

2012-2020

WYCHAVON

Intelligently Green Plan



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Summary

Like all councils, we have a vital role to play in cutting energy consumption, tackling fuel poverty and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Energy efficiency and renewable energy are important issues for Wychavon residents too and they expect us to play a strong role in addressing them.

As community leaders, service providers and the local planning authority, we can help to tackle these issues across the breadth of our activities. Our Intelligently Green Plan, covering the period from April 2012 to March 2020, is our response to these challenges and expectations.

For us being 'intelligently green' is about making choices that not only have a positive environmental impact, but also generate a return in financial or community terms.

Our Intelligently Green Plan focuses on four themes: energy; construction; food, tourism and green space; and transport. We chose these themes because they cover the green issues that we are not already addressing, either through our roles as a council or through other plans and partnerships.

The plan summarises the national and legislative context for our intelligently green work. It examines where we are now in Wychavon - both as a council and in the wider community. It covers our strategic commitments and our direct environmental impact. It looks at examples of how we are already helping the community to be intelligently green through things like energy advice, grants for insulation, raising awareness of bulk fuel buying groups and our Building Design Awards.

The document contains an analysis of the district's environmental footprint and the current position for each of our four themes. It provides an insight into residents' perceptions about a number of green issues.

The plan sets out our vision for a greener, more energy efficient and self-sufficient Wychavon by 2020. It contains a series of actions for delivery between 2012 and 2015. These include:

- Exploring opportunities for installing renewable energy technologies in some of our buildings.
- Working with other Worcestershire councils to play an active role in delivering the Green Deal to ensure local residents and businesses benefit.
- Adopting a Local Development Order to permit the installation of green technologies in business parks.
- Producing a Supplementary Planning Document on sustainable construction.
- Lobbying the government to increase energy standards for all new buildings.
- Identifying opportunities for new community gardens, allotments, woodlands and nature reserves.
- Working with farmers and growers to raise awareness of water supply issues, highlight best practice and identify potential solutions.
- Reviewing cycling provision at train stations and major bus interchanges.
- Exploiting opportunities to create circular routes for pedestrians and cyclists around the main towns and connections to surrounding areas.

We will develop a new set of actions in 2015. The plan concludes by explaining how we will measure progress and outlines some more detailed examples of how we're already putting our intelligently green approach into action.



1.1 Why we need this plan

Views and opinions about the causes of climate change and the need to reduce carbon emissions may differ, but the rising costs of energy, depletion of fossil fuel reserves and growing levels of fuel poverty provide a strong and urgent impetus for cutting energy consumption and moving to more sustainable sources of energy.

Recent survey findings¹ indicate that energy efficiency and renewable energy are important issues for Wychavon residents. Residents expect us to play a strong role in addressing them. The survey results also highlight people's commitment to taking action to reduce their own environmental impact and offer an insight into some of the barriers that currently prevent them from doing more.

We recognise that, like all councils, we have a vital role to play in cutting energy consumption, tackling fuel poverty and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Through our role as community leaders, service providers and as the local planning authority, we can help to tackle these issues across the breadth of our activities. This Intelligently Green Plan is our response to these challenges and expectations.

The plan summarises the national and local context for our intelligently green work. It contains our vision for a greener, more energy efficient and self-sufficient Wychavon by 2020 and an action plan to help us get there. The action plan covers the next three years (2012 – 2015) and is structured around four themes. The document concludes with a set of success measures and some examples of how we're already putting our intelligently green approach into action.

1.2 What is intelligently green?

We use the term 'intelligently green' to define our involvement in environmental issues that either make good business sense for us, have a clear community benefit, or both. In other words, it's about making choices that not only have a positive environmental impact, but also generate a return in financial or community terms.

For example, our decision to install photovoltaic panels on the Civic Centre was intelligently green because it cuts our energy costs and generates an income for us as well as reducing our consumption of natural resources (see 7.1). Assisting residents with insulating their homes is intelligently green because it reduces household fuel bills and helps address fuel poverty. As well as increasing the energy efficiency of homes, it can also make a positive contribution to improving health. However, installing a rainwater harvesting system for the Civic Centre is currently not intelligently green because the costs are prohibitive in relation to the benefits.

1.3 How we developed the plan

Our Intelligently Green Group, comprising officers from across the council, has led the development of this plan. In March 2011, we held a workshop to initiate the process. Participants included members of our Intelligently Green Group, other key staff, some of our partners and members of interest groups. The workshop generated a long list of potential actions for inclusion in the plan.

Over the summer, we carried out detailed investigations and research into the priorities identified through the workshop. We established which ones were potentially viable and who else is doing something similar that we can learn from or replicate. Based on these investigations, we developed a series of actions for inclusion in the plan.

In the autumn, we sought initial feedback on the draft actions and worked to refine them further. In January 2012, we carried out targeted consultation on the draft plan with partners, local groups and interested residents.

The plan brings together the results of our investigations, research and feedback from partners and other interested groups. It strikes a balance between the wide ranging expectations of our stakeholders and the need for a focused and achievable, yet ambitious plan.

1.4 The scope of this plan

The plan focuses on the following four themes:

energy



construction

food,
tourism and
green space



transport



We chose these themes because they cover the green issues that we are not already addressing, either through our role as a service provider, employer and property owner, or through other strategic plans and partnerships. Below we have briefly summarised how we are working on some of the environmental issues not covered by this plan in any detail.

We have joined forces with Malvern Hills District and Worcester City Councils to prepare the [South Worcestershire Development Plan](#). The purpose is to ensure that future development within South Worcestershire is well planned and managed effectively, having a positive impact on the environment. The plan, which covers the period up to 2030, allocates larger strategic development sites across South Worcestershire and provides policies to ensure that any development is sustainable. When it is adopted in 2013, the South Worcestershire Development Plan will replace the existing Local Plans of the three partner councils.

Green infrastructure is the term used to describe the network of natural environmental components, including green and blue spaces, that lie within and between cities, towns and villages. These include parks, canals, bridleways, nature reserves, woodlands, wildlife habitats and other natural areas. We are engaged in the [Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Partnership](#), which is developing a strategy and implementation plan aimed at protecting and enhancing the county's green infrastructure assets.

The [Waste Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire \(2004 – 2034\)](#) sets out the direction for waste management in the two counties and contains principles, policies and targets which apply to all the councils in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The aim of the strategy is to decrease waste production and increase the recovery of value from waste (for example through reuse, recycling or composting) by treating waste as a resource.

We have a range of duties and responsibilities for matters under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Flood Risk Regulations 2009.

2 The national context

This section outlines the national and legislative context for this plan. While carbon reduction targets act as a key driver for national energy policies, our intelligently green approach is motivated by a desire to generate business or community benefits as well as reducing our environmental impact.

2.1 The Energy Act 2011

The UK has a legally binding target to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, to be achieved through action at home and abroad. In June 2011, the government enshrined in law a new commitment to halve greenhouse gas emissions by the mid-2020s. Both targets are against a 1990 baseline.

In October 2011, the Energy Bill received Royal Assent and became the [Energy Act 2011](#).

The Act provides for a step change in the provision of energy efficiency measures to homes and businesses through the Green Deal and a new Energy Company Obligation. It also includes measures on energy security, low-carbon technologies and fair competition in the energy markets. We recognise our duty in helping to deliver some elements of the Act.

2.2 Green Deal

The [Green Deal](#) will be launched in autumn 2012. It will provide householders and businesses with upfront capital to carry out energy efficiency improvements to their properties (for example installing cavity, loft and external wall insulation, energy efficient boilers and renewable energy technologies).

The cost of installing energy efficiency measures will be repaid over time through a charge on the property's electricity bill, which must not be any higher than the expected savings.

Alongside the significant business and employment opportunities generated, the Green Deal will mean homes are easier to heat, consumers will be able to save money on their energy bills and the impact of energy consumption on the environment will be reduced.

Under the Green Deal there are several [models for councils](#) to improve the energy efficiency of local homes and businesses, and help drive economic growth in their area. These are summarised below.

- **Provider** - raising the finance to deliver the Green Deal directly to local residents and businesses.
- **Partner** - working in partnership with commercial Green Deal providers and community partners to deliver or facilitate delivery.
- **Advocate** - promoting and facilitating the Green Deal locally.

Green Deal process



2.3 Energy Company Obligation

A new Energy Company Obligation (ECO) will work alongside the Green Deal to provide additional support to householders who cannot achieve significant energy savings without extra support. The focus will be on vulnerable and low-income households and those living in harder to treat properties, such as solid walled properties.

.... energy saving is now an equal priority with energy production. An economy that wastes energy cannot thrive in a high-demand, low-emissions world. Improving energy efficiency will save money – and cut carbon.'

The government's Annual Energy Statement, 23 November 2011

2.4 Renewable energy targets and incentives

The 2009 Renewable Energy Directive sets a target for the UK to achieve 15% of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020.

In April 2010, the government launched [Feed-in Tariffs](#) (FiTs). These are designed to encourage the installation of small-scale, low carbon, electricity generating technologies, such as solar photovoltaics or wind turbines. For every unit of electricity generated, the owner receives a guaranteed payment (FiT) from their electricity supplier. They also receive a payment (export tariff) for any surplus electricity they export back to the grid.

In March 2011, the government announced the details of the [Renewable Heat Incentive](#). This scheme is designed to provide financial support

that encourages individuals, communities and businesses to switch from using fossil fuel for heating, to renewables such as ground-source heat pumps and wood-chip boilers.

2.5 Memorandum of Understanding

In March 2011, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, and the Vice-Chair of the Local Government Association, signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) designed to recognise the pivotal role that local councils have in taking action to:

- reduce energy consumption from their own estate and operations and from homes, businesses and transport infrastructure
- create more appropriate renewable energy generation
- participate in national initiatives at the local level, particularly the roll out of the [Green Deal](#), smart metering and renewable energy deployment.



3 Where we are now

This part of the plan sets out the local context. It begins with a look at our strategic commitments and our previous climate change action plan. It summarises our direct environmental impact and provides examples of how we are already helping the community to be intelligently green.

The second half of this section examines the district's environmental footprint and provides an analysis of the current position for each of our four themes. It incorporates a selection of the Wychavon results from the [November 2010](#) and [May 2011](#) Worcestershire Viewpoint surveys², which offer an insight into residents' perceptions about a number of intelligently green issues.

Where are we now as a council?

3.1 Our strategic commitments

Our new [corporate strategy](#) (2012 - 2016) sets the strategic context for this plan. One of our three priorities is a strong environment. Our goals under this priority include:

- Reducing energy consumption and increasing the generation of energy from renewable sources.
- Balancing new development with protecting the natural and built environment.

These apply to the way we run the council, the services we provide and our community leadership role.

We have signed up to the [Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge](#) and report annually on our progress.

In 2008, we commissioned free independent advice from the [Energy Saving Trust](#) (EST) and the [Carbon Trust](#) to help us understand our own energy use better and to prioritise areas for improvement. We participated in the EST's one-to-one support programme and the Carbon Trust carried out a free energy audit and provided us with technical advice.

Our [climate change action plan](#), which was based on recommendations from the Energy Saving Trust and Carbon Trust, ran until the end of March 2011. This contained 42 actions to be delivered between 2008 and 2011. We've delivered a significant proportion of these, including installing energy efficiency measures such as loft insulation and new lights; providing energy efficiency training to frontline staff and councillors; and staff awareness 'switch-it off' campaigns.

3.2 Our environmental performance

Energy consumption

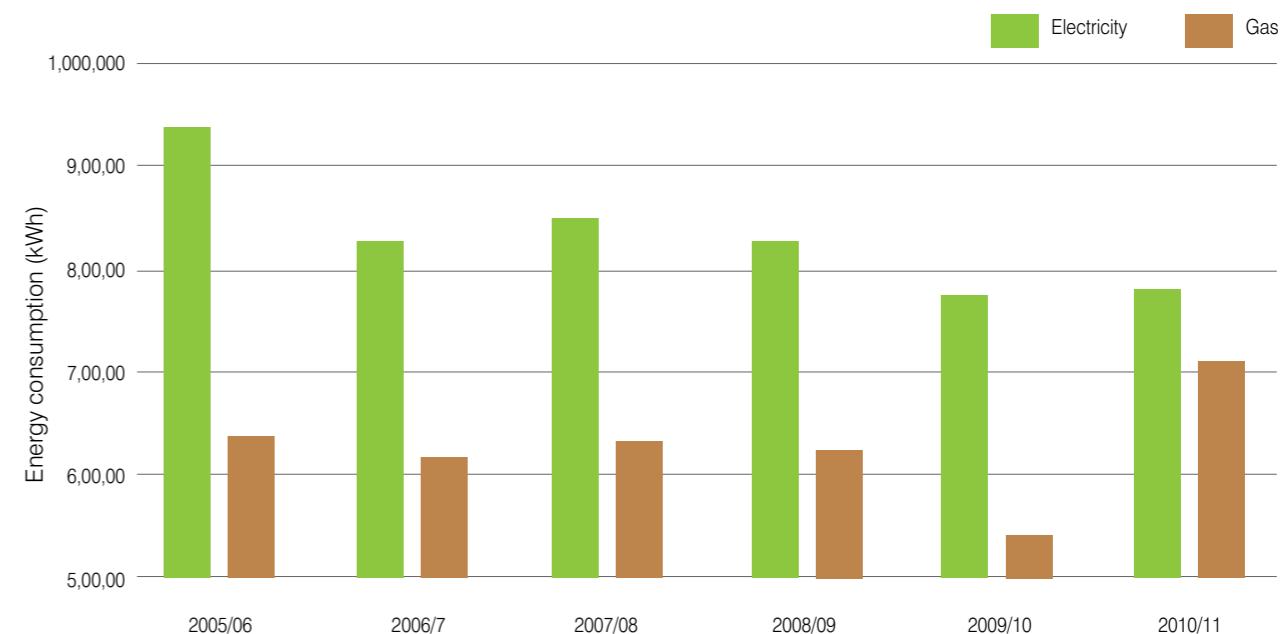
As Figure 1 shows, between 2005/06 and 2009/10, we reduced our energy consumption in the Civic Centre, which is our main building. In 2009/10, we used 16.6% less electricity and 14% less gas to run the building than in 2005/06.

In 2010/11, we used a total of 1,506,060 kilowatt hours (kWh) of energy to heat and power the Civic Centre. This was a 13.7% increase compared to the previous year, because of an increased demand for heating over the exceptional winter.

At the end of 2010/11, we installed a PowerPerfactor. This is designed to optimise the electricity supply voltage and reduce our energy use and costs by up to 20%. In November 2011, we installed a photovoltaic panel system at the Civic Centre (see 7.1 for more details).

Figure 1

Civic Centre energy consumption



Travel

In 2010/11, we clocked up 47,835 miles in our fleet vehicles, 2.5% down on the previous year. Our main contractors, Fosca, did 893,909 miles collecting waste and recycling and cleaning streets on our behalf, down 8% compared to 2009/10.

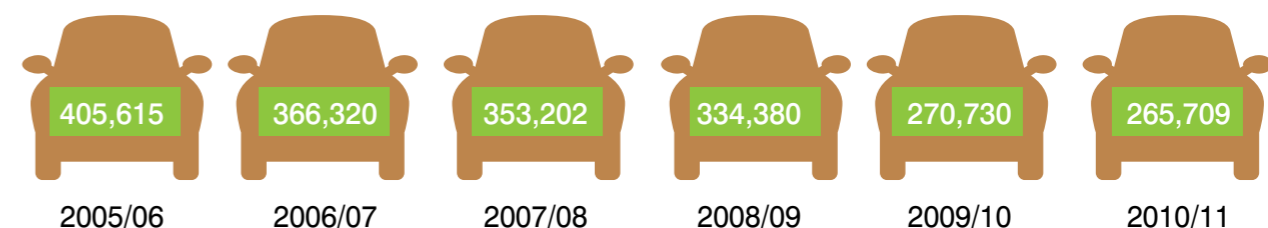
In 2010/11, our staff travelled 265,709 business miles in their cars, down 1.9% on the previous year. As Figure 2 demonstrates, since 2005/06,

we have reduced our business travel by car by 35%.

Our [Travel Plan](#) promotes travel choice and aims to reduce the impact of staff and councillor travel. We use a number of incentives to encourage use of alternatives to the car. These include cycle parking and shower facilities, designated car share spaces, a pool car, pool bikes and a 20p per mile cycle allowance for business travel.

Figure 2

Business travel by car (miles)



Greenhouse gas emissions

The government requires us to produce an annual [greenhouse gas emissions report](#). This sets out the greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) emissions, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), resulting from the way we run our organisation and the services we provide.

In 2010/11, we emitted a total of 4,445.6 tonnes of CO₂e from our estate and operations. This is a 2.1% reduction compared with our base year (2008/09), but a 5.4% increase on 2009/10 emissions. This increase was primarily due to the severe winter weather, which led to an increased demand for heating and a small increase in electricity consumption.

In 2010/11, our leisure centres accounted for over half of our total greenhouse emissions. Gas and electricity consumption in our own buildings accounted for 16% of our total emissions and contractor mileage accounted for a further 24%. Contractor vehicles account for significantly higher emissions than business travel because of the size and type of vehicles involved.

Sources of our greenhouse gas emissions in 2010/11

53%	Leisure centres
24%	Travel by contractors
13%	Purchased electricity
5%	Civic Centre waste
3%	Gas consumption
2%	Business travel by car

3.3 Our leadership role

As a service provider and community leader we do a wide range of things to encourage and help residents and businesses to be intelligently green. These include:

- Developing and promoting the [Warmer Worcestershire](#) project, to help residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes,

reduce their fuel bills and stay warm and well in cold weather (see 7.2 for more information).

- Running regular energy advice sessions for residents at flu clinics and the Community Contact Centres with local energy charity, [Act on Energy](#).
- Promoting home energy efficiency measures and encouraging the take-up of grants for insulation and heating improvements. We are currently promoting a free loft and cavity wall insulation scheme.
- Working with Registered Social Landlords on joint energy efficiency initiatives and to build up a better picture of the energy efficiency of the social housing stock. We've recently collaborated with [Rooftop Housing Group](#) on a joint solar panel initiative in Badsey.
- Helping people in parts of Badsey, Broadway, Evesham, Harvington and Norton to reduce their energy bills through the [Opportunity Vale of Evesham](#) project (see 7.3 for more information).
- Offering energy efficiency training to all frontline staff and councillors. Running energy awareness campaigns and participating in campaigns such as the annual regional '[Switch it off week](#)' and '[Small Change, Big Difference week](#)'.
- Organising events for parish councils and rural communities to raise awareness about bulk buying of heating oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for households not on mains gas and the benefits of forming groups to buy in bulk (see 7.4 for more information). The focus of this initiative was around reducing fuel costs and addressing fuel poverty issues.
- [Adopting a Residential Design Guide](#) Supplementary Planning Document. This encourages development that incorporates sustainable design techniques, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation.
- Adopting a [Water Management Supplementary Planning Document](#) and producing a planning guidance note on wind turbines.
- Running [Building Design Awards](#) every two years. These include a sustainability category for projects that demonstrate high standards of energy conservation or sustainable construction.

Where are we now as a district?

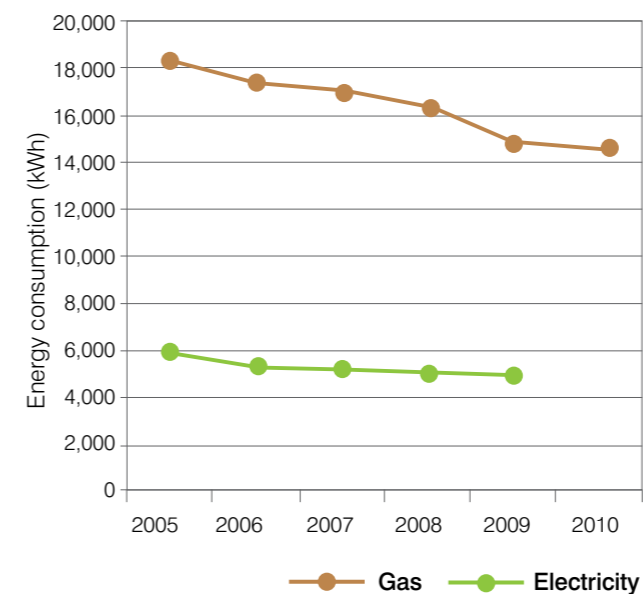
3.4 The district's environmental footprint

Energy consumption

Figure 3 shows that average domestic energy consumption in Wychavon fell steadily between 2005 and 2010³. In 2009, Wychavon residents consumed an average of 19,668 kWh of energy. This was 19% below 2005 levels of consumption; gas accounted for 75% of the total. Electricity consumption was around 3% below the West Midlands and national averages. Gas consumption was 17 to 18% above regional and national averages.

Figure 3

Average domestic energy consumption



Figures 4 and 5 show the geographic distribution of domestic energy consumption across Wychavon. As Figure 5 illustrates, a significant proportion of Wychavon homes are not connected to the main gas supply. In fact, only 78% of Wychavon properties (domestic and business) have gas connections⁴; this is below the Worcestershire average of 88%.

Figure 6 shows significant fluctuations in average commercial and industrial energy consumption between 2005 and 2010⁵. In 2009, Wychavon commerce and industry consumed an average of 1,211,757 kWh of energy; gas accounted for 93% of total consumption. Commercial and industrial electricity consumption was around 3% higher than the West Midlands and national averages. Gas consumption was between 74% and 79% above regional and national averages. Compared to the domestic consumption data presented in Figure 3, this data is based on a relatively small number of consumers, so any changes in the number of businesses can cause a significant variation in consumption patterns.

64% of Wychavon respondents to the Worcestershire Viewpoint survey say they are already improving the energy efficiency of their homes and 33% would consider doing so. The most popular energy saving measures residents use at home are energy saving light bulbs (92%), double glazing (90%), turning off appliances when not in use (90%) and adequate loft insulation (71%).

58% of respondents would consider using the Green Deal to fund energy efficiencies in their homes, 23% were unsure. 22% said they need further information about saving energy at home.

Figure 4

Geographic distribution of average domestic electricity consumption

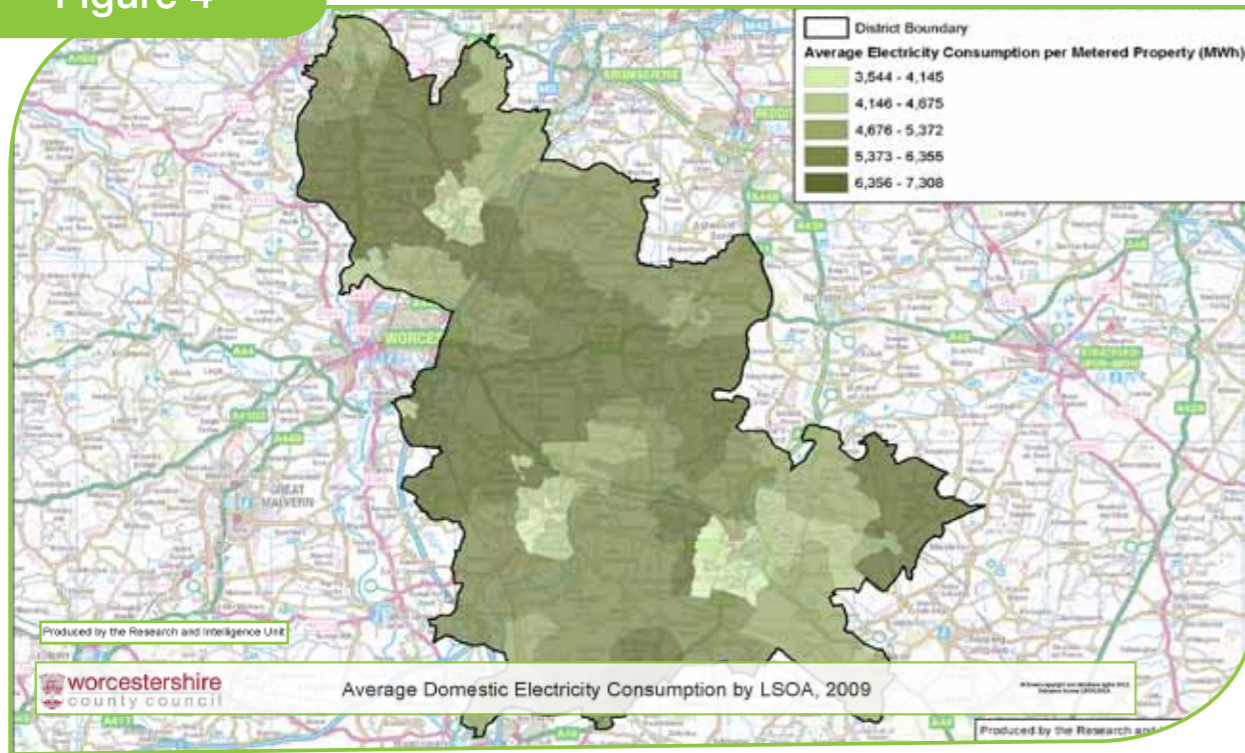
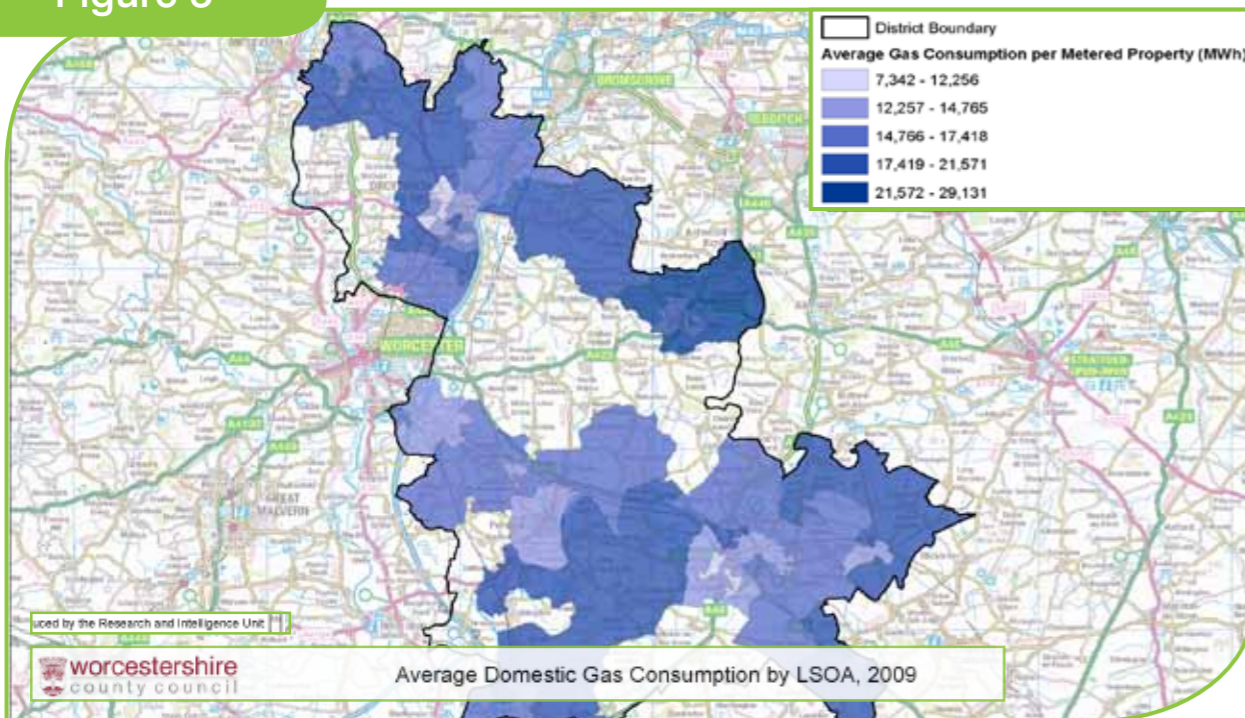


Figure 5

Geographic distribution of average domestic gas consumption



Fuel poverty

A household is defined as fuel poor if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate level of warmth⁶. This definition is currently subject to an independent review. Every £1 spent on reducing fuel poverty reduces National Health Service spend by £15.

In 2009, 25.8% of households in Wychavon were fuel poor⁷. This is above the Worcestershire average of 23.8% and significantly above the England average of 18.4%. Figure 7 shows the

geographic distribution of fuel poverty across Wychavon. There is a high concentration of fuel poor households across the middle of the district and several areas in the north and south. Some of the central areas correlate with areas not connected to mains gas.

19% of homes in Wychavon fail the Decent Homes Standard as a result of inadequate thermal comfort and poor levels of insulation. This is just below the Worcestershire average of 20%, but above the national average of 17%.

Figure 6

Average commercial and industrial energy consumption

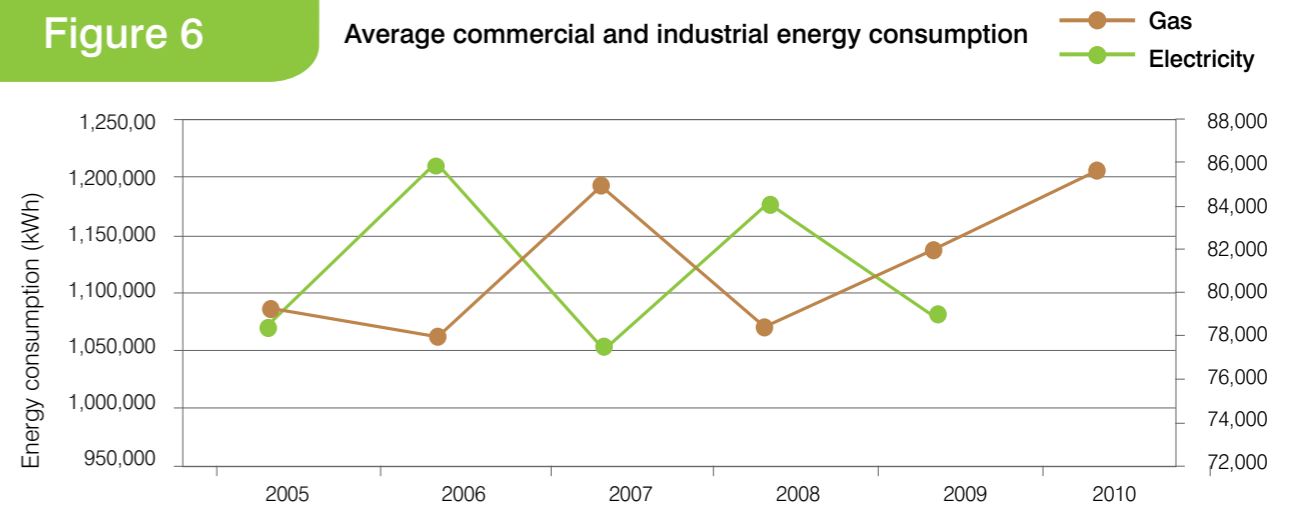


Figure 7

Geographic distribution of fuel poverty

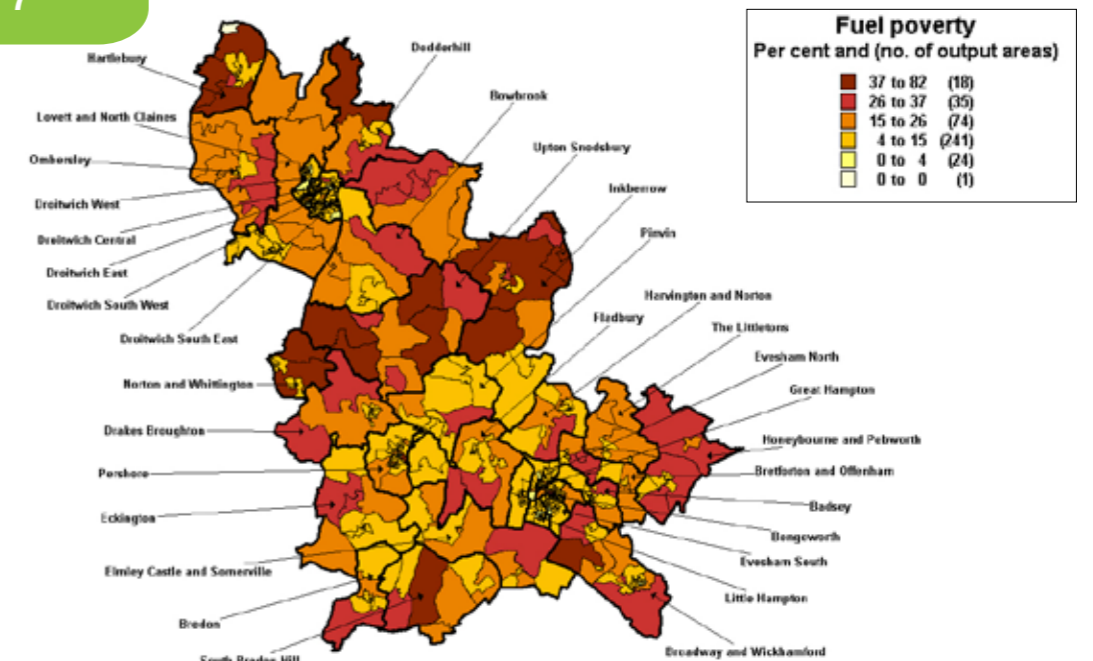


Figure 8 shows the trend in excess winter deaths in Wychavon over the last 13 years. There were 66 excess winter deaths in 2009/10. Excess winter deaths are defined as the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding autumn (August

to November) and the following summer (April to July). Excess winter deaths are greatest in elderly people and for certain disease groups and can be associated, at least in part, with low indoor temperatures. Energy efficiency and fuel poverty interventions can be effective in addressing some premature winter deaths.

Figure 8 Excess winter deaths in Wychavon (all causes)



Renewable energy

We are aware of three larger-scale renewable energy schemes in the district; these are detailed in Table 1. In September 2011, Worcestershire County Council

approved a planning application for an anaerobic digester in Fladbury. A number of other larger scale schemes are being developed.

Table 1 Larger-scale renewable energy installations in Wychavon

Site	Installed capacity (MW)	Type
Hill and Moor landfill site	3.38	Landfill gas
Waresley landfill site	1.65	Landfill gas
Brine Pits Lane, Wychbold	0.44	Wind
Total	5.47	

Since the introduction of the Feed-in Tariffs in April 2010, several hundred Wychavon residents, plus a few businesses and communities have installed renewable energy technologies.

Currently a total of 982kW of energy is generated from small-scale renewables in Wychavon⁸. This is the largest installed capacity in Worcestershire and equates to around 0.5% of the total for the UK⁹. As Figure 9 shows, the majority (63%) is from photovoltaics; just under a third (31%) is from wind with a small proportion from hydro.

There are also a number of renewable heating installations in the district using air or ground source heat pumps, or biomass boilers. These are excluded from Figure 9 as we do not have any data about them.

77% of Worcestershire Viewpoint survey respondents say they support large-scale renewable energy generation. However, our experience suggests that proposals for such developments can cause very real concerns to local residents leading to opposition. We need to consult and work closely with residents to achieve the best outcomes when schemes are proposed.

Figure 10 shows the reasons why people support large-scale renewable energy in Worcestershire.

For those who are opposed to large-scale renewable energy generation, appearance in the landscape is the top reason for wind turbines and biomass plants. Cost is the top reason for hydro-power.

Figure 9 Microgeneration in Wychavon: total installed capacity 982kW

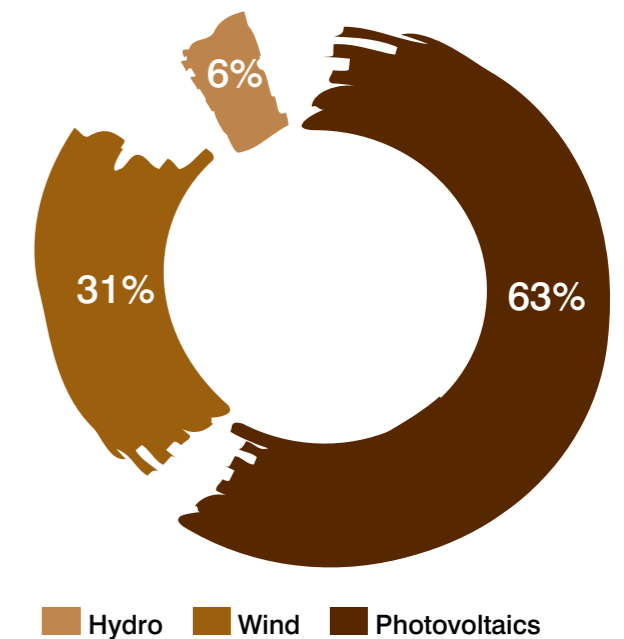
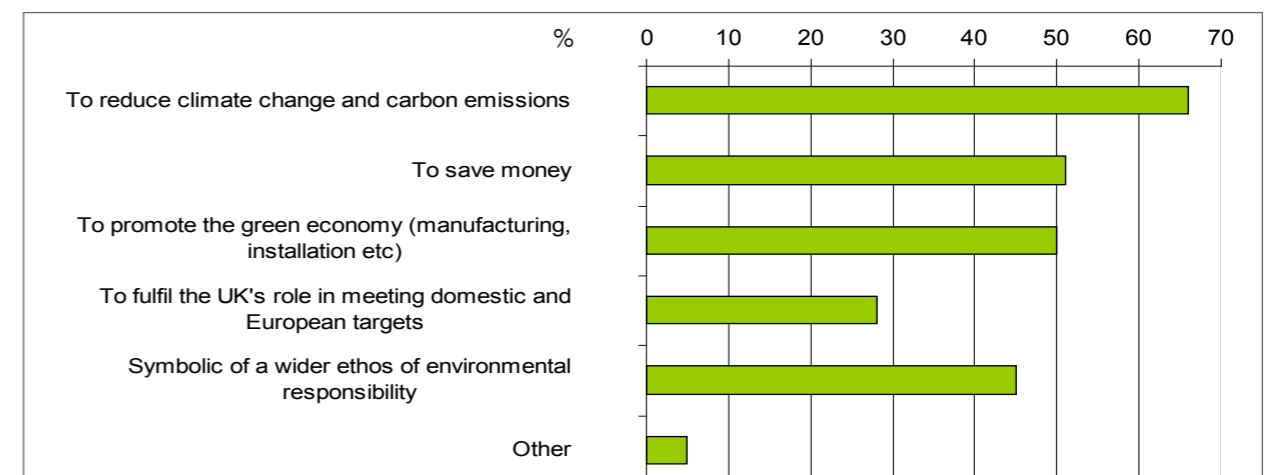


Figure 10 If you support large scale renewable energy in Worcestershire, what are your reasons?



Greater consultation with local people over proposed schemes (61%) was the most commonly identified means of achieving greater acceptance of large-scale renewable energy. Employment benefits (49%) and financial benefits (43%) to host communities and greater awareness of how the planning process works (37%) were also seen as viable ways to increase acceptance.

Figure 11 suggests that there is strong support for local public services having a role in the development of large-scale renewable energy in Worcestershire. Worcestershire County Council is currently developing a Renewable Energy Strategy for the county, which will help to communicate the economic, social and environmental benefits of renewables and will assist us with delivering some of our actions around renewable energy issues.

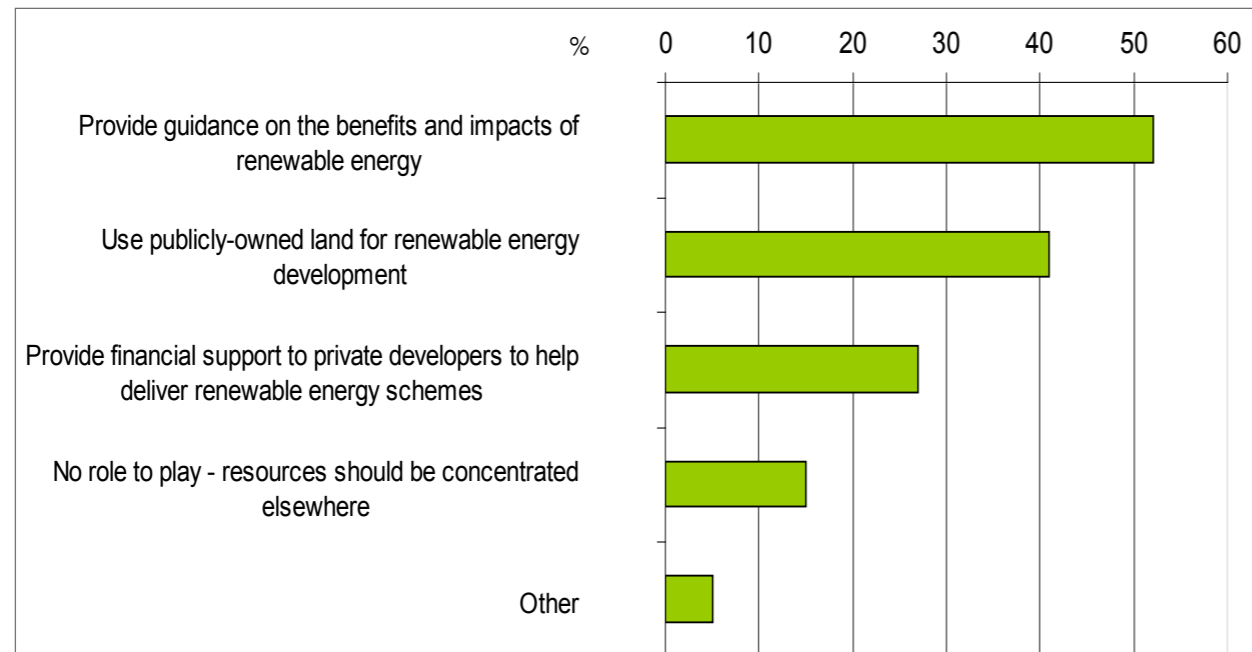
Small-scale renewable energy is gaining acceptance. In November 2010, seven months after the FiTs were introduced:

- 71% of respondents said they would consider having solar thermal panels in their home
- 70% would consider solar photovoltaic panels
- 56% would consider a ground source heat system
- 40% would consider wood fuel; 20% already have such a system
- 30% would consider a wind turbine.

Money is a key motivating factor for encouraging people to install a renewable energy system in their home. 84% said that saving money on fuel bills would encourage them and 56% would be encouraged if they received payments for generating energy.

Figure 11

What roles do you think your local public services should play in the development of large-scale renewable energy in Worcestershire?



Carbon emissions

Each year the [Department for Energy and Climate Change](#) publishes carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions estimates for all local authority areas. Wherever possible these are based on energy consumption data, emissions from sites where pollution is regulated and other local information such as traffic, population, employment and household fuel types.

This data provides us with a useful proxy measure for energy consumption and transport within the district. Reducing CO₂ emissions can support improvements in air quality and help reduce health risks for people with certain respiratory illnesses.

In 2009, 7.9 tonnes of CO₂ was emitted per person in Wychavon. This is a 10.2% reduction compared to 2005. Figure 12 shows emissions by sector. Industry accounts for 43% of total emissions with the remainder almost equally shared between domestic and road transport sectors.

As Table 2 shows, Wychavon's emissions are above both the Worcestershire and England averages. This can be attributed to a number of factors. Wychavon is the largest district in Worcestershire in terms of both size and population. Homes in rural areas are often harder to heat and keep warm than those in more densely populated urban areas, so it is reasonable to expect higher levels of domestic energy use than some of our more urban neighbours. The district also has substantially more through traffic than

most neighbouring districts and it has the largest number of industrial and commercial businesses in the county. Wychavon's CO₂ emissions are, however, similar to other rural districts of a similar geographic nature.

Figure 12

Per capita carbon dioxide emissions by sector, 2009

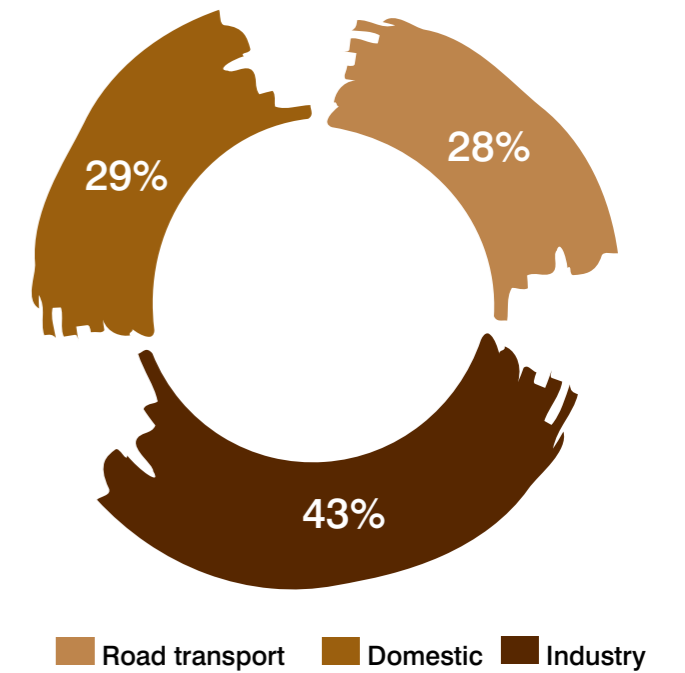


Table 2

Per capita CO₂ emissions estimates (tonnes)¹⁰

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Change since 2005
Wychavon	8.8	9.1	8.8	8.6	7.9	-10.2%
Worcestershire	7.2	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.2	-13.9%
England	7.2	7.2	6.9	6.8	6.1	-15.3%

3.5 Construction

We currently require new buildings to comply with the energy standards set out in [Part L 2010 of the Building Regulations](#). This is equivalent to [Code for Sustainable Homes](#) level three for energy and CO₂ emissions.

The government has confirmed a commitment to zero carbon homes by 2016. It has also set a timescale for non-domestic buildings to be carbon zero by 2019, with the exception of schools and public sector buildings, where the timescale is 2018. No intermediate targets have been set for non-domestic buildings.

There are a number of examples of different types of sustainable buildings across the district from modern homes to listed buildings, village halls to an environmental centre.

Wychavon is vulnerable to extreme weather events, having experienced serious droughts and floods during the last 15 years. The most severe flooding, in July 2007, was a major emergency and badly affected over 1,500 homes and 220 businesses. Recent flood events were largely due to the amount of run-off rapidly entering rivers and drainage systems that were subsequently unable to cope with the influx of water.



Following the 2007 floods, we adopted a [Water Management Supplementary Planning Document](#). This sets out our commitment to sustainable water management and reducing flood risk, particularly that posed by surface water and flash flooding. The Supplementary Planning Document requires a Water Management Statement to be included in all outline and detailed planning applications for development or changes of use. This is to ensure that developments are designed to reduce the risk of flooding and incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage systems.

3.6 Food, tourism and green space



The Vale of Evesham and its surrounding area has some of the most productive horticultural land in the country. It is well known for its apples, pears and plums and is a world class producer for a range of crops including tomatoes and asparagus. The district is home to the annual [British Asparagus Festival](#) and [Persore Plum Festival](#).

There are a significant number of village and town stores, farm shops, cafes and producers that promote and sell local produce. The area has well established growers and a network of local producers that sell at farmers' markets and supply farm shops, including a few box schemes.

[Tastes of Worcestershire](#) promotes local food and drink through a range of initiatives including the Worcestershire Food and Drink Trail and Tourism Food Ambassadors scheme. There are currently two [Tourism Food Ambassadors](#) in Wychavon. These businesses are committed to providing over 70% Worcestershire food and drink in the meals provided at the establishment. Several Wychavon businesses have won green or sustainable tourism awards.

Wychavon's [Vale Trail](#) promotes a range of horticultural and gastronomic events and destinations across the district. Transition Evesham Vale and Transition Persore have produced a [Local Food Directory](#), which lists local producers and retailers.



72% of Wychavon respondents to the Worcestershire Viewpoint survey buy locally produced food and other goods compared to a Worcestershire average of 65%.

In recent years, there has been a national resurgence in the demand for allotments. In 2009, we set up an [Allotments Scrutiny Team](#) to establish the levels of local demand. The team found that over 300 people in Wychavon were on a waiting list for an allotment. The team's [report](#) contains a number of local examples of good practice as well as putting forward potential solutions to the provision of allotments and exploring alternatives including community gardens, mini-allotments and garden shares.



Wychavon is a largely rural district, with lots of countryside, open spaces, high quality parks, local nature reserves and other important wildlife sites. The southern part of the district forms part of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The area has some of the richest traditional hay meadows in the country. It is also known for its orchards, semi-natural ancient woodlands and the beauty of its landscape studded with veteran trees. This diversity of natural habitats and wildlife make it one of the most attractive places for people to live and work in the country.

Water resources in Wychavon are currently low and have been reducing over the last two years. An [Environment Agency study](#) in 2005 suggested that 'dry' year water demand for the existing irrigated crops in the Vale of Evesham would increase by around 13 to 20% by the 2020s and 25 to 50% by the 2050s.

Water security is one of the issues highlighted in the recent '[Getting to the Heart of Horticulture](#)' [report](#), which looked at opportunities and challenges for the West Midlands' horticulture and potato sectors. Water resources are a key concern for local growers and are essential to ensuring the area continues to thrive as a centre for horticulture. Some farmers and growers have implemented rainwater harvesting and others are actively looking for ways to increase water storage capacity and use water more efficiently.

3.7 Transport

Car ownership is high in Wychavon. 85.6% of households have at least one car, compared to 81% in Worcestershire and 73.2% in England¹¹. 66.2% of people of working age drive to work. This is markedly higher than the rate for England, which is 54.9%. Just 6% of working age people travel to work as a passenger.

Our [Residential Design Guide](#) requires developers to consider all modes of transport and to give priority to the most sustainable forms of transport: pedestrians and cyclists first, followed by other road users. We require new developments to make a financial contribution to enhancing the area's cycle network.

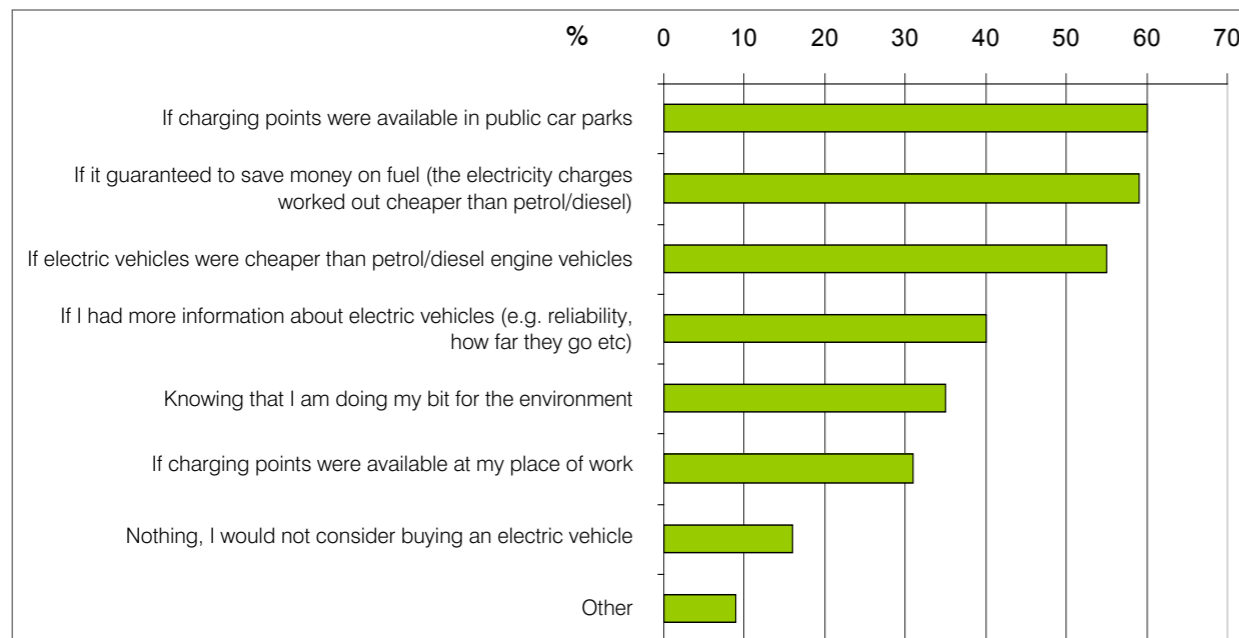
53% of Worcestershire Viewpoint respondents have already reduced their car use and 25% said they would consider doing so. 52% would



consider choosing a more fuel efficient vehicle and choosing an electric vehicle. Figure 13 shows that the availability of charging points and financial considerations are the main factors that would encourage residents to buy an electric vehicle.

Figure 13

Which of the following would encourage you to buy an electric vehicle?



4

Where we want to be in 2020

This section of the plan sets out our ambitions for where we want to be in 2020 for each of the four themes. It includes some realistic, measurable, outcome-based targets.

Wychavon is already one of the most desirable places to live in the country¹². By 2020, we want Wychavon to be an even greener, more energy efficient and self-sufficient place to live, work and invest in.

4.1 Energy

In 2020, the total amount of energy consumed per head of population in Wychavon will be at least 10% below 2009 levels. We also want to see a reduction in energy consumption by the commercial and industrial sectors.



The amount of energy generated in the district from renewable sources¹³ will have doubled from 2011 levels.

The number of households in fuel poverty will have reduced by 25% from 2009 levels.

There will be a good take-up of measures under the Green Deal and ECO by residents and businesses.

4.2 Construction

By 2016, when the new national zero carbon scheme is introduced, all new housing schemes will demonstrate a 40% improvement on the



2006 CO₂ target emission rates set out in Part L of the Building Regulations.

In 2020, all new homes will be built to Sustainable Homes Code level five for water management.

In 2020, we want all new allocated employment sites to be built to BREEAM excellent standard.

4.3 Food, tourism and green space

In 2020, we want to ensure that everyone can access land to grow some of their own food.



By 2020, there will be a significant increase in the amount of locally produced food¹⁴ and drink sold and consumed in Wychavon.

More Wychavon businesses will be Tourism Food Ambassadors¹⁵.

There will be more [community supported agriculture](#) schemes.

The district will be a green tourism destination.

4.4 Transport

In 2020, the number of people regularly walking or cycling for short journeys will have increased by 15%.



The number of alternative fuelled vehicles owned in Wychavon will have tripled.

¹² The district was ranked as having the sixth best living standards in Britain by the sixth annual Halifax Quality of Life Survey.

¹³ Expressed as installed capacity
¹⁴ 'Local' is defined as being within a 30 mile radius (up to 50 miles for specialist products).

¹⁵ Tourism Food Ambassadors are committed to providing over 70% Worcestershire food and drink produce in the meals provided at the establishment.

5 How we will get there



This part of the plan contains a series of actions for delivery between 2012 and 2015. We have chosen actions that are in our sphere of control or influence and grouped them under the plan's four themes. More detailed information and research supports each of the actions and is available in a separate Appendix.

We will develop a communications plan to help us maximise the impact of these actions. In 2015, we will develop a new set of actions for the second half of the plan's timeframe.

5.1 Energy

Actions	Deadline 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
EN1. Support the installation of renewable energy technologies at Pershore Hospital.	█	█			
EN2. Work with Waitrose in Droitwich Spa to explore the opportunities and funding options for installing renewable energy technologies.	█	█			
EN3. Work with Wychavon Leisure to undertake energy audits for all Wychavon leisure centres to identify the potential for energy saving opportunities.	█				
EN4. Carry out an options appraisal to assess the feasibility and economic viability for installing renewable energy technologies at Droitwich Spa and Pershore leisure centres	█				
EN5. Work in partnership with a third party to deliver a hydro-electric power scheme on the River Avon and, if possible, provide electricity to Pershore Leisure Centre.	█				
EN6. Explore the potential and demand for increasing the number of anaerobic digesters within Wychavon by working with local growers, interested community groups, Worcestershire County Council and others.	█	█			
EN7. Work with Worcestershire County Council to market Wychavon as an attractive location for renewable energy generation and green businesses, and ensure that policies are in place to assist in the delivery of appropriate schemes.	█	█	█		
EN8. Run a series of features through our publications and on our website to raise the profile and increase understanding of energy efficiency and renewable technologies and put processes in place to ensure information is kept up to date.	█	█			
EN9. Work with other Worcestershire councils to play an active role in delivering the Green Deal to ensure that local residents and businesses benefit from installing energy efficiency measures and reduce their energy consumption.	█	█	█	█	

Actions	Deadline 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
EN10. Reduce fuel poverty in the district through raising awareness and ensuring take-up of measures under the ECO scheme.	█	█	█	█	█
EN11. Adopt a Local Development Order, covering at least three business parks, to permit the installation of green technologies without the need for planning permission.	█	█			
EN12. Apply intelligently green principles to future development through including policies on energy efficiency and energy generation in the South Worcestershire Development Plan.	█				
EN13: Work with interested groups to develop a Wychavon Intelligently Green Award scheme to recognise and showcase examples of good practice in the community.	█	█			
EN14: Work with one or more local woodland owners and the Forestry Commission to deliver a demonstration scheme for the sustainable and carbon neutral production of fuel from coppice woodland.	█	█			

5.2 Construction

Actions	Deadline 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
C1. Work with a Registered Social Landlord to explore the opportunities for using new construction methods to deliver Code for Sustainable Homes level six dwellings.	█	█	█	█	
C2. Support Worcester Bosch in delivering all development on its new employment site to BREEAM excellent standard over the next five years	█	█	█	█	█
C3. Draft and adopt a Wychavon Carbon Fund scheme in time for the 2016 zero carbon requirement to allow for offsetting.	█	█	█	█	
C4. Arrange for councillors, Development Management and Policy Planners to attend training events to improve knowledge of policy and decision making relating to renewables and sustainability.	█				
C5. Produce and adopt a Supplementary Planning Document addressing sustainable construction.	█	█			
C6. Deliver the most stretching policy on energy efficiency and sustainable construction that the evidence base can support in the South Worcestershire Development Plan.	█	█			



5.2 Construction continued

Actions	Deadline 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
C7. Adopt Wychavon procurement policies that specify the use of local contractors for development schemes where viable, using legal guidance set out by the West Midlands Procurement Framework for Jobs and Skills.	█				
C8. Arrange for Wychavon officers, councillors and Housing Association partners to visit exemplar sustainable schemes (such as Passivhaus and straw build) in the UK to understand feasibility, opportunities and constraints.	█				
C9. Promote examples of successful sustainable construction technologies in Wychavon through our website and features in our publications	█	█			
C10. Work with local colleges to train people to become accredited energy assessors and installers for the Green Deal and develop skills further in new and innovative construction methods.	█	█			
C11. Investigate whether there is a viable opportunity to encourage small builders to recycle building materials at the end of life.	█	█			
C12: Adopt a green infrastructure policy in the South Worcestershire Development Plan that meets the requirements of the emerging Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy.	█	█			
C13: Strongly lobby the government to introduce more stringent energy standards for all new buildings as part of its consultation on the future of the Building Regulations.	█				



5.3 Food, tourism and green space

Actions	Deadline 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
FT1. Bring interest groups, parish councils and other interested organisations together to identify potential opportunities throughout Wychavon for new community gardens, allotments, woodlands and nature reserves.	█	█			
FT2. Work with a local community and Worcestershire County Council to deliver a woodland scheme in an appropriate location within Wychavon.	█	█	█		
FT3. Encourage parishes and communities to develop woodland, orchard or allotment schemes to meet local food and recreational needs.	█	█	█		
FT4. Work with local food producers, suppliers, retailers and community groups to raise the profile of locally produced food, increase consumption of local seasonal products and as a unique selling point to attract tourists to the area.	█	█	█		
FT5. Adopt the South Worcestershire Development Plan that includes policies on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food growing and energy crops if required; and • policies that are supportive and encourage the development of appropriately located energy schemes that produce clean energy from a range of food and organic waste streams (see EN12) • protecting the district's natural environment. 	█	█			
FT6: Work with local farmers and growers to raise awareness of water supply issues, highlight best practice and identify potential solutions.	█	█	█		



5.4 Transport

Actions	Deadline 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TR1. Raise local employers' awareness of green fleet reviews and the benefits of reducing fuel costs and emissions in Wychavon through the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, Wychavon magazine and Business Briefings.					
TR2. Raise awareness of car sharing and the Worcestershire Car Share Database by targeting the top ten employers in the district with information and marketing; and promote the concept more widely through a campaign on our website and through the Wychavon Magazine.					
TR3. Host a training event for parish councils, volunteer centres and community groups to raise the profile of developing a community car scheme and the financial and environmental benefits experienced by the village of Colwall.					
TR4. Deliver the objectives contained within the Wychavon Travel Plan					
TR5. Ensure that enhanced cycle routes and connections are identified and delivered through the allocated development sites in the South Worcestershire Development Plan.					
TR6. Review existing cycle provision at all train stations and major bus interchanges in Wychavon and work with Worcestershire County Council and Network Rail to identify whether there are opportunities to enhance cycle and vehicle parking provision at these sites to encourage greater use of public transport.					
TR7. Locate and install an electric car charging point for public use in each town within the district.					
TR8. Exploit opportunities (e.g. New Homes Bonus, section 106 agreements, other funding) to create circular routes, which are suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and mobility vehicles, around the three main towns and connections to improve access to and from surrounding areas.					
TR9. Work with Worcestershire County Council to explore the potential for car share parking points at key locations near major roads.					

6

How we will measure progress

Our Intelligently Green Group will receive quarterly updates on the actions in this plan. We will report progress to councillors, by exception, through our quarterly Signals of Success performance reports.

At the end of each financial year, we will report progress to our Executive Board. We will publish this on our website and include the highlights in our Annual Report.

We will use the following success measures to assess progress towards our vision, and the targets, set out in section 4.

Overall

- Our greenhouse gas emissions.
- The district's environmental footprint.

Energy

- Average domestic energy (gas and electricity) consumption.
- Average commercial and industrial energy consumption.
- Amount of energy generated from renewable sources.
- Proportion of households in fuel poverty.
- Take-up of measures under Green Deal and ECO.



Construction

- Proportion of new housing schemes that demonstrate a 40% improvement on the 2006 CO₂ target emission rates set out in Part L of the Building Regulations.
- Proportion of new homes built to Sustainable Homes Code level five for water management.
- Proportion of new allocated employment sites built to BREEAM excellent standard.



Food, tourism and green space

- Proportion of people that can access land to grow some of their own food.
- Amount of locally produced food and drink sold.
- Number of Tourism Food Ambassadors in Wychavon.
- Number of community supported agriculture schemes.
- Number of recognised green tourism establishments.



Transport

- Number of people regularly walking or cycling for short journeys.
- Number of alternative fuelled vehicles owned.



Intelligently green examples

7.1 Switching on the sunlight

In November 2011, we installed 41 solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of our Civic Centre offices to generate electricity for use in the building.

The photovoltaic panels, which cost £22,500, will produce up to 9.9 kilowatt peak and will provide a net annual income of around £3,450, as well as saving an estimated 85 tonnes in CO₂ emissions over 25 years.

This scheme is a great example of us being intelligently green. We're generating some of our own electricity directly from nature, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and producing additional income.

By installing the panels, we will benefit from the government's Feed-In Tariff scheme, which guarantees payments for individuals and companies that generate their own electricity from solar energy.

'Eco2Solar is proud to support the green initiative at Wychavon District Council. Wychavon has taken advantage of a fantastic opportunity to install solar panels and make a great tax-free return on their money as well as doing something positive for the environment.'

Paul Hutchens, Managing Director of Eco2Solar – the company that installed the panels



7.2 Warmer Worcestershire

We played a lead role in developing and promoting the successful [Warmer Worcestershire](#) project. This county-wide partnership project is aimed at improving the energy efficiency of homes, reducing levels of fuel poverty amongst vulnerable people and reducing carbon emissions.

We commissioned an aerial thermal imaging survey to capture the relative heat values of every building in Worcestershire. Using the results, we created a simple colour-coded heat loss map.

We developed three campaign messages to appeal to different audiences and at different times of the year:

- **Is your home losing heat?** You could be wasting £1 in every £3 spent on heating.
- **Wrap up before winter.** Insulate your home now and save on heating bills in winter.
- **Worried about the cost of heating your home?** Find out about free or cut price insulation.

'Having our house insulated made such a difference that I convinced my sister in law and neighbour to have it done.'

'Our electricity bill is down by 30% and we have used substantially less energy for central heating.'

Residents who took action as a result of checking their homes on the Warmer Worcestershire website.



We launched Warmer Worcestershire in March 2009 and promoted it using a range of methods, including:

- An ongoing, co-ordinated countywide media campaign.
- A dedicated website: www.warmerworcestershire.com where residents can type in their postcode to check how much heat their home is losing and get energy saving advice.
- Launch events in each district.
- Distinctive pull-up banners displayed at public locations such as Council Contact Centres.
- Distributing thousands of 'themocards' featuring a thermometer and guide to optimum temperatures.
- Advice at events, for example carnival, leisure centre opening, flu jab clinics and electric blanket testing.
- Energy Saving Trust home energy check mailing to all households.

Two years after its launch, 29% of Wychavon residents said they were aware of the Warmer Worcestershire project¹⁶. Of these, 56% have visited the website to check the heat loss of their home and 31% have insulated their lofts.



During phase two, we used the heat loss map with other data to identify areas of fuel poverty and target measures, such as cavity wall and loft insulation, at vulnerable households.

The seven Local Strategic Partnerships in Worcestershire pooled a support grant of £92,000 from the West Midlands Regional Improvement Partnership to fund the project.

7.3 Opportunity Vale of Evesham

Opportunity Vale of Evesham is an ambitious four-year project, led by Wychavon Strategic Partnership to provide help to around 1,400 struggling households in parts of the Vale of Evesham. The aims of the project are to improve health, reduce fuel poverty and improve skills and confidence.

The first phase of the project involved a face to face survey of residents in the areas covered by the project. The results indicated that 30% of residents find their homes difficult to heat and a third spent over £1,000 on their annual fuel bills. 30% said they would like to take part in a home energy check.

Through the project we are offering the following initiatives to help reduce fuel poverty:

- energy advice surgeries
- home energy visits to help residents establish how much energy they use, how they can reduce their consumption and save money on their fuel bills
- free loft and cavity wall insulation
- financial assistance with upgrading heating controls and boiler systems
- work with GPs to identify vulnerable households at risk of fuel poverty and to refer them to appropriate help and support.

To date 54 residents have received home energy visits. 105 lofts have been insulated and 26 cavity walls have been filled. These insulation measures equate to total savings of around £12,282 a year.



7.4 Local communities energy events

In 2010/11 we set a promise to enable local communities to build resilience through promoting bulk purchasing of heating oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for households not on a main fuel supply.

The aim of the initiative was to reduce costs for everyone and ensure that people in rural communities have enough fuel supplies to keep their homes heated during fierce cold winters.

We ran three events where we introduced suppliers of LPG and domestic oil to representatives of many parish councils. We held an additional session for the wider community on the benefits and practicalities of forming buying groups for LPG and oil in rural areas. We invited people from two existing buying groups to share their experiences at these.

We had a considerable amount of interest in the initiative from residents. Since the events, at least three communities have set up their own buying groups and others are in the pipeline.

'Following the meetings I have set up a club for the group purchase of heating oil. So far we have a nucleus of twelve members, and will be placing our first order in early January. These are early days for us and hopefully we will see an increase in membership as time progresses.'

New heating oil club co-ordinator



8 Glossary

BREEAM standard

BREEAM is the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method for buildings. It sets the standard for best practice in sustainable design and has become a well recognised measure for describing a building's environmental performance. It evaluates buildings against a range of criteria including energy and water use, pollution, materials, waste and ecology.

Building Regulations

The Building Regulations set standards for design and construction. They apply to most new buildings and many alterations to existing buildings in England and Wales. Part L of the Building Regulations sets the minimum energy efficiency standards that any newly constructed home must achieve. Revisions to Part L, which came into effect in October 2010, mean that a house built today will be at least 40% more energy efficient than one built before 2002. There is an additional target for all new homes to be zero-carbon from 2016.

Community supported agriculture

Community supported agriculture is a mutually-beneficial partnership between a farmer and a community. It is becoming an increasingly popular way for communities to gain access to local, seasonal produce directly from the farmer. Typically, the community purchases shares from their local farmer in the form of a weekly box of vegetables, fruit and other produce. Other forms could include helping run a farm, sponsoring a fruit tree and harvesting its fruit, renting a plot of farmland, buying shares in a cow and receiving interest in dairy products.

Code for Sustainable Homes

The Code for Sustainable Homes is a government owned national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. The Code goes further than the current Building Regulations, but is entirely voluntary. The Code measures the sustainability of a new home against nine criteria, rating the whole home as a complete package. It covers carbon dioxide emissions, water, materials, surface water runoff, waste, pollution, health and well-being, management and ecology.

Decent Homes Standard

The Decent Homes Standard is the minimum standard that all social housing should meet. A decent home will meet the following four criteria:

- The current statutory minimum standard for housing.
- It is in a reasonable state of repair.
- It has reasonably modern facilities and services.
- It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

Energy Company Obligation

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) will work alongside the Green Deal. Where the cost of energy improvements outweighs the savings, or people need extra financial help, energy companies will be able to step in to provide a top up loan under the ECO. The focus will be on vulnerable and low-income households and those living in harder to treat properties, such as solid walled properties.

Feed-in Tariffs

Feed-in Tariffs (FiTs) are designed to encourage the installation of small-scale low-carbon electricity-generating technologies, such as solar photovoltaics or wind turbines. For every unit of electricity generated, the owner receives a guaranteed payment (FiT) from their electricity supplier. They also receive a payment (export tariff) for any surplus electricity they export back to the grid.



Fuel poverty

A household is considered to be fuel poor if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel in order to heat its house to an acceptable level of warmth. An acceptable level of warmth is defined as 21°C for the main living area and 18°C for other occupied rooms.

Green Deal

The government plans to launch the Green Deal in autumn 2012. It is a national scheme to provide householders and businesses with upfront capital to carry out energy efficiency improvements to their properties. The costs of installing the measures will be repaid over time through a charge on the property's electricity bill, which must not be any higher than the expected savings.

Green infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a term used to describe the network of natural environmental components, including green and blue spaces, which lie within and between cities, towns and villages.

Intelligently green

We use the term 'intelligently green' to define our involvement in environmental issues that either make good business sense for us, have a clear community benefit, or both. Intelligently green is about making choices that not only have a positive environmental impact, but also generate a return in financial or community terms.

Local Development Order

Local Development Orders are a simple tool to allow a local planning authority to introduce new permitted development rights. They can be used to incentivise development by removing the need for planning permission where a development meets a range of locally specified conditions.

New Homes Bonus

For every new home built and occupied, councils receive six years of New Homes Bonus grant from the government. The scheme aims to ensure that the economic benefits of housing growth are returned to the councils and communities where housing growth takes place.

Opportunity Vale of Evesham

Opportunity Vale of Evesham is a four-year project, led by Wychavon Strategic Partnership, which is providing help to around 1,400 struggling households in parts of the Vale of Evesham. The aims of the project are to reduce fuel poverty, improve health and improve skills and confidence.

Passivhaus

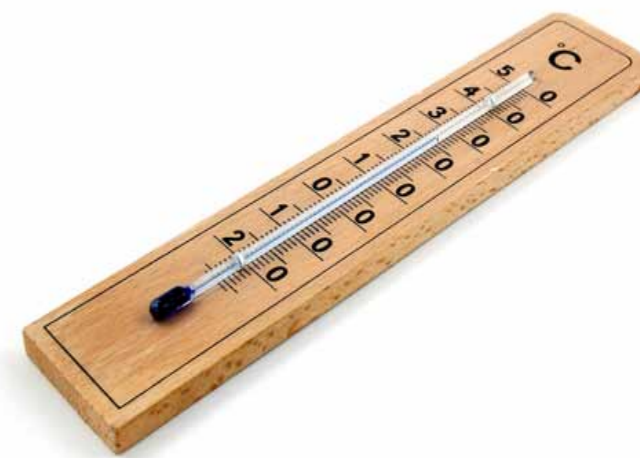
The Passivhaus standard was developed in Germany in the early 1990s. It is a rigorous, voluntary standard for energy efficiency in a building. The core focus of the standard is to dramatically reduce the requirement for space heating and cooling, whilst also creating excellent indoor comfort levels.

Registered Social Landlords

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) are not-for-profit housing providers approved and regulated by the government through the Housing Corporation. The vast majority of RSLs are also known as housing associations.

Renewable Heat Incentive

The Renewable Heat Incentive is a government scheme designed to provide financial support to encourage individuals, communities and businesses to switch from using fossil fuel for heating, to renewables such as ground-source heat pumps and wood-chip boilers.



South Worcestershire Development Plan

Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon Councils are preparing the South Worcestershire Development Plan, which will guide future development in the area up until 2030. The plan will replace the existing Local Plans of the three partner councils when it is adopted in 2013. It will also supersede elements of Worcestershire County Council's County Structure Plan.

Supplementary Planning Document

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide guidance on local planning matters. They can take a number of forms but can generally be categorised into two broad types:

- Area based SPDs - these include masterplans and development briefs dealing with a specific parcel or parcels of land.
- Topic based SPDs - these provide additional information on a specific local issue, such as a design guide.

Sustainable Urban Drainage systems

Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs) are designed to reduce the impact of new and existing developments on surface water drainage discharges. SUDs comprise a sequence of management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques.

Travel Plan

A Travel Plan is a package of measures designed by a work place, school or other organisation to encourage safe, healthy and sustainable travel options, particularly alternatives to single-occupancy car use.

Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge

The Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge was designed by Worcestershire County Council to encourage a wide range of organisations to publicly commit to taking a range of actions to tackle climate change.

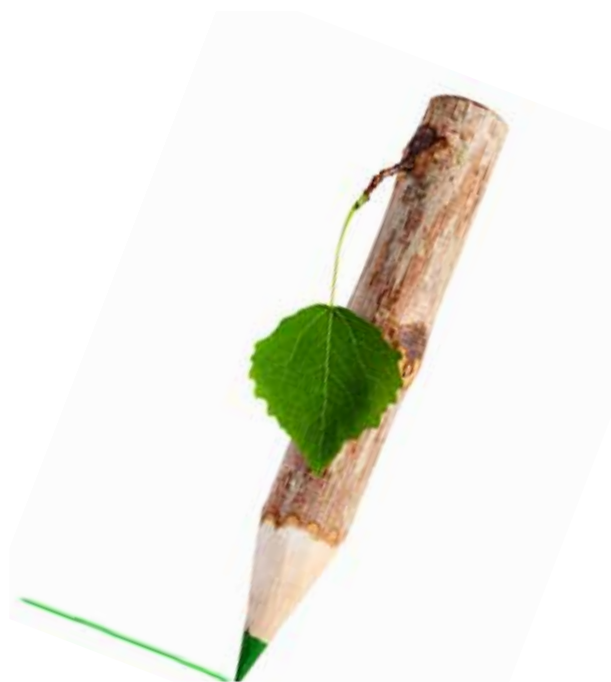
Worcestershire Viewpoint

Worcestershire Viewpoint is a citizens' panel partnership between Worcestershire County Council, the six Worcestershire district councils, NHS Worcestershire and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service. Panel members receive two surveys a year containing questions about a range of public services and views about other local issues.



This plan is also available in large print, Braille, on CD or in other languages.

To request a copy in a different format ring
01386 565000



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