

Environment Partnership, 20 May 2009

Item 4

Progress report on LAA2 targets and other indicators

1 Introduction

1.1 This report provides an overview of progress on LAA2 targets for climate change mitigation and adaptation during 2009-2010. Evidence and examples are currently being collected by the target leads and target delivery groups to meet Defra reporting requirements. A more detailed report will be submitted to the Environment Partnership once this data has been gathered and collated.

2 Background

2.1 The following two climate change targets are part of the Local Area Agreement 2:

- NI 185: CO2 reduction from local authority operations
- NI 188: Adapting to climate change

Oxfordshire County Council provides the target lead for both targets, and convenes the target delivery group which includes representatives from all district councils, GOSE, and UKCIP. Other organisations including the Environment Agency have participated in the groups.

Details of the targets are summarised in the table below.

National Indicator	Target	Timescale	Baseline	Progress against target
NI 185: CO2 reduction from local authority operations	6% reduction on 2008 baseline by 2011	Submit 2008 baseline in July 2009 Final reporting date, July 2011	Will be approx 90,000 tonnes CO2	Target reduced during refresh from 8% to 6% reduction. All councils can produce baseline data by July.
NI 188: Adapting to climate change Revised guidance published in January 2009	All local authorities to have reached level 3 by 2011 Interim targets: level 1 by April 2009 Level 2 by April 2010	Report on year 1 to data hub by 29 May 2009	Self assessment by all local authorities as Level 0 in 2008 ("Getting started")	The assessed target level for Oxfordshire on 29 May 2009 is Level 1, ("Public commitment and impact assessment")

3 Progress on LAA2 targets

3.1 Successes and challenges

Adapting to climate change:

The delivery group has met and shared experience on a regular basis during the first year. It estimates that it has achieved the target level 1 for Oxfordshire. Nearly all councils estimate that they have reached Level 1 in their self assessment. Oxford City Council has assessed its target level as 0 this year but it has already met some criteria for targets levels 1 and 2. Having started from level 0 only a year ago, councils have moved quickly, and this is a significant achievement.

CO2 reduction:

All local authorities have now succeeded in calculating their carbon foot print, engaging with contractors, and are now in a position where they will be able to provide a baseline by the target date of July this year,

Challenges

These are relatively new areas of work, with the guidance still in the process of development; the revised self assessment guidance for reporting on NI 188 was only published in January this year. GOSE has held a number of workshops which have been helpful, but the group has had to work hard to clarify requirements and expectations to meet targets. In addition there has been a shortage of time and resources to enable effective project planning and management.

4 New arrangements for performance management and reporting on LAA2

- 4.1 The target leads have been involved in the discussions and a member of the County Council's Performance Management has visited the LAA2 delivery group to explain the new arrangements.

5 Planning for the Future

- 5.1 The Delivery Group is developing 2009-2010 programme plans for both areas of work. A joint communications event (for NI 188 and NI 185) - to share practice, is to be organised by LAA2 delivery group– aimed at community groups, LSPs, contractors and businesses. Priorities and events/ milestones include:

NI 188:

- Widening group membership: inviting other organisations eg Hants CC to present, and involving eg health service in future meetings
- Considering feasibility of Oxfordshire-wide LCLIP
- UKCIP '09 climate data - launch event and programme in Autumn 2009

NI 185:

- Data gathering to provide baseline by July 2009
- Seeking greater support from Carbon Trust
- Event for contractors in January 2010

Appendix:

1. Summary of target levels for NI 188

- 0 Getting started
- 1 Public commitment and impacts assessment
- 2 Comprehensive risk assessment
- 3 Comprehensive action plan
- 4 Implementation, monitoring and continuous review

2. Approximate baseline used for calculating LAA2 refresh, March 2009

	2007 or 2007/08 baseline (tonnes)	Reduction	Estimated CO2 reduction each over two years (2009-2011)
Vale of white horse DC	4226	8%	338.08
Oxford City Council	8514	15%	1277.1
Oxfordshire County Council	60000	4%	2400
Cherwell DC	9870	6%	592.2
West Oxfordshire DC	4000	6%	240
South Oxfordshire DC	4245	20%	849
Total	90855		5696.38
Total % reduction			6.2697485