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Climate Change

What Oxford City & County Council are doing

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The background

What is Climate change?

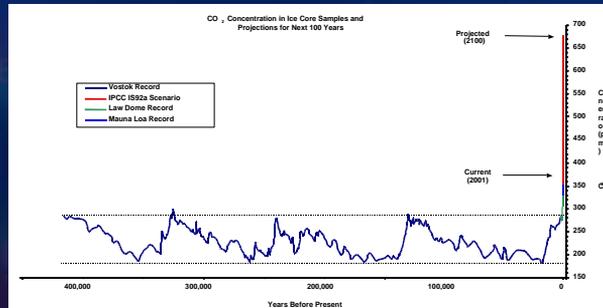
- A change in the world's climate noun Oxford Dictionary
- A change in the worlds climate that will see traditional weather patterns altered with more extreme weather

Situations – drought/
flooding, severe storms,
heatwaves, sea-level rise



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Climate Change Over the last 1000 years



- Last Ice Age 5 °C cooler than present day
- Average Temperature predicted to rise by 1.4 to 5.8 °C
- Highest temperatures ever
- Fastest *rate of temperature rise*

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Targets

- In 1995 Central Government introduced the Home Energy Conservation Act. This requires local authorities to reduce domestic energy consumption by 30% by 2010
- Carbon dioxide emissions to be reduced by 12.5% from 1990 levels by 2010 (20% for all GHGs)
- A target of 38% recycling and composting must be met by the County council
- Biodegradable waste sent to landfill reduced by 65% by 2020

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Domestic Energy Reduction

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We meet these targets in a number of different ways

- The provision of grants for energy efficient measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation
- Working with Ethnic Minorities and different faith / community groups
- Free Energy Champion training to all and free over the phone advice
- Working with schools
- Sharing information and working with partners i.e. police, fire service, PCT's.

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Waste Reduction

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- Each year Oxfordshire produces 1.2m tonnes of rubbish. That's enough rubbish to fill the Albert Hall 12 times!
- Oxford City Council introduced Kerbside Recycling in 1998
- The Council now want to impose a 45% target for recycling by 2008 - at the moment we recycle 33% of our waste
- The County Council offer discounted Composters for its constituents and the City Council are in the process of rolling out a garden waste compost service.



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Transport

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- Oxford was the first city in England to introduce Park and Ride as a means of reducing the volumes of traffic in its City Centre.
- The County Council are aiming to reduce the amount of journeys made by car in the county and have set up the Travel Plans team which aims to take 4000 cars out of the school run by 2011



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Sustainable Development

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- The City Council are responsible for all the planning applications in Oxford.
- Intending to make all new developments of a certain size source 10% of energy from renewable sources (Merton Rule)
- City council has also introduced the NRIA and is looking at introducing other SPD's to improve the current housing stock.
- We're also looking at how to provide good public transport and other sustainable aspects of new developments.

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Adaptation

- Both the City and County Council are working with UKCIP to assess how Oxford and its surrounding area will change due to Climate Change and how we can adapt to the warmer climate,
- For example during the recent summer heat wave the tarmac on many of the county's roads started to melt and gritters had to be sent out to combat this problem.

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Conclusions

- A multi organisation approach
- Far Reaching across all departments for example OCC have a multi departmental CCAT meeting and action plan
- Although we are working to combat climate change we must also focus on adaptation as the temperatures are still set to rise.

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Thank you

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