use of resources.

To deliver a cleaner, safer and greener environment we will:

- Enforce the sustainable development principles contained in the core strategy of our local development framework.
- Ensure that our parks and open spaces meet high environmental standards.
- Protect the distinctiveness of our built environment.
- Manage local sites to encourage biodiversity and develop habitat.
- Clean our streets by reducing levels of graffiti, litter, fly posting and fly tipping.

To comply with legislation and other requirements we will:

- Provide staff training and advice to contractors to ensure legal compliance.
- Audit our activities and keep up to date with changes in environmental legislation.

To manage the environmental policy we will:

- Review the environmental policy every three years.
- Produce an annual independently validated environmental statement.
- Develop partnerships with local, regional and national organisations.
- Commit staff and financial resources to deliver the environmental policy

February 2008

Changes to Council services

At the beginning of 2008 the Council developed a strategic alliance with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. The alliance has resulted in the two Councils sharing a Chief Executive and working to develop shared services. Staffordshire Moorlands has also achieved ISO 14001 certification.

During 2007-2008 the contract to provide environmental services for refuse collection was awarded to Veolia and will be formally handed over during August 2008. The contract includes a condition that Veolia will support the aims of the council environmental policy and contribute performance information.

DC Leisure Services have been awarded the contract to operate the Councils' leisure centres and are working to take over the running of the service from June 2008. Similar conditions apply to DC Leisure to support the aims of our environmental policy and provide performance information.

Our procedure for evaluating our environmental aspects has identified the following priorities for improvement.

- The use of diesel, petrol and LPG fuel for our fleet of service vehicles and subsequent emissions of 696 tonnes of CO₂ to atmosphere.
- The use of electricity and gas in our buildings and impact upon climate change and resource depletion producing 2554 tonnes of CO₂
- The use of 16759 m³ of water in leisure centres.
- The production of 262 tonnes of waste from our offices and the impact this has upon resource use and landfill capacity
- The environmental performance of our sub-contractors and suppliers and associated environmental impacts
- The role of the Council in promoting and ensuring environmental standards are met during development of new buildings, services or facilities
- The role of the Council in providing information and advice to residents and businesses about environmental issues
- The role of the Council in safeguarding and improving the environment by managing the noise, emissions and pollution from industrial operations

1. To tackle climate change we will:

1.1 Reduce the carbon footprint (carbon dioxide CO₂ emissions) of our direct activities resulting from energy used in our buildings and vehicle fuels.

Buildings

In August 2007 we installed half hourly metering for gas and electricity in our main buildings. In 2007/2008, we used 7,753,772 KWh of gas and 2,142,837 KWh of electricity. We calculate that our CO₂ emissions for 07/08 are 1120 tonnes for electricity and 1434 tonnes for gas. This gives us a total of 2554 tonnes for gas and electricity.

In 2006/2007 we estimated our CO₂ emission to be 2571 tonnes made up of 6,656,059 KWh or 1231 tonnes CO₂ from gas and 2,563,274 KWh or 1340 tonnes CO₂ from electricity. We had set ourselves a target of reducing this by 3% and this would have resulted in a figure of 2494 tonnes in 2007/08 so we have missed our target by 77 tonnes or 3%. Failure to meet our target is due to having spent most of our resources in 2007 on installing £23,000 of half hourly metering, limiting funds for actual energy measures. However, we believe this is an important investment that will enhance our ambition to achieve actual reductions in the future.

The new national indicators challenge local authorities to reduce their carbon emissions resulting from buildings and transport. The baseline year for the indicator will be from January 2008 to December 2008. We intend to align our target setting process with this timeframe and as such will report in May 2009 how we have performed against this period. We will set ourselves a further target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 3% by December 2010 against a baseline of Jan 08 to Dec 08.

During 2008 we will replace the heating system at our head office with an energy efficient condensing boiler and new controls system. We will also remove electric storage heaters from offices and install more efficient and controllable radiators.

Water consumption

During 07/08 our leisure centres and the Pavilion Gardens toilets used 16759m³ of water. This compares favourably with an updated accurate figure for 06/07 of 19352m³. We install waterless urinals and push fit taps as standard when refurbishing public toilets and leisure centres.

Vehicles

Service vehicles

In 2007/8, the CO₂ emissions from our service vehicles amount to 696 tonnes compared with 713 tonnes in 2006/07, giving a 2.4% reduction in CO₂.

During 2007 all of our freighter drivers received Safer and Fuel Efficient Driver (SAFED) training. We monitored fuel consumption of these drivers and noted a quarterly decrease in fuel used by the vehicles following training. The savings amounted to 5927 Lts of diesel during 07/08.

Business mileage

Business mileage in 2007/08 was 289,044 equivalent to 95.4 tonnes* of CO₂. We have recently improved our mileage monitoring system so that we are able to calculate the CO₂ emission more precisely, taking account of the type of vehicle used for each journey. This will help monitor progress towards our target of reducing CO₂ emissions from business mileage by 3% against a 07/08 baseline by April 2009.

* Based upon the conversion factor for the average car (all fuel types) published by DEFRA in 2007.

We have installed video conferencing facilities in our three main offices and will promote the facility to staff to reduce mileage between sites. We intend to extend the scheme to include video conferencing at individual computer terminals to further reduce the need to travel between sites for meetings. Our telephones have been replaced and are now able to use Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) to provide teleconference facilities.

Staff commuting

We will conduct another staff commuting travel survey during 08/09 to establish our baseline carbon emissions in this area. Previous staff travel surveys in 2005 have identified CO2 emissions of approximately 168 tonnes CO2.

This figure will always be estimated as during any given year staff will join and leave the organisation, some may move house or be relocated to work from different Council buildings and some may vary the mode of transport they use during the course of the year. The Council is encouraging staff to work from home and amongst other benefits this will reduce CO2 emissions from staff commuting.

Carbon Trading

Government believes that carbon trading will be an important mechanism to bring down CO2 emissions in the UK. The Council has therefore joined an experimental local authority carbon trading programme to trade carbon with other councils during 2008.

The exercise will allocate a carbon budget to each authority and an emissions reduction target. If an authority is able to exceed their target then they will be able to exchange carbon with other councils struggling to meet their target. Initially, the trading will be on a theoretical basis to evaluate the process and no money will change hands.

1.2. Promote energy efficiency and install renewable energy technology where practical in our buildings and housing.

The Government has calculated that total emissions of CO₂ in High Peak in 2005 were 1,020,000 tonnes. Of this, domestic emissions of CO₂ were 247,000 tonnes. Our Local Area Agreement with Derbyshire County Council includes an annual CO₂ reduction target of 4100 tonnes up to 2010/11.

We have commissioned and approved the development of 100 properties on Granby Rd, Buxton to meet Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. The houses will incorporate solar panels, high levels of insulation and energy efficient appliances. The project will demonstrate to other new house builders that the Council expects high environmental standards.

The Energy Efficiency Advice Centre based in Buxton has responded to 1709 requests for advice and information about domestic energy efficiency in High Peak. The EEAC has attended 15 local community events such as exhibitions, PCT health events, school visits and provided support to the 'everybody's talking about climate change' campaign. The EEAC has provided a service for over 11 years across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and this year has bid to extend this service across the whole of the East Midlands.

The Planning Policy Team have commissioned a sub regional review to identify the capacity and potential for development of renewable and low carbon technologies. The Council acknowledges that to meet the longer term Government objective of reducing CO₂ by 60% by 2050 we will need to facilitate the development of a range of renewable energy technologies.

We continue to work with Derbyshire Dales District Council to deliver the aims of a joint Affordable Warmth Strategy. We run a project with Derbyshire Dales to offer grant assistance to householders that are not able to qualify for government grants but are still unable to achieve affordable warmth. Around

30% of the private sector is now struggling to achieve affordable warmth due to dramatic increases in domestic fuel costs.

We intend to monitor the proportion of households containing someone on means tested benefits that occupy a dwelling with a SAP¹ of less than 35 or greater than 65, this being used as a proxy for rates of fuel poverty in a local area.

During 2007/2008, Warm Front ran a successful campaign and spent £576,330 on energy saving measures in 541 households in High Peak. Measures include draught proofing, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, replacement of old boilers and repairs to heating systems.

We have supported a Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire campaign to change attitudes towards climate change. The campaign 'Everybody's Talking About Climate Change' spread a message that individual changes in behavior can make a difference. The campaign obtained approximately 13000 pledges from people to change an aspect of the way that they use energy.

During 2007/2008 we worked with East Hampshire District Council to develop and publish a guide to 'Affordable Warmth and Affordable Housing'. The guide is aimed at local authority housing and planning officers and those with responsibility for developing specifications for new housing schemes.

¹ SAP is the Government approved Standard Assessment Procedure for the energy rating of dwellings using a scale of 1-100 where 1 is inefficient and 100 is very energy efficient.

1.3. Ensure that the services we provide and policies we develop take account of predicted changes to our climate.

We aim to ensure that we are prepared to manage risks to service delivery, the public, local communities, local Infrastructure businesses and the natural environment from a changing climate, and to make the most of new opportunities.

The impacts of climate change might include increases in flooding, temperature, drought and extreme weather events. These could create risks and opportunities such as: impacts to transport infrastructure from melting roads or buckling rails, increases in tourism, increased damage to buildings from storms, impacts upon local eco-systems and biodiversity, scope to grow new crops, changing patterns of disease, impact on planning and the local economy and public health.

We have contributed to the development of a Climate Change Strategy for Derbyshire, produced by Derbyshire County Council.

We have commissioned a study to develop a Local Climate Impact Profile. This piece of work will help us to identify areas in our borough that have been and are likely to be affected by flooding or other extreme weather events.

We have adapted various services to respond to changes in the climate such as changing the planting regime in our parks to take account of drier summers. We are currently assessing the way that predicted changes to our local climate might affect other service areas such as food safety, housing, drainage, waste collection etc.

We have taken account of the potential impacts of climate change in our 'risk treatment plan'. The plan allocates responsibility to different agencies to respond to various risks such as the impact of a summer heatwave.

2. To manage resources we will:

2.1 Provide staff and residents with facilities to manage resources efficiently so that we reduce, reuse, recycle and recover value from waste where possible.

Managing waste in the Council

The Council collects waste from 10 of our main buildings and this generated approximately 262 tonnes during 2007/2008. This is an increase of 80 tonnes against the previous year due to the inclusion of Octagon Catering onto our collection round.

We recycled 48 tonnes of paper and cardboard in 2007/2008 compared with 47 tonnes in 2006/2007.

We have continued to reduce the amount of paper we use to 4332 reams in 2007/08 compared with 4606 in 2006/2007. Our target is to continue reducing paper use down to 4116 reams by the end of 2008/09. The significant knock on effect of reducing paper use is that we use fewer expensive toner and printer cartridges.

We continue to ensure that difficult and hazardous waste such as printer and toner cartridges, used fluorescent light tubes or old computer equipment are recycled or safely disposed of to an approved contractor.

Staff continue to support our in house can, bottle and plastic recycling scheme. We continue to reuse building materials from renovation or refurbishment work.

Managing waste in the community

Refuse collection and recycling:

We provide a collection service for household waste from 37,500 households. We collect commercial waste from over 1200 businesses. Special waste collections including bulky items, fridges, TV's and clinical waste average about 450 collections per month. We promote home composting and manage 20 'bring' recycling sites

Our household recycling rate for 2007/2008 reached 31.3% compared with 20.11% in 2006/2007. During 07/08 we completed the roll out of the twin bin kerb side recycling scheme across all properties in the High Peak. The twin bin scheme provides alternative weekly collections with recyclable waste collected on one week and the residual waste collected the following week.

Our performance monitoring methodology has been changed slightly by Government to reflect the tonnage of household waste recycled and composted. This tonnage may include previously excluded reuse and refurbishment initiatives such as the Glossop Furniture Recycling project.

Our targets for 2008/2009 are now 37% of household waste recycled and composted (14,000 tonnes), increasing to 45% in 2009/2010 (17,000 tonnes) and to 47% (18,000 tonnes) in 2010/11.

We also have a performance indicator to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill year on year. In 2007/08, 28,000 tonnes of waste ended up in landfill and we aim to reduce this to 23,000 tonnes by 2008/09 and 21,000 tonnes by 2009/2010 and 20,000 by 2010/2011.

The Council works closely with Derbyshire Dales and Derbyshire County Councils to promote waste and recycling initiatives. Derbyshire Dales District

Council and High Peak have recently submitted 2 joint bids for funding from the Waste and Performance Efficiency Grant.

In 2007/2008, the 'trees for cans' appeal continued, making the public aware that by recycling aluminium they could be contributing to tree planting in Africa. For every tonne of aluminium recycled in the Borough, the industry body 'Alupro' plants a tree as part of several sustainability projects in Africa, aimed at boosting local economies and preventing deforestation.

5290 Christmas trees were chipped and composted in January 2008, 1631 fridges collected and recycled and 1264 compost bins delivered

When a member of the public requires a collection of furniture, where possible the Council refers them to the Glossop Furniture Project. The furniture is then restored or recycled to make new products. In 2007/8, this resulted in around 110 tonnes of waste furniture being recycled compared with 85 tonnes in 2006/2007.

74 High Peak residents claimed £25 cash back towards reusable nappies during 2007-2008, making the High Peak scheme the most successful in the county for the third year running.

2.2 Purchase products and services that demonstrate effective use of resources

Our sustainable procurement policy states that whilst respecting European procurement rules and the UK public procurement regulations, we will endeavor to:

- Integrate environmental assessment criteria into our procurement strategy and purchasing procedures.
- Evaluate products and services to ensure that we are using suppliers with corporate social responsibility and ethical values.

- Ensure that quotation and tender evaluation of goods and services considers whole life costing and not just initial purchase price.
- Develop and apply an appropriate weighting to reward organisational responses illustrating high environmental and sustainable standards.
- Continually improve our sustainability purchasing performance through the setting and annual review of relevant objectives and targets.
- Develop constructive dialogue with priority contractors to improve their environmental performance.
- Provide resources for development and implementation of this policy and ensure employees engaged in purchasing activities have access to appropriate guidance and training.
- Work in partnership with other public sector purchasing organisations and service providers, especially those operating within our local community.
- Communicate and publicise this policy widely to suppliers, employees and other key stakeholders and report progress when necessary.

Our supplier evaluation process now includes questions regarding environmental credentials. We aim to improve this process to allocate weighting to each of the assessment criteria, including environmental issues, so that suppliers are able to see where our priorities lie for any given project.

Council staff are signposted to buy products from the 2007/2008 National Sustainable Products catalogue where possible.

The Council is committed to supporting the local economy wherever possible and its involvement in the Source Derbyshire initiative demonstrates this. Wherever possible tenders/quotations should be posted on the Source Derbyshire web site to give local businesses an opportunity to quote/tender for the work.

We continue to purchase recycled office consumables from our corporate supplier.

3. To deliver a cleaner, safer and greener environment we will:

3.1. Enforce the sustainable development principles contained in the core strategy of our local development framework.

The Planning Policy and Design Team and Development Control lead on this area of work. They are working to deliver the following initiatives as a means to enforcing the sustainability principles in the local development framework:

- Preparation of statutory planning policy documents in accordance with the High Peak Local Development Scheme
- Advice on planning policy, design, sustainability and heritage issues
- Facilitating development opportunities for the regeneration of town centres
- Ensuring the sustainable design of new developments
- Carrying out sustainability appraisals of plans and related strategies
- Monitoring economic, environmental and social trends arising from development
- Negotiation of affordable housing and Section 106 agreements*
- Protecting landscape through advice based on character appraisal
- Managing town centre and heritage based regeneration programmes
- Protecting historic areas through advising on the designation of conservation areas and the preparation of character appraisals
- Protecting historic buildings & parks through recommending additions to the statutory list/register
- Initiating and coordinating programmes of action for buildings at risk including flagship projects
- Promoting issues relating to the built and natural environment including publication of advisory leaflets and information from research and policy
- Using Area Forums to inform the 'shaping the future of High Peak' process

*Planning obligations (or "section 106 agreements") are private agreements negotiated between Local Planning Authority and persons with an interest in a piece of land (or "developers"), and are intended to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms.

Projects beyond 07/08

- Glossopdale Townscape Heritage Initiative (up to 2012)
- Buxton Crescent & Thermal Spa Project (up to 2011)
- Torr Vale Mill (lifetime yet undetermined – Derbyshire County Council)
- Heritage grant schemes in partnership with English Heritage (up to 2010)

3.2 Ensure that our parks and open spaces meet high environmental standards.

In September of 2007 the Parks Service merged with the Streetcare, Cemeteries and Enforcement Services that had been within Environmental Services to become Parks & Environment. Notable achievements during 2007/2008 included:

- Achieving 81% satisfaction ratings in our tri-annual surveys for parks, and 82% with HPCH residents (grounds maintenance).
- Increasing customer satisfaction with the Street Care Service (Up to 69%)
- We have achieved a top quartile position in relation to the main street cleansing BVPI 199
- Working in partnership with our Friends of Parks Groups we have retained the only Green Heritage Award in the East Midlands for Pavilion Gardens and 3 Green Flag Awards for Howard Park, Manor Park and Pavilion Gardens respectively.
- In partnership with Buxton in Bloom, we have won the East Midlands in Bloom competition with a Silver Gilt medal at Buxton, gaining the nomination to the Britain in Bloom Awards. (This has involved all elements of the Parks and Environment Service)
- 4 members of the Street Care Team were awarded employee of the year certificates

Pollution control

The Council is responsible for issuing operating permits and the control of pollution from certain types of industrial processes. There are currently 67 such 'prescribed industrial processes' ranging from waste oil burners in garages to packaging printing works and quarrying activities. This includes 65 'part B' processes and 2 'part A2' processes. Under the relevant legislation, part B regulation restricts the emission of pollutants to air to specified levels, whilst A2 processes are regulated for pollutant emission to all environmental media.

Processes are now assessed against Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) risk assessment criteria. We exceed the minimum number of inspections of these sites as required by DEFRA and thereby ensure these companies meet the necessary environmental standards.

The Environmental Health Department dealt with 1086 complaints or enquiries about noise or pollution during 2007/08. This compares with 1049 in 2006/07 and 830 in 2005/06. These complaints covered domestic, construction and industrial noise and pollution incidents. We respond to 95% of noise and pollution complaints within three days and to street noise within one day.

3.3 Protect the distinctiveness of our built environment.

A priority for the Planning Policy and Design team is to improve the quality of the town centre and widen the type and range of jobs available. A number of projects are on the go that will help to achieve this aim:

- To ensure that site work starts for the Buxton Crescent & Thermal Spa Project
- Glossopdale Townscape Heritage Initiative committed funds to promote a minimum of £125,000 of heritage led regeneration projects and £650,000 committed to Glossop Liveability for public realm schemes. The initiative includes the restoration of and reuse of Howard Town Mill and Woods Mill.

- Adoption of a concept statement for Ferro Alloys site following the completion of a contaminated land survey (subject to EMDA funding)

We have also carried out character appraisals for 12.5% of conservation areas and by 2008/09 we will have carried out 37.5%. £150,000 of conservation area grants have been committed to promote heritage led regeneration projects.

3.4 Manage local sites to encourage biodiversity and develop habitat.

The Council has a service level agreement with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to manage the condition of 12 sites.

We will generate up to date information on existing Local Wildlife Sites and potential Local Wildlife Sites and allow assessment of sites against the Local Wildlife Site Selection Guidelines.

We will work with landowners and managers to identify sympathetic management practices and provide advice with regard to grant-aid. The sites will ideally be surveyed between April and September to provide data on key ecological features of the site including either floristic or faunal interest.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust will maintain detailed up to date information on Local Wildlife Sites, based on a rolling re-survey programme. National guidance and good practice requires that landowners are informed of the designation of their land and its implications, and given access to high quality information and advice in order to encourage them to manage the land to maintain wildlife.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust will maintain a biological data register for each Local Wildlife Site including existing and new survey information to continue the development of the system using data from voluntary sector sources, re-survey data and other new species and habitat data as it becomes available. The register will be used to develop and maintain maps of local biodiversity and priority habitats within the District such as semi-natural grasslands, wetlands and woodlands.

3.5 Clean our streets by reducing levels of graffiti, litter, fly posting and fly tipping.

We have delivered projects worth more than £40,000 through the 'Going Local' scheme, which will make the borough safer, cleaner and greener. The scheme supports four area based 'Going Local' groups in Buxton, Central, Glossopdale and Hope Valley to carry out environmental improvements.

The Council website contains full details about area forum topics, initiatives and how to attend any of the planned meetings in your area.

Some examples of 'going local' initiatives include:

Buxton

- Open Top Bins on the Slopes and in the Crescent Area replaced with closed top bins;
- Repairs to the Cote Heath skate park fencing;
- Buxton in Bloom 2007 barrier troughs;
- Floral Containers (Vision Buxton/Britain in Bloom) within Spring Gardens;
- Gateway Signs on entrance to Buxton to promote East Midlands in Bloom award.

Central

- Signage and clean-up in and around the Torrs, New Mills;
- Roadside clean-up around Queens Bridge, New Mills;
- Weed clearance of retaining wall along Canal Street, Whaley Bridge;
- Removal of chewing gum from pavements on market place, Chapel;
- Tidy path running down back of Brookside, Chapel-en-le-Frith;
- Contribution towards Chapel-en-le-Frith street signs in conservation area;
- Tidy up on Squirrel Green, Chinley.

Glossopdale

- Improvement to street furniture, pathways and verges in the old hall conservation area, Hadfield;
- Nine new grit bins provided around Glossop;
- Clean-up of Hadfield industrial estate;
- Cleaning and graffiti removal from bridge in Harehills;
- Clean-up of Wren Nest Mill pond;
- Clean-up of footpath from Newshaw Lane to Glossop Community College;
- Grass cutting and bulb planting around Whitfield well.

Hope Valley

- New refuse bin on Shatton Lane, Shatton;
- Larger bins outside Hope Valley Post Office;
- Contribution to alterations at Castleton Village Hall;
- Contribution to Parson's Gate spruce up;
- Sets of litter picking equipment

Proposed Projects

- Landscaping of Peak Forest village green;
- Contribution to refurbishment project at the Peak Centre;
- Contribution to restoration works to the chapel in Derwent and Hope Woodlands parish.

This year we have launched a small environmental projects grant scheme. The aim of the scheme is to support community groups with grants of up to £500 to tackle an environmental project. The fund will support projects that can demonstrate energy or water saving, waste minimisation, reduced transport impact or improvements to biodiversity. The scheme will only run during 2008/2009 and has a pot of £10,000.

4 To comply with legislation and other requirements we will:

4.1 Provide staff training and advice to contractors to ensure legal compliance.

All new staff are introduced to EMAS as part of the new staff induction session. They are also given a copy of a staff environmental handbook.

Elected Members and senior managers have received training about our 'carbon footprint' and how the council should respond to climate change issues.

Service vehicle drivers have received Safer and Fuel Efficient Driving training.

A general awareness course on understanding asbestos will be run during 2008 and a further course on waste management issues will also be delivered.

A site safety training course to help identify construction site hazards (including noise issues) has been delivered for contractors.

4.2 Audit our activities and keep up to date with changes in environmental legislation.

We carry out routine and bespoke environmental audits to ensure that environmental policy and legislation is being adhered to.

We regularly check for changes in environmental legislation by accessing the Government Office of Public Sector Information website for updates.

5 To manage the environmental policy we will:

5.1 Review the environmental policy every three years.

The environmental policy has been reviewed in accordance with the three year schedule and protocol. As the alliance with Staffordshire Moorlands develops we may feel it necessary to revise the policy to reflect any shared ambitions.

5.2 Produce an annual independently validated environmental statement.

This statement has been validated by Bureau Veritas Certification Ltd in accordance with EMAS requirements and will be updated in May 2009.

5.3 Develop partnerships with local, regional and national organisations.

We are an active member of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authority Energy Partnership.

We take an active role in supporting other local authorities with environmental management issues and during 2007/2008 we have worked with Sefton Borough Council, Oldham MBC and North Derbyshire District Council.

Staff across the organisation are members of local, regional and national partnerships. These partnerships aim to share ideas and develop projects to address common environmental problems.

5.4 Commit staff and financial resources to deliver the environmental policy

The Council continues to support the aim of delivering our environmental policy objectives. Working across Staffordshire Moorlands and High Peak will undoubtedly cause some pressure on resources to meet the challenges presented by a growing agenda.

Feedback

Have you found the information in this statement useful or do you wish to make any suggestions? If so, please contact:

Bill Purvis
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Environmental Policy Officer
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Copies of previous years' statements are also available and may be obtained on request.

The Council website contains further information about the way that we are dealing with our environmental responsibilities.

This environmental statement was validated on 10th June 2008 by:

Bureau Veritas Certification Ltd
Tower Bridge Court
224-226 Tower Bridge Road
London
SE1 2TX

Accredited Verifier Number UK-V-0003

A validated update of this statement will be produced by 31 May 2009

NACE Code: 75.1