

Rye Low Carbon Community

Terms of Reference

Background

Recently an application for the Low Carbon Communities Challenge was sent to DECC to see if Rye could receive up to £500,000 of funding for phase 2 of the challenge. Although the application was unsuccessful, the partnership group that was set up has decided to carry on with identifying and implementing opportunities within Rye to reduce the carbon footprint of the community.

Climate change is high on the political agenda with national targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 of 34% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020, and 80% reduction by 2050 based on the 1990 baseline.

Renewable technologies are now being viewed as the way forward both for energy and for the economy. Investigating and implementing the various technologies will enable Rye to reduce its footprint and hopefully allow for training for local residents to embark on a profession in this area of industry.

Taking the term 'climate change' out of the equation there is also a need for residents and businesses in Rye to keep fuel costs down whilst energy companies continually increase them. This can be achieved through improved building energy efficiency as well as behavioural change. Through this, energy costs can be kept to a minimum allowing businesses to thrive and residents to prosper.

Objective

To identify the current carbon footprint of Rye and reduce it by at least 10% by 2014 using the Rye Action Plan to identify the various actions required to achieve this, and by using various funding opportunities available for community projects.

Scope

The project will be based in Rye, and will look at the three areas that National Indicator 186 (percentage reduction of the per capita CO₂ emissions in the Local Authority Area) uses:

- Domestic Housing – all housing including RSLs (Registered Social Landlords), privately owned and leased housing.
- Business – Industry and commercial emissions, including public sector, but not those included in the EU Emissions trading scheme.
- Road Traffic – All road traffic, (but excluding motorways).

Initially the project team will only look at actions that will directly impact and assist with achieving those set out in the Rye Local Action Plan. However,

other actions that are identified with assisting government targets, such as eradicating fuel poverty, will be researched and implemented if able to.

The project will be used as a test-bed to see how best to deliver similar projects throughout the Rother district.

The project will not look at off-setting carbon emissions in any way, instead it will only look at identifying ways residents and businesses can reduce their own carbon emissions through technology and behavioural change.

Constraints

The project is limited to funding opportunities being identified and successfully applied for – there is no central money-pot that can be used.

The project will only be able to succeed through successful engagement with the residents and businesses of Rye due to very limited resources available to the project team.

Assumptions

The project team is assuming that public and business engagement will happen and funding will be easily accessed.

It is assumed that volunteers will be easily accessible.

Reporting and Responsibilities

The project will be jointly led by Rye Town Council, Rother Environmental Group and Rother District Council.

The Project Board will consist of members from Rye Town Council, The Environment Agency and the Chairperson of Rother Environmental Group (or nominated representative). The Project Board will oversee the actions of the project and ensure there is high-level support for any applications of funding.

There will be one lead officer from each of Rye Town Council (Richard Farhall), Rother Environmental Group (Dominic Manning) and Rother District Council (Becky Anderson). They will be part of the Project Team and will ensure that the actions identified for the project are met by supporting and assisting the Project Team members.

The Project Team will consist of relevant officers from Rye Town Council, Rother Environmental Group, Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council, and Rye Chamber of Commerce. Other team members will be added once identified and engaged. The Project Team will report to the lead officers.

Deliverables

It is hoped that the project will enable Rye residents and businesses to reduce their dependency on peak oil.

The project should also mean that buildings in Rye which are not greatly energy efficient are improved with an increased SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) Rating.

Residents and Businesses should be able to reduce their energy costs despite the likelihood of increased tariffs.