

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY 1 SEPTEMBER 2009

CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: RESULTS AND PROGRESS

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report presents information on the Council's corporate environmental performance indicators for the period 2008/09. The specific indicators under consideration are:

- the reduction in the total quantity of paper resources used by the Council
- the purchase of recycled paper
- the reduction in waste produced from the Civic Centre
- the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions within the Council
- the reduction in water consumption at the Civic Centre

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The environmental performance indicators are used to monitor progress in implementing the objectives of the Council's Environmental Strategy and Carbon Management Plan. The current indicators reflect, in particular, the level of resource use by the Council.
- 2.2 The indicators are kept under review and changes are made, where appropriate, to take account of the increasing knowledge and understanding about how the Council's policies and practices impact on the environment.

3 RESULTS

Paper Use

3.1 The Council's Environmental Strategy sets the following target for paper consumption by the Council:

- To reduce paper consumption (office paper, copier paper, headed paper, compliment slips) within the Council by 10% by 2007/08 from a baseline of 2005/06 levels.

Year	Total paper purchased/ consumed (reams*)	Percentage change over previous year	Percentage change from 2005/06 levels
2005/06	10,459 reams	3.9% decrease	-
2006/07	10,867 reams	3.9% increase	3.9% increase
2007/08	9,280 reams	14.6% decrease	11.3% decrease
2008/09	8,936 reams	3.7% decrease	14.5% decrease

* A ream comprises 500 sheets of standard A4 paper, or its equivalent

** Paper consumed rather than purchased

- 3.2 The figures are calculated from data supplied by the relevant administrative sections on the quantity of paper used during the years in question. Due to difficulties in quantifying 'ad hoc' uses of paper, such as leaflets for promotions, only paper in every day use (copier paper, headed paper, compliment slips) is included and this is used as an indicator of overall performance.
- 3.3 A total of 4.5 million sheets of paper were used in 2008/09, which represents a 3.7% decrease since the previous year and a decrease of 14.5% since the baseline year of 2005/06. This reduction is thought to be due to a drive towards duplex printing and electronic forms of data handling and storage, as well as increased awareness brought about by campaigns run by the Environmental Champions. For the first time in many years, paper consumption now falls just below the levels when monitoring began in 1996/7.
- 3.4 Constant vigilance and commitment is required at all levels to actively reduce paper consumption further, such as maximising electronic forms of data storage, rationalising distribution lists, increasing duplex printing and identifying unnecessary paper usage. The proposal to reduce printers across the Council should have a significant impact on reducing paper usage further.

Recycled Paper

- 3.5 The Council's Environmental Strategy sets the following target for recycled paper purchased by the Council:
- Purchase 98% of paper (copier paper, headed paper and compliment slips) from a recycled source by 2007/08.
- 3.6 In 2008/09, 94% of monitored paper (copier paper, headed paper and compliment slips) was from a recycled source, compared to 87% in 2006/07. To achieve the target it would be necessary to further reduce the consumption of coloured paper or to purchase coloured paper from a recycled source (as was done in the past). A reduction in the amount of colour photocopying would also be needed, as a source of recycled paper suitable for this purpose has not been identified.

Waste Reduction

- 3.7 The Council's Environmental Strategy sets the following target for the reduction of waste produced from the Civic Centre:
- Reduce the amount (by weight) of office waste for disposal from the Civic Centre by 60% by April 2011, from a baseline of April 1998 (60 tonnes) and thereafter stabilise production at this level.
- 3.8 The results for waste reduction at the Civic Centre are summarised below:

Year	Waste produced (Civic Centre)	Percentage reduction from baseline (April 1998)
May 2006	27.3 tonnes	55% reduction
May 2007	28.4 tonnes	53% reduction
May 2008	24.7 tonnes	59% reduction
May 2009	15.1 tonnes	75% reduction

- 3.9 The results were calculated from a waste auditing exercise, which involves monitoring the total amount of waste (for landfill disposal) produced from the Civic Centre during a week. From this data, the mean quantity of waste disposed of per day and thus the annual waste production is estimated.
- 3.10 A 75% reduction in the amount of waste (by weight) for landfill disposal from the Civic Centre was observed in May 2009, compared to the baseline of April 1998. This represents a 39% reduction in waste levels since the previous year, and means that the target of a 60% reduction by April 2011 has been met.
- 3.11 The significant reduction in waste levels has been achieved through the introduction of a new recycling scheme at the Civic Centre, which has greatly improved the availability of recycling points for staff, and associated awareness raising activities undertaken by the Environmental Champions. A floor-by-floor waste audit undertaken by the Champions in May 2009 indicated that further improvement could be made through increasing the recycling of plastics and encouraging staff to take their own organic waste home for composting.
- 3.12 Improvements to the recycling schemes at other sites have also been made, including Oakwood House, Bradninch Offices, The Ark, Belle Isle Nursery, The Corn Exchange, Matford Centre and new recycling schemes introduced in the Car Park Offices, Rougemont House and St Nicholas Priory. Where follow-up audits have been undertaken recycling rates have increased as a result of the changes. For example, the recycling rate at Oakwood House increased from 50% to 57% and at the Underground Passages from 70% to 78%.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

- 3.13 The following carbon reduction target has been adopted as part of the Council's Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan:
- To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from energy, water, waste and transport by 10% by 2009/10 and 20% by 2012/13 from a baseline of 2006/07.
- 3.14 The main target is broken down into individual targets for energy, transport and waste:
- To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from energy use in buildings by 25% by 2012/13
 - To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from transport by 10.5% by 2012/13
 - To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from waste by 20% by 2012/13
- 3.15 A further target has been set to ensure that a significant portion of the Council's carbon dioxide reduction target is derived from energy reduction and efficiency measures (as opposed to renewable energy):
- To reduce energy consumption in buildings by 15% by 2012/13
- 3.16 The results of the monitoring of the carbon footprint are shown below. The Council's carbon footprint reduced by 3.8% in 2008/09 compared to the baseline of 2006/07. Although emissions from the transport fleet and water consumption have increased over this period, this has been counteracted by a reduction in emissions from buildings energy use, waste and business mileage. A number of projects are underway or planned to reduce emissions from the transport fleet, including further use of

biodiesel, monitoring of fuel consumption/mileage and eco-driver training for fleet drivers so a reduction in emissions should be seen in future years. Progress has been delayed by the spending moratorium and difficulty in filling the Energy Manager post, however, a plan is now being formulated to identify projects to further reduce energy consumption in buildings.

Source	Tonne CO ₂ 2006/07	Tonne CO ₂ 2007/08	Tonne CO ₂ 2008/09	% Reduction
Energy use in buildings	1,898	1,744	1,741	8.3%
Transport fleet	913	952	983	-7.7%
Business mileage	83	70	60	27.4%
Total transport	995	1,022	1043	-4.8%
Waste	25	25	24	4%
Water	6	7	7	-5.2%
Total	2,925	2,799	2,814	3.8%

Water Use

3.17 The following target for reduction in water consumption was adopted by SMT in February 2003, for submission to the Government's former 'Making a Corporate Commitment Campaign' (MACC2):

- To reduce water consumption at the Civic Centre by 8% by 2003/4, from a baseline of 2001/02.

Reduction in Water Consumption at the Civic Centre

Period	Water Consumption (m ³)	Saving on 2001/02 (m ³)	% Saving on 2001/02
2004/05	4190	515	10.9
2006/07	4361	344	7.3
2007/08	4351	354	7.5
2008/09	3752	953	20.3%

3.18 Between 2007/08 and 2008/09 there was a 13.7% reduction in water consumption at the Civic Centre, resulting in a 20.3% saving since the baseline in 2001/02. These savings have been achieved in part by the ongoing refurbishment of the washrooms, which include low-flush toilets and more efficient taps. In addition, ongoing monitoring and regulating of water flow allows prompt action to be taken to provide consistent flow patterns such that urinals are flushed only when needed and not on a standard cycle. Further savings are likely to be achieved as further washrooms are refurbished over the coming years.

4 RECOMMENDED

- (1) that the improving results for paper use, purchase of recycled paper, waste production, carbon dioxide emissions and water consumption are noted;
- (2) that the targets are kept under review.
- (3) that a further report is submitted to this Committee in 12 months time.

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

S:PA/LP/ Committee/909SCC4
19.8.09

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report: