

let's work together -to take the heat out the situation

how we plan to tackle climate change – and what you can do to help





let's consider the situation

The way we live our everyday lives is having an impact on the world in which we live.

A direct result of our actions is that the earth is warming up and our climate is changing.

For Gloucester it will mean hotter and drier summers and warmer and wetter winters. The weather generally will be more volatile with intensive storms.

Common species of plants and animals will become extinct. There will be water shortages from a lack of summer rain - while wetter winters will cause more flooding.

That's a sobering prospect. But there are steps we can take to make things better.

The city council is a community leader, a regulator and itself a user of fossil fuels.

We've produced a plan that will help to tackle the issues that cause the problems and enable us to adapt to a climate-changed world.

You can help too.

This leaflet highlights the problems and sets out some of the measures we can take together.



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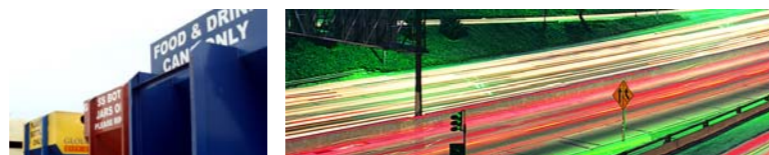
let's reduce our carbon footprint

The gas and electricity we use for heat and light and the petrol that drives our cars and lorries all produces carbon dioxide.

The amount of carbon in the atmosphere - a major factor in global warming - has almost doubled. It is still increasing at an alarming rate.

Homes are responsible for about a third of our carbon emissions. Transport accounts for another third. This is going up as we travel more and drive bigger cars. The rest comes from commerce and industry.

This is known as our carbon footprint. We have to take steps to reduce it.



let's generate less waste

We dump 40,000 tonnes of household waste into the landfill site at Hempsted every year. In five years it will have to close.

A lot of the waste produces methane as it breaks down - a powerful greenhouse gas that adds to the global warming problem.

Making products from 'virgin' materials takes more energy than using recycled materials.

We need to dump less rubbish in our landfill site - and recycle more.





let's protect nature

Changing climates will have an impact on our wildlife, gardens and countryside.

Some species will need to move to cooler parts of the country - and will need natural 'corridors' to help them to do that.

We can try to garden with wildlife in mind. To use fewer chemicals and perhaps have less formal gardens.

Water will become both a friend and a foe. Weather conditions will lead to storms and floods. Drier summers will mean that drinking water will be an increasingly valuable resource.

We need to conserve and re-use water where possible.



let's be more adaptable

Safeguarding our future will require all of us to think and act differently from the way we do today.

We need to look at using renewable sources of energy like solar, wind and water power, which do not produce carbon dioxide.

We have to consider the consequences of what we do.

We need to take individual action to reduce our carbon footprints.

In short we need to be more adaptable.





let's work together

What the city council plans to do:

As a planning and housing authority we'll improve the energy performance of new buildings.

We will install a combined heat and power plant at GL1 - it will heat the pool and generate electricity.

We'll develop a new bus station to replace the existing one as well as better Park and Ride facilities.

We'll set up a car club for the city.

We'll expand our recycling service.

We'll buy more recycled and climate-friendly products.

We'll make sure that developers take the issue of water conservation seriously and install renewable energy sources in new buildings.

We will 'harvest' rainwater at some of our own sites to replace the use of mains water.

We'll look at installing small-scale wind turbines and other renewable technologies on public buildings.

We'll manage water better to create new wetland habitats.

We won't allow developments in the floodplain.

We'll give free trees to those who have the land to plant them.

We're investigating if it's feasible to install a large wind turbine at Alney Island.





what you can do

Insulate your home and use energy efficient light bulbs and appliances.

Walk or cycle. Use cars less and public transport more. Only fly if you have to.

Recycle more, buy goods made from recycled materials, and start a compost heap in the garden.

Fit a water butt to your building. Use water efficient appliances. Wash your car with a bucket and sponge.

If you want to invest in cost-effective renewable technology then think about solar hot water.

If you can, plant a tree.

Try not to use air conditioning - it's energy hungry. Find other ways to keep cool.



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This leaflet covers the main components of our climate change strategy.
For the summary document see your local library or Council office
or go to www.gloucester.gov.uk/climate

We'd like your views on climate care ideas. Write to Meyrick Brentnall or
Stephen McDonnell, Herbert Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EQ
or email pdg@gloucester.gov.uk

Closing date for comments: May 25, 2007.

If you just want more information on how you can help phone
Meyrick or Stephen on 01452 396 829 / 396 209.

For energy matters contact the Energy Advice Centre on 0800 52012 (calls are free).

