

Appendix I: Summary of Climate Change Consultation

Consultation on the draft strategy was undertaken through the Wavelength panel, distribution of a consultation leaflet to stakeholder groups and through climate change exhibitions across the city. The results of the Wavelength survey are summarised below:

Climate Change

- 41% of respondents consider that climate change is a ‘massive’ problem and 43% think it is a ‘big’ problem, whereas 5% think that it is not a problem.
- 53% of respondents consider that it is ‘very important’ and 37% think that it is ‘important’ for the Council to take action to reduce Exeter's greenhouse gas emissions, whereas 10% think that it is not important.
- 50% of respondents consider that it is ‘very important’ and 39% think that it is ‘important’ for individuals to take action to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions, whereas 10% think that it is not important.

Energy Efficiency

- 30% of respondents are aware of the Devon Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (2% have used the service), 61% are aware of Warm Up Exeter grants (8% received), 48% are aware of Warm Front grants (9% received), 47% are aware of Home Renovation Grants (4% received) and 42% are aware of renewable energy grants (1% received).
- Residents were asked to consider to what extent a range of measures would encourage them to reduce the amount of energy consumed in their household. The most popular measures were the use of a smart meter, bigger grants for insulation measures and more information/better quality information on energy efficiency.
- 61% of respondents would be interested in taking part in a trial of smart meters (a device that allows householders to monitor their energy consumption/cost).

Renewable Energy

- 65% of respondents ‘strongly agree’ and 30% ‘agree’ that renewable energy is a good idea.
- 9% of respondents plan to install a renewable energy system into their home in the near future.
- 61% of respondents would consider installing a renewable energy system into their home if it was less expensive.
- 39% of respondents would consider installing a renewable energy system into their home if it was easier to obtain planning permission.
- 50% of respondents are concerned about the visual impact or noise produced by a renewable energy system.
- 72% of respondents would be interested to find out more about renewable energy.
- Residents were asked to consider to what extent a range of measures would encourage them to install a renewable energy system into their home. The most popular measures were bigger grants for renewables, more information about grants available, making it easier to obtain planning permission and more information and advice services.
- 82% of respondents would support the introduction of a requirement for all larger scale new developments and conversions to incorporate on-site renewable energy equipment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 10%, whereas 5% would not support such a policy.

Transport

- 26% of respondents would ‘definitely’ support and 33% would ‘probably’ support the introduction of a climate change car-parking levy, whereas 18% would ‘probably not’ support it and 18% would ‘definitely not’ support it.
- 74% of respondents would support the proposal to introduce licensing requirements to encourage taxi and private hire operators to reduce carbon emissions, whereas 11% would not support such a proposal.

Recycling

- 75% of respondents consider that the amount of information provided by the Council on how to recycle is ‘about right’, whereas 22% consider that it is ‘too little’.
- 19% of respondents consider that the quality of the information provided by the Council on how to recycle is ‘very good’ and 64% consider it to be ‘good’, whereas 15% consider that it is ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’.

Other Comments

A variety of other comments about climate change were obtained through the consultation, which are summarised below:

Energy

- All new homes should be built to high standards of energy efficiency and eco design.
- Increase availability of energy efficiency advice for households and introduce a home energy advice service.
- Landlords should be required to improve the energy efficiency of their properties before they can be rented out.
- Put pressure on businesses to reduce energy consumption, including reducing lighting at night and not leaving doors open when heating/air conditioning is on.
- Support the development of community-owned renewable energy initiatives and look for other opportunities e.g. wind farm for the city, use of local parks to demonstrate renewable energy devices and hydro-electricity from weirs.
- Need for bigger grants/loans/more information on renewables, including providing grants for schools and businesses.

Transport

- Encourage walking and cycling, including expanding cycle routes, especially around schools.
- Introduce a ‘borrow a bike’ scheme to encourage people to cycle around town.
- Ban cars from the City centre (other than taxis and disabled drivers) and introduce congestion charging scheme.
- Create a public transport zone in the city with only a small minimum fare for buses and trains.
- Charge companies that provide parking for staff.
- Increase the number of park and rides schemes e.g. Cowley Bridge.
- Make public transport cheaper and better and publicise bus routes more.
- Subsidise bus fares across the board rather than providing free bus travel for the over 60s.
- Buses should be more environmentally friendly.
- Provide more parking areas for bikes and mopeds.

- Give grants for environmentally friendly cars and introduce incentives for smaller efficient cars.

Waste/Recycling

- Collect glass, tetra pak, batteries and kitchen waste from homes for recycling/composting.
- Introduce a weekly recycling collection.
- Provide more dual litter and recycling bins in the city centre and ensure they are clearly marked.
- Ban the use of plastic carriers/tackle supermarkets regarding use of plastic bags and over-packaged goods.
- Provide more detailed recycling guidance and information about what the materials are used for/where they go to be recycled/environmental benefit of recycling.
- Introduce community-composting schemes for those with no or small garden.
- Provide subsidised water butts and composters.
- Rule out incineration permanently.
- Fine people that don't recycle and reduce Council tax for those that do. Charge for waste disposal on a per-bag basis.
- Open another recycling centre e.g. in Sowton.
- The domestic recycling target should be increased.
- Do more to encourage businesses to recycle.

Other

- Set a higher (than 30%) target for carbon reduction for Exeter.
- The Council should lead by example and get its own house in order.
- Need for more education for younger generation on climate change.
- Give annual prizes for energy efficient families, houses, developers.
- Encourage people to buy local produce and use local businesses.
- Green business grading scheme – so people can choose which businesses to support/encourage businesses to improve their performance.
- Relocate the Farmers' Market to Bedford Street.
- Plant more trees in the city and stop cutting down existing trees.