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Please tick box for most appropriate category:

- Physical Environment (incl. biodiversity, coast, landscape)[Deadline 25th April]
- Infrastructure (incl. transport) [Deadline 23rd May]
- Wellbeing and society [Deadline 20th June]
- Economy [Deadline 1st August]
- Other [1st August]

Please note deadlines for evidence submission, evidence on each category must be submitted prior to deadline. If you are unsure which category to submit your evidence under please email: climate.commission@hants.gov.uk or telephone 01962 846828

Detail of Evidence:

Human wellbeing and low carbon living

1. What are the key factors that contribute to wellbeing and the quality of life for the people and communities of Hampshire? The following does not attempt to be an exhaustive list but, to varying degrees, all of the following are important contributors to wellbeing and the quality of the life for the majority of people:

- Warm well-insulated housing
- Fresh food, good nutrition
- A sense of security
- High quality local schools, colleges and universities
- Good health and plenty of exercise
- Strong families, friendships and relationships
- Fulfilling socially useful work
- Strong communities, local shops and facilities
- Good quality of design (whether of public spaces, buildings or products)
- Lack of pollution (including noise pollution)
- Enjoyment of beauty and the natural world
- Cultural and sporting opportunities

2. All the above can be achieved – often better achieved – in a low carbon economy. The policies and social changes needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change very largely overlap with the policies and social changes needed to improve the quality of life for the majority of people.

Adaptation as mitigation

3. Adaptation to low carbon living is the most essential and potentially rewarding form of adaptation to the threat posed by global climate change; it can also accurately be described as 'adaptation as mitigation' since the adjustment – or adaptation – of affluent societies to low carbon living should also contribute steadily to the mitigation of the worst impacts of human-caused climate change.

Risks, timescales and urgency

4. Current scientific understanding of climate change is a mix of 'uncertainties' and 'probabilities'. In striking a balance between public policy measures that put the emphasis on adaptation and those that prioritise mitigation, a realistic sense of timescales and of risks need to be married to an appropriate sense of urgency. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – which has been working now for nearly 20 years – is a remarkable co-operative endeavour between some of the world's most respected scientists and many of the world's governments. As one IPCC report follows another it becomes increasingly clear that the consensus of scientific opinion points ever more sharply to the imperative of urgent action to reduce GHG emissions. It is European Union policy that the average increase in global temperatures (compared with pre-industrial temperatures) should not be allowed to exceed two degrees centigrade, an increase that would itself be full of dangers. The latest assessment report from the IPCC published in May 2007 makes it clear that to keep global temperatures from crossing the two degrees line global emissions of GHGs must peak within the next eight years (see *Working Group III contribution to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Climate Change 2007: Mitigation of Climate Change, Summary for Policymakers, page 23, table SPM 5*). In following the precautionary principle, central and local government policies should concentrate largely on the next seven years; by 2050 it may well be too late to prevent runaway climate change.

Responsibilities of the County Council

5. In respect of climate change, Hampshire County Council has great responsibilities. These include:

- Setting a lead in transparently and systematically measuring, monitoring and reducing its own greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Investing in well-judged adaptation measures
- Ensuring that all departments promote the benefits of low carbon living
- Ensuring that all County Council investments (including those made by the Pension Fund) work towards the minimisation of GHG emissions
- Promoting economic development in Hampshire that is environmentally sustainable not just in rhetoric but in practice (economic development needs to be largely de-coupled from fossil fuel use)
- Supporting community initiatives designed to mitigate the impacts of human caused climate change.

If climate change is the problem (and it is), sustainable development is the solution.

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally 1: Contraction and Convergence

6. At an international level the broad concept of 'Contraction and Convergence', referred to by the Council for the Protection for Rural England in its March 2005 response to a consultation paper by HM Government (submitted as part of the evidence to the County Council's Climate Change Commission's first session), is the most equitable approach to tackling climate change and poverty around the globe. The concept, which has had the support of the Government in international arenas, embodies reducing global emissions to environmentally sustainable measures,

based on consumption per head of population. The 'Contraction and Convergence' approach allows for some per capita increases in GHG emissions in the developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. But the essential corollary is that there must be steady and deep cuts in emissions from the wealthier countries. Under the title *An Incontestable Truth* the All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group has recently issued a DVD explaining the principles of Contraction and Convergence and demonstrating that it has serious support. It is to be hoped that the County Council Climate Change Commission will have an opportunity to view the 'Contraction and Convergence' DVD, a copy of which can be supplied on request.

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally 2: Citizenship and human wellbeing

7. Based on the principles of Contraction and Convergence, significant year-on-year reductions in GHG emissions – at least four per cent – are needed without further procrastination in all parts of the UK. With good leadership, co-operative action and political will, such a target could be achieved. Citizens of Hampshire have responsibilities as global citizens; climate change is a citizenship issue, an issue of global interdependence and social justice, as well as of wellbeing. Indeed the wellbeing of those in Europe and north America is clearly and closely bound up with the wellbeing of those in less affluent countries. The threat of large numbers of climate change refugees moving north into Europe is a serious possibility for consideration by all those concerned with human wellbeing. It is the view of the International Red Cross that environmental refugees already outnumber political refugees.

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally 3: Collaborative action at local level

8. The attached paper proposes a new initiative to encourage collaborative action to reduce GHG emissions by every organisation and household; and to promote the many benefits of low carbon living. As stated above, ***adaptation to low carbon living is the most essential and potentially rewarding form of adaptation to the threat posed by global climate change.***

The proposal is based on five assumptions:

1. Climate change is too urgent an issue to be left to politicians or environmentalists, though these two overlapping categories have important leadership roles to play;
2. People are more likely to change their behaviour if they are in a supportive group or community;
3. Taking action on Climate Change can do much to help create a greater sense of wellbeing;
4. The necessary behavioural change should be made as enjoyable as possible;
5. A partnership approach – in each town, city or local authority district - is likely to prove most effective.

The proposal is for a new organisation in Winchester District, but the same model for a collaborative approach is applicable in every city, town or local authority district.

Hampshire County Council is asked to support the approach described, and to help to establish the resources to enable the proposed Winchester Action on Climate Change to achieve its objectives.

Robert Hutchison has been the Co-ordinator of the Green Alliance, a national



organisation that aims to promote sustainable development by ensuring that the environment is at the heart of decision-making; he is the co-author (with Professor Paul Ekins and Dr Mayer Hillman) of Wealth Beyond Measure, an atlas of new economics. From 1996-2002 he was Chief Executive of the Southern Arts, the Regional Arts Board for central southern England. He is Chairman of the Winchester Fairtrade Steering Group and a member of Winchester Friends of the Earth; this evidence is submitted in a personal capacity

Additional Items submitted (please list, including numbers that relate to specific documents or other items):

1. Winchester Action on Climate Change (four page proposal)

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Winchester Action on Climate Change

Effective action locally on Climate Change should be planned to produce a success of two kinds, a *win win*: it should improve the quality of life in and around Winchester; and it should help to place Winchester at the head of the race against time to minimise the probability and impacts of dangerous Climate Change.

Aims of Winchester Action on Climate Change

It is proposed that Winchester Action on Climate Change should aim to:

1. Encourage, persuade and advise all households and public, private and voluntary organisations in Winchester district to measure and monitor their carbon footprints, and to aim to reduce them by an agreed set of annual targets;
2. Promote the many benefits of low carbon living;
3. Initiate and support action groups trying to achieve the first two aims;
4. Make the achievements of the first three aims as enjoyable as possible;
5. Work with and through existing networks and partnerships to set the highest possible standards in communicating about climate change.

Building on current initiatives

Climate Change presents an opportunity as well as a threat; many benefits to the people of Winchester could follow from an open and shared approach. *Winchester Action on Climate Change* is proposed as a new initiative that will encourage and persuade the main employers, the local authorities, and community and voluntary organisations in Winchester – as well as the University of Winchester and colleges and schools - to work together with a sense of common purpose: a shared effort to reach a shared set of goals. It is hoped that the District Strategic Partnership will set the lead by helping to establish *Winchester Action on Climate Change (WACC)* as a new organisation and to help secure the resources to enable it to achieve its objectives.

WACC should build on and complement existing initiatives, resources and partnerships. Hampshire County Council has established a Climate Change Commission of Inquiry. The Commission is concerned with mitigating the impacts of climate change while prioritizing the practical steps it can take to adapt to a changing climate. In areas where the County Council has direct responsibility it will be making recommendations for future actions and priorities, in other areas, it will be looking to influence partners, Government and other responsible bodies to act on its concerns.

Winchester City Council is consulting on a draft Climate Change Plan, which it is proposed will prioritise four ‘outcomes’:

- a) *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction*: the aim being that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide across the district are lower than national government targets.

- b) *Renewable Energy Generation*: in support of government targets for renewables.
- c) *Adaptation Planning*: so that the district becomes “climate change ready”, ensuring that we can maximise the opportunities and minimise the costs of climate change.
- d) *Community Involvement*: seeking to ensure that all sectors of the community understand the climate change issue and are taking action.

The City’s draft plan sets out what the local community through the Winchester District Strategic Partnership (WDSP) can do in delivering action on what is acknowledged as an urgent issue.

Meanwhile the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Sustainable Business Partnership is already working to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy bills in the private sector.

Advancing scientific understanding

While many uncertainties remain, there is a clear consensus among the great majority of scientists about the basic science of human-caused climate change; indeed the ‘greenhouse effect’ has been understood by scientists for more than a century. *WACC* must aim to widen understanding of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and advance public engagement with the science of climate change.

Everyone’s issue

WACC will need the widest possible ownership; Climate Change is everyone’s issue – it is too important to be left to politicians or environmentalists, though both these overlapping groups have important leadership roles to play. Winchester is a wealthy city with a long history of culture and learning. It should be one of the cities that leads the way towards the many benefits of low-carbon living and away from the worst disasters of human-caused Climate Change. What the world will be like in 20, 50 or a hundred years depends, of course, on far more than what we do in Winchester, or even in Britain – but our bit is the bit we can do and we may have more influence than we think possible.

Benefits

One of the assumptions of this proposal is that it is possible through collective effort to make life in Winchester more enjoyable. These are some of the benefits that should arise from a well-planned concerted approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in and around Winchester:

- Living in warmer homes with lower heating bills (programmes of greatly improved insulation need to be accompanied by measures to tackle fuel poverty)
- More walking and cycling and improved public transport
- Less traffic congestion
- Less obesity and fresher, healthier food
- Safer and healthier journeys to school and work
- New enterprises (and new employment) based on solar and other low carbon technologies

- Direct benefits to existing businesses including cost savings, access to new markets, enhanced competitive edge
- Improved urban design in Winchester and market towns
- Stronger local communities with more local cultural and recreational activities
- Less noise and waste
- Increased employment in horticulture and agriculture
- More and better local shops and markets
- Greater understanding of global interdependence

In addition, and most importantly to many people, by helping ourselves we will be helping others: climate change is an issue of social justice and the biggest single threat to economic development in the poorest countries; it could undo decades of progress in fighting poverty.

Organisations to be involved

Since Climate Change is everyone's concern, the aim is to involve a wide range of organisations and individuals in helping to set and achieve the aims of *Winchester Action on Climate Change*. The organisations could be classified into six types:

- Private sector, including retail sector
- Local authorities (County, District, Town and Parish Councils)
- Universities, schools and colleges
- Public sector – including the Health Service and the emergency services
- Voluntary sector, including the churches and environmental organisations
- Households

Many of the above are already represented on the Board of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership; but wider initial representation will be needed if WACC is to attract wide ownership. It is suggested that, to have the best chance of success – after a period of incubation within the framework of the District Strategic Partnership - WACC should be organised at arm's length from the City and County Councils but, it is hoped, with their full commitment, involvement and support.

Steps

1. To test out the levels and nature of interest in *Winchester Action on Climate Change* in some of the main organisations in Winchester including Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council, the University of Winchester, and the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Sustainable Business Partnership.
2. To discuss with members of the Board of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership whether, and if so how, it can help WACC achieve its goals.
3. To call a meeting of interested organisations and form a steering group.
4. To establish WACC as an organisation, and agree a programme of work and an initial budget and fund-raising strategy.
5. To increase the number of interested organisations as far and as fast as possible.

Communicating about Climate Change

Runaway climate change is the biggest threat facing the human race at the start of the twenty-first century. It is a big problem for people to face up to; and experience suggests that faced with a potentially overwhelming issue, unless people think that they can see some possibility of change, they screen it out. However, the level of concern that people are prepared to express is high when the prospect of agency is real. Above all WACC must be about *agency*: we *can* stop the worst consequences of human-caused climate change, as responsible citizens we *should* do so, and there will be *great benefits* from doing so.

There is also plenty of research to demonstrate that people are more likely to change their behaviour if they are in a supportive group or community. It doesn't matter what these communities are: workplaces, schools, religious meetings, or voluntary groups. One of the aims of the WACC project is to assist the formation of action groups, to give people the space to discuss ideas for reducing greenhouse gas emissions as part of a discussion about how best to improve the local environment. WACC must seek to generate the enormous power of running facilitated groups at which people explore and understand the issues for themselves; and then take action as they see fit. To achieve its objectives WACC will need to set itself the highest possible standards in communications and group facilitation.

Climate Change – the opportunity

Tackling the threat posed by global Climate Change is also an opportunity to improve the quality of life in the City where we live and/or work. Taking action on Climate Change can do much to help create a greater sense of wellbeing: there is increasing evidence that ever-greater consumerism and hypermobility tend not to increase people's sense of wellbeing. In contrast, healthier lifestyles, better family and personal relationships, more meaningful work, and greater engagement in a local community – all of which are compatible with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions - do tend to increase wellbeing and a sense of personal fulfilment; as does a sense of acting ethically or 'doing the right thing'.

If it is to succeed WACC needs to be action-oriented, professionally-run, enjoyable and based on the best available science. Clear and realistic aims, wide ownership, good organisation, an agreed budget and a sense of fun will all be needed. .

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Robert Hutchison has been the Co-ordinator of the Green Alliance, a national organisation that aims to promote sustainable development by ensuring that the environment is at the heart of decision-making; he is the co-author (with Professor Paul Ekins and Dr Mayer Hillman) of Wealth Beyond Measure, an atlas of new economics. From 1996-2002 he was Chief Executive of the Southern Arts, the Regional Arts Board for central southern England. He is Chairman of the Winchester Fairtrade Steering Group and a member of Winchester Friends of the Earth.