

CLIMATE CHANGE

A local government response to an international challenge

Climate change is now firmly on the political agenda and efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions and to secure energy supplies are being stepped up. Part of the national strategy is to encourage local authorities to provide local solutions. Accordingly, tackling climate change is likely to emerge as part of the performance assessment framework for local authorities from 2008.

While local government is only responsible for about 5% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the UK, it has an enormous role in addressing climate change by virtue of its collective influence through the supply-chain and through community leadership.

Many local authorities are already stepping into the breach and are facing the challenge head on. However, the size of the task is expanding and there are no easy answers...

How do Local Authorities measure up?

Local Authorities can help tackle climate change on a number of different levels. As **estate managers**, councils are major consumers of energy and other resources. Through better management of the transport fleet and buildings, councils can cut emissions and save money. As **service providers**, councils can find ways to reduce the climate change impact of what they do in their core businesses. As **community leaders**, councils can exercise enormous influence via local strategies and partnerships – by assisting the wider community in reducing carbon emissions and by developing an integrated response to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Many local authorities are finding it hard to allocate sufficient staffing and financial resources to address climate change and sustainable energy priorities. To help overcome this, a clear climate change related performance framework and appropriate funding will be needed.

Supporting you in delivering local solutions

However you measure up right now, there will be challenges and opportunities ahead. The Government will come to rely heavily on local government action if it is to achieve its European policy commitments and the emission reduction targets as envisaged in the Climate Change Bill.

Key **challenges** include the development and integration of a vision that addresses climate change and sustainable energy as part of the wider local government remit. From this flow the development of the emissions inventory and the various emission reduction options.

Large public sector organisations will also be caught by the government's Carbon Reduction Commitment, which is likely to be in the shape of a

mandatory cap & trade scheme. Registered social landlords, and other developers relying on government funding, will be required to comply with Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. There will also be a duty to display energy performance certificates for buildings larger than 1000m², and this will apply to many municipal buildings.

Your **key opportunities** arise from cost reductions achievable from buildings and transport related energy savings. Your community benefits from reductions in fuel poverty associated with better quality buildings. There are local air quality improvements that arise from properly implemented green transport plans and reduced congestion. Shifting to a more sustainable energy path and engaging in locally based carbon trading initiatives may also yield new business opportunities.

Caleb can support your work in the following ways:-

- Assist in vision development & integration processes
- Assist in buildings related emission inventory work
- Explore & demonstrate emission reduction options from your building stock
- Facilitate Planning Policies for Sustainable Buildings
- Raise awareness of climate change, carbon markets and the potential of local carbon trading schemes
- Promote good local government practice to other stakeholders
- Facilitate climate change related Local Area Agreements



Caleb Management Services Limited

Translating policy into practice

Company Profile



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Caleb Management Services Ltd is an international multi-disciplinary sustainable development consultancy based in Wotton-Under-Edge (near Bristol). The company has been active in the field of climate change management since its inception in 1994.

Throughout this period Caleb has championed the climate change benefits of energy efficiency in buildings, and the company influences national and international policy & practices on this agenda.

Caleb advises parliamentarians & administrators in new European Member States, the West Balkans and Neighbourhood Policy countries (Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus) on European Buildings related policy on behalf of the European Commission.

A core competence of the company is project management and, for example, we acted as national coordinators for the Environment Agency's Regional & Welsh Appraisal of Resource Development (REWARD) project. This project supported Regional Development Agencies or Regional Assemblies and the Welsh Assembly Government in developing an understanding of environmental (including Climate Change) impacts and the formulation of strategic responses supported by the econometric modelling of regional resource flows

For further information, please contact: -

Paul Ashford (Managing Director) Paul is a long-standing advisor on climate change related issues. He is a lead-author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), with specific expertise in construction activities and the built environment.

Arnie Vetter (Environmental Director) Arnie is responsible for Caleb's climate change development and sustainability programme. He coordinated the REWARD Project – a partnership involving the Environment Agency and Regional Development Bodies

Caleb's experience and expertise can be summarised as follows:

- **Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol**
 - Advising UK and other countries regarding the potential for further energy efficiency measures in buildings, and the development of supporting legislation and market solutions
 - Monitoring and participation in the development of carbon trading schemes and advice on their use and wider application
 - Development of buildings related emission reduction methodologies that comply with the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol
 - Exploring carbon financing opportunities relating to waste management schemes
- **Sustainability**
 - Assisting organisations to develop their own sustainability strategies in the construction, construction products, and related sectors
 - Assisting Regional Development Agencies and the UK Environment Agency regional offices in building their capacity to address sustainability challenges
 - Conducting product-based life-cycle assessments
 - Trainers on sustainability matters with a particular focus on the ethical issues and social value aspects of climate change
- **Ozone Depletion and the Montreal Protocol**
 - Supporting the Montreal Protocol process through membership of the United Nation's Technological and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) and the co-chairmanship of the Technical Options Committee on Foams (FTOC)
 - Leading opinion-former in product end-of-life issues, particularly in the insulated foam sector
- **Chemical Risk Appraisal and Management**
 - Extensive consensus-building and mediation experience with both regulators and industry on regulatory issues
 - Long-term advisory services to key chemical trade associations in the resin sector and with downstream users, such as the tyre industry
 - Management of task forces and consortia focused on hazard assessment and exposure evaluation
 - Specialist services related to new REACH regulations

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