

Leeds Climate Change Strategy: Vision for Action

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Foreword

Climate change will affect how we live. Our way of life here in Leeds, relies on a temperate climate. Not too hot. Not too cold. Not too wet and not too dry. Climate change will alter this, threatening the health of our citizens, damaging our natural environment and disrupting the supply chain that our local economy relies on.

The scientific consensus has become firmer and more worrying. These turbulent economic times have emphasised how globally connected life in Leeds now is. Local quality of life is dependent on global quality of life. More than ever it is clear that a resource efficient and climate resilient city will not only be a better place to live, it will also be more competitive and better able to ride out economic shocks in future.

To deal effectively with climate change there are things we can do. We must stay positive in the knowledge that our own actions will make a difference. This strategy prioritises actions that we, the people of Leeds, can take. First, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to help global efforts to avoid dangerous climate change. Second, prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change on our way of life.

We haven't used this strategy to list all the actions already underway in Leeds. Instead, we have engaged with our partners throughout Leeds and listened to what they told us in order to identify priorities for the next two years. We will take these forward together and regularly report on the progress we are making.

The speed with which climate change has moved from an academic question to a fundamental global concern is startling. When we review this strategy in 2011, I believe that we will all be startled by the results of our collective efforts in Leeds.

I have said before that no single body can hope to tackle climate change effectively.

I look forward to acting together – both now and in the future.

Cllr Steve Smith

Chair of the Climate Change Strategy Group

Vision

If we collectively make the most far-sighted decisions possible, within budgetary and technical constraints, the following scenarios could become the reality that we live in 2011, 2021 and 2050.

By 2011...

Leeds is just beginning to change. Some visible progress has been made. Our first carbon neutral homes have been built. Recycling rates are rising rapidly. More people are choosing to walk and cycle, particularly in the city centre. A climate festival captured the public's imagination and is now a regular fixture. Sales of local food are going through the roof. Biomass is replacing coal and is emerging as the fuel of choice for new rural heating systems. Climate risks are better understood and emergency services have strong plans in place to deal with extreme weather impacts on Leeds.

All of these are isolated examples; the fundamental changes are not yet visible but are far more important. A transport strategy has secured funding for a major public transport scheme. Planners and developers are co-operating to design low carbon areas, not just buildings, and the retrofitting of the existing building stock is under way. Some lower skilled residents have been successfully brought into the work force to help deliver these improvements, showing the value of encouraging 'green' businesses into Leeds. The public are getting excited about solving climate change and grass roots participation is growing. Many people have pledged to reduce their personal impact on climate change. Businesses have signed up to Carbon Action Yorkshire in droves and are being assisted to develop carbon reduction strategies; they, in turn, are helping other organisations. Feasibility studies have shown where and how to build renewable energy and community heating networks and a significant fund has been assembled to solve simple energy efficiency problems in all existing houses in Leeds.

Leeds knows that it is going green and is excited by the potential.

By 2021...

Leeds looks and feels like a different city. It's a stronger city; a more mature city. It's a city that is happy with its past achievements and looking forward to the future. Economically, Leeds is performing well with a diverse economy strengthened by the booming environmental goods and services sector. Leeds is physically bigger too: well planned and executed developments that are low or zero carbon complement the existing built environment. Greenspaces have been enhanced, linked and created and green roofs on new buildings are becoming commonplace. The massive energy efficiency drive has insulated all but a few cavity walls and lofts and new solid wall insulation is now affordable and being well used. An informed and

concerned public demands more sustainable goods and services and many businesses have profited from responding to this demand, supplying customers within the region and franchising their innovations for production and local distribution elsewhere. All organisations trade a maximum proportion of their waste stream as inputs to other processes and products. Overall ecofootprints are reducing year on year as resource consumption is reined in.

Clean, low carbon mobility underpins progress. Leeds citizens are proud of the safe, reliable and affordable public transport service. Careful re-engineering of roads means cycling and walking rates have surged. The cost of carbon is reflected in the cost of motoring and inefficient private transport is reducing, but still affordable for essential journeys. Appropriate scale renewables are much more visible across Leeds and unspectacular but essential community heating hubs are growing and linking up in densely populated areas. Recycling rates for domestic waste have exceeded 50%, significant value is now being recovered from residual waste, and waste to landfill has been reduced to less than 10%. Recent extreme weather events have tested our adaptation strategies, which are responding well. New drainage systems, better designed urban areas and new river defences are reducing the risk of flooding. New buildings are all now built to cope with climatic conditions at least 50 years ahead, as well as reducing their overall environmental impact in terms of design, construction and use.

Leeds is thriving; there is a collective confidence that together we can tackle climate change.

By 2050...

Leeds is almost unrecognisable. Within two generations, the city is in a different climatic zone: the hot summer of 2003 is considered cool now; warmer, wetter winters mean less heating but more vermin and additional risks from other organisms not previously found at 53 degrees north. Droughts, floods and high winds are far more commonplace. Society is very different yet quality of life is not greatly affected, thanks to the far-sighted decisions taken forty years ago. The built environment is well able to cope and careful planning has allowed the natural environment to adapt to the new climate. Personal working and leisure patterns have changed to reflect the prevailing weather conditions and a resource-constrained society. The economy and social life are much more locally focused with inputs and outputs covering much smaller distances than was the case in the early 21st century.

Technological innovations are all around us, affecting the way that we produce and use energy, the way that we communicate, travel and do business. Behaviours have changed too: carbon is priced into all activities and the population has responded by choosing lifestyles that allow them to live within declining carbon budgets. Leeds has been better able to cope than have many other places and

the city is becoming more multicultural as refugees from land-use and water conflicts are welcomed to the city.

Leeds is an exemplary global city, coping with life in a new climate thanks to far-sighted decisions and an ongoing focus on practical action.

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Scope and Purpose of this document

In February 2008 we published a detailed climate change strategy for consultation. Written with the help of almost 100 organisations, it contained a large amount of local evidence. The responses were largely supportive of the approach proposed for Leeds, but with many minor alterations and amendments suggested. There was a consensus that the long-term carbon emission reduction target should be higher and that we needed a clearer plan to reduce emissions from transport. We have tackled both these major issues and tried to incorporate as many of the suggestions as possible into this *Vision for Action*.

The consultation document contains valuable evidence which explains how and why we have prioritised certain issues within this *Vision for Action*. It will be retained as a source of evidence and should be read alongside this *Vision for Action*.

The *Vision for Action* summarises the key issues (see pages xyz – xyz) which need to be addressed in the short term so we can mitigate and adapt effectively. It also sets the direction and some targets for longer term action.

Mitigation means reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to a safe and stable level.	Adaptation means building climate resilience to ensure that our society and natural environments can cope with a radically different climate.
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This *Vision for Action* concentrates on city-wide issues. By that we mean actions which are the responsibility of a number of partners across the city to take forwards, not just the city council. The city council, members of the Leeds Initiative and other individuals and organisations across Leeds can all make a difference to climate change by concentrating on emissions from their estates, fleets and day-to-day activities. This *Vision for Action* will encourage partnership working to make our work more effective and to work on issues that are not limited to just one organisation.

We are also aware that Leeds is connected regionally, nationally and internationally. This means that we have to take advantage of support and investment available outside the city. We will not invent solutions for Leeds where that solution already exists elsewhere. Our interconnectedness also means that we are not entirely in control of what happens in the city. International market forces and policies can both boost and damage efforts to tackle climate change.

Ultimately, our *Vision for Action* seeks to make Leeds a place resilient to climate change with a strong low carbon economy and a high quality of life.

Context

Strategic Context

There are many important strategies, policies and plans already in place in Leeds. This strategy will need to influence many of these. The fundamental aims of the Vision for Leeds 2004-2020, to 'go up a league' and 'narrow the gap' cannot be met if we fail to address climate change. We will therefore make sure that we work closely with the most relevant strategy groups and provide evidence to support them to become more climate friendly when the plans are next revised.

The most relevant plan is the Leeds Strategic Plan. This contains one Strategic Outcome and three Improvement Priorities that the *Vision for Action* will contribute towards delivering:

"Reduced ecological footprint through responding to environmental and climate change and influencing others."

1. Reduce emissions from public sector buildings, operations and service delivery, and encourage others to do so.
2. Undertake actions to improve our resilience to current and future climate change.
3. Improve the quality and sustainability of the built and natural environment.

City-Wide Emissions

In 2006, Leeds produced almost 6.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. The three biggest contributors are the commercial and industrial sector (37%) domestic (30%) and transport (26%). Over the past 4 years, total emissions have declined by just 1% with falls in domestic and transport emissions offset by rising commercial and industrial emissions.

In 2007/08 Leeds City Council produced 143,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from buildings, staff travel, fleet vehicles and street lighting. Building emissions (the majority of council emissions) have been falling steadily since the 90s.

To help to understand emissions trends and opportunities across the city, we have launched the Leeds Climate Charter to encourage Leeds based organisations to monitor and report their emissions.

City-Wide Emissions Reduction Targets

The consultation showed very clearly that a 60% emissions reduction target was considered too low to avoid dangerous climate change, given current science. Since the consultation, the Government has adopted a legally binding target in the

Climate Change Act to cut UK emissions by 80% between 1990-2050 and by at least 26% between 2005-20.

Given both these factors, we will adopt a target to also reduce emissions from Leeds by 80% between 2005 and 2050. This means cutting total emissions to no more than 1.21m tonnes of carbon dioxide, from a baseline of 6.06m tonnes, or a reduction of 107 thousand tonnes every year.

These are very tough targets. But cities around the world will face similar targets over coming years. Early action now to limit emissions increases and to make cost-effective carbon reductions will put Leeds in a strong position in future.

The UK Climate Impact Programme (UKCIP) Climate Scenarios

The Hadley Centre (part of the UK Met Office) and the Tyndall Centre have modelled scenarios of future climate change based on different levels of emissions. The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) published this information in 2002 as the 'UKCIP02 Climate Change Scenarios'. It shows the likely changes to key climate variables for 2020, 2050 and 2080. UKCIP plans to publish new climate change projections in 2009 based on improved modelling and showing the relative probability of different impacts.

We will ensure that the new climate change projections are considered within the climate change adaptation plans for Leeds as soon as they become available.

Monitoring Climate Trends in Leeds

The former Leeds Weather Centre and the Leeds City Council weather station have been used to obtain comprehensive weather data for central Leeds for the period 1985- 2008. This data provides supporting evidence for the rising number of severe weather events that we experience in Leeds. Over recent years, river flooding, flash flooding and gales have all become more frequent. These trends all support the predictions made by UKCIP so we can be confident that longer-term forecasts are also broadly correct.

The council is now working on a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) to investigate the consequences of current severe weather events, in order to make an economic case for preventative action. The LCLIP has identified that Leeds is most vulnerable to floods and wind damage.

Key Emissions Reduction Activities

Leeds has already taken some major steps to reduce emissions across the city. We know that we must do much more in future if we are going to reduce emissions to a level that will not lead to dangerous climate change. The target of an 80% emissions reduction is so challenging that we will need all sectors (household, organisations and transport) to contribute to emissions reductions efforts. The next few pages describe what we want to happen up to 2011.

Home Energy Efficiency

Homes in Leeds are already much more energy efficient than they were in 1996. Home improvements have been supported by utility company grants, government grants and the Decent Homes programme and have been coordinated by the Fuelsavers Board. To date, efforts have focussed on simple insulation measures, mostly in less affluent neighbourhoods and fuel-poor households. To achieve greater carbon savings we need to encourage larger, more affluent households to also invest in improvements. Additionally, new technologies to insulate hard-to-treat homes and appropriate micro-renewables must be tested to prepare us for deeper emissions reductions in future.

Leeds Priorities for Action

- Support social landlords to install cost-effective energy efficiency measures into all households as quickly as possible and to trial and finance newer insulation and renewables technologies
- Develop a programme to provide appropriate energy efficiency improvements linked to Energy Performance Certificates recommendations for newly purchased properties
- Develop and implement new area-based and public/private and voluntary sector marketing approaches to make it easier for householders to choose to be energy efficient

Leeds Future Vision

By 2011, we will have made major energy efficiency improvements and will be ready to start delivering new technologies in bulk.

Transport Infrastructure and Demand Management

If the population of Leeds is to continue to grow and the economy to develop, we must find solutions to congestion. Leeds has many good schemes in place to encourage people to walk and cycle more and to use private cars less, but the infrastructure in Leeds needs to be improved if we are to take this onto the next level.

Leeds has been granted Government funding to design a solution to congestion in Leeds. Transport for Leeds (TfL) is a study being carried out by Metro and Leeds City Council, to look at congestion in Leeds and how we can tackle it through investment in better transport systems. TfL results will be used to support a possible bid to Government in 2010 for investment in the most appropriate solution for Leeds.

We are also developing a business case for New Generation Transport (NGT). NGT would mean modern, accessible, low emission vehicles providing reliable, comfortable and frequent journeys into the city centre from Park & Ride sites located on the outskirts of Leeds.

In the meantime, we will continue to work with employers to incentivise sustainable transport, promote walking and cycling and work with partners in Leeds to jointly procure low carbon vehicles.

Leeds Priorities for Action

- Use TfL results to build a strong, well supported, case for major infrastructure investment
- Work with employers to incentivise sustainable transport and to make sustainable transport information more accessible
- Continue to promote smarter choices and sustainable modes including walking and cycling as an alternative to driving
- Work closely with Cenex, DfT and other partners to investigate ways to cost-effectively procure low emissions fleet vehicles

Leeds Future Vision

By 2011, journeys by car will have decreased and we will have a plan to reduce congestion and emissions through investment in the transport network, particularly public transport, coupled with appropriate demand management.

Partnership Emission Reduction

Our consultation showed clearly that people in Leeds expect the council and Leeds Initiative partners to lead by example by reducing their emissions. The council has committed to reduce corporate CO₂ emissions in the Leeds Strategic Plan, as have a number of Leeds Initiative partners, including West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Leeds Partnership Foundation Trust, Leeds Voice Environment Forum and Leeds Colleges. The council has also worked closely with the Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust through the Low Carbon Cities Programme to build support for city-wide carbon reductions. The council, the health sector, colleges and universities, voluntary organisations and businesses are now working together to find ways to speed up carbon reductions. This will be achieved through the use of energy efficiency and low carbon technologies, energy management, staff

engagement and procurement of low carbon goods. To show people in Leeds the scale of change that is possible, we have launched the Leeds Climate Charter which will record the total carbon dioxide emissions and reduction targets of all participants.

Leeds Priorities for Action

- Ensure high uptake of the Leeds Climate Charter by partners in order to monitor and report emissions reductions from organisations in Leeds
- Identify and act on opportunities to work together on joint carbon reduction opportunities
- Encourage staff involvement through city-wide Energy Guardians schemes
- Explore the use of prudential borrowing powers and other sources of finance to raise capital to deliver city council carbon reduction commitments in Leeds Strategic Plan

Leeds Future Vision

By 2011, it will be clear that the public and private sector in Leeds are showing leadership by working together to make significant carbon reductions.

Waste and Resource Efficiency

Direct greenhouse gas emissions from waste are relatively small. However, inefficient use of resources means that we need to produce more goods, using more resources, than if we used long-life, durable products that we recycled at the end of their lives. We also know that people in Leeds are recycling more and more every year and strongly associate recycling with positive environmental behaviour. Recycling can act as a gateway behaviour, leading people onto other actions such as home energy efficiency or cutting car use.

The Integrated Waste Strategy already contains strong targets and actions to constrain municipal waste generation, improve recycling rates and minimise landfill. We will therefore focus on maximising the emissions reductions from landfill diversion through recycling and residual waste treatment, and on engaging key industries and smaller businesses. To engage with businesses, we will work closely with business support organisations such as Resource Efficiency Yorkshire, WRAP and Envirowise.

Leeds Priorities for Action

- Help residents to recycle more of their household waste through education and the provision of enhanced recycling services
- Work in partnership with key business support organisations to deliver resource efficiency improvements within businesses across Leeds

- Within existing plans for recycling and residual waste treatment, push for maximum carbon reductions through appropriate segregation of waste and utilisation of best technology solutions

Leeds Future Vision

By 2011, we will have clear plans in place to turn waste in Leeds into valuable resources.

Business Emission Reduction

With over a third of the emissions in Leeds coming from the commercial and industrial sectors there is a pressing need to work together to reduce emissions. There are significant levels of support available for larger organisations from the Carbon Trust, Carbon Action Yorkshire and Envirowise. However, there is little climate change support for smaller businesses. Leeds Chamber provide a business-to-business service database and utility analysis service and Business Link can provide resource efficiency checks to business. Both organisations are keen to see use of their services expand so that local businesses can benefit from the greater profitability that resource efficiency brings.

Leeds Priorities for Action

- Work with Leeds Chamber, Business Link and other business support organisations to promote Leeds Climate Charter
- Promote Carbon Action Yorkshire's services to deliver carbon savings to major businesses in Leeds
- Develop a Green Directory for Leeds to provide advice to businesses on a range of low carbon activities, linked to business-to-business services

Leeds Future Vision

By 2011, major businesses will be taking action to reduce carbon emissions and smaller businesses will have appropriate support in place.

Low Carbon New Developments

Leeds has experienced continuous growth over the last 10 years. Our economy has benefited in the short-term but the lack of green buildings means that when fossil fuel costs rise, our businesses and residents feel the pinch. Leeds must plan to continue in its role as a major regional centre, with new commercial premises being built in the city to accommodate future jobs and a Government target to build 4,300 new homes every year to 2026 for new residents to live in. The challenge is to ensure that new buildings, and all the associated infrastructure, contribute to the long-term vitality of the Leeds economy with minimal impacts on the local and wider environment. This means designing the city to reduce fossil fuel energy

requirements, reduce transport demand and to cope with changing weather patterns.

To do this, we have to transform the way buildings are designed, connected, constructed, managed and used. The draft Local Development Framework (LDF) addresses this by considering the carbon impacts of location, built form and transport. The overall development pattern will seek to reduce journeys by private car. Government has recently announced that all new homes must be carbon neutral by 2016. To help develop the skills required by this policy, major developments in Leeds will be encouraged to either use on-site renewable energy or have lower CO₂ emissions than required by Building Regulations.

We are lucky in Leeds that we have some forward-thinking developers who already see the business benefits of low carbon buildings. We will work with them to help make their aspirations a reality. We will use the good examples that are coming through from these leading developers to challenge other developments to achieve higher standards.

Leeds Priorities for Action

- Develop and enforce appropriate planning policies and guidance within the LDF and Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document
- Develop skills in Leeds City Council to advise developers on carbon reductions from major developments and renewables applications
- Develop plans to include holistic packages of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in regeneration projects to achieve transformational carbon reductions

Leeds Future Vision

By 2011, some major low and zero carbon developments have been built and key developers and planning policies support low carbon development.

Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure

If we are serious about meeting long-term emissions reduction targets, we will have to reduce carbon emissions from energy needed for heating, cooling, lighting and power. This means investing now in clean, local energy generation, known as decentralised energy.

To date, we only have a few examples of decentralised energy in Leeds and most of these are small scale. The largest site is the combined heat and power (CHP) plant at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI), which has been providing heating, cooling and electricity to both the hospital and parts of the University of Leeds since the 1970s. The other large examples are the five landfill sites in Leeds that have the capacity to provide 10MW of electricity – enough for about 5,000 homes. There are also small

generators, such as the hydroelectric plant in Otley, the photovoltaic panels on Park Lane College, a mix of technologies including biomass heating at the University of Leeds and demonstrations of technologies at the Meanwood Valley Urban Farm and Skelton Grange.

Now, some developers are making low carbon energy part of mainstream developments in Leeds. These include community heating for Eastgate, Holbeck Urban Village and the Civic Quarter; large-scale renewables, including wind turbines, at various sites and the potential to generate energy from the residual waste solution. We will therefore work to support developers from the earliest stages of scheme development to ensure that the plans are appropriate for Leeds and can be successfully implemented. We will also develop planning policies that identify the parts of the city that are most appropriate for different technologies. Where possible, we will use council or Leeds Initiative partner land to help develop low carbon energy infrastructure.

Leeds Priorities for Action

- Work with Partnership for Renewables to investigate the potential for renewable electricity generation on council owned land
- Conduct a feasibility study to assess the potential to expand the LGI/University of Leeds CHP scheme to a much broader part of the city centre
- Work with Yorkshire Forward to develop a mechanism to support cost-effective major carbon reduction programmes

Leeds Future Vision

By 2011, we will have developed major renewable energy and community heating plans that significantly reduce emissions and will be ready to start building them.

Key Adaptation Activities

No matter what we do to reduce emissions, Leeds will still experience some climate change. This is because it takes between 30-40 years for the atmosphere to react to carbon dioxide that has already been released. We will take this seriously and work to understand what the likely short, medium and long-term impacts will be. We will then put in place plans to address the risks before they harm our way of life.

Risk Assessment and priority interventions

Climate change adaptation has already been recognised as a priority for Leeds. The Leeds Strategic Plan has adopted National Indicator 188 (planning to adapt to climate change) as one of our 32 priorities. This means that we are committed to working together as a city partnership to understand the key risks and to put in place a programme of cost-effective measures to reduce or cope with the risks.

We are fortunate in Leeds that we have access to essential data from our weather station and that we have already started adaptation action. Our Community Risk Registers identify seven key climate risks (major river flooding, urban flash flooding, drought, heatwaves, storms & gales, tornados and low temperatures & heavy snow) all of which, except drought, are rated as high risk. The Major Emergency Plan identifies severe weather and flooding as key risks and sets out a general approach. Flooding (from rivers and flash flooding) is the most important current climate risk. The Water Asset Management Group has already taken action to reduce gully flooding and to help households cope in particularly vulnerable places. City partners are now working with the Environment Agency to develop proposals for a city centre flood defence scheme.

We now need to understand the less obvious climate risks and the knock on effects for the city of major events. We will concentrate on health and social care, transport and utilities, the built environment and green infrastructure. For each of these sectors we will work with partners across the city to identify key risks based on UKCIP projections and develop adaptation action plans. We will also collect and develop resources that can help individuals and organisations to understand how impacts will effect them and what they can do to prepare.

Leeds Priorities for Action

- Work with the Environment Agency and others to develop and deliver an appropriate flood defence scheme to protect Leeds city centre
- Work with partners across Leeds to deliver NI188, to identify key climate risks and priority actions
- Develop and trial a methodology for detailed vulnerability mapping of key climate risks across the city

Leeds Future Vision

By 2011, we will have developed a clear understanding of what the key climate risks are for Leeds, which parts of the city are most vulnerable, and have a clear plan to make Leeds more resilient.

Key Cross-Cutting Activities

As well as specific carbon reduction and adaptation actions, to prepare Leeds for climate change will require programmes of cross-cutting activities. The consultation was clear that partners in the city expect Leeds City Council to coordinate climate change activity across Leeds. The council can do this by providing clear and impartial information and by leading by example.

Information Collation, Coordination and Inspiration

Our research has shown that there is plenty of information on climate change, but it's not always held in the right place or in the right format. We don't want to duplicate information that is already available, instead we will provide an easy way for different audiences in Leeds to pick up useful, action-orientated information. We will do this by developing the Leeds Initiative website to become a resource centre for both individuals and organisations in the city. We will also identify opportunities for partners to work directly together on shared activities and coordinate this work.

Providing information is important, but won't win hearts and minds. We need to provide inspirational examples that people can relate to. We need to demonstrate that there are thousands of other people taking action on climate change. We need to turn climate change from simply a threat to an opportunity. We need to show that climate positive actions can be fun, not a sacrifice.

Working as a city to provide this inspiration is critical. We have already developed two resources to deliver this: the Leeds Climate Pledge and Leeds Climate Charter. The Pledge provides individuals with tips for action related to their interests and positive success stories from their peers. The Charter allows organisations to commit to take action on business critical climate change issues and will share successes between participants. Collectively, the two will clearly demonstrate that people and organisations are working to tackle climate change in Leeds. We will also deliver the climate change communications strategy and focus on developing a climate festival to celebrate positive action on climate change.

Leeds Priorities for Action

- Develop a 'Climate Change Centre of Excellence' for Leeds, hosted on the Leeds Initiative website
- Deliver a climate festival in 2010 in partnership with the community in Leeds
- Deliver the climate change communications strategy in partnership with communication outlets throughout Leeds, focusing on the Charter and Pledge

Leeds Future Vision

By 2011, we will have made important climate change information for Leeds easily available, partnership activities will be well coordinated and we will have inspired mass action to reduce emissions.

Moving to a Low Carbon Economy

The ability of Leeds businesses to cope with the threats of climate change, and to develop products and services to take advantage of the opportunities, will underpin a successful future economy. Long-term trends indicate that rising resource costs and increased environmental taxes will impact on all businesses. Environmental goods and services will be required to reduce these costs. We need to encourage

businesses to take early action to avoid costs, which will create additional demand for low carbon goods and services. The public sector can lead the way through the use of sustainable procurement. Supporting our businesses to develop these goods and services and the skills to deliver them will help to build a resilient future economy, with local demand met by local supply.

However, in Leeds we currently don't fully understand the implications of moving to a low carbon economy and the opportunities that this presents. We will therefore work through the Economy and Skills partnership to develop a better understanding of economic risks and opportunities and to identify a skills development programme. We plan to base this economic assessment on a downscaled Stern review for the city region, working in partnership with the University of Leeds.

Leeds Priorities for Action

- Complete an assessment of the economic value of the risks and opportunities from climate change in Leeds and reflect these findings in future plans
- Work with the Economy and Skills partnership to jointly understand the skills gaps and new skills required to achieve a low carbon, resilient, economy
- Encourage the use of sustainable procurement to drive demand for low carbon goods and services

Leeds Future Vision

By 2011, the economic imperative of successfully tackling climate change is clear to the Leeds business community and a skills development programme has been agreed to help develop the low carbon economy.

Monitoring and Review Process

Each year, we will provide a brief update on progress against the priorities for action contained in this *Vision for Action*. This will be conducted through the Leeds Climate Change Partnership, the Leeds Initiative strategy group with responsibility for driving this forwards. In 2011, we will assess progress towards the vision for 2011 and put in place a detailed action plan to ensure progress towards the vision for 2021.

Acknowledgements

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Christian Aid	Climate Change Café	Connect Housing
Education Leeds	Edward Walker Architects	Environment Agency
Envirowise	Friends of the Earth	GOYH
Groundwork Leeds	Headrow Housing Association	Horsforth Climate Change Group
Leeds City Council	Leeds Federated Housing Association	Leeds Health Protection Agency
Leeds Jewish Housing Association	Leeds Primary Care Trust	Leeds Teaching Hospitals
Leeds Union Green Action	Leeds Voice Environment Forum	Leeds WDM
Medsin Leeds	Permaculture Association	Radio Aire
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Inside Back Cover

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