

Adaptation

Our climate is already changing and whatever we do to mitigate future effects of climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, we are locked into a system where our emissions 30 years ago are affecting our climate today. Therefore, using scenarios for the future, we need to begin planning on how we can adapt to the changes in climate that have been predicted.

The Nottingham Declaration commits us to working “with key providers, including the health community, businesses and development organisations, to assess the potential effects of climate change on our communities, and to identify ways in which we can adapt”.

Water

Water supply will be erratic due to our changing climate, so whilst we need to reduce our demand of the finite resource, especially as droughts are likely to become more common, we also need to make sure we are prepared for the times of the year when excess water may cause problems.

Maintaining quality of green spaces

Climate change will have an impact on our natural environment that we can begin to prepare for now e.g. in our plans for the type of vegetation we plant.

Local development and building design

The Local Development Framework, a new way of delivering planning, is adaptable to changes to ensure that our latest knowledge on climate change can be incorporated into documents in the plan.

Public health

The Department for Health identifies a number of climate-related health issues which this action plan begins to address. This is an area where work with our partners in the health trusts will be crucial.

No.	Action	SMART Target	Lead Team	Partners	Resource
Water					
A1	Reduce water use in council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor water usage patterns in council buildings to control / prevent excessive leakages - 5% reduction in water wastage by December 2006 Formalise water audit and recommendations by April 2006 Implement appropriate water saving measures by December 2006 	Property & Design Housing & City Support	All directorates Team Q (Council's energy consultant)	Unknown - pending investigation. No identified resources. Actions need to be prioritised and potential funding streams identified for possible bids / grants etc.
A2	Encourage public to have more environmentally friendly gardens, reducing need for watering, and reduce use on allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek approval from 'In Bloom' committee for a new category in competition for an environmentally friendly garden Switch to self watering hanging baskets from 2006 Stock drought resistant plants, appropriately labelled at Stanmer Nursery from April 2006 Install a demonstration bed at Stanmer demonstrating drought tolerant plants by July 2006 	City Parks	In Bloom committee	TBC
A3	Improve water supply and retention to trees in order to reduce impacts of warmer summers and droughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review planting method and early maintenance of trees by 2006/07 planting season Small scale trials commenced 2005 - Arboriculture/Highway liaison to continue in 2006 to appraise alternative materials to tarmac around trees. 	City Parks	Highways	TBC

A4	Research and set baseline water consumption data for a typical building, against which to measure new build, or develop a calculation methodology	By 2008 - On publication of Sustainable Building Design SPD	Planning Strategy and Projects		To be resourced within existing budgets
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A5	Complete Planning Advice note on grey water recycling, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, rain water recycling and water conservation	By 2008 - On publication of Sustainable Building Design SPD	Planning Strategy and Projects		To be resourced within existing budgets
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Emergency Planning

A6	Monitoring and evaluation of bouts of severe weather are undertaken by the Meteorological Office who notify local authorities and others when there is the likelihood of the event occurring. The City Emergency Planning Team activate local plans both for emergency response and business continuity on receipt of these warnings. These plans are reviewed and updated as required, and follow guidance given by Central Government. For longer term problems plans, are in place to set up command structures and operations to mitigate and minimise the impact of severe weather on the city, this is done in conjunction with other partner organisations.	Review and adapt plans by Dec 2006	Public Safety - Civil Contingencies Team		From within current budgets
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Open Spaces		Review work hours of manual staff and availability of resources and equipment for winter work programmes by April 2006, and review every 4 years thereafter.	City Parks	Assess implications once review and changes in growing season are known
A7	Adapt maintenance programmes for parks and open spaces to changes in the growth patterns of plants			
A8	Identify impacts of higher temperatures on species selection for tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop large scale planting of beech on Downland sites, as of 2005 Identify changes to species selection policy by December 2006 	City Parks	To be resourced within existing budgets
A9	Develop systems to deal with the increased threat to plants of pests, pathogens and diseases.	Create incident response & monitoring system by end of 2007	City Parks	To be resourced within existing budgets
A10	Give advice to farmers on changes in farming practice to prevent flooding.	Ensure that this issue is covered in the Downlands Initiative by June 2006	City Parks	To be resourced within existing budgets
A11	Plan for impacts of climate change on species and habitat conservation and migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arboriculture section and Ecologist to be consulted on all significant 50 plus tree planting schemes to advise on site and species selection from January 2006 Incorporate for south to north slope migration of plants in Downland conservation / restoration plans and Downland Initiative by June 2006 	City Parks	To be resourced within existing budgets
			Friends Groups Countryside Agency English Nature Smiths Gore (councils farmland property manager) Farm Forum	

	By 2007	Planning Strategy and Projects	Quality of life & Open Spaces	To be resourced within existing budgets
A12	Consult on a green infrastructure network in Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy and incorporation of identifiable sites in the Allocations Development Plan Document			
Local Development and Building Design				
	Consult on options for living	By 2008	Planning Strategy and Projects	To be resourced within existing budgets
A13	roofs and walls in the LDF which are compatible with encouraging SUDS and renewable energy	- In Nature Conservation SPD and Sustainable Building Design SPD		
	Future proof the LDF, taking into account climate change including actions to support passive cooling in buildings, SUDS and permeable surfaces, subsidence, flooding, landscaping and cliff erosion	By 2008	Planning Strategy and Projects	To be resourced within existing budgets
A14				
	Revise coastal zone policy through the LDF to take into account the revised shoreline management plan	By 2007	Planning Strategy and Projects	To be resourced within existing budgets
A15				
Public health				
	Continue with risk based priority inspection programme of businesses to meet the threat from a projected increase in food poisoning	Complete risk based priority inspection programme of 2857 businesses by March 2006	Environmental Health and Licensing	To be resourced within existing budgets
A16				

A17	Monitor air pollution and raise awareness about changes in health risks resulting from climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Action Plan to be completed by March 2006 • Work with Hove Park and Dorothy Stringer schools to bring air quality into the school curriculum in 2006 • Sussex Air Quality Steering Group (SUSSEXair) to develop information for vulnerable people on air quality issues which will be exacerbated by climate change, by Sept 2006 • SUSSEXair launched airALERT service for asthma sufferers in July 2006. 	Environmental Health and Licensing	Sustainable Transport Sussex Air Quality Steering Group	To be resourced within existing budgets Funding to be secured
A18	Plant trees to provide shaded areas and run a small scale trial of palm trees on the seafront	An initial trial planting of palms at the exposed coastal fringe is scheduled for 2006	City Parks	Countryside Service	TBC – conditional on availability of funds to plant and maintain new trees and results of seafront trial
A19	Review of planning policies in the LDF to ensure shade on the seafront can be positively promoted, as a health measure	By 2007	Planning Strategy and Projects		To be resourced within existing budgets