

**No.2 Greatest Hits for District Local Strategic Partnerships****Brief Description:**

District Authorities are in the position of delivering LAA targets that belong to their County Councils. This can lead to a sense that they do not have control over their targets however Districts control some of the most powerful tools to reduce per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – the planning system, housing, procurement and close local relationships with their communities. They can also influence travel planning in local organisations and enable people to use public transport, bike and walk, working closely with the transport team at County level.

Many District Authorities had started tackling climate change before the new national indicators were adopted and climate change strategies and action plans have been developed closely between Counties and Districts. It is critical to stay in close contact with your County on how they are gathering information, monitoring and reporting. It is also important to play an active role in county wide partnerships on climate change to share experiences with other districts and to see how you can work together to access greater funding or support.

This briefing is aimed at Local Strategic Partnerships and District Authorities within Counties that have adopted NI 186 (per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction) as an indicator. It summarises research findings into CO<sub>2</sub> reductions and will help you to manage and deliver your target. The 'greatest hits' or biggest wins will vary according to the local area. For example, if most homes in the community already have high quality loft insulation then potential savings from a similar scheme in the same area may be limited and alternative solutions more fruitful.

**Fact Box - North West**

North West: 16 of 23 Local Strategic Partnerships have signed up to NI 186. This covers the 18 Districts in Lancashire and Cumbria which work closely with the County Councils on climate change.

**Category:**

The actions proposed below cut across the three Defra categories for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – Industry & Commercial; Domestic and Transport.

## No.2 Greatest Hits for District Local Strategic Partnerships

### Partners:

NI 186 targets can be delivered by working through all the members of the LSP and by using each member's networks, clients, contacts and suppliers to maximise the scale of activity and impact.

Closer ties between District and County professionals will have practical and efficiency benefits. For example, District Council LSPs will contribute to County Climate Change Action Plans and links between District planners and County transport professionals will improve the outcome.

### Policy links

- Energy efficiency helps reduce **fuel poverty**
- **Healthy living** is encouraged through promotion of active travel
- Empowering people to work together on climate change and energy issues leads to **stronger and safer communities**
- Local jobs and **economic development** in low carbon industries
- **National** Government target of 80% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050
- **Regional** target of 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> by 2020
- **Local** Government NI 186 target of between 9 – 12.5% by 2011
- **County** Climate Change Action Plans
- **Future policies:** Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) and Heat and Energy Saving Strategy (HES)

**Briefing No. 3** illustrates how NI 186 targets link to other LAA targets.

### Fact Box

One Zero Carbon Primary School would save 30 - 40 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> year or about 0.2% of your target

Installing a 15kW wind turbine at a council depot could save 7-10 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> /year – less than 0.05% of your target

Helping 1,000 householders in hard-to treat homes to insulate their properties could save 2,000 – 3,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> /year – around 11% of your target.

## No.2 Greatest Hits for District Local Strategic Partnerships

### Getting started

**1. Understanding the target** It is vital that partners understand just how much needs doing to achieve the targets and that it can be done.

Urging residents not to overfill kettles, change to low energy lightbulbs, switch off standby and hang out washing will not dent your target.

Its achievement will require, for example, home insulation on a grand scale (in Cumbria this means insulating roughly 70,000 homes) a major shift away from car use, and significant changes to the way energy is used and produced.

**2. Find out what is happening already** Don't reinvent the wheel, there is plenty going on already. The best way to find out more is to talk to people. Hold an event for LSP partners to explore energy and climate change actions taking place in the area (support available through CLASP). Identify who's good at what, where there are gaps, and where improving links to others might help.

**3. Review existing climate change strategies** Action plans may have already been prepared locally and at a sub-regional level. Work with council departments that have been involved in their preparation (or include those that have not, for example, Air Quality teams in some areas have not been involved and have a lot to offer) and build on existing action sharing resources and ideas. Find out what really happened as a result of the action plans, and what didn't work.

**4. Assess local policies** Planning, health, economic development, and other policies will impact on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Draw together a team of policy and other representatives from the LA and LSP member organisations to identify, review and report on potential linkages to NI186, and where your policies may cause CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to rise.

**5. Agree approach to regional organisations** To avoid confusion and duplication of effort identify people at a sub-regional level as key contacts for outside organisations such as ENWORKS, NHS Trusts, PCTs and agree representatives for others.

**6. Identify resources available** Significant resources are needed to deliver NI 186 and tackle climate change. National, regional and local funds, expertise and services are available. However, NI 186 is a big area of work and it needs resourcing seriously with staff and budget to access money, support and carry out the coordination across departments and LSP members as well as delivering projects.

**7. Identify priorities** Some actions will be easier to achieve, offer immediate benefits and/or have a strong positive message.

## No.2 Greatest Hits for District Local Strategic Partnerships

**8. Identify actions for the long-term** There are many actions that will require more effort, resources or research but that offer significant benefits in the future. These will need to be explored and initial actions outlined. They might include renewable energy, energy infrastructure, regeneration, transport etc.

**9. Measure the impact** It is important to establish a system to measure progress towards the NI186 target at an early stage. Document the work as a partnership for reporting on NI 186 as a process indicator in the first year. (See [Briefing No.4](#) for more detail).

**What should we do to hit our target? Things in each category below – there is no one big easy win, but a series of them which together can deliver the NI 186 targets.**

### NI 186 Greatest Hits... as an LSP

**1. Leadership** – identify and train or convince high level champion(s) to encourage action. (Contact CLASP for support.)

**2. Carbon Management Plans** - each LSP member should develop a challenging emissions reduction plan to include, for example: a 15% target for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from their own operations; high energy efficiency standards for new build and refurbishment projects; installation of micro-renewables; travel plans and transport initiatives for their own staff; and monitoring and reporting<sup>1</sup>.

**3. Establish a revolving loan fund** – for public sector organisations to make necessary investments (see [Briefing No.9](#))<sup>2</sup>.

**4. Procurement** – adopt a procurement policy and supply chain initiative to help reduce emissions among suppliers (see [Briefing No.6](#)), approach ENWORKS for assistance.

**5. Communications** - use messages and media that work for people in your area.

**6. Resources** – identify and allocate appropriate resources (staffing/budget) to each action. Look to see where resources and expertise can be shared between partners.

**7. Low Carbon Local Development Framework** – should include: requirements to minimise car travel; Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 (level 6 by 2016); 10% (minimum) renewable energy in new developments; BREEAM Excellent for industrial developments; Energy Plans for developers; exemplar projects; and Planner and Building Regulations training (See [Briefing No. 7](#)).

**8. Flagship and exemplar projects** – these might include demonstration projects (e.g. an ‘eco house’) or wider initiatives with far reaching benefits (e.g. a boiler replacement programme). Each should seek to spread a “we can do that too” attitude. Don’t allow a flagship project to distract from large scale, high impact but possibly less newsworthy actions.

## No.2 Greatest Hits for District Local Strategic Partnerships

### Useful Links:

LSPs can apply for free advice and mentoring from Local Improvement Advisors on a range of issues including climate change. <http://www.climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/free-support-from-local-improvement-advisers.html>

EST recently produced an online resource: Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in your local authority area - The guide. <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Local-Authorities/Reducing-CO2-emissions-in-your-local-authority-area-The-guide>

Beacon Councils provide support in a variety of ways including open days, briefing papers, visits and talking on the phone. See <http://beacons.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=1>

Sustainable Development and Local Decision Making: LSPs, Sustainable Community Strategies and LAAs Sustainable Development Commission. [www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=833](http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=833)

EST one to one service: 2 year programme of support including grants and consultancy time for delivery of NI 186 and other indicators including Fuel Poverty. [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Local-Authorities/Getting-Help-And-Advice/Local-authority-one-to-one-support](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Local-Authorities/Getting-Help-And-Advice/Local-authority-one-to-one-support)

Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) [www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=80829](http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=80829)

Local Government Information Unit – Centre of Excellence for Sustainability provides briefings on themed areas for carbon emissions reduction. [http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/module2-detail.jsp?id=85&section=who\\_we\\_are\\_lgiu&parent=1&selfid=85](http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/module2-detail.jsp?id=85&section=who_we_are_lgiu&parent=1&selfid=85)

### NI 186 Greatest Hits... Domestic

**1. Scale up housing stock improvements** (insulation/boilers) — develop closer relationships with your local Insulation and Boiler Installer and energy suppliers running the CERT /Supplier Obligation and explore ways to access more homes using partnership links (e.g. through contracts with Registered Social Landlords, PCT – staff homes; client or patient homes, University – student accommodation, parish councils to target rural villages). Prepare suitable Community Energy Saving Programme projects in low income areas<sup>3</sup>.

**2. Establish revolving loan fund** for housing improvements - No/low interest loan scheme/or credit union for home improvements (see [Briefing No.9](#)).

**3. Support community groups** to scale up marketing of schemes, community energy projects, support in obtaining funding<sup>4</sup>.

## No.2 Greatest Hits for District Local Strategic Partnerships

**4. “Sell your own energy”** - encourage people and community groups to take advantage of funding and energy supplier tariffs associated with renewable energy. Back this with well-publicised supportive planning policies.

**5. Map suitable areas for renewables** – work with County Planners to identify local community and public owned sites, areas of housing, etc, suitable for a range of renewable energy technologies and map them against funding and other initiatives (e.g. fuel poverty programmes).

### NI 186 Greatest Hits... Industry & Commerce (see [Briefing No.6](#))

**1. Understand the impact** – roughly determine types of businesses, sectors, likely emissions and those you can/cannot influence.

**2. Carbon Reduction Commitment** – determine implications for business and public sector and link to plans and support . The CRC is a system of allowances and rebate with fines for failure to deliver. It will affect local authorities and public sector organisations and medium sized businesses (See [Briefing No.6](#)).

**3. Investigate the potential for savings and green technology** - work with business support organisations and initiatives (e.g. Groundwork, ENWORKS, Carbon Trust, Environment Connect, Chamber, EST fleet, ACT Travelwise) to determine progress to date, free/low-cost environmental services available, funding available and actions to promote take-up<sup>6</sup>.

**4. Consult with LSP business members** to maximise engagement with business and take up of schemes and to use peer to peer business ambassadors.

**5. “Sell your own energy”** support businesses in identifying suitable sites and grants to install renewable energy generation to cut costs and increase energy security locally and back this with well-publicised supportive planning policies.

**6. Work closely with County Councils** to ensure the 2010 Local Economic Assessment embeds the low-carbon economy and measures to tackle climate change as a driver for sustainable economic development. (See [Briefing No. 5](#))

### NI 186 Greatest Hits... Transport (See [Briefing No.8](#) Transport Planning)

**1. Travel plans** – identify organisations for travel planning (eg colleges, PCT, big employers) and promote travel planning service, where it is available, or establish a travel planning service and funding<sup>7</sup>.

Provide a **personalised travel planning project** – either using Sustrans’ TravelSmart<sup>8</sup> service or a community based approach.

## No.2 Greatest Hits for District Local Strategic Partnerships

**2. Better information** - Promote available information (or develop new marketing campaigns) on public transport, walking and cycling as alternatives to car use.

**3. Cycle to Work** (tax exemption scheme<sup>9</sup>) - ensure schemes are available via all public sector organisations, LSP members and major employers along with appropriate cycling facilities and a policy to pay a mileage rate for cycling on business.

**4. National low impact travel schemes** – Promote schemes (e.g. Energy Savings Trust Grey Fleet, Smart driver training<sup>10</sup>) to businesses, groups of smaller businesses, public sector organisations and the third sector.

**5. Car share schemes** – Promote the benefits and opportunities via business channels. Facilitate area-based networks of users.<sup>11</sup>

**6. Local Transport Planning** – this is a County role, but get involved to ensure it includes active travel (make the links to health) and that your planners are involved in the process – (See [Briefing No.8](#) Transport for information on LTP3 goals that include climate change).

### Case Study Links:

**Case Study - Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership** used its Second Homes Fund to: resource a part time post; understand what is going on in the district; work out what they need to do to fit in with the Lancashire targets; and start developing a local action plan. A key part of this role is to engage the whole partnership.

### Case Study - South Norfolk Council

Led by Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk Council has worked with other local authorities to produce the Norfolk Climate Change Strategy. This will underpin a longer-term partnership approach to meeting targets under NI186. However, South Norfolk Council has produced a list of internal actions to deliver their district specific 2.8% carbon reduction target. With little resourcing - one officer and no extra budget (but with senior management buy in), they had to be realistic. They identified measures that build on existing resources and processes including:

**Domestic:** The joint Energy Team of South Norfolk and Broadland District Council which promotes energy efficiency, grants and targets specific groups of residents, as well as general awareness-raising at events, and through the Council magazine and other media.

**Communities:** Working with communities rather than households for greater impact, for example undertaking a Green Village scheme which involves working with one community to reduce its carbon footprint with a view to rolling out the methodology to other communities (although a budget is needed to fully support this project). Also working through Parish Plans and promoting community funding and training.

## No.2 Greatest Hits for District Local Strategic Partnerships

**Industry:** Three MBA students will undertake a business baseline survey to research what is already happening in that sector and how much understanding there is of energy use and other environmental issues. This will inform the production of best practice case studies and help develop a communications strategy with businesses. They are also exploring the potential to work through the Tourism and Business Consortium to engage business and use existing channels such as air quality regulatory systems and economic grants to promote energy efficiency. They will also work through the Norfolk Climate Change Taskforce to provide a one stop shop for energy efficiency advice.

**Transport:** County leads on transport but the district can promote bus and cycle routes and make information more accessible. They are working on one specific project to promote sustainable transport for tourists in the Waveney Valley.

Environment Strategy Officer, Kate Urwin, keeps in close contact with her fellow officers in Norfolk's other district councils for support.

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The Northwest Greatest Hits for NI 186 series includes the following briefings:

- 1 No.1 Greatest Hits for Unitary LSPs
- 2 No.2 Greatest Hits for District LSPs
- 3 No.3 Your Top 10 is my Top 10 –  
Explaining how climate change targets meet other targets
- 4 No.4 Quantifying the Savings
- 5 No. 5 Greatest Hits for Low Carbon Economic Development
- 6 No.6 Greatest Hits for Engaging with Business
- 7 No.7 Greatest Hits in Planning
- 8 No. 8 Greatest Hits for Local Transport Plans
- 9 No. 9 Greatest Hits for Revolving Loan Funds
- 10 No.10 The Whole NI 186 Picture

Researched and written by Quantum Strategy & Technology for CLASP

## No.2 Greatest Hits for District Local Strategic Partnerships

### References

1 [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk) Carbon Trust: Carbon Management Programme, audits, support, funding/grants and Partnership for Renewables for public sector bodies, such as Local Authorities, NHS Trusts, Universities and Central Government organisations, to develop and manage renewable energy projects. [www.pfr.co.uk](http://www.pfr.co.uk)

2 Salix Finance provides conditional grants for revolving loan funds for public sector organisation energy efficiency and renewables investment. [www.salixfinance.co.uk](http://www.salixfinance.co.uk)

3 Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes website has useful information especially related to the sub-groups and sector reports including hard to treat homes. [www.eeph.org.uk](http://www.eeph.org.uk)

Energy Saving Trust – [www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk)

North West Domestic Energy Alliance - [www.nwdea.org.uk](http://www.nwdea.org.uk)

4 Community Action for Energy - [www.est.org.uk/cafe](http://www.est.org.uk/cafe)

5 Carbon Reduction Commitment.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/business/crc/index.htm>

6. [www.environmentconnect.co.uk](http://www.environmentconnect.co.uk)

7 [www.acttravelwise.org/home](http://www.acttravelwise.org/home)

8 [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

9 [www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/cycling/cycletoworkschemeimplementat5732](http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/cycling/cycletoworkschemeimplementat5732)

10 [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Transport-in-business](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Transport-in-business)

11 [www.carplus.org.uk](http://www.carplus.org.uk)

CLASP – The Northwest Climate Change Local Area Support Programme  
[www.clasp-nw.info](http://www.clasp-nw.info)