

**SCOTTISH BORDERS  
LOW CARBON STRATEGY  
2012 – 2032**

***DRAFT***

**Contents**

**1. Why we need a Low Carbon Economic Strategy**

- 1.1 Low Carbon Economy - Drivers and Principles**
- 1.2 Definition of a Low Carbon Economy**
- 1.3 Scottish Borders Economy**
- 1.4 The Rural Dimension**
- 1.5 Scottish Government Objectives**

**2. Scottish Borders Low Carbon Vision and Objectives**

- 2.1 Vision**
- 2.2 Scottish Borders Low Carbon Objectives**

**3. Who the strategy is aimed at**

**4. What is happening already?**

- 4.1 Local Development Plan**
- 4.2 Ambitious for the Borders & Economic Blueprint**
- 4.3 Zero Waste Plan for Scotland**
- 4.4 Land Management - agriculture & forestry**
- 4.5 Domestic Energy Advice**
- 4.6 Renewable Energy Generation & The Borders Energy Agency**
- 4.7 Scottish Enterprise Low Carbon Implementation Plan**

**5. What action do we need to take? (Action Plans)**

**6. How can we make it happen?**

- 6.1 Delivery & Resources**
- 6.2 Monitoring & Reporting**

**7. Communication with Partners.**

## 1. Why do we need a Low Carbon Economic Strategy?

### 1.1 Low Carbon Economy - Drivers

Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge that we face and the scientific consensus and growing political will to address the issue is gathering pace to change the global context in which business operates. Moving to a low carbon economy not only addresses an environmental imperative, it makes business sense.

The Stern Review states that if the world fails to stabilise emissions in a relatively short space of time, it could lead to problems on a scale similar to those associated with the world wars and the economic depression of the first half of the twentieth century. A general message is that early action will cost the World's economies less in the long run than putting off such action. It suggested that developed economies should reasonably sacrifice just over 1% of current GDP to mitigation activities now, to avoid higher GDP losses in the future. As a rough approximation, this currently equates to around £900 million per year in Scotland.

According to the Stern Review the cost of doing nothing to address climate change is far greater than the cost of acting. The Review estimates that 'if we don't act, the overall costs and risks of climate change will be equivalent to losing at least 5% of global *GDP* each year, now and forever. If a wider range of risks and impacts is taken into account, the estimates of damage could rise to 20% of *GDP* or more. In contrast, the costs of action - reducing greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change - can be limited to around 1-2% of global *GDP* each year'<sup>8</sup>, in other words we cannot afford not to take action. A more recent study by the Climate Change Committee identified that adapting businesses to climate change now may reduce the damage from future climate change by about 50%<sup>9</sup>.

Climate change presents major challenges for Scotland's land using industries, but a well planned and coordinated adaptation response can reduce the negative impacts and highlight potential opportunities.

The Government sees that reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low carbon economy will help create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 received Royal Assent on August 4 2009. The Act sets ambitious targets for emissions reductions, and its key objectives are set out below.

- The Act sets an interim 42 per cent emissions reduction target for 2020, and an 80 per cent reduction target for 2050
- Contains provisions which will allow the Scottish Ministers to establish a Scottish Committee on Climate Change
- It places duties on the Scottish Ministers requiring that they report regularly to the Scottish Parliament on Scotland's emissions
- It places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies and contains powers to enable the Scottish Ministers to impose further duties on public bodies in relation to climate change.
- It includes provisions for adaptation, forestry, energy efficiency and waste reduction, with public engagement being a significant feature in all areas.

## **1.2 Definition of a Low Carbon Economy.**

A 'low carbon economy' must be seen as a clear objective for all sectors within a local economy, not as a restricted list of certain industries or services. A reduction in the carbon intensity of all activities across an area is key to the success of this transition. This, along with a strategic approach to the attraction of new low carbon enterprises which can access an appropriately skilled and committed workforce, will drive this essential change and deliver increased energy security and resilience in an increasingly unpredictable future.

The characteristics of a local low-carbon economy, as defined by IDeA<sup>1</sup>, include "Clean, secure and affordable sources of energy; low carbon infrastructure, buildings, products and services; accessible, efficient, low-carbon transport; high waste recycling and has the necessary local infrastructure to do so; innovative economies with diverse employment; high skills-development infrastructure for the current and future workforce."

A Low Carbon Economy will integrate all aspects of the economy from its manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, and power-generation, etc. around technologies that produce energy and materials with little greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and, thus, around populations, buildings, machines, and devices that use those energies and materials efficiently, and, dispose of or recycle its wastes so as to have a minimal output of GHGs.

Furthermore, it has been proposed that to make the transition to an LCE more economically viable in the shorter term we will have to attribute a cost (per unit output) to GHG emissions through means such as emissions trading and/or a carbon taxation. This is already having an impact on a number of organisations in the form of budgeting for the Climate Change Levy and Carbon Reduction Commitment.

A Low Carbon Economy is a key feature of the European, United Kingdom and Scottish Parliaments' policy framework and the development of a Low Carbon Economic Strategy by Scottish Borders Council is crucial to the future economy of the area.

## **1.3 Scottish Borders Economy**

The draft Economic Strategy for the Scottish Borders 2011-20 sets out a series of challenges for the area. 76% of working age people in the Scottish Borders are economically active, just below the Scottish average, average earnings are also lower, operating over 5% lower than the Scottish level.

The demography of the Scottish Borders is one of under-representation of young adults compared to Scotland, and a higher proportion of people aged 65 and over compared to Scotland. To address the continued out-migration of young people, the area must offer attractive work options which can encourage people to stay in the area, new people to locate to the area, and/or raise the value of employment on offer. This is seen as a key issue for the future of the local economy.

The Scottish Borders economy must focus on areas where it has a level of competitive advantage, niche manufacturing (in textiles particularly), tourism, construction, farming and production, processing and retail of food and drink. We must add to this list a range of low carbon opportunities, especially in some of the key renewable energy sectors such as woodfuel and small scale hydro. We must also pursue the benefits of low carbon processes within all business sectors if they are to maintain any competitive advantage in an era of spiralling energy costs and likely issues around food security and local supply.

---

<sup>1</sup> Improvement and Development Agency 2005  
Scottish Borders  
DRAFT Low Carbon Economic Strategy

In developing a low carbon economic strategy, we can generate demand for new skills thus supporting increased employment opportunities.

The Economic Strategy also notes that 'the concept of a 'place' is fundamental to competitiveness, not only providing the physical, social and cultural infrastructure for businesses, it attracts and retains a workforce for the future. This concept of place should be developed into one of a dynamic, forward thinking, low carbon area, offering increased resilience to future challenges.

#### **1.4 The Rural Dimension**

Ambitious targets have been set by the Scottish Government for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, however there is as yet no single approach to developing a route to a low carbon rural economy. There is also limited understanding of how the contributions required by rural areas to these reduction targets can be quantified and delivered effectively, and how best to progress the transition to a low carbon rural economy ensuring that the benefits of such a move will benefit rather than disadvantage rural areas.

The Scottish Government has commissioned a 5 year research programme on 'Developing a 'low carbon rural economy'', to be undertaken by the Scottish Agricultural College and the James Hutton Institute. This is part of a larger programme of work exploring the theme of economic adaption, and more specifically a rural economy resilient to global and local change. Case study areas will be used in a number of rural areas including Dumfries and Galloway.

#### **1.5 Scottish Government Objectives**

The UK and Scottish Governments are both committed to developing a low carbon economy, and key legislation in the form of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 is now in place. The Scottish Government launched a specific 'Low Carbon Economic Strategy' in November 2010 demonstrating its strong commitment towards transforming the Scottish economy into a world leading low carbon economy. Its new 'Government Economic Strategy', launched in October 2011, establishes a new Strategic Priority - Transition to a Low Carbon Economy. This reflects the significant opportunity that Scotland has to secure investment and jobs from this growing sector and to ensure that the benefits of this transformational change are shared across the economy and our communities.

The stated Scottish Government aspiration for a Scottish Low Carbon Economy is:

'The transition to a low carbon economy heralds an exciting but challenging economic and social transformation. By 2020, and certainly by 2050, Scotland will have a highly sustainable and prosperous economy where Scotland is a major player and beneficiary in the development of global low carbon markets.'

The Scottish Government believes that this transition presents a range of low carbon global market opportunities, not just in the renewables industry but in every sector and business across Scotland, exploiting natural and intellectual assets. Key issues to consider are:

- the strategic priorities and mechanisms to help realise the scale of potential market opportunities in a national and global context;
- the challenges and opportunities of helping existing firms and sectors adapt to a changing climate;
- how to increase the support in innovation, investment and skills necessary to drive change;
- the need to assist behavioural changes among businesses and individuals; and
- the need for a strategic and coherent approach across the public sector.

Many of the impacts and changes envisaged by the Scottish Government will be local impacts, but felt in all parts of Scotland, by all businesses and communities. The economic and competitive future of the Scottish Borders depends on how well our businesses and communities respond to this challenge. It is therefore crucial that we develop a clear approach and plan around how we will respond at a local level to help the transition to a low carbon economy.

The focus of central and local government and wider public sector activity will be directed at areas where most added value can be achieved. This is outlined in the strategic objectives and immediate actions for government and the wider public sector contained within the Scottish Government Low Carbon Economic Strategy.

#### Scottish Government Strategic Objectives

1. **Transformation Across the Whole Economy**
2. **Transforming the Energy Sector**
3. **Transforming the Built Environment**
4. **Decarbonising Transport**
5. **Scotland's Resources**

Supporting this, Scottish Enterprise has set out its view of business opportunities offered by a low carbon approach:

- Scotland's economy could gain significant productivity improvements through better management of energy, water, waste and natural resources; and
- The continued rapid development of environmental and clean technologies across all sectors could form over 10% of the Scottish economy by 2015.

## **2. Scottish Borders Low Carbon Vision and Objectives**

### **2.1 Vision**

The suggested vision for a Scottish Borders low carbon future is:

**'The future direction of the Scottish Borders will be that of a resilient, low carbon economy, offering a thriving and forward thinking region to its residents and businesses.'**

The new Environment and Infrastructure Department of Scottish Borders Council has set out as series of five priorities, one of which is to *'Champion a Low Carbon Economy - we will think and operate in a way that minimises carbon emissions and delivers economic growth and quality of life improvements.'* This Priority has been developed in response to clear national strategies, as well as the duties for Local Authorities that the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 has put in place.

The Scottish Borders Economic Strategy recognises the need for a Low Carbon Economic Strategy. This strategy would support the future competitiveness of our economy and provide a clear approach for the Council in fulfilling its roles as a Leader, Operator and Regulator for local low carbon issues.

The economic benefits of development of a low carbon approach are potentially considerable, and can offer long term opportunities. The Scottish Borders cannot delay in preparing for the inevitable move towards less carbon intensive activity, and must position itself to take advantage of this as an early adopter.

The outcomes of this approach could be in terms of:

- The Borders is a location of choice for renewable energy businesses and contribute to the low carbon economy of the area.
- Businesses locate in the Borders because all electricity is generated from local renewable sources
- A re-skilled workforce is able to take advantage of new business opportunities
- Opportunities for academic linkages in Research and Development are taken forward
- Wind, hydro, biomass, ground source, energy from waste and solar energy are all appropriately used without damaging the landscape
- Local communities are more self-sufficient and sustainable through the benefits of renewable energy schemes.
- Farms are instrumental in promoting and using renewable energy
- Community renewable energy and waste reduction projects are commonplace
- The Broadband and communications infrastructure enables flexible working practices and enables new business opportunities.

## **2.2 Scottish Borders Low Carbon Aims and Objectives**

The Council wishes to 'Champion a Low Carbon Economy - we will think and operate in a way that minimises carbon emissions and delivers economic growth and quality of life improvements.'

Along with Community Planning Partners, we will aim to:

- Support residents to access assistance to reduce their personal carbon footprint including home energy efficiency, sustainable resource use and waste reduction;
- Support businesses in their move to become less carbon intensive in their operations, and also assistance to exploit low carbon business opportunities for instance in supply chains and new markets;
- Encourage a low carbon built environment that will reduce carbon emission through all phases of the building process;
- Reduce the need for travel and encouraging a shift to low carbon forms of transport;
- Ensure joined up development across the policy landscape, for example assisting health and social care to deliver carbon reductions.

To deliver these aims the following objectives are proposed.

### **Objective 1: Carbon Reduction Support to Individuals**

Existing support is available from a range of sources across direct energy efficiency advice and support for waste reduction and recycling. A range of financial support schemes have been available to domestic clients. Funding mechanisms are due to change from October 2012 when the Green Deal and the associated Energy Company Obligation is launched.

### **Objective 2: Carbon Reduction Support to Businesses**

As above, existing support is available from a range of sources to business clients, however financial support schemes have been limited to some renewable energy grant schemes and loan funds. Funding through the Green Deal will be available to commercial enterprises.

### **Objective 3: Develop Renewable Energy Sector**

The Scottish Borders has yet to develop a strategic approach to the delivery of all scales of renewable energy schemes. Huge renewable potential exists in the area which is rich in woodfuel and small scale hydro resources. The development of such initiatives has been limited and consequently the economic benefit has not been delivered in terms of reduced fuel costs and support for local skills and employment. A strategic assessment of potential schemes alongside pilot projects for demonstration purposes is essential in the short term.

## **Objective 4: Low Carbon Buildings - Sustainable Places**

Scottish Building standards have been substantially reformed over the last two decades. However, the built environment still accounts for more than 40% of our carbon emissions, generated through the heating, lighting and running of buildings. Clearly it represents a major focus for efforts to reduce emissions and change behaviours and an area where there are both low carbon opportunities and challenges for businesses, investors and householders.

Improvements in the performance of existing buildings through upgrading and retrofitting as well as improved performance of new build will be essential to meet emissions reduction targets. This objective is therefore split into two sections -

### **4a. New Build and**

### **4b. Retrofit to Existing Buildings**

## **Objective 5: Transport & Infrastructure**

The Passenger Transport Service within Scottish Borders Council is charged to achieve one of the local outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2012, to ensure that "The Borders has an inclusive public transport infrastructure that integrates locally, nationally, internationally."

The provision of good quality transport services is vital for the residents of the Scottish Borders, as recognised by the new Council Administration in its Partnership Agreement document, Ambitious for the Borders 2012. To be efficient, effective and affordable, these services need to be designed to be sustainable in the longer term, with greater use of partnership working between the Council, the NHS/Scottish Ambulance Service and the voluntary sector, as recommended in the Audit Scotland Transport for Health and Social Care report, August 2011. We also have to ensure that the services meet all of the changing needs of our residents. Bus services in particular can also contribute to climate change/low carbon economy objectives if more of our residents can be encouraged to use them in preference to the private car.

## **Objective 6: Skills and Education**

Looking forward to 2016, job opportunities are likely to have come from food and drink businesses expanding; a resurgence in construction sector activity; opportunities that have developed around renewable energy; the continued growth of tourism in the area; new creative sector businesses starting up in the Borders; and also increasing demand from the care sector. Textiles and agriculture, whilst not expanding, will continue to provide employment opportunities.

These growing businesses will be looking for an adaptable, multi-skilled workforce with a strong work ethic, good interpersonal skills, sound technology skills and a commitment to lifelong learning.

### **Learning and Skills Partnership Strategy – Extract from ‘Meeting the Challenge’**

‘We are clear that we have a need to develop the skills of all individuals, at all levels of employment, and to contribute to the improved performance and productivity of all businesses. We aim to raise the aspirations of our young people, our current workforce and our businesses. We want to ensure that our economy is dynamic and provides opportunities for everyone.’

### **Of particular relevance to a low carbon transition is Theme Four: Workforce Development of Meeting the Challenge**

- A. We will develop an integrated and more coherent approach to engagement with local businesses and other employers
- B. We will improve the dialogue between agencies and providers and local businesses to ensure that training opportunities are relevant to the needs of our local industries

- C. We will work in partnership with local employers to improve the level and utilisation of skills in our local workforce
- D. We will provide access to a range of appropriate learning and training opportunities which meet the development needs of the existing workforce.
- E. We will work with public sector partners to establish workforce development plans which meet the needs of our community.

### **Objective 7: Adaptation and Resilience**

In the future, Scotland's climate is likely to be warmer and wetter in winter, and drier and hotter in summer than it is now.

Scotland has a number of social, economic and environmental characteristics that will increase its vulnerability to some of the damaging impacts of a changing climate. These include an uneven spread of population across the country, an ageing and elderly people more vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather, very remote communities that are vulnerable to transport disruption and interruption to critical services, and deprived communities which will become increasingly vulnerable to the adverse effects of a changing climate. These issues are all of clear importance to the Scottish Borders with its huge geographic area, vulnerable transport network and dispersed rural population.

### **3. Who is the Strategy Aimed at?**

A Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy is aimed at any organisation operating in the Scottish Borders which wishes to take part in the transition to a low carbon area. It is hoped that these partners will encompass government bodies, businesses, community and voluntary organisations and individuals.

The strategy process is also aimed at informing the public of what these partners intend to do, with a view to enabling the public to influence the activity of partners and to realise the benefits of a low carbon future.

Scottish Borders Council is leading the development of this strategy and sees itself as having a multiple role in the low carbon transition.

#### ***Leader***

The Council will lead by example: changing our own decision-making and behaviour in order to adopt best practice in relation to carbon reduction and to continually improve our environmental performance.

#### ***Operator***

The Council will co-ordinate our work with partners: integrating our policies, planning and operations, both within and between organisations, to identify low carbon opportunities across all of our service areas.

#### ***Regulator***

The Council will use its influencing role: informing, advising and educating to ensure that carbon reduction is central to day-to-day behaviour and decision-making, from major organisations through to individual members of the public.

The LCES will form a key part of the refreshed Community Plan in the Scottish Borders, aligned to the Economy and Infrastructure theme.

The strategic objective for the community plan is:

***'To work in partnership with other key public, voluntary and private bodies together with communities and businesses to maintain and improve the quality of life and meet the needs of Borders residents and their communities through the delivery of high quality public services, projects, advocacy and other actions'***



The LCES is also a mechanism for enabling the local implementation of national and international strategies and agreements, and achieving the targets contained therein.

#### **4. What is happening already?**

The existing strategic and policy landscape of the Scottish Borders is already laying the foundations of a low carbon transition, with a range of strategic planning processes in place or being developed. These are then complemented by a series of project areas around local landscape and habitat management, town centre regeneration, placemaking and design and major transport and infrastructure initiatives. Examples of strategic processes which will be key to underpinning the movement to a low carbon future are the Local Development Plan and the Economic Blueprint.

##### **4.1 Local Development Plan**

Vision – In 2024 the Scottish Borders will continue to be an excellent place in which to live and work, with improved job opportunities, housing availability and connectivity. Development will be sustainable and meet the challenges of a changing climate. The built and natural environment will continue to be high quality and support economic development and provide for recreational and leisure activities.

Inherent within the overall vision and aims of the Local Development Plan is a clear recognition of the need to move towards a low carbon future.

‘The need to mitigate the causes of climate change and the need to adapt to its short and long term impacts should be taken into account in all decisions throughout the planning process. Climate change touches upon a wide range of matters including flood risk and drainage, the water environment, green networks, sustainable design, water, air and soil management, carbon storage, energy infrastructure and production, sustainable travel and waste planning.’

##### **4.2 Ambitious for the Borders & Economic Strategy**

As noted in section 1.3, it is intended that the Economic Blueprint will be delivered over a 10-year period to 2020, however this approach has been modified to some extent by the ‘Ambitious for the Borders’ commitments made by the new Council administration in May 2012. The partnership agreement for the current programme of local government sets out a range of priorities which support a localised and therefore low carbon approach to service delivery.

The key low carbon priorities are:

- Providing sustainable transport links including demand responsive transport
- Investigating proposals for public energy enterprises based on community and rural renewables

##### **4.3 Zero Waste Plan for Scotland**

The Scottish Zero Waste Plan is intended to create a stable framework that will provide confidence for the investment necessary to deliver a zero waste Scotland over the next 10 years. It does this by setting out a Mission and Vision for the long term. Within that context the Plan sets strategic directions in the key areas of activity for the medium term up to 5 years, with specific actions setting out immediate priorities.

A zero waste Scotland has many benefits. New waste facilities mean new investment and jobs. As businesses become more resource efficient, costs are reduced and a competitive advantage is gained. A stronger market for recycled material is promoted through separate collections, both householders and businesses will continue to be encouraged not only to recycle as much as possible in order to meet future targets but, in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy, reduce waste arisings in the first place, then consider re-use and repair before then considering recycling. In addition, education and awareness raising activity will continue to be a key priority with a view to having a positive effect on buying habits in the Borders.

##### **How will this be achieved?**

- Regulations to support separate collections and treatment of resources to provide opportunities for businesses to invest in reuse, recycling and recovery.

- Investigation into ‘take back’ schemes and other obligations on the producers of certain types of waste.
- Collect and recycle more plastics by developing facilities in Scotland.
- Encourage the public and private sector to buy products made from recycled waste.

#### **4.4 Land Management - agriculture & forestry**

In a Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture: Next Steps, published in March 2006, it was recognised that there was mounting evidence about the prospect of significant climate change. Noting that the agriculture industry could make a contribution towards mitigating climate change, and that also there were potential business opportunities, it recommended that a stakeholder group should be established to evaluate and monitor agriculture’s response to climate change, through mitigation and adaptation.

The Agriculture and Climate Change Stakeholder Group (ACCSG) was formed in November 2006 to consider the implications of climate change for Scottish agriculture. The group produced a report of their findings in 2008, which had a recurring theme of the need for greater consistency and co-ordination across different land use policies, such as agriculture, forestry, flooding, biodiversity and landscape but also food and energy security and rural development.

A key outcome of the above work was the establishment of Farming for a Better Climate (FFBC), a programme focussing on 5 priority areas for farmers and land managers to address carbon reduction.

1. Using energy and fuels efficiently
2. Developing renewable energy
3. Locking carbon into the soil and vegetation
4. Optimising the application of fertiliser and manures
5. Optimising livestock management and storage of waste

#### **Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change**

Most analysis suggests that given adoption of appropriate farming practices and new technologies, agriculture in higher latitude countries such as Scotland can adapt to climate change and potentially benefit from new market opportunities.

It is thought that in many cases, adaptation at the individual farm level will come about automatically as farmers and land managers alter practices to meet a range of changing circumstances, environmental and economic, including wide ranging factors such as CAP reform.

#### **4.5 Domestic Energy Advice - Tackling Fuel Poverty**

The Scottish Borders is recognised as having a low wage economy and average weekly wages are 22% lower than the average weekly wage in Scotland as a whole. Latest Scottish Housing Condition Survey findings show that 31% (16,000) households in the Scottish Borders are fuel poor. This is a higher proportion than Scotland (25%) and a substantial deterioration since the 2002 SHCS when 17% (8,000) households were fuel poor in the Borders. However, the Scottish Borders also has a slightly higher proportion of dwellings rated ‘poor’ (7%) than the rest of Scotland (5%). Overall only a third of private dwellings have a good NHER rating (i.e. 8 to 10) which is lower than the rest of Scotland (45%).

Tackling fuel poverty specifically is integral across many aspects of the recently adopted Local Housing Strategy with commitments and actions set out in the Fuel Poverty Implementation Plan 2009-2014.

The objectives of the strategy are:

- To improve the understanding of fuel poverty in the Scottish Borders in order that the Council can improve targeting of services

- Provide ongoing fuel poverty advice and information to households in all tenures
- Increase energy and fuel efficiency of housing in all tenures
- Reduce the number of low income households living in fuel poverty
- Work with partner organisations to reduce the number of households in the Scottish Borders living in fuel poverty.

It is estimated that around three-quarters of savings required to deliver Scottish carbon reduction targets could be delivered from housing – this requires substantial behavioural change as well as increasing home energy efficiency and moving to low carbon heat. The energy efficiency measures required to make a difference to the emissions targets require a step change in insulation of domestic buildings, including the insulation of all suitable cavity walls in Scotland and enhancement of all loft insulation. Given the type and quality of the majority of the existing housing stock in the area, finding new and feasible ways to substantially increase energy efficiency, which is also attractive to the householder will be a challenging, yet critically important task for a low carbon strategy.

Currently free energy advice is available to Borders residents from the Council Home Energy Adviser, the Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre (Changeworks), the Energy Saving Trust, utility companies and the Registered Social Landlords. This advice helps clients to access funding to support a range of energy efficiency support, some of which is free dependent on circumstances.

#### **4.6 Renewable Energy Generation & Borders Energy Agency**

Renewable energy generation figures for 2010 and 2011 showed that renewable installed capacity in Scotland reached a record high of 4.3 gigawatts (GW) over the year, and that Scotland continued to be a net exporter of electricity in 2010, exporting 21 per cent of electricity generated.

Although national and local policy support and guidance exists to encourage the appropriate installation of renewable energy technologies, the Scottish Borders has yet to develop a strategic approach to the delivery of schemes. Much renewable potential exists in the area which is rich in woodfuel and small scale hydro resources. Hitherto the development of such potential has been limited and consequently the economic benefit has not been delivered in terms of reduced fuel costs and support for local skills and employment.

##### **Need for a Borders Energy Agency**

During a Council review of Renewable Energy – the Challenges and Opportunities for the Borders<sup>2</sup>, the need for a source of independent support and advice to communities was identified as a priority. The review also concluded that although many different organisations were involved in delivering services directly related to renewable energy there were significant gaps in service provision and a lack of co-ordination.

##### **Purpose**

The Borders Energy Agency (BEA) was registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporate Organisation in February 2012, and is seeking funding to become the first 'one-stop shop' for renewable energy, energy management and energy conservation services in the Scottish Borders.

Although there are national and local organisations delivering some related services, at present services are not integrated and there are major gaps in provision, resulting in lost opportunities. BEA will not only address these gaps but provide, directly or indirectly, through existing agencies, companies and partners, a much broader range of services to a wide range of customers

#### **4.7 Scottish Enterprise Low Carbon Implementation Plan 2012-13**

---

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Borders Council January 2011  
 Scottish Borders  
 DRAFT Low Carbon Economic Strategy

By helping to accelerate the move to a low carbon economy, Scottish Enterprise (SE) are supporting Scottish companies to become more profitable by reducing costs and exploiting new low carbon market opportunities.

The SE Low Carbon Implementation Plan summarises planned actions for 2012/13. It provides a comprehensive overview of the actions being taken to help deliver sustainable, low carbon economic development.

Key actions include:

1. SE will promote and maximise new economic opportunities from a low carbon economy in support to growing companies, sectors and the wider business environment.
2. SE will help companies realise the business benefits of sustainable business practices and resource efficiency through the strategic discussions with growth companies.
3. SE have embedded a low carbon approach into its Business Plan and will undertake carbon assessments of all projects and programmes to maximise opportunities and minimise emissions.
4. SE will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 42% by 2020 from a 2009/10 baseline, and work with partners to promote good practice.

An example of specific support to the construction sector is the Low Carbon Built Environment (LCBE) Expert Service. This is a free service which prepares construction companies for the low carbon market by offering:

- Practical advice on commercialisation issues such as design or prototype development
- Advice on collaborative innovation between companies, academia and other organisations
- Funding opportunities and advice on relevant Scottish Enterprise products

## 5. What actions do we need to take?

The framework of actions required is set out in the attached action plan which spans three phases:

- **Short Term Actions 2012-15**
- **Medium Term Actions 2015-2022**
- **Longer Term Actions 2022-2032**

## 6. How can we make it happen?

### 6.1 Delivery & Resources

As noted in section 3, the LCES is a key priority for the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership, and is a key priority within the Economy and Infrastructure strategic theme, and Programme Delivery team for this theme is chaired by Rob Dickson. A report to SBC Executive Committee on 30th August 2012 states 'It is proposed that a joint programme of work is developed under each of the 4 strategic policy themes. A Programme Delivery Team, involving partners and officers of the Council, would be established for each theme and would co-ordinate a structured programme of work, influenced by SBC's and partners' corporate vision and priorities. Much of the work within these programmes builds on existing joint activities that are being taken forward by partnerships.' These proposals around community planning were approved on the 30th August 2012.

It will be important that the recently formed Borders Energy Agency is positioned to take advantage of the changing role of the Council as an enabler rather than a direct service provider, and can

support much of the delivery of actions within the LCES. The establishment of a Borders Energy Agency will support a range of Council objectives, and it is intended that although the organisation is wholly independent, it is important that the Council and key partners recognise, support and empower the Borders Energy Agency. There are specific service areas which are currently under consideration for future joint delivery.

## **6.2 Monitoring & Reporting**

To ensure effective delivery of the actions which will be agreed within the LCES Action Plans, a set of clear indicators will be required, which will be reported against to the Theme leads and to the Community Planning Strategic Board.

## **7. Consultation with Partners**

**A consultation programme will be detailed, including:**

- Discussion programme with key stakeholders
- Open meetings linked to partner events
- Consultation through the Community Planning structure