

# ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

## Action Plan

*"Improving the quality of life while living within the earth's carrying capacity"*

The logo of Angus Council is a circular emblem. It features a stylized thistle in the center, set against a background of a globe with latitude and longitude lines. Below the globe is a banner with the text 'LOCAL AGENDA 21 ANGUS'.

## **PREFACE**

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This document forms Angus Council's first Environment Strategy Action Plan. It is the first stage in implementing the Council's Environment Strategy which was approved last year. It is based on the themes and objectives adopted in the Environment Strategy which are aimed at integrating economic, social and environmental issues. Whilst much of the work emanating from this Action Plan involves partnership working or working with communities, it nevertheless concentrates on what the Council will be doing in working towards a more sustainable Angus. It will form a basis for engaging in dialogue with partners and encouraging others to embrace the principles of sustainable development. Monitoring and review of the document will be undertaken and changes made in recognition of new and emerging issues and circumstances.

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## INTRODUCTION



### Issues

Increasing concerns about the global effects of pollution, overuse of natural resources, and poverty led government leaders to meet and try to find solutions to these problems. It was recognised that current development patterns are threatening the basic life support systems upon which we all depend. For example, climate change is caused by the burning of fossil fuels adding carbon dioxide to the air faster than plants can remove it and more carbon dioxide in the air traps more of the sun's heat. This means that the earth warms up - but not evenly, steadily, predictably or conveniently. This could result in:

- Rapid, extreme changes in regional climates?
- Grain belts becoming deserts?
- Ocean warming, causing sea level rise?

At the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, more than 170 countries (including the UK) pledged their support towards the concept of "Sustainable Development". Two classic definitions of sustainable development are:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (Brundtland Commission, 1987) and,

"Improving the quality of life while living within the earth's carrying capacity" (World Conservation Union, UN Environment Programme and the World Wide Fund for Nature, 1991).

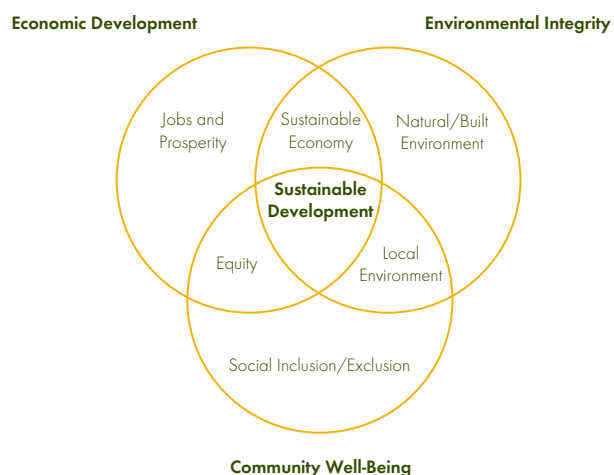
However, John Gummer in 1993 perhaps gave us an even simpler explanation of the concept with "Don't cheat on our children". At its heart, sustainable development really means that we should try to ensure a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. To do this we have to try to reconcile economic, social and environmental issues so that we are living within our means and not exceeding the environmental limits (carrying capacity) of the planet. Diagram 1.1 illustrates this point:

At the Rio Earth Summit, the participating countries agreed a framework on how to secure sustainable development for the 21st century - called Agenda 21. Local authorities, however, were challenged to develop a local sustainable development plan with their communities - a Local Agenda 21. Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 asks each council to:

"Enter into a dialogue with its citizens, local organisations and private enterprises and adopt a 'Local Agenda 21'.

Through consultation and consensus-building, local authorities would learn from citizens and from local, civic, community, business and industrial organisations and acquire the information needed for formulating the best strategies".

**Diagram 1.1:** Sustainable Development and Local Agenda 21 involves EVERYBODY as it means, social, economic and environmental issues have to be reconciled.



### The Objectives of Sustainable Development

Central Government's "Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK" lists four main objectives:

#### 1. Social Progress Which Recognises the Needs of Everyone

- Everyone should share in the benefits of increased prosperity and a clean and safe environment.
- We have to improve access to services, tackle social exclusion, and reduce the harm to health caused by poverty, poor housing, unemployment and pollution.
- Our needs must not be met by treating others, including future generations and people elsewhere in the world, unfairly.

#### 2. Effective Protection of the Environment We must act to:

- Limit global environmental threats, such as climate change.
- Protect human health and safety from hazards such as poor air quality and toxic chemicals.
- Protect things that people need or value, such as wildlife, landscapes and historic buildings.

### 3. Prudent Use of Natural Resources

This does not mean denying ourselves the use of non-renewable resources like oil and gas, but we do need to make sure that we use them efficiently and that alternatives are developed to replace them in due course.

- Renewable resources, such as water, should be used in ways that do not endanger the resource or cause serious damage or pollution.

### 4. Maintenance of High and Stable Levels of Economic Growth and Employment

This is necessary so that everyone can share in high living standards and greater job opportunities. For our country to prosper, our businesses must produce the high quality goods and services that consumers throughout the world want, at prices they are prepared to pay.

- We need a workforce that is equipped with the education and skills for the 21st century.
- We need businesses ready to invest, and an infrastructure to support them.

### Think Global, Act Local

Much of this work needs to be undertaken at the local level and local authorities were charged with delivering more than two thirds of the actions for Agenda 21. Central Government have again emphasised this responsibility - The Prime Minister, Tony Blair (in May 1997) told the UN special meeting convened to review progress on Rio, that he wanted:

“All local authorities in the UK to adopt Local Agenda 21 strategies by the year 2000”.

The deadline for local authorities to produce their strategies is 31 December 2000.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Local Agenda 21 has two main strands:

#### 1. Action within the Local Authority

- Sustainability promoted through the authority's policies, services and activities.
- Housekeeping.
- Management Systems.

#### 2. Action in the Wider Community

- Awareness raising and education.
- Partnership action with a range of organisations.
- Consulting and involving the public.
- Measuring, monitoring and reporting.

### Action within the Local Authority

Of course, there is no need for local authorities to start from scratch with their LA21 Strategies. Every Council already has many existing policies, practices and projects that embrace sustainability. During reorganisation in 1995, the then Shadow Angus Council adopted sustainability as one of its Key Themes, i.e. “To improve the environment and the quality of life in Angus, with an emphasis on sustainability.” This identified sustainability as a priority issue and one that the Council wished to address on a corporate basis.

The importance of Local Agenda 21 was re-emphasised when Angus Council made it a Corporate Priority in January 1998. This states that Angus Council will develop a detailed response to Local Agenda 21, including:

- finalisation and implementation of a Council Environmental Strategy,
- emphasis on effective energy management
- support for the development of a quality transport system which provides accessibility for those without alternative means of travel, and as an attractive alternative to car use,
- support for urban regeneration and maintenance of the vitality and viability of town centres,
- support for the retention of services (public and private) in remoter rural areas, and attention to the issue of rural deprivation.



In November 1996, a Strategy Group was formed to develop an environmental strategy for Angus. An initial environmental impact review was carried out to identify each department's most significant effects on the environment. From this three sub-groups of the main environmental strategy group were established to tackle specific issues such as travel and transport, energy consumption and paper use.

An Environment Strategy was drawn up and approved in March 1998 and subsequently published the following June. The Environment Strategy not only outlines the

Council's policy on the environment but also is a declaration of the Council's commitment to Sustainable Development. The strategy also confirms Angus Council's intention to integrate sustainability into the Council's strategies, policies, programmes and activities and outlines a commitment to develop an Angus LA21 programme to promote sustainability at the local level.

The Environment Strategy has six principal aims in working towards sustainability:

- to **integrate** environmental and sustainability considerations into Council strategy, policy and programme formulation;
- to work in **partnership** with other agencies, businesses, community groups and individuals;
- to **consult** and **involve** people more fully where decisions affect our environment;
- to work towards **sustainability** by balancing economic, social and environmental considerations for both present and future generations;
- to recognise that working towards sustainability will be a **continuing process** requiring flexibility and adaptability;
- to **monitor** and **report** on progress towards sustainability.

Eight issues were identified for action in the Environment Strategy and these were:

- Education and Awareness Raising
- The Natural Environment
- Transport
- The Built Environment
- Energy
- Pollution
- Waste
- Purchasing

An audit was carried out in the autumn of 1998 to establish what each department was already doing, or planning to do, under each of these headings. The responses were incorporated into one composite document that then formed the basis of the Environmental Strategy Action Plan. Further analysis was carried out to try to identify "gaps" in the strategy and where feasible, actions have been formulated to address them. These actions have been subsequently incorporated into this document.

Central Government is keen to see that sustainability is "mainstreamed" throughout local authorities' normal activities and services and is not just an "add-on" to existing procedures. Sustainability is not about

"business as usual with green bits". It is important therefore, that the actions in this document are incorporated into Departmental Service Plans.

Monitoring and reporting methods will have to take cognisance of the Government's "Headline and Core Indicators". These are a set of 150 national indicators devised by the Government to measure progress towards sustainable development. A core menu of indicators is being developed for use by local authorities and these will be closely linked to the headline indicators to be used in national reporting. Draft guidance, including common definitions and methods for collecting relevant data and compiling indicators is being developed through a Task Force of the Central and Local Government Information Partnership. Pilot work is underway in a number of local authorities before being finalised and published.



The Environmental Strategy Group carried out an assessment of the recognised environmental management systems to help improve the Council's environmental performance in-house, i.e. ISO 14001 and the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme. (EMAS). Approval in principle has been gained

## EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING



### Issues

Ensuring that people fully appreciate the impact they have on the environment in their day to day life whether in the home, at work or at leisure will be the key to a sustainable future. Often it is only a lack of understanding of environmental issues that perpetuates 'bad' habits. Once the consequences of actions are understood people generally change their behaviour to reduce their environmental impact.

A better understanding of environmental issues is needed amongst all sectors of the local community. There is a need therefore to raise awareness among the young and adult population, through school pupils, community groups and the working population. The Council cannot deliver a Local Agenda 21 by itself. It needs to be done as a consensus exercise in partnership with the 'wider community'. Therefore, awareness raising of Local Agenda 21 needs to be carried out across all sectors of the community, i.e.:

#### **In-House**

All employees and elected members of the Council

#### **The Private Sector**

Businesses, Traders, Industry and their many associations.

#### **The Voluntary Sector**

Environmental, Social, Health, Sport and other interest groups.

#### **The Community Sector**

Residents, Community and Neighbourhood groups.

#### **Other Agencies**

Different tiers of Government, Quangos, and other agencies.

This Action Plan is aimed at reaching all of these groups through a variety of different methods. The Council already has existing channels of communication with the community through various groups and community fora including Community Councils and Area Forums. However, it is the intention of this Action Plan to build on these existing channels by ensuring sustainability is placed on the agenda as and when appropriate. In short, it is hoped that through the implementation of this Action Plan, Local Agenda 21 will pervade all areas of the community and become a part of peoples' everyday life.

### What is being done?

Much of this work is being undertaken in schools where numerous projects are up and running covering such aspects as nature conservation, the cultural and historic heritage and health. Wildlife gardens have been developed within a number of school grounds providing not only a haven for native fauna and flora but also an environmental educational resource on the doorstep. Other projects undertaken have focused on studying the local built and historic environment. This has led at one school to the publication of a guide for locals and tourists mapping the historical landmarks of a village. Healthy eating was the focus at another school where the traditional 'sweetie' tuck shop gave way to a 'Healthy Eating Tuck Shop'. In-service training is provided for teaching staff to help in the development of these types of projects and resource and information materials are also available to support this work.

Youth and Community groups are assisted through the Community Education Service to develop projects and initiatives on a variety of sustainable issues including 'indicators of sustainability' work being piloted for Scottish Natural Heritage and undertaken in conjunction with the Angus Rural Partnership. In the Angus Glens, a range of community-led initiatives are being supported.

These initiatives link the natural, social and economic environments to help create sustainable communities. The Council's Countryside Rangers provide a programme of events at the three Country Parks focusing on nature conservation and wildlife appreciation aspects.

Action is also taken to raise awareness by various Council departments on various issues such as energy conservation, recycling and the built environment and are described in greater detail on other pages.

Currently some awareness raising is being carried out through partnerships such as Angus Rural Partnership, Angus Environmental Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group and the Cairngorms Partnership. Such partnerships are proving to be very useful in getting the message across to the wider community. They can also be the catalyst for instigating practical projects "on the ground", e.g. the pilot scheme in Newtyle (Scottish Natural Heritage, Angus Rural Partnership and Angus Council through Community Education) identifying local Indicators of Sustainability.

In-house, there are examples of cross-departmental partnerships that are helping to spread environmental information both horizontally across departments, and

vertically up and down the hierarchy, e.g. the Environmental Strategy Group and the sub-groups thereof dealing with Energy, Transport and Paper issues.

One department, through their programme of continual professional development, is providing in-house training which includes environmental issues, e.g. the Quantity Surveying Section of the Property Department receive information, attend regular seminars and view video presentations to keep them abreast of the latest professional practice.

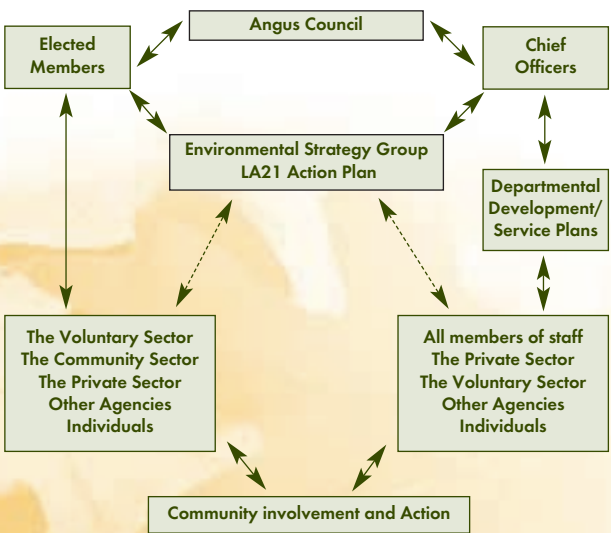
### Future Areas of Work

A key area of work will continue to be through school projects and the curriculum. To assist this, support will continue to be provided by staff tutors on specific topic areas, in-service training, and through educational material resources. This will be augmented by the resources and staff of other departments, particularly the Countryside Ranger Service and the work of the recycling officer.

Work with youth and community groups will continue to be fostered by the Community Education Service and specific training on sustainability issues will be made available to staff and voluntary group members who work with youngsters. Community working will have an increasingly important role to play and will be a major channel for feedback to the Council and to the Community Planning process.

The success of this Action Plan depends a great deal on the message of LA21 being spread as widely as possible. Raising awareness of sustainability issues is fundamental to instigating actions on the ground. The following simplified diagram illustrates how information will flow from internal sources out to the wider community. The dotted lines indicate particular areas for further development.

**Diagram 2.1:** How awareness of Local Agenda 21 will permeate throughout the Council and out to the wider community



### Education and Awareness Raising

Action Point	
1. To raise awareness of environmental issues amongst Council staff, the introduction of an accredited environmental management system will be investigated.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999/2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
2. The Community Education Service, in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage, will provide training on sustainability for both staff and members of the community who specifically work with young people.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Nov 1999	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Education
3. To increase awareness of the local environment various departments of the Council will work together alongside public agencies and other organisations to produce a State of the Environment report by the year 2001.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 2000/2001	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
4. In-servicing training in relation to the use of school grounds to provide new educational resources and extended fieldwork opportunities will be developed. Elements relating to anti-bullying will be incorporated into this exercise.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999/2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Education
5. To encourage the use of local sites of interest the Directory of Environmental Education Resources will be updated and published in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Education
6. To develop an Expressive Arts Primary - Secondary bridging project to promote environmental issues.	
<b>Target Date:</b> June 2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Education
7. Introduce environmental information in departmental staff induction packs.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999/2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
8. Consider the introduction of a staff suggestion scheme which can encourage a two way flow of information and ideas on sustainable development.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Personnel
9. Seek active liaison with Unions to promote sustainability issues.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999/2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Personnel
10. Create a Local Agenda 21 page on Angus Council's internet giving information regarding the Council's progress towards achieving sustainability, listing any projects or events happening in Angus and encouraging feedback.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Chief Executive, Information Technology and Planning & Transport
11. Develop a Learning Resource Centre which will include information on the environment and LA21 and be available to all staff.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999/2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Personnel

### Action Point

12. Investigate the potential to incorporate and integrate sustainability indicators into the Council's measurement of performance. This will need to take cognisance of the government headline indicators and locally relevant indicators.

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport,  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
Angus Rural Partnership,  
Education

13. Develop measures to provide opportunities for the views of people to be integrated into the strategic management of the Council through consultation with both internal and external stakeholders (a combination of "top-down" and the "bottom-up" approach).

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Chief Executive

14. As a partner in Tayside Environment Business Forum, Angus Council will continue to promote awareness of sustainability issues in the business sector.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport,  
Economic Development

15. Promote awareness raising of sustainability and the opportunities for businesses in the environmental field through the Business Shop in Angus.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport,  
Economic Development

16. Develop strategies for encouraging local people to get involved in environmental issues/projects within their own communities.

**Target Date:** April 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport,  
Housing

17. Investigate implementation of the Environmental Strategy through the inclusion of sustainable practices in departmental Service Plans during the year 2000.

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Chief Executive,  
Chief Officers

18. Promote Environmental Management Systems to local businesses through the Angus Business Shop, SET and Tayside Environment Business Forum.

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Economic Development,

19. Seek to combine LA21 with Best Value surveys to maximise their contribution towards the LA21 Action Plan.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Chief Executive,  
Housing,  
Planning & Transport

20. In partnership with Scottish Enterprise Tayside seek to develop a scheme to encourage companies to carry out an environmental audit of their business and to encourage them to adopt an Environmental Management System.

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Economic Development, SET

21. In partnership with Scottish Enterprise Tayside and other local authorities in the Tayside area, develop an award scheme for local businesses that show innovation regarding environmental problems and solutions.

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Economic Development, SET

### Action Point

22. Assess the feasibility of developing a business Helpline to provide environmental information and advice aimed at helping businesses to source raw materials/components locally and publicise local products etc.

**Target Date:** 2000/2002      **Lead Responsibility:** Economic Development,  
SET

23. Develop criteria for a sustainability checklist whereby applications to the Council for funding for proposals projects, award schemes, etc can be assessed.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

24. Develop an Information Pack containing information on LA21 and other environmental issues for use by elected members as a basis to LA21 training.

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport  
Personnel

25. The Countryside Ranger Service to deliver an education programme for the general public through a diary of events:

- Provide topic based activities tied to the schools curriculum.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Recreation Services

- Plan and implement a programme for environment week for schools and the community.

**Target Date:** Annual      **Lead Responsibility:** Recreation Services

- Plan and implement a programme of guided walks in the Angus Glens, Montrose Basin and the Country Parks.

**Target Date:** Annual      **Lead Responsibility:** Recreation Services

- Establish a Children's Nature Club in the Angus Glens (the Dippers).

**Target Date:** 1999      **Lead Responsibility:** Recreation Services

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



### Issues

A rich variety of life, i.e. biodiversity, is a key indicator of sustainable development. There is a need to protect various species and habitats as they are often under threat from a variety of sources e.g. pollution of air, land and water, changes in agricultural and land management practices, new development and visitor pressure. We can help to protect them by raising awareness of locally and nationally important species, by taking action to conserve or enhance habitats and through purchasing environmentally friendly goods and recycled products.

In Angus we have a wide variety of habitats ranging from those associated with the coast through lowland farmland to the Scottish uplands. Some of these resources are considered worthy of designation under a variety of headings indicating their local, national or international significance e.g. Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Sites and Geological Conservation Review Sites.

The Government has endorsed the Convention of Biological Diversity which in Scotland is being implemented through the Scottish Biodiversity Group. Angus Council is participating in the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership which is progressing work locally towards a Local Biodiversity Action Plan. This will provide a major focus and framework for implementing action in the Angus area.

Angus Council owns and manages large areas of ground in both urban and countryside settings ranging from public parks in towns through country parks, school grounds, recreation grounds, cemeteries to roadside verges. These provide a valuable wildlife resource and can enhance the visual and amenity value of residential and commercial areas and improve the quality of life for the residents of Angus and visitors alike.

### What is being done?

The three Country Parks managed by the Council provide a major resource in terms of habitat for wildlife and an environmental education resource. The maintenance and development of these in a sustainable manner are a key element of the environmental strategy. The work of the Countryside Ranger Service has recently been expanded with the establishment of a pilot project in the Angus Glens which augments the input into the Caenlochan National Nature Reserve. The Ranger Service, in partnership with Scottish Wildlife

Trust, also manages the Montrose Basin Local Nature Reserve where species protection work is carried out.

School grounds have the potential to provide an ecological education resource on the doorstep and the Council encourages development of such resources through the “Grounds for Learning” scheme and publication of guidelines.

Community Education is assisting a local community to develop their own environmental education site and centre which will be made available for general use.

Protection of sections of roadside verges which have been designated by the local Scottish Wildlife Trust as being of particular importance is undertaken through altered grass cutting regimes.

In undertaking landscaping and environmental improvements to public open space and garden areas in housing estates a biodiversity assessment has been



included in the design considerations for each project. Where appropriate native species are used in planting schemes.

Angus Council was instrumental in establishing the Angus Environmental Trust in 1997 with the aim of maximising the use of Landfill Tax monies. Various projects have received financial assistance from the Trust to protect and enhance biodiversity.

### Future areas of work

The Country Parks and Countryside Ranger Service will continue to have a key role to play in this area of work through undertaking a sustainable approach to land and habitat management and acting as a promotional and educational tool. The three year Ranger Service

Strategy details further involvement in the wider countryside which includes an additional eight designated countryside sites in Angus and ten countryside car parks and picnic areas to facilitate environmental education.

Work will also continue on the adoption of practices which provide a more sustainable approach to the management and maintenance of Council owned grounds.

Once the results of the biodiversity audit, commissioned by the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership, are known there will be a need to consult locally on these findings. Working jointly, the partnership will develop priorities for action and begin working towards a series of Local Biodiversity Action plans for agreed species and habitats.

In conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage, Angus Health for All and Angus Environmental Trust the Council will develop a "Paths for All" programme with the aim of creating a network of paths for walking, cycling and horseriding around each town in Angus. A pilot study has been carried out and has identified a potential network for Forfar and the physical works required to implement the network. A stage 2 study is underway to cover the other burghs of Angus and a rolling programme of work is being planned for phased implementation.

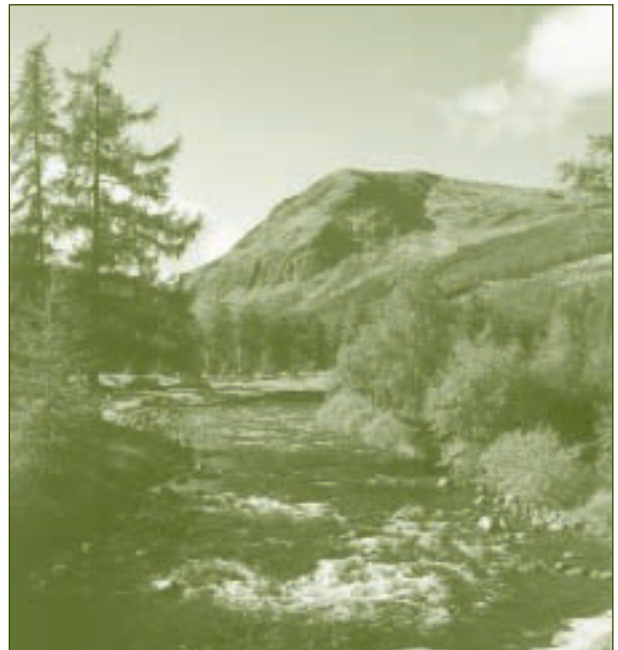


An Access to the Countryside Strategy for walking, cycling and horseriding is also being developed. This will be a policy document to establish priorities for action on various aspects e.g. Rights of Way, linkages and new linear routes.

Plans have been progressing for some time on developing the Angus Millennium Forest and these are now coming to fruition. Some 90 ha of woodlands in the form of 50 community woodlands are being developed across the seven burghs of Angus. This

project will not only provide important landscape enhancement but will also be an educational resource. This major project is the result of a partnership between Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust, Millennium Commission, Forestry Authority, Scottish Natural Heritage, Angus Environment Trust, Angus Council and the communities of the seven burghs.

The natural environment is being enhanced on Council maintained ground by the use of a peat free soil conditioner. The soil conditioner is produced by composting household waste and has the added advantage of increasing the Council's recycling rates (11.42% in 1998/99). The Council is seeking to expand this initiative especially in rural areas.



## Natural Environment

### Action Point

1. Participate in the work of the Tayside Biodiversity Steering Group and along with local and voluntary groups develop a strategy for progressing Local Biodiversity Action Plans to protect and enhance the wildlife of Angus.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

- Consult the community and voluntary groups on the biodiversity audit outcome in autumn/winter 1999/2000 and jointly develop priorities for action.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

2. In partnership with neighbouring local authorities and appropriate agencies consider establishing a Biological Recording Centre.

- Commission a study to develop proposals for a Tayside Biological Recording Centre.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Cultural Services

### Action Point

3. Along with Scottish Natural Heritage, Angus Health for All, Angus Environmental Trust develop a "Paths for All" network of paths around Forfar as Phase I.

- Phase II carry out a study to identify a network of paths for walking, cycling and horseriding around the other burghs of Angus. (See Transport Action 6)

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport  
Roads

4. An Access to the Countryside Strategy will be developed.

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

5. Implement the Angus Millennium Forest on a phased basis to cover all the towns in Angus.

- Plant 90 ha of woodland in 50 community woodlands.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Recreation Services

- Investigate the creation of training and employment through the New Deal Environmental Task Force.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Personnel

6. In parallel to the Millennium Forest project the Council, in conjunction with the other agencies involved, will consider becoming involved in the national initiative "Tree for Time and Place".

**Target Date:** 1999      **Lead Responsibility:** Recreation Services

7. In conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage encourage more schools to participate in the "Grounds for Learning" scheme in order to develop and enhance the biodiversity of school grounds and create an education resource.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Education

8. Trials of Council made compost will be undertaken on maintained landscape areas.

- Assessment of trial at end of growing season.

**Target Date:** 1999      **Lead Responsibility:** Contract Services

9. Continue to contribute Landfill Tax monies to the Angus Environment Trust for the benefit of the natural heritage of the Angus area.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental & Consumer  
Protection

## TRANSPORT

### Issues

Transport is a very important issue in the pursuit of sustainable development. Nationally, road traffic is forecast to increase by up to 50% by 2050 from the current level of 21 million cars. Currently, 71% of road trips by motor vehicles are under 5 miles and 45% are less than 2 miles. Road transport was responsible for 26% of the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 1995 and is responsible for significant percentages of other pollutants. Those pollutants, of course, are considered as hazardous to human health not to mention the toll road traffic accidents takes on human lives.

A recent staff travel-to-work survey highlighted the number of miles covered by Angus Council employees travelling to and from their place of work. This proved to be extensive due to the dispersed nature of the Council and highlighted the need for action to be taken to reduce the amount of individual car journeys.

However, further measures are required to persuade members of the public to reduce their car use and given the rurality of Angus, this is no easy task. In rural locations cars are considered to be a necessity rather than a luxury and bus companies operating in Angus receive subsidies from the Council to enable them to operate non commercial services. Methods need to be devised whereby people are persuaded to leave their cars at home (whenever possible) and either walk, cycle or use public transport. These options not only have the added health benefits to the individual by helping to increase their fitness, but also produce environmental benefits of reduced emissions, congestion and resource use.

Central government has recognised the significant local and global environmental impacts caused by road transport and is encouraging each local authority to develop an integrated Local Transport Strategy to reflect local circumstances and needs. This will help in achieving the National Air Quality Strategy which set the objective of cleaner air by the year 2005. A Local Transport Strategy should set out a local authority's plans for promoting walking and cycling as well as encouraging green transport plans for journeys to work, school and other places. It is believed that the measures outlined in this Action Plan will make a significant contribution towards Angus Council's Local Transport Strategy.

### What is being done?

Angus Council is already very active in tackling the issue of travel and transport and has introduced a range of initiatives in an effort to reduce the environmental impacts

of travel. For example, with the help of the Angus Transport Forum, Angus Council carried out extensive consultation to identify rural transport needs in Angus. The result of this has been the introduction of 10 new rural bus services funded from the Scottish Office's Rural Transport Grant.



Other initiatives range from the use of Greenergy Citydiesel in the Council's operational fleet to campaigning for improvements (for both passenger and freight) to the Aberdeen/Edinburgh rail link. The Council is committed to providing a safe, well-maintained roads network infrastructure for all forms of transport, e.g. walking, cycling and motoring. These efforts are complemented by work that is ongoing to establish a network of cycle routes across Angus and the Council has published a leaflet on cycling in one burgh already, Montrose.

Efforts have also concentrated on reducing the need for travel and this is demonstrated by the provision of neighbourhood recycling/bring centres being located



close to existing housing. These efforts will be further expanded in the future by such initiatives as increased use of information technology, e.g. video conferencing, e-mail - and other network management tools for the computer system which will reduce the need for travel by Angus Council staff.



### Future areas of work

Future work will focus on maintaining the existing road network and existing cycleways and footpaths. Given the rurality of Angus the best opportunities to promote alternatives to car use exist primarily in the towns and along the coastal corridor. Development work will concentrate on extending and integrating bus, walking and cycle routes in and around towns. These new routes will offer people a choice of pathways which link the town with the country and ultimately, providing cross country routes which will link all the towns.

Central Government's request to all local authorities to prepare a Local Transport Strategy will provide an impetus for implementation of the policies in this Action Plan. This will ensure that development and innovation in sustainable transport systems will be continuous and constantly evolving. An Interim Local Transport Strategy was submitted in July 1999 and will be developed in 2000.

The measures in this Action Plan are aimed at persuading people to use their cars less by offering them alternatives wherever possible, e.g. better and more frequent bus services, more routes for walking or cycling, provision of secure cycle parking, etc. However, systems will have to be developed whereby the success (or failure) of these actions can be measured, monitored and reviewed.

## Transport

### Action Point

1. Finalise a Local Transport Strategy covering the period 2001/02 - 2003/04. For submission to the Scottish Executive.

**Target Date:** Autumn 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport Roads

2. Introduce and implement a Green Transport Plan to encourage Council employees to use their cars less and use alternative modes of transport more and thus reduce the environmental impacts of their travel.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental Strategy Group

3. Progress on introducing the National Cycle Network along the Angus coast will continue on a partnership basis. The section from Montrose via the North Water Viaduct to Aberdeenshire network will be completed.

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport Roads

4. Bus companies will be encouraged to enter into Quality Partnerships.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

5. Extension of the Safe Routes to Schools Initiative will continue on an individual school basis.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Roads

6. To encourage walking and cycling the provision of pathways around all the main towns in Angus will be increased under the "Paths for All" initiative.

(See also Natural Environment Action 3)

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport Roads

7. Monitor employees travel to work patterns to establish trends following the introduction of initiatives aimed at reducing car-related journeys.

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

8. Consider developing initiatives to increase cycling and walking by members of the public for environmental and health benefits.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport Roads

9. Continue to support and develop the role of public transport to provide attractive services including alternatives to the car through various means.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

10. Continue with the Village Gateway Programme as a key objective in improving road safety.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Roads

### Action Point

11. Continue to support Angus Transport Forum in:-

- identifying transport needs;
- increasing awareness of existing transport provision;

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

12. Maintain an efficient minibus fleet which is available to community groups.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Education

13. Provide new cycle facilities at key Council buildings for public and staff use.

**Target Date:** 1999      **Lead Responsibility:** Roads

14. Integrate facilities for cycling within Council development, regeneration or environmental improvement projects wherever feasible.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Roads

15. Continue a watching brief on developments and new technologies that would reduce the environmental impact of the Council's vehicle fleet.

**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental & Consumer Protection

16. Deploy new Network Management Tools. This will allow remote control of computers from a central location reducing the need for site visits by I.T. support staff.

**Target Date:** 1999      **Lead Responsibility:** Information Technology

17. Investigate possible use of Video Conferencing for meetings thereby reducing the need to travel to meetings, training sessions etc. Pilot to be trialled between Forfar/Arbroath.

**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Information Technology

18. Through Local Plan policies discourage development which generates unnecessary travel.

**Target Date:** 1999      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

19. Consider options for improving traffic control in Forfar town centre taking cognisance of the consultant's study of traffic counts/traffic movements in Forfar.

**Target Date:** 1999      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport, Roads

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT



### Issues

The majority of people live in the towns and villages of Angus. It is important that both those people living in urban areas and those living in the countryside enjoy a good quality of life. We need to provide a clean and attractive environment in which people can live, work and enjoy their leisure time and feel safe and free from the fear of crime.

The towns and villages of Angus have their own identity and it is important that this uniqueness is not lost and their viability maintained. Where development occurs or parts of towns are in need of regeneration or enhancement care must be taken to retain the local character. Similarly the local cultural, historical and archaeological heritage needs to be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

The planning system provides an opportunity to embed these sustainable development objectives into the Angus Local Plan and the future Angus and Dundee Structure Plan. By the sympathetic and appropriate re-use of redundant buildings and brownfield sites we can help to protect our open space within towns, greenfield sites on the edge of towns and our countryside.

### What is being done?

After an extensive public consultation exercise a finalised Local Plan has been prepared which sets the framework for future development in the Angus area up to 2006. The strategic environmental appraisal, undertaken recently on the Plan illustrates that the Plan does in general follow environmental protection and enhancement principles. Policies within the Plan give protection to listed buildings, ancient monuments and archaeological sites and seek to retain the local character of the towns and villages of Angus. It also identifies opportunities to redevelop vacant, under-used and derelict sites. To encourage good design and use of land the Planning and Transport Department produce a series of Planning Advice Notes, 20 in all, covering such topics as shopfronts in conservation areas, satellite antennae, house extensions and car parking in front gardens. These aim to inform and encourage those applying for planning or building consent to take appropriate aspects into consideration.

Environmental improvements to town centres and other key locations e.g. “town gateways” and seafronts are being undertaken on a phased basis. They incorporate such elements as improved facilities for pedestrians, better access for the disabled, townscape enhancement and landscaping schemes and traffic management measures.

Recent examples include works undertaken at Montrose Seafront, The Little Causeway in Forfar and a number of projects in Carnoustie at the seafront and “gateways” to the town to celebrate the staging of the 1999 Golf Open Championship.

An important aspect of the urban environment is the ongoing maintenance of the existing network of high quality parks, open spaces and play areas in all the burghs and many villages of Angus.

To increase a sense of safety and to help remove the fear of crime amongst Angus citizens various initiatives have been launched including the introduction of CCTV in all seven burghs. A Community Safety Strategy has been approved and local groups established. A community based scheme called “Partners Versus Crime” (PVC) has been established involving local businesses and the Council is working with a number of schools in its development of the Safe Routes to School initiative.



An Angus Access Panel has been formed to improve access arrangements for those with disabilities to reduce the number of barriers to clients using Council services and facilities. Village halls are viewed as an essential element of viable rural communities. The Council has therefore assisted the many voluntary bodies involved, in forming a Federation of Villages Halls in order to access funding for a major rolling programme of improvements, major refurbishments and in some cases new build projects for village halls across Angus.

### Future Areas of Work

Work to improve the attractiveness of the Angus burghs and villages through the planning process and physical works will continue in order to maintain or enhance their vitality and improve their quality as centres for living, working and visiting. Examples include the Mid Links development and restoration project in Montrose which will be undertaken in partnership with the Heritage Lottery

Fund and the extension of the hanging baskets scheme in the seven burghs. The Angus Millennium Forest Programme will also enhance town environments and public open space areas and the development of an Open Space Strategy for Angus will ensure the development and maintenance of quality Urban Green Space across the seven burghs. The Council will also develop and promote the conservation of, and a planting programme for, civic trees across the seven burghs of Angus.



A review of the Conservation Areas in each of the burghs will be undertaken to ensure our architectural heritage is protected and area designations are a true reflection of their worth. In order to encourage a greater interest and understanding of important buildings in our area the Council will extend the “Doors Open Day” scheme which was piloted in 1998. Where owners give their agreement, this scheme allows people to enter buildings which are not normally open to the public and see at first hand the historic and architectural features.

As the Council owns and manages a large number of buildings around Angus it is important that they make a positive contribution to the built environment. The Council will endeavour to maintain its buildings to a suitable standard and carry out alterations, extensions and new build projects to a high standard of design and in sympathy with the surroundings.

## Built Environment

Action Point	
1. Environmental and sustainable development principles will be promoted in the Angus Local Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalised Angus Local Plan put on deposit, Public Local Inquiry held.</li> </ul>	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999/2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
2. To encourage sustainable development and to engender good development design, free Advice Notes are available for applicants for planning permission and building warrants. These Advice Notes cover a range of topics and currently there are 20 in the series. During 1999/2000 a further 3 or 4 guidance notes will be produced to either replace outdated advice or cover new areas of work.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999/2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport

## Action Point

3. Prepare and implement restoration and development projects for the Mid Links in Montrose during 1999 in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Recreation Services
4. Following extensive public consultation environmental improvements will be carried out within the town centre of Arbroath.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999/2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport, Roads
5. To enhance the aesthetic quality of the townscape, maintain and extend the scheme of provision of hanging baskets in the seven burghs.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Recreation Services
6. A programme of reviews of the Conservation Areas throughout Angus will be carried out under a phased programme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of review of one burgh and commencement of another.</li> </ul>	
<b>Target Date:</b> 2001	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
7. An Open Space Strategy will be developed to protect and enhance the quality Urban Green Space in the burghs of Angus.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Recreation Services
8. The Council will assist rural communities in implementing the Federation of Village Halls major programme establishing modern village halls. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a programme of 6 new build, 5 major refurbishments and 20 improvements to Angus Village Halls.</li> </ul>	
<b>Target Date:</b> 2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Chief Executive, Education
9. The appearance of Council buildings will be maintained to a high standard and alterations, extensions or new build projects will be designed to be in keeping with their surroundings.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Property Services
10. Continue development of Montrose Town Scheme to conserve burgh's heritage	
<b>Target Date:</b> March 2002	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
11. Promote recycling of traditional building materials	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
12. Promote awareness of built heritage issues through guided walks, lectures, Design Awards Scheme, etc.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport

## ENERGY



### Issues

Burning fossil fuels to produce energy is one of the major causes of air pollution and global warming. Energy use in buildings accounts for between 40% and 50% of the UK's emissions of carbon dioxide, with housing contributing up to half of this. However, 20-30% could be saved through widespread application of energy efficient measures which are cost effective. Another way of reducing consumption of non-renewable fossil fuels is to lessen our reliance on them by switching to renewable forms of energy such as solar power, landfill and sewage gas, waste incineration and wind power. These measures, if applied, would help the Government meet its commitment of reducing greenhouse gases by 12½% of 1990 levels (as agreed at the Kyoto Conference in December 1997) and the domestic goal of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010.

Fortunately in Angus, some of the energy needs of its citizens are met from a renewable source of energy - hydro electricity. However, Angus Council is a major energy user, heating and lighting some of the largest buildings in the area. Added to this, of course, are all the street lights in the towns and villages throughout Angus. This, together with the energy used by households, paints a picture of significant environmental impacts in terms of depletion of finite resources and pollution.

Under the terms of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA), Angus Council has a responsibility to encourage all domestic energy users in Angus to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> gas emissions by 30% over 10 years. The main challenges facing Angus Council are:

- How can energy consumption in Angus be reduced?
- How can atmospheric pollution from energy consumption be reduced?
- How can sources of renewable energy be developed for the citizens of Angus?

Angus Council's response to these challenges are discussed and detailed below.



### What is being done?

The Council is tackling domestic energy use in houses under its ownership through ongoing programmes of modernising and insulating Council houses. Research is currently being carried out to establish an energy efficiency database of the Council's housing stock and this is being followed up by the installation of appropriate energy efficient measures, e.g. topping up loft insulation and fitting reflectors behind radiators.

Within the Council, an internal energy management group has been set up and modern technology is being used to audit the energy efficiency of insulation in cavity walls in Council buildings. Energy efficient lights are being installed in Council buildings and in street lighting on an ongoing replacement programme and a leaflet advertising the HECA programme and energy efficiency measures has been produced and distributed to all households in Angus. Energy efficiency has been further promoted to the public via exhibitions at events such as the Angus Show and the Glamis Extravaganza and the HECA leaflet is also available at public Council offices such as local area housing offices and the Access Office.



### Future areas of work

The focus of future work with the community will continue to be through the HECA programme. As part of the Council's continuing interest in new innovations in energy efficiency and renewable forms of energy, the Council is planning to:

- Carry out trial installation of gas condensing boilers in Council house heating contracts which began in the Spring of 1999.
- Investigate solar water heating applications for sheltered housing to produce energy savings.
- Collaborate with energy suppliers in piloting innovative energy sourcing schemes, e.g. heat pumps etc.
- Collaborate with other agencies and businesses to investigate the possibility of installing wind power generators to create energy for use by rural businesses.
- Participate in Dundee City Council's DERL energy from waste by transferring c.30,000 tonnes of domestic waste from Angus for disposal at Baldovie Incineration Plant.

Angus Council has also agreed to "Spend to Save" initiatives be carried out in respect of Council premises, e.g. Combined Heat and Power. These energy saving measures, as well as alternative sources of renewable energy will be kept under review by the Council and any new initiatives will be implemented as and when appropriate.

## Energy

<b>Action Point</b>	
1. Encourage the provision of funding for 'spend to save' energy efficiency measures in Council buildings.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Property Services
2. Continue to install energy saving lights through a rolling programme of replacement with low energy bulbs in all Council buildings.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Property Services
3. Carry out trial installation of gas condensing boilers in Council house heating contracts.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing, Property Services
4. All loft insulation in Council houses to be upgraded to 200mm thickness.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing, Property Services
5. Carry out energy efficiency audits on insulated cavity walls using infra-red thermography in Angus Council housing.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing
6. Continue ongoing reviews of energy use in Angus Council buildings and introduce a programme of energy efficiency measures on a priority basis.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Property Services
7. Continue a rolling programme of replacing street lighting with more energy efficient apparatus where appropriate.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Roads

### **Action Point**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 8. Introduce a programme to encourage staff to conserve energy in all Council buildings.   |  |
| <b>Target Date:</b> 1999/2000  | <b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Property Services                  |
| 9. Leaflets have been issued to 45,000 Angus Householders explaining energy efficiency in the home. Assess effectiveness and viability of repeating this exercise.   |  |
| <b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing  | <b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing                            |
| 10. Enclose leaflets with all Building Warrant and Planning Applications promoting energy efficiency to the public.  |  |
| <b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing  | <b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing, Planning & Transport      |
| 11. Continue to stage exhibitions in local Housing/Access Offices to explain and promote energy efficiency in the home to the public.  |  |
| <b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing  | <b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing                            |
| 12. Through a rolling programme, carry out energy conservation measures in Council housing stock on a partnership basis.   |  |
| <b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing  | <b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing                            |
| 13. Participate in discount scheme for low energy white goods, e.g. fridges etc with a a or b rating - purchasers receive a discount off purchase price.   |  |
| <b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing  | <b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing                            |
| 14. Progress HECA Report programme which sets out Council's strategy for a 10 year reduction of 30% in CO <sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions.   |  |
| <b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing  | <b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing                            |
| 15. Continue to promote energy efficiency through various means including Council exhibition stands at major annual events e.g. Angus Show (May) and Glamis Extravaganza (July).   |  |
| <b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing  | <b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing<br>Scottish Hydro Electric |
| 16. Following an intensive energy efficiency project in 1999 to raise awareness amongst householders in Kirriemuir an evaluation will be carried out into the feasibility of implementing similar projects elsewhere in Angus. |  |
| <b>Target Date:</b> 1999   | <b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing<br>Scottish Hydro Electric |

## POLLUTION



### Issues

Pollution of the air, land and water is constantly happening and is often a result of human activity. These actions are adversely affecting the air we breathe, the water we consume and the land we use to grow our food. Whilst the natural environment has the capacity to withstand and absorb some pollution it does weaken the natural environment and in the worst case scenario areas can be polluted beyond their carrying capacity and left irreparably damaged.

Pollution can affect human health and welfare. Poor air quality has been linked to an increase in respiratory illness including childhood asthma; the destruction of the ozone layer can lead to an increase in the risk of skin cancer and global warming can lead to sea level rise and changing weather patterns.

Fly tipping and litter form obvious types of land pollution but old tipping operations and industrial processes can lead to areas of unstable and/or contaminated land with some potentially affected by landfill gas.

Discharges to water courses and spillages can pollute our rivers, lochs and seas reducing their water quality, restricting their recreational use and damaging the aquatic habitat.



The intrusion of noise can have a detrimental affect on our working and living conditions. Increasing traffic volumes are only likely to add to the problem.

The increasing use of high intensity lights, often for display or security reasons, can become intrusive and wasteful of energy, particularly as positioning is often such that the sky, as well as the subject, is illuminated obscuring the night sky. Rural areas are becoming increasingly urbanised through the introduction of road and street lighting.

### What is being done?

Air quality monitoring is now a statutory responsibility and the Council is undertaking its first Angus wide review and assessment using 4 passive tubes in Arbroath and one in each of the other burghs. These test for nitrogen dioxide which acts as a good indication for the other pollutants covered by legislation. Information gathered so far would indicate that no air quality management measures will need to be introduced under the terms of the Act. The Council is ever mindful however, of the need to reduce the impact on the environment and in an attempt to reduce emissions from vehicles low sulphur diesel (GreenEnergy CityDiesel) is now used in all Council fleet vehicles. A policy has been introduced whereby all new heavy vehicles are to be fitted with 'CRT' exhaust systems to minimise particulate and gas emissions.



The collection of unwanted fridges and freezers which contain ozone destroying chemicals (CFCs) is undertaken so that these chemicals can be safely removed and their release into the atmosphere avoided. The Council received 1863 refrigerators for disposal and the recovery of CFC gasses in 1998/99.

Complaints about noise, which totalled 213 in 1997/98, are dealt with by the Environmental and Consumer Protection Department. As a preventative measure an advice leaflet on noise control was produced and widely distributed. The planning system also attempts to avoid or minimise noise nuisance when planning applications for new developments are scrutinised.

Through the use of ice prediction and thermal mapping equipment the Council has been able in periods of cold weather to minimise the use of salt on roads whilst still maintaining road safety. This minimises the amount of salt in run off into water courses and reduces damage to the fauna and flora of road side verges.

**Future areas of work**

There will be an ongoing commitment to monitoring air quality and responding to noise nuisance calls. More sophisticated air quality monitoring equipment will be employed to give measurements for a broader range of pollutants. The design and maintenance work on Council premises will continue to aim to reduce emissions to air, water and land and to minimise noise. The programme of replacing vehicles with those producing less emissions will be continued. The Council will also seek to introduce in-house travel and transport measures to reduce the impact of travel undertaken in the course of Council business and to reduce employee commuting impact. Investigations will be made into the feasibility of alternative, more sustainable, urban drainage systems which make use of reed beds to dispose of road gully water.

**Pollution**

<b>Action Point</b>	
1. The policies contained in the land use strategy (Local and Structure Plan) and conditions applied to planning applications contributes to pollution prevention.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
2. Continue to seek less polluting forms of fuel for use by the Council's vehicle fleet, e.g. GreenEnergy CityDiesel.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Environmental & Consumer Protection
3. Continue with the Council's statutory responsibility to manage air quality, noise levels and water quality.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Environmental & Consumer Protection
4. Continue close liaison with NoSWA and SEPA to determine reductions in water use and waste water pollution for Council premises.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Property Services
5. Ice prediction and thermal mapping will be continued to maximise efficient use of road salt and reduce pollution of water courses and roadside verges.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Roads
6. Sustainable urban drainage systems will, wherever appropriate, be used.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Roads
7. Review practices regarding spraying of chemicals such as pesticides with a view to reducing their use.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 1999	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Contract Services
8. All new vehicles to the Council's fleet should be fitted with a catalytic converter.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Environmental & Consumer Protection

<b>Action Point</b>	
9. All new heavy vehicles to be fitted with 'CRT' exhaust system to minimise particulate and gas emissions which are used in conjunction with low sulphur diesel.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Completed by 2005	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Environmental & Consumer Protection
10. Incorporate data on pollution levels for inclusion in the State of the Environment Report.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 2000/2001	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
11. Investigate the feasibility of addressing pollution caused by lighting.	
<b>Target Date:</b> 2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
12. Participate in the Tay Estuary Forum to help form positive coastal zone management of the Tay Estuary and Angus coastal region.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Planning & Transport
13. Consult on the stage 1 Review of Angus Air Quality and undertake a further review before 2005.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Housing

## WASTE



### Issues

The disposal of waste is a major environmental issue and one that can only get worse due to the ever increasing volume of waste being produced-unless action is taken to reverse this trend. We live in a “throw-away” society where certain items are considered to be, and often are, labelled as “disposable”. However, there is no “away” in which to throw unwanted items and it takes more than 300 years for so-called “disposable” nappies to decompose.

Much of this waste is created through people buying more than they really need. Contributing to this is the fact that many items are excessively packaged and therefore end up in the waste stream unnecessarily, e.g. food multi packs. People are under pressure to keep up with fashion and are encouraged to buy the latest models of commodities even before their old one has reached the end of its useful life.

Traditionally, in the UK, most of our waste ends up in landfill sites. However, burying waste in landfill presents problems of:

- finding enough land in suitable locations;
- the build-up and emissions of landfill gases (e.g. methane);
- leachates into surface and underground water courses;
- social problems such as odour, litter and scavenging pests;
- threat to public health;
- public opposition to landfill sites.

In response to these problems, the Government has adopted the principle of the waste hierarchy:



The waste hierarchy shows that top priority is the reduction of waste at source. This is followed by the re-use of materials wherever possible and then the recycling of materials such as glass, metals and paper. Finally, when all other options have been tried, then the most benign form of final disposal should be employed.

### What is being done?

Angus Council is already active in its efforts to minimise waste and in 1997/98 was amongst the top four local authorities in Scotland for recycling domestic waste. There are 32 bottle banks provided throughout Angus and five recycling centres for the collection of paper, different coloured glass, plastic bottles, cardboard, food



and drinks cans, wood, clothing, white goods (fridges and freezers), scrap metals and garden wastes.

Local businesses are being encouraged to minimise waste and recycle more by the Council providing a free cardboard and glass bottle collection service, however, charges are levied on the uplift of waste containers. Various recycling projects are being carried out in schools and Angus Council staff are being encouraged to bring forward initiatives for recycling within the workplace.



Throughout 1997/98, 600 tonnes of compost were prepared for use as a soil conditioner and 8.6 tonnes of plastics were recycled. Also, the Angus Environmental Trust was set up in 1997 as a charitable body designed to use funds diverted from landfill tax for environmental improvements.

## Future areas of work

Future working will centre round a new waste plan and minimisation programme. This will be developed in response to the National Waste Strategy for Scotland and will ensure that Angus Council's plans are in accord with national aims and strategies.

Currently, it is planned to maintain the existing free collection of cardboard and glass for business in order to encourage waste sorting and recycling. Further waste minimisation could be achieved through encouraging a symbiosis between local businesses to exchange products/raw materials they no longer require and which might otherwise end up in the waste stream - one man's waste is another's raw material.

In an effort to try and reach the national target of recycling 25% of household waste, Angus Council is planning to expand the current provision of recycling centres and neighbourhood centres. Use of such facilities should increase as public awareness is raised as to the value of recycling. However, the success of these facilities is very dependent on the willingness of the public to participate and on the fluctuations in demand for recycled materials. The recovery of recyclable materials from the waste stream will be further enhanced through the establishment of a training programme under the New Deal initiative. This initiative involves the recovery of a number of high value items including discarded cycles from the waste stream which are refurbished by New Deal trainees and returned to use. Plans are being considered for some of these cycles to be used by Angus Council's employees for short work related journeys. There is a need for more projects like this to be developed to help the Council meet its recycling targets.

As for the final disposal of residual waste, it is intended to expand the life of existing landfill sites through a system of compressing waste into containers so as to take up as little space as possible. Also, a new lined landfill site at Restenneth, near Forfar opened in 1999 and is expected to last between 11 - 20 years. The need for waste going to landfill will be further reduced when the new waste to energy plant becomes operational in 1999. Angus Council is planning to send nearly two thirds (36,000T) of its domestic waste arising to the Baldovie Plant in Dundee (DERL).

## Waste

Action Point	
1. Produce a waste plan and minimisation programme (for Angus) to reflect and implement the aims of the National Waste Strategy.	
<b>Target Date:</b> End of 2000	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Environmental & Consumer Protection
2. Encourage domestic recycling by maintaining the five recycling centres and 30 bottle banks.	
<b>Target Date:</b> Ongoing	<b>Lead Responsibility:</b> Environmental & Consumer Protection

## Action Points

3. In partnership with local businesses provide a further two recycling centres and a number of neighbourhood centres in next 2 years.  
**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental & Consumer Protection
4. Encourage businesses to minimise wastes and recycle by providing free cardboard and glass bottle collections.  
**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental & Consumer Protection
5. Continue the development of a Materials Recycling Project based at Cairnie Loan Yard, Arbroath. Project aimed at recovering recyclable materials from the waste stream which are not currently extracted and to add value to mixed grades of recyclable waste already separated.  
**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental & Consumer Protection
6. Continue the composting of green waste from domestic sources and re-use resultant material for community benefit in public parks & landfill reclamation.  
**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental & Consumer Protection
7. Introduce initiatives to encourage staff to recycle in the workplace.  
**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental Strategy Group
8. Expand insitu recycling method used as a road maintenance surfacing technique.  
**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Roads
9. Continue to encourage and assist recycling projects in schools.  
**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental & Consumer Protection
10. Expand existing home composting of domestic waste scheme.  
**Target Date:** 1999/2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental & Consumer Protection
11. In order to extend the life of the landfill site continue to compress all waste material.  
**Target Date:** Ongoing      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental & Consumer Protection
12. As a contribution to the energy from waste plant at Dundee (DERL) the Council will send nearly two thirds (c.36,000T) of the domestic waste collected in the Angus area.  
**Target Date:** End of 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Environmental & Consumer Protection Dundee City Council
13. Consider the means by which to encourage symbiosis between local businesses to reduce their waste by exchanging products/raw materials which would otherwise end up in the waste stream.  
**Target Date:** 2000      **Lead Responsibility:** Economic Development

## PURCHASING



### Issues

Angus Council is itself a major consumer of goods and services and as such, has considerable power and influence over its suppliers. If Angus Council is to become more eco-efficient then it is necessary to ensure that the goods and services bought by the Council are as environmentally benign as possible.

In order to deliver services to the public the Council purchases goods and services from many sources and suppliers. However, many of these goods may be harvested and produced in an unsustainable manner, be grossly over-packaged and have travelled hundreds or even thousands of miles before reaching their final destination in Angus. An obvious example would be an office desk which has been produced from an unsustainable source of tropical hardwoods.



If Angus Council were to adopt a policy which ensured that the goods and services purchased by the Council were as eco-efficient as possible, then this would not only contribute towards Best Value but also would aid in the pursuit of sustainable development. Such a policy would increase the demand for goods to be produced in an environmentally and socially responsible way and would lead to suppliers adjusting their production methods in order to meet this demand. Ultimately a green purchasing policy would also help the Council to reduce its environmental effects of waste, transport and pollution.

### What is being done?

Currently, the Council operates under a system of devolved budgets whereby each department is responsible for its own purchasing. Some departments have already been trying to choose the “greener” option when purchasing goods on behalf of the Council. For example, the Environmental and Consumer Protection

Department only use GreenEnergy CityDiesel in the Council fleet. Contract Services have a policy to ensure that goods are purchased to BS (British Standard) or Plant Protection Standard wherever possible

The Property Department and Housing Department are currently involved in a number of initiatives which reflect a trend towards choosing the more environmentally friendly option. These departments are involved in investigating how solar water heating applications could be used in sheltered housing and are also collaborating with energy suppliers in piloting innovative energy sourcing schemes (e.g. heat pumps etc).

### Future areas of work

Future working will move towards the development of a Council Purchasing Policy. As each department is responsible for its own purchasing, an overall corporate policy would ensure that the environment is given due consideration when decisions and choices are made regarding the purchase of goods and services.

The Council will need to work with its suppliers in developing appropriate mechanisms and to ensure it is not placing an unfair burden on them. It is hoped that by creating (and increasing) the demand for recycled/re-used materials locally, that local businesses will be able to capitalise on this and expand their operations to meet this demand.

### Purchasing

#### Action Point

1. To investigate the development of a Purchasing Policy which would consider environmental issues alongside Value For Money and statutory requirements when making purchasing decisions.

**Target Date:** 2000

**Lead Responsibility:** Environmental Strategy Group

2. Encourage local businesses to adopt more environmentally friendly practices.

**Target Date:** 2000

**Lead Responsibility:** Economic Development

3. Investigate through the Scottish LA21 Co-ordinators Network the possibility of local authorities combining their purchasing power to help achieve best value and best environmental value.

**Target Date:** 1999/2000

**Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



### Issues

Angus Council's statement of guiding principles and key themes outlines the priority issues which the Council wishes to address on a corporate basis. Among these key themes is the aim to develop partnerships in order to:

- deliver, develop and sustain quality cost effective services;
- enhance the quality of life for all the people of Angus, together with the image and reputation of the Angus area;
- encourage and enable a strong competitive and diverse Angus economy.



To this end, Angus Council has actively pursued and developed a wide range of partnerships with other organisations, both in the public and private sector as well as with various voluntary organisations and groups. Working with other organisations and interest groups on sustainability issues in general, as well as on specific projects and initiatives, is another key element of the LA21 process.

### What is being done?

Various partnership arrangements and projects have already been mentioned earlier in this document. However, new forms of working in partnership are evolving continuously. For example, the Community Plan is being prepared jointly by the Council, Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Tayside Health Board, Scottish Homes, Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations, Tayside Police and the Angus and Dundee Tourist Board.

At the time of writing, the Community Plan is in draft and extensive consultation is still to take place. Although the Community Plan has been prepared jointly, it has been kept sufficiently flexible to respond to the views of communities, individuals and businesses. There are plans to make use of the existing consultative arrangements, e.g. Community Councils, Area Forums and the Youth Congress (see Public Participation) to ensure the Plan fully incorporates the aspirations of the citizens of Angus.

## TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

### Future areas of work

One of the key themes of a Local Agenda 21 is to establish more co-ordinated actions by the various agencies involved. Joint working across organisational and professional boundaries is being advocated by the government in order to achieve more "joined-up thinking" on the cross cutting issue of sustainable development. However, there is a considerable amount of work which needs to be carried out to turn this concept into practical actions to realise the vision of a sustainable Angus.

Previous guidance from COSLA and LGMB regarding partners in the Local Agenda 21 process usually involved setting up partnership arrangements with environmental groups, community groups, businesses, farmers, landowners and twinned Councils in the Third World. To this end, the Council has made good progress and has entered into various partnership arrangements such as, Angus Rural Partnership, Angus Environment Trust, The Tay Estuary Forum, The Tayside Biodiversity Steering Group, Tayside Environment Business Forum, and so on.

The emphasis for partnership working will continue to be extended through the Community Plan. Through these partnerships, a framework will emerge for different interests to work together to identify problems, agree objectives, and develop solutions.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### Issues

One of the fundamental steps in the LA21 process is to consult and involve the general public in the creation of the Action Plan. Members of the local community need to have input to and ownership of, the LA21 Action Plan. To have an effective voice in decision making, people have to know what the issues and constraints are and be aware of the impacts of their own lifestyles on their local and global environment.

Local Agenda 21 has strong links with other major strategies such as Community Planning, Rural Development Strategies, Social Inclusion Strategies and Health Improvement. These strategies are all about Angus Council working with its partners and local communities to agree and deliver a vision and Action Plan for the long term social, economic and environmental well-being and sustainable development of their area. COSLA is advocating that these similarities and linkages should be strengthened and emphasised thereby reducing the need to consult with the public separately for each strategy.



### What is being done?

As previously stated in section 1, Education and Awareness Raising, the Council already has existing channels of communication with the community through various groups and community fora. Nonetheless, it is the intention of this Action Plan to build on these existing channels by ensuring that the public are given every opportunity to participate in the decision making process.

As part of Angus Council's decentralisation scheme, eight Area Forums were established across the Angus area. These forums are open meetings and provide an opportunity for local people to raise and discuss issues pertinent to them. Area Forums also provide a vehicle

whereby residents, voluntary organisations, community councils, community groups and business associations can come together to discuss topics of their choice with Angus Council members and officials, thus providing a



means of bringing local government closer to the people it serves. Each forum has three meetings per year and also provides the Council with a sounding board to gain feedback from the community regarding proposed developments or future changes in Council policy.

Angus Council is keen to listen to the views of all its citizens and has established an Angus Youth Congress to give young people a voice in the community. The Youth Congress has eight constituent Youth Councils to represent the eight Area Forum areas already established. The Youth Councils report directly to the Council.

### Future areas of work

Sustainable development requires that objectives for environmental quality should guide policy at all levels from global to local. These objectives should be set by open and democratic processes. Central government is encouraging local authorities to use both traditional methods of consulting with their communities, as well as finding novel and innovative methods of consultation and involvement.

Angus Council intends to fully embrace this challenge by continuing the expansion of public participation in Council operations. The Council recognises the difficulties associated with traditional consultation methods which have trouble in reaching the less articulate, confident and less mobile members of our community. Therefore, the Council is considering augmenting existing consultative arrangements with

techniques such as citizens panels, focus groups, and “planning for real” exercises. It is hoped that through these methods that active citizenship will be encouraged and local people will participate freely in the process. Without input from the community, this Action Plan will remain incomplete.

Care must be taken, however, to integrate public consultation on the various plans and strategies (e.g. Community Planning, Rural Development Strategies, Social Inclusion etc) to ensure the public are not overloaded with requests for involvement in each of the strategies.



## Public Participation

### Action Point

1. In consulting the community on the Local Agenda 21 strategy use will be made of existing mechanisms such as Community Councils and Area Forums.

**Target Date:** 2000                      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

2. Local Agenda 21 consultation exercises will be integrated with those of the Community Plan and other strategies whenever feasible.

**Target Date:** 2000                      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

3. In consultation exercises for the Local Agenda 21 strategy a variety of approaches will be used to engage the various members of the Angus community.

**Target Date:** 2000                      **Lead Responsibility:** Planning & Transport

4. Continue to support the Angus Youth Congress and use this mechanism to ensure that this Action Plan fully incorporates the aspirations of young people throughout Angus.

**Target Date:** Ongoing                      **Lead Responsibility:** Education

## THE WAY FORWARD:

### Towards a sustainable Angus

This document constitutes the first stage in an incremental process of introducing a Local Agenda 21 for Angus, i.e. one which embraces the integration of environmental, social and economic issues. It takes sustainable development as an underlying principle and has the environment as a key theme.

The contents of this document outline actions the Council will undertake in the process of moving towards a more sustainable Angus. It will be further enhanced and developed by wider consultation and input from various interest groups and organisations, businesses and the communities of Angus.



The all embracing nature of sustainable development means there are numerous linkages to be made between an Angus LA21 Strategy and other major strategies for the Angus area. These will include the Angus Community Plan, Rural Development Strategy, Social Inclusion and Health Improvement Programmes. There is a particular connection to the Angus Community Plan as both LA21 and Community Planning are aimed at improving the wellbeing of the local community, with sustainable development as a guiding principle. For this reason efforts will be made to integrate the two processes wherever possible. There are however at least two distinct differences between these two strategies. One relates to area of influence as the Community Plan seeks to make improvements within the Angus area whilst Local Agenda 21 recognises our responsibilities are wider as our actions have national and global impacts. The other relates to timescales. The Community Plan has a timescale of 10 years whereas the Local Agenda 21 will have a much longer time horizon as we must consider the impacts of our actions on future generations.

To some extent Local Agenda 21 and Community Planning represent a journey into new territory for both local authorities and the communities they serve.

Fortunately however, the Council will not be starting from scratch with partnership working and consulting the community. Angus Council has actively pursued and developed a wide range of partnerships with other organisations in both the public and private sector and new forms of working partnerships are evolving continuously.

The obvious links between Local Agenda 21 and Community Planning give an opportunity for consultation exercises to be carried out simultaneously where appropriate. It is likely, however, that there will be occasions when separate approaches (possibly using quite different methods) will be required. These methods along with responses to this, document will contribute to the production of a draft Local Agenda 21 Action Plan for Angus.



**If you have any comments or suggestions to make regarding this document please contact:**

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