



**Draft document for LSP’s that outlines the criteria by which public authorities are judged on action on climate change – National Indicators 185, 186, 187, and 188.**

**NI185: CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from Local Authority operations**

Action by local authorities is likely to be critical to the achievement of Government’s climate change objectives. The public sector is in a key position to lead on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction by setting a behavioural and strategic example to the private sector and the communities they serve. The manner in which the local authority delivers its functions can achieve CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions.

The aim of this indicator is to measure the progress of local authorities to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the relevant buildings and transport used to deliver its functions and to encourage them to demonstrate leadership on tackling climate change.

**Measurement - percentage CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from LA operations:**

Measurement against this indicator will require each LA to calculate their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from analysis of the energy and fuel use in their relevant buildings and transport, including where these services have been outsourced. The Carbon Trust currently provides support to LAs to guide them through the process of calculating carbon footprints and to help them develop carbon reduction plans.

The indicator being assessed will be a year on year measured reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. First year data to be reported in 2009, will be for Jan-Dec 2008.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: is the total amount of direct and indirect CO<sub>2</sub> emitted as a result of LA operations.

- Direct emissions are emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the local authority e.g. emissions from the combustion in owned or controlled boilers and vehicles.
- Indirect emissions are emissions that are a consequence of the activities of the local authority, but occur at sources owned or controlled by another entity e.g. emissions from consumption of purchased electricity or heat, transport-related activities in vehicles not owned or controlled by the local authority and outsourced activities.

LA Operations: The delivery of the relevant functions of a Local Authority which result (either directly or indirectly) in the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Functions of an authority covers all their own operations and outsourced services. Even if the services are being provided by an external body (e.g. a private company) they remain the function of the authority. This is to include schools, but exclude social housing.

#### **NI186: Per capita reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the LA area**

Action by local authorities is likely to be critical to the achievement of Government's climate change objectives. Local authorities are uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to local communities by raising awareness and to influence behaviours. In addition, through their powers and responsibilities (housing, planning, local transport and powers to promote well-being) and by working with their Local Strategic Partnership they can have significant influence over emissions in their local areas.

In the Climate Change Programme 2006, the Government stated its commitment to ensure the local Government framework will include an appropriate focus on action on climate change, sufficient to incentivise more authorities to reach the levels of the best. The Government also committed to give greater flexibility to deliver on national priorities in the most cost effective way for that locality.

The proposed indicator will rely on centrally produced statistics to measure end user CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Local Area from:

- Business and Public Sector
- Domestic Sector
- Road transport

This data is already captured and analysed to produce area by area carbon emissions per capita. Analysis carried out by AEA Energy and Environment has confirmed that the data available for the construction of this local area Climate Change Indicator are sufficiently robust with relatively low levels of uncertainty.

The percentage reduction in **per capita CO<sub>2</sub>** in each LA will be reported annually. The statistics for 2005 will be used as the baseline. Data is now available for 2006 and 2007.

**NI187: Tackling fuel poverty – % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating**

To measure progress in tackling fuel poverty through the improved energy efficiency of households inhabited by people claiming income based benefits.

The indicator measures the proportion of households on income related benefits for whom an energy assessment of their housing has been carried out, living in homes with

- (i) Low energy efficiency
- (ii) High energy efficiency

The energy efficiency of a house can be measured using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). The procedure calculates a number between 1 and 100, low numbers generally indicate a house that has low levels of insulation and an inefficient heating system whereas numbers closer to 100 indicate a very energy efficient house. SAP is the Government's recommended system for energy rating of dwellings.

SAP is being used as a proxy for fuel poverty in households of people claiming income based benefits, given the link between income poverty and fuel poverty.

***Low energy efficiency***

A SAP rating of less than 35

***High energy efficiency***

A SAP rating of 65 or more

***Fuel poverty*** is the requirement to spend more than 10% of household income to maintain an adequate level of warmth and includes non-heating fuel use.

Good performance is shown over time by a reduction in the proportion of households with a SAP below 35 and an increase in the proportion of households with a SAP of 65 or greater.

## **NI188: Planning to Adapt to climate change**

To ensure local authority preparedness to manage risks to service delivery, the public, local communities, local infrastructure, businesses and the natural environment from a changing climate, and to make the most of new opportunities. The indicator measures progress on assessing and managing climate risks and opportunities, and incorporating appropriate action into local authority and partners' strategic planning.

The impacts might include increases in flooding, temperature, drought and extreme weather events. These could create risks and opportunities such as: impacts to transport infrastructure from melting roads or buckling rails, increases in tourism, increased damage to buildings from storms, impacts on local ecosystems and biodiversity, scope to grow new crops, changing patterns of disease, impacts on planning and the local economy and public health.

Local authorities should report the level of preparedness they have reached against the 5 levels of performance, graded 0 to 4. The higher the number, the better the performance.

The criteria for achievement of each of the levels is detailed below.

### **Level 0: Baseline:**

The Authority has begun the process of assessing the potential threats and opportunities across its estate and services (for example, flood and coastal resilience plans, emergency planning, community risk registers/strategies etc) and has identified and agreed the next steps to build on that assessment in a systematic and coordinated way.

### **Level 1: Public commitment and prioritised risk-based assessment:**

The Authority has made a public commitment to identify and manage climate related risk. It has undertaken a local risk-based assessment of significant vulnerabilities and opportunities to weather and climate, both now and in the future. It can demonstrate a sound understanding of those not yet addressed in existing strategies and actions (e.g. in land use planning documents, service delivery plans, flood and coastal resilience plans, emergency planning, community risk registers/strategies etc ). It has communicated these potential vulnerabilities and opportunities to department/service heads and other local partners and has set out the next steps in addressing them.

### **Level 2: Comprehensive risk-based assessment and prioritised action in some areas:**

The Authority has undertaken a comprehensive risk based assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate, both now and in the future, and has identified priority risks for its services. It has identified the most effective adaptive responses and has started incorporating these in council strategies, plans, partnerships and operations (such as planning, flood management, economic development, social care, services for children, transport etc). It has begun implementing appropriate adaptive responses in some priority areas. In its role as a community leader the council has started working with its LSP encouraging

identification of major weather and climate vulnerabilities and opportunities that affect the delivery of the LSP's objectives.

**Level 3: Comprehensive action plan and prioritised action in all priority areas:**

The Authority has embedded climate impacts and risks across council decision making. It has developed a comprehensive adaptation action plan to deliver the necessary steps to achieve the existing objectives set out in council strategies, plans, investment decisions and partnership arrangements in light of projected climate change and is implementing appropriate adaptive responses in all priority areas. This includes leadership and support for LSPs in taking a risk based approach to managing major weather and climate vulnerabilities/opportunities across the wider local authority area.

**Level 4: Implementation, monitoring and continuous review:**

The Authority and LSP are implementing the comprehensive adaptation action plan across the local authority area, and there is a robust process for regular and continual monitoring and review to ensure progress with each measure and updating of objectives. The Authority and LSP are taking appropriate adaptive responses.