

SCOTTISH BORDERS

LOW CARBON ECONOMIC STRATEGY

APPENDIX A: ACTION PLAN

Proposals for action relating to each of the themes and actions introduced in **Sections 2 & 5** are shown below.

The actions are seen as priority first steps in the move to a low carbon economy, although it is accepted that not all actions will be initiated and delivered within the first 3 years of the strategy.

Indicators are identified to enable progress to be measured and monitored in terms of outputs, or activity, and in terms of their estimated carbon savings

Objectives

1. **Carbon Reduction Support to Individuals**
2. **Carbon Reduction Support to Businesses**
3. **Develop the Renewable Energy Sector**
4. **Low Carbon Buildings – Sustainable Places**
5. **Transport and Infrastructure**
6. **Skills and Education**
7. **Adaptation and Resilience**

The current consultation exercise is intended to produce agreement between the key partners across the Scottish Borders as to the immediate priority actions and to secure commitment to their delivery.

Timescale

The following timings are suggested to assist in delivery and resource planning.

- Short:** 1-3 years
Medium: 3-10 years
Long: 10-20 years

OBJECTIVE 1: CARBON REDUCTION SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
1.1 Develop broadly based Fuel Poverty strategy which will deliver reductions on fuel poverty levels	S by Mar 2014	SBC (Housing Strategy Team)	Fuel Poverty Strategy produced	Reduction in levels of fuel poverty in the Scottish Borders
1.1.2 Agree resourced implementation plan for strategy	S by Jun 2014	SBC (Housing Strategy Team)	Action plan implemented	
1.2 Develop co-ordinated Borders based home energy advice service (which includes objectives of Zero Waste Scotland Plan.)	S by 2014	SBC (Housing Strategy Team /Energy Economics)	Establishment of process for delivery of advice.	Increase in uptake of advice and number of clients helped.
1.2.1 Review of existing support offered by providers	S by June 2013	(Housing Strategy Team /Energy Economics)		
1.2.2 Assess/analyse role of EST/ESSAC/SBC in accessing Energy Company Obligation	S by March 2013	(Housing Strategy Team /Energy Economics)		
1.2.3 Establish sub-group of New Borders Alliance (housing network) to address ee/GD/ECO planning/delivery	S by March 2013	SBC (Housing Strategy Team)		

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
<p>1.3 Draw down maximum S Govt funding to support home energy advice</p> <p>1.3.2 Develop pilot project to assess a sample of specific house types, to identify bespoke technical solutions for energy conservation linked to placemaking and heritage objectives.</p>	<p>S by Nov 2013</p> <p>S by June 2013</p>	<p>SBC (Housing Strategy Team /Energy Economics Team)/Registered Social Landlords</p> <p>SBC (Heritage and Design Team)</p>	<p>Development of programme agreed with S Govt to deliver increased level of dedicated support to Scottish Borders</p>	<p>Increase in level of resource coming to Borders and number of clients helped.</p>
<p>1.4 Maximise Green Deal (GD) and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) opportunities by developing effective local programme</p> <p>1.4.1 Assess key property issues/types for GD measures as above in 1.3.2</p> <p>1.4.2 Maximise ECO funding available to Scottish Borders by linking with S Govt National Retrofit Strategy and other possible funding sources</p>	<p>S by Oct 2013</p> <p>S by June 2013</p> <p>S by Dec 2013</p>	<p>SBC (Housing Strategy Team /Energy Economics Team)/Registered Social Landlords</p>	<p>Programme with targets for number of homes with appropriate measures installed</p> <p>Production of targeted strategy to secure maximum ECO funding</p>	<p>Increase in number of appropriate energy efficiency and renewable installations</p> <p>Increase in number of homes supported to increase energy efficiency</p>

OBJECTIVE 2: CARBON REDUCTION SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
<p>2.1 Extend and refocus business support services to adopt low carbon activity including waste reduction and recycling activity.</p> <p>a) Build on Scot Enterprise current programmes increase targets by 10% pa</p> <p>b) Build support on carbon reduction issues into Business Gateway services</p> <p>c) Build standard requirement on carbon reduction support into tourism, regeneration, events advice/facilitation.</p>	<p>S by Sept 2013</p> <p>S by Dec 2013</p> <p>S by Mar 2014</p> <p>S by Mar 2015</p>	<p>SBC (Economic Development Team)/Scottish Enterprise</p> <p>Scottish Enterprise</p> <p>SBC (Economic Development/Business Gateway)</p> <p>SBC (Economic Development)/VisitScotland</p>	<p>Integration of low carbon advice into business support as standard</p>	<p>Increase in number of businesses adopting low carbon practices, reducing their carbon footprint and therefore costs.</p>
<p>2.2 Develop pilot business loan scheme to incentivise commitment to carbon reduction and wider sustainability goals</p> <p>2.2.1 Consider feasibility of additional small capital grant to install measures for priority small businesses</p>	<p>S by Mar 2014</p> <p>S by Jan 2014</p>	<p>SBC (Economic Development/Business Gateway)</p> <p>SBC (Economic Development/Business Gateway)</p>	<p>Integration of low carbon objectives into financial support mechanisms to local businesses.</p>	<p>Number of grant applicants taking forward low carbon actions.</p>

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
<p>2.3 Increase knowledge of low carbon options and support among local business</p> <p>2.3.1 Develop directory of case studies of good practice</p> <p>2.3.2 Develop 'green' business support network/'buddy' system supported by SBC Economic Development Team.</p> <p>2.3.3 Deliver programme of 'carbon conversations' for local businesses supported by SBC/SE</p>	<p>S by Dec 2013</p> <p>S by Mar 2014</p> <p>S by June 2013</p>	<p>SBC (Economic Development/Business Gateway)/Chamber of Commerce/Scottish Enterprise</p>	<p>Integration of low carbon objectives into all support mechanisms to local businesses. Development of programme support mechanisms.</p>	<p>Increase in number of local businesses taking part in support activities and pursuing low carbon business models.</p>

OBJECTIVE 3: DEVELOP THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
<p>3.1 Support development of the Borders Energy Agency (BEA)</p> <p>3.1.1 Commission BEA to develop renewables strategy for the Borders for communities, individuals, business and public sector.</p>	S by June 2013	SBC (Economic Development Team)/Scottish Enterprise/BEA/Community Energy Scotland	BEA will have accessed funding to allow project delivery.	Actions/projects delivered by BEA and carbon footprint of Borders reduced.
<p>3.2 Pursue establishment of Scottish Borders Woodfuel Forum</p> <p>3.2.1 Work with Forestry Commission to extend activity of SoS Woodfuel Forum as precursor to establishment of separate Borders Forum</p>	S by Mar 2014 S by June 2013	SBC (Econ Dev Team/Countryside and Heritage Team)/Forestry Commission/BEA	Borders Woodfuel Forum established and local support activities delivered.	Existence of Borders Woodfuel Forum and increase in information and networking activity in Scottish Borders
<p>3.3 Encourage supply chain by prioritising local woodfuel suppliers and technology installers for business support advice</p>	S by Dec 2013	SBC (Economic Development/Business Gateway)/Chamber of Commerce/Scottish Enterprise	Increase in value of woodfuel supply chain activity.	Number of local woodfuel businesses supported.

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
3.3.1 Linked to 2.3 – support advice to woodfuel businesses to increase access to markets/customers, target and prioritise.	S by Dec 2013		Increase in value of woodfuel supply chain activity.	Number of local woodfuel businesses supported.
3.3.2 Consider opportunities to add value to existing timber resources through provision of kiln drying facilities.	S by March 2014		Pursue feasibility study for kiln drying opportunities.	Completion of feasibility study.
3.4 Develop joint action with partner agencies, e.g. Scottish Water to develop new technologies and systems to reduce carbon intensity in processes	S by Mar 2015	SBC/SE	Development of series of joint initiatives resulting in reduced carbon emissions.	Number of new low carbon processes developed and feasibility tested.
3.5 Identify key industry partner to develop series of priority small scale hydro energy schemes. Schemes to act as demonstration opportunities, attracting further investment in additional sites across the area.	S by Mar 2015	SBC (Economic Development Team/Energy Economics Team)/Scottish Enterprise	Agreement with industry partner and establishment of targeted series of small scale schemes.	Number of hydro schemes identified and progressed.
3.6 Develop local strategy for delivery of district heating schemes.	S by Mar 2015	SBC (Forward Planning Team/Energy Economics Team)/Borders Energy Agency	Agree local strategy for installation of local schemes.	Number of district heating schemes installed.

OBJECTIVE 4: LOW CARBON BUILDINGS - SUSTAINABLE PLACES
4A: NEW BUILD

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
4a.1 Include energy efficiency as a key criteria in annual Design Awards assessment, and promote buildings which have achieved high Building Regulations ratings for energy efficiency/low carbon.	S by Dec 2012	SBC (Countryside and Heritage Team)	Addition of energy criteria to Design Awards and promotion of good practice.	Number of submissions demonstrating good practice in low carbon building.
4a.2 SBC to publicise local examples of low/zero carbon demonstration developments in partnership with developer. To include examples of SBC commissioned / delivered projects / Eildon HA & private sector to show range of opportunities	M by Mar 2016	SBC (Development Management Team)	Publication of good design practice.	Number of examples of low carbon case studies identified.
4a.3 Provide programme of CPD events for design and construction professionals using key demonstration sites identified above.	S by Mar 2014	Borders Energy Agency /SBC (Development Management Team)	Delivery of training sessions	Number of training sessions delivered.
4a.4 Agree SBC approach to low carbon developments in relation to application of Building Regulations to deliver improved performance.	S by Mar 2014	SBC (Development Management Team)	Production of SBC Advice Note	Number of applications submitted with reduced carbon impact.

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
4a.5 Ensure implementation of above approach through provision of information and guidance to public/applicants/developers on low carbon construction and design. Incentives will be required to make this work e.g. priority assessment of Building Standards applications if proposal exceeds minimum requirements.	S by Dec 2013	SBC (Development Management Team)	Standard advice provided by SBC planning Officers	Number of applications submitted with reduced carbon impact.
4a.6 Provide programme of training and awareness raising on low carbon building for officers, Elected Members and community partners This is especially important for SBC Client groups / decision makers / Finance to ensure a clear understanding of requirements for additional time & budget at design stage if this is Action is to be successful.	S by Mar 2014	SBC (Development Management Team)/Energy Economics Team	Delivery of training sessions.	Number of delegates trained.
4a.7 Create a demonstration project of a small sustainable business park to attract inward development aimed at attracting micro-energy businesses.	M by Mar 2015	SBC (Economic Development / Architects)	Energy efficient / sustainable units available for rent	Creation of facility
4a.8 Create a demonstration project of private ownership low carbon housing (12 units) with the purpose of demonstrating commercial viability for the mainstream market.	M by Mar 2016	SBC (Economic Development / Architects / Local Developer	Energy efficient housing for sale at an affordable price that looks like mainstream housing.	Creation of facility

OBJECTIVE 4: LOW CARBON BUILDINGS - SUSTAINABLE PLACES
4B: RETROFIT TO EXISTING BUILDINGS

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
4b.1 Develop effective programme of Green Deal delivery for the Scottish Borders (Link to 1.4)	S by Dec 2013	SBC (Housing Strategy Team /Energy Economics Team)/Registered Social Landlords	Programme with targets for number of homes with appropriate measures installed	Increase in number of appropriate energy efficiency and renewable installations
4b.2 Develop pilot project to assess a sample of specific house types in the Borders, to identify bespoke technical solutions for energy conservation linked to placemaking and heritage objectives. (Link to 1.4)	S by Jan 2013	SBC (Housing Strategy Team /Energy Economics Team / Architects)/Registered Social Landlords	Delivery of pilot project	Number of bespoke applications developed.
4b.3 (Link to 3.6) Promote inclusion of local heat networks within appropriately sized new housing/business developments through planning policy and implementation process.	S by Dec 2013 (LDP timetable)	SBC (Forward Planning Team/Energy Economics Team)/Borders Energy Agency	Agree local strategy for installation of local schemes.	Number of district heating schemes installed.

OBJECTIVE 5: TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
<p>5.1 Development of a sustainable and combined transport services project for the Scottish Borders</p> <p>5.1.1 Appointment of project manager and development of Project Initiation Document</p> <p>5.1.2 Development of partnership solutions.</p>	<p>S by March 2013</p> <p>M by March 2014</p>	SBC Chief Executives Office on behalf of Community Planning Joint Delivery Team	<p>Range of innovative, integrated, value for money transport options for Scottish Borders residents.</p> <p>Integrated transport solutions for older people accessing health and social care services.</p> <p>Simple, efficient and environmentally friendly onward journey options from Stow, Galashiels and Tweedbank stations.</p>	<p>Increased satisfaction with public transport (Scottish Household Survey).</p> <p>Increase in percentage of journeys to work made by public or active travel.</p>
5.2 Review Scottish Borders Local Transport Strategy in 2013.	S by Dec 2013	SBC (Forward Planning Team)	Updated LTS produced.	LTS produced.
5.3 Plan for expanded 'safe cycling' route network	S by Mar 2015	SBC (Passenger Transport Team)	Plan produced.	Increase in number of proposed routes.
5.4 Develop joint programme of personal travel planning support for SBC & NHS staff	S by Mar 2015	SBC (Passenger Transport Team)/NHS Borders	Travel plan produced.	Increase in number of staff implementing personal travel plans

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
5.5 Increase promotion and awareness of car sharing for staff	S by Mar 2013	SBC (Treadlightly Team/NHS Borders)	Delivery of promotional materials and awareness sessions.	Increase in number of staff who car share
5.6 Access fuel efficient driving advice for Community Councils.	S by Dec 2013	SBC (Community Engagement Officer)/Community Councils	Delivery of training sessions	Number of CCs which have accessed training
5.7 Provide next generation broadband services to the Scottish Borders	M by 2020	SBC/S Govt/Community Planning Partners	Broadband infrastructure in place	Percentage of premises with access to next generation broadband
5.8 Ensure sufficient recharging points across the Borders for electric vehicles	M by Mar 2018	SBC (Fleet Management Team)	Installation of points	Number of recharging points installed
5.9 Investigate options for public transport shuttles between major employers and key towns	S by Dec 2013	SBC (Passenger Transport Team)	Assessment of options and produce recommendations	Recommendations implemented

OBJECTIVE 6: SKILLS AND EDUCATION

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
6.1 Support delivery of programme of low carbon training opportunities with Borders College	S by Sept 2013	Borders College /SBC (Economic Development Team)/Scottish Enterprise	Training courses delivered and increase in number of trained individuals.	Increase in number of individuals having completed training courses.
6.1.1 Assess current training opportunities/provision which include low carbon/energy management skills	S by Dec 2013	Borders College /SBC (Economic Development Team)/Scottish Enterprise	Assessment complete	Recommendations for development/uptake of courses
6.1.2 Assess opportunities for peer support between businesses through low carbon networks/'buddy' systems.	S by Mar 2014	SBC (Economic Development Team)/Chamber of Commerce	Development of programme support mechanisms.	Increase in number of local businesses taking part in support activities and pursuing low carbon business models.
6.1.3 Develop delivery of programme for workshops with secondary schools as part of Curriculum for Excellence	S by Aug 1014	SBC (ELL)	Programme available for implementation	Programme delivered.
6.2 Develop and resource programme of community capacity building delivering local resilience and low carbon skills	S-M by Mar 2015	SBC (Community Engagement Officer /Registered Social Landlords	Development of resourced programme of support	Number of community groups with increased capacity and skills as a result of training etc.

6.3 Work with Skills Development Scotland on low carbon apprenticeships – set annual targets for number of apprenticeships	S by Mar 2015	SBC (Economic Development Team/Borders College /SDS	Agreed programme of apprentice support	Number of apprenticeships created
Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
6.4 Investigate support required to allow local businesses to train staff on energy efficiency skills (energy assessment, installation, etc)	S by Dec 2013	SBC (Economic Development Team/Scottish Enterprise/ Chamber of Commerce / BCIF if still in existence	Identify support required and sources of funding	Number of local businesses which have diversified into low carbon skills.
6.5 Deliver Theme 4 above of Learning and Skills Partnership Plan – ‘Workforce Development of Meeting the Challenge’ 6.5.1 Develop action plan, targets and process for L & S Partnership to address priorities noted – key to low carbon skills development.	S by Mar 2014	SBC (Economic Development Team)/Borders College /Scottish Enterprise /Chamber of Commerce	Production of action plan.	Delivery of priority actions within action plan.

OBJECTIVE 7: ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
7.1 Full risk assessment process for climate change risks within SBC as lead partner within Community Plan	S by Dec 2013	SBC (Properties and Facilities Management Tea/Major Projects Team/Emergency Planning Team/Adaptation Scotland	Risk assessment complete	Reduced exposure to CC risks and increased capacity to respond
7.2 Support/extend community resilience planning to include all extreme weather events response	S by Dec 2013	SBC (Emergency Planning Team)/NHS/police	Extended resilience plan approved	Number of communities supported
7.3 Support development of community resilience action plans, to cover transportation, essential supplies, medical needs, etc.	S by Dec 2013	SBC (Emergency Planning Team)/NHS/police	Extended resilience plan approved	Number of communities supported
7.4 Undertake scenario planning for extreme weather events using SCLIP models 7.4.1. Use CC impact to plan for likely emergency/adverse weather events. (link to 7.2) 7.4.2 Work with key partners to address forward planning issues, esp. NHS.	S by Mar 2014 S by Dec 2013 S by Mar 2014	SBC (Emergency Planning Team)/NHS/police	Deliver scenario planning exercise/project	Reduced exposure to CC risks and increased capacity to respond

Proposed Actions	Timescale (Short, medium, long)	Lead Partner	Output	Indicator
<p>7.5 SBC to develop Adaptation Plan for all SBC infrastructure</p> <p>7.5.1 Scope plan and agree process for development.</p>	S by Dec 2014	SBC (Properties and Facilities Management Tea/Major Projects Team/Emergency Planning Team/Adaptation Scotland	Adaptation plan produced	Improved ability to predict climate change impacts and plan/resource response