

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

19 SEPTEMBER 2011

1. CARBON REDUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010-2015

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Fire Authority note the commitment to reduce carbon emissions within West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) by 25% by 2015 as part of the Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme.
- 1.2 THAT the Fire Authority note the carbon footprint for WMFS for the last 3 years.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 This report is submitted to inform Authority Members of the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme (CMP) that WMFS is taking part in and to note the outcome of that programme which is to produce a Carbon Management Plan for 5 years (2009/10 to 2014/15) to help reduce our organisation's carbon emissions and costs from energy usage. The Carbon Management Plan was published on the WMFS Intranet in April 2011.
- 2.2 This report also gives details of the Service's carbon footprint for the last three years.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In May 2010 WMFS joined the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. The programme aims to reduce carbon emissions, energy usage and associated costs over 5 years within public sector organisations. Participation in the programme is assisting in delivering the objectives in the Service's Environmental Delivery Plan and the current Level 2 action plan regarding the environment.

- 3.2 There are 42 organisations (LA, Police and Fire) taking part in the programme along with WMFS. The programme is in its 8th year. Over these years a total of 18 FRSS have participated in the programme, 46 Police Forces, 192 Local Authorities and many Central Government Departments, NHS Bodies and Universities have all successfully used the scheme. The total identified annual savings over the previous 7 years are 2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and annual cost savings of £229 million.
- 3.3 The aim of the programme is to embed carbon management throughout the organisation.
- 3.4 A Programme Board has been set up involving key officers from both the Technical and Operational Support and Finance & Procurement directorates. Other key officers from areas such as ICT, Operations and Transport Engineering Workshops will be involved in the process in the future.
- 3.5 The process undertaken was to form a Programme Board, obtain a baseline of utility usage, set a target for reduction and identify projects that could assist in cutting carbon emissions by ensuring that each project had a strong business case. Staff then become engaged in the implementation of the projects and embed carbon management within the key areas.
- 3.6 The Service target is to reduce carbon emissions by 25% by 2015 from the baseline year 2009/2010. Carbon emissions in the baseline year were 12,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
- 3.7 The WMFS carbon footprint (covering all buildings) over the last 3 years is as follows:

GHG Emissions Data for Period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011			
	Total Tonnes CO ₂ e		
Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Total Carbon footprint for all of WMFS building stock	10,015	12,021	9,336

There have been minor changes in building stock over this period. The main change is the occupancy of buildings (such as the move to the new HQ, this included departments like ICT and SPIRiT moving to the new HQ, closure of Sedgley Fire Station, closure of

old Stores building, closure of Aston Fire Safety Building, Tettenhall changing to a Lates station) however the overall numbers of buildings owned and operated by the Service is more or less the same for comparison purposes.

Individual site/station carbon footprints have been calculated and the information made available to local managers.

For the first time in three years the carbon footprint in 2010/11 reduced following previous increases. The reason for the recent decrease is due to the awareness campaigns, the work of environmental champions on stations, joining the Carbon Trust Carbon Management Programme and carrying out a large number of energy efficient projects (for example, new boilers) on numerous sites.

The accuracy of data collection is expected to improve as station meters are replaced, allowing automated meter reading. This reduces the human error involved in taking and recording readings.

- 3.8 To assist in reducing carbon and also driving down annual site costs, sites have been given targets for the last two years to help reduce energy use. The targets that have been set for 2011/12 are:
- 5% reduction of gas and
 - 10% reduction of electricity
- 3.9 The budgeted building related expenditure associated with the Carbon Reduction Management Plan is £2.5m. It is an 'invest to save' programme and savings should be realised towards 2015 and every year beyond that as the projects make the service more energy efficient. In addition to these savings the service will receive an income from the feed in tariff once solar photovoltaic arrays are installed on some of our building stock.
- 3.10 If the service chose to not carry out any of the building related expenditure and continued with 'business as usual' the energy costs and carbon emissions are predicted to rise based on information from the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department of Trade and Industry (business growth and energy price rise predictions). This potential increase is known as the 'value at stake' which over the next 5 years, if the service were to do nothing, equates to an increase of 11,022 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and an additional £2 million in energy costs.

- 3.11 The Carbon Management Plan (CMP) contains details of the programme, projects, targets and financial implications. It is a requirement of the Carbon Trust that there is firm commitment and leadership to support the programme and therefore it is important that the Fire Authority note the CMP.
- 3.12 Improving our impact on the environment is a corporate key strategic theme in 'The Plan'. There are many other national drivers for improving environmental performance as well as the positive profile it generates around the WMFS brand.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out as the matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The CMP will support the Climate Change Act 2008 which introduced a legally binding framework to cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The building related expenditure of £2.5m associated with the Carbon Reduction Management Plan involves services within the Planned Building Maintenance Programme (boiler replacements/window replacements/lighting replacements). Approved as part of the Authority's budget setting process, combined with planned procurement of solar PV panels approved at Authority on 27 June 2011.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Climate Change Act 2008

Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (explained) Leaflet from the Carbon Trust.

Annual Audit Letter 2009/10 paragraph 31, from the Audit & Performance Management Committee Agenda Item 6, 10 January 2011.

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER