

10 STEPS TO LOW CARBON

Dr. Richard Williams,
The Environment Centre (tEC),
14 - 15 Brunswick Place,
Southampton, SO15 2AQ
APSE Full Association Meeting:
Edinburgh 25/1/2008



10 Steps to Low Carbon – What LA's Can (and) Do

- Common perceptions of Low Carbon
- What can LA's do?
- 10 "easy" steps
- Choices and priorities
- Some suggestions



Common perceptions of Low Carbon











But, It's Also...

Building

Impact of Buildings Energy, Build proximity, Maintenance & costs

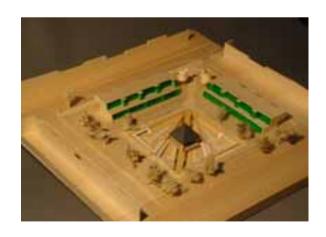
Environment

Land use, urban form & design Natural Resources, Ecology, Transport

Community

Education, Accessibility, Employment, Leisure









Not to mention...

- Heating
- Lighting
- Water Use
- Construction Materials
- Construction Approaches
- Insulation
- Renewable / Low Carbon Energy
- Waste Management & Recycling
- Flood Protection
- Biodiversity



and not forgetting: "Policies!"

- National / European
 - EU Directive on energy performance of buildings (2002/91/EC)
 - PPS 1, 3, 12, 22, etc. etc.
- Regional / Sub-Regional
 - South East Plan
 - Local Development Framework
- Local
 - Supplementary Planning Guidance
 - Section 106 Contributions
 - Development Control
 - Building Regulations ...



What can LA's do?

- "Well-being"
- Embodied in the Local Government Act 2000
- Covers social, environmental & economic issues
- Forerunner of much of the thinking on "sustainable communities"
- Allows some level of local priorities to be embedded in policy and delivery



Social Issues

- Partnership working
 - public / public
 - public / private
 - community based
- Education & training
 - schools
 - fuel poverty reduction
 - skills improvement







Economic Issues

- Energy
 - Efficiency
 - EfW
 - ROCs
- Invest to Save
 - ESCOs
 - CHP
 - Community Energy







Environmental Issues

- Environment
 - twin binning
 - green waste
 - MRFs
- Transport
 - road user charging
 - car free areas
 - bio-diesel

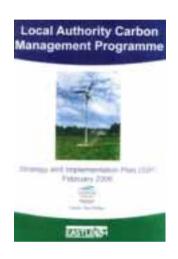






10 "Easy" Steps

- Policy & Strategy
 - build on strength's
 - ensure buy-in
 - do what's "doable"
- Plan for Delivery
 - define the baseline
 - set clear targets
 - prioritise effort
 - keep the pressure up!



CO₂ emissions (Tonnes) from main Council Buildings (2002/03)





Choices & Priorities

- What priorities should drive the Low Carbon agenda in YOUR LA?
 - policy?
 - pounds?
 - polar bears?
- What are the benefits / risks?
 - winners & losers
 - timescales



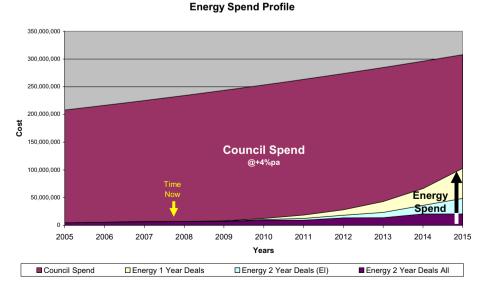
Policy: South Hampshire "14"

- At least the 80,000 new homes to be built in the sub region by 2026 will support the policy which includes:
 - 100MW of renewable energy delivered by 2026
 - Reduction of between 8% and 20% in water use for new developments compared to 2005 levels
 - All new homes / developments accredited as "very good" (by 2012) and "excellent" after this time (using BREEAM / EcoHomes Standards)
 - All new residential dwellings to deliver at least 10% of their energy needs from renewable sources
 - Recycled / re-used material to be included in the build



Pounds: Energy Production

- Energy prices will continue to rise
- Security of supply will increase in importance
- Councils are exposed to market fluctuations
- It will only be "worse" next year!





Polar Bears: Twin Binning

- For an average Unitary implementing a "true" bi-weekly waste collection service:
 - is £750,000 cheaper than "weekly" wet waste
 - increases recycling by c5% 10%
 - BUT!!
- In 2007 elections parties in control of all political colours at all tiers of local government lost seats over this policy!



Benefits & Risks

- Polar Bears MAY BE saved
- Council tax payers money WILL BE saved
- Carbon footprints WILL BE stabilised
- BUT
- It MAY BE other politicians in other parties that reap the benefit because of elections and delivery timescales!