

Report to	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	25 July 2005
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Environmental Management Programme
Purpose of Report	To update the Lead Cabinet Member on the progress of the Environmental Management Programme and to recommend endorsement of the programme for 2005-2007

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. To note the progress made on the Environmental Management Programme to date.**
 - 2. To agree the extension of current activity through external funding, as set out in Paragraph 3.1.**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 One of the objectives of the Environmental Management programme is to contribute to the Reconciling Policy and Resources process by reducing East Sussex County Council's operating costs, notably by using energy and water more efficiently and sending less waste to landfill. For example, £22,000 has been contributed to the cost of installing energy efficient equipment to a number of County Council boilers, which will provide a net saving on our energy bills of approximately £75,000 over the next five years. This funding has been provided through a successful European Union (EU) bid, devised and led by the County Council for environmental management work between 2003-2005.

1.2 A second bid to the same EU fund in order to maintain this internal environmental management programme during 2005-2007 has been approved. Match funding of £10,000 will be provided by Property Services within the Corporate Resources Directorate.

1.3 A second key objective of the Environmental Management programme is to assist local businesses to use resources more efficiently in order that they may also reduce their operating costs and impacts on the environment, in particular their waste being sent to landfill. This assistance is co-ordinated through the Sustainable Business Partnership, which is led by the County Council and comprises all the Borough and District Councils, Government Office of the South East (GOSE), the Environment Agency, a local environmental charity, and Business Link Sussex. The Partnership successfully bid for £260,000 of external funds to provide free support to local businesses during 2003-5. A recent successful bid to the Leader+ external fund will enable a scaled-down version of this programme to continue. The County Council is contributing £20,000 of match funding from the Waste Management Group.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 This report:

- sets out progress made between 2000 and 2005 in improving the County Council's internal environmental performance (Appendix 1) ;
- indicates the support the County Council has provided to the local business community during 2003-2005 (Appendix 2); and

- seeks endorsement of the proposed targets and additional bids for external funding to extend these activities during and beyond 2005-2007.

3. Comments/Appraisal

3.1 A successful bid to the EU's INTERREG programme in June for £50,000 of grant will help to maintain our internal environmental management programme during 2005-2007. In addition, a successful bid to Leader+ for £45,000 of grant in May will enable environmental services to be provided to part of the local business community during 2005-2007. These programmes will aim to deliver the following between 2005-2007:

Internally:

- 1) extend our waste reduction programme to 6 additional County Council locations;
- 2) improve energy efficiency in County Council buildings by 2%.

These will:

- help to ensure that the County Council is complying with environmental legislation;
- demonstrate the County Council leading by example;
- support the achievement of external statutory objectives, notably by encouraging householders to recycle more of their waste;
- assist in achieving the targets set out in our Corporate carbon management plan (adopted by the Cabinet in April 2005);
- and reduce our current operating costs and help to mitigate growing waste and energy costs.

Externally:

Assist 175 local businesses to achieve a measurable reduction in their operating costs and environmental impacts, in particular on waste.

This will:

- implement the recent recommendation from the Waste Local Plan Inspector to assist businesses to reduce and recycle more of their waste;
- assist the key corporate objective of increasing the economic health of the County;
- enable the County Council to continue to demonstrate a favourable response to the relevant questions in the 'Shared Priorities' questionnaire, which contributes to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment evaluation.

Bids will be made for additional funding beyond those already submitted are recommended, in order to increase the scale of the improvements proposed above.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 An extension of current activity through external funding, as set out in Paragraph 3.1, will support a range of County Council objectives and assists local businesses.

BOB WILKINS
Director of Transport and Environment

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Local Member(s): All

The County Council's Internal Environmental Performance: 2000 - 2005

The County Council's main negative environmental impacts are similar to those of other Local Authorities, namely the energy and water it uses in its buildings, its business travel, and the waste it throws away.

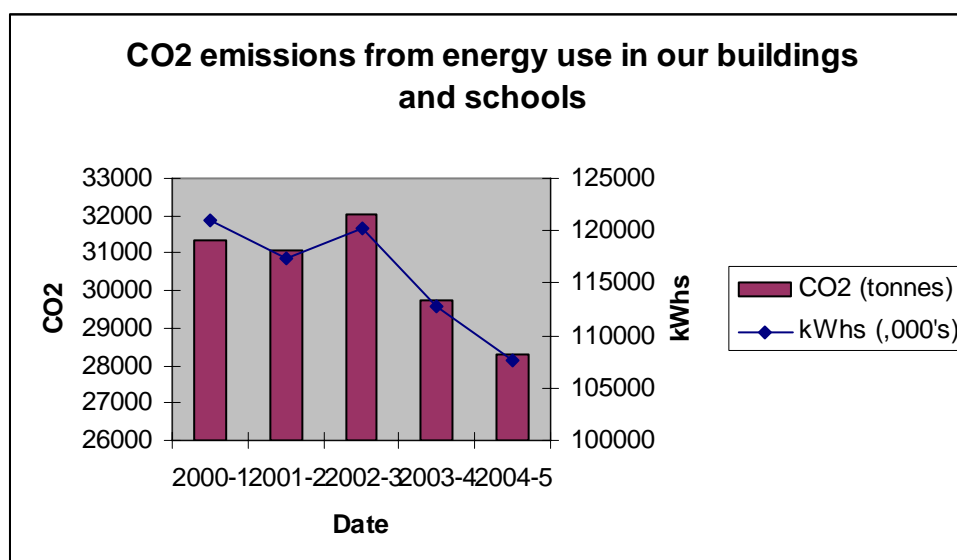
ENERGY

During 2004/05 the County Council:

- used approximately 107 gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy in its schools and the buildings in which it pays for and monitors the energy use, at a cost of £2.5 million, equivalent to the monthly electricity consumption of over 250,000 residents (NB: due to billing errors by a current supplier there is some data outstanding for 2004/05);
- Approved a corporate biomass strategy in April 2004, and a carbon management action plan in April 2005 to cut ESCC carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) - the main greenhouse gas – by contributing to the government's reduction target of 20% of (CO₂) from 1990 levels by 2010 ;
- Achieved an overall reduction of 960 tonnes of CO₂ (a reduction of about 4% from 2003/04). This was mostly achieved by the implementation of the following schemes:
 - Installation of a geothermal heat pump at Park Mead Primary School, which has been operational since January 2005;
 - Renewal of the contract for the provision of 100% renewable electricity at County Hall in October 2004, and putting our smaller buildings on 100% renewable electricity from March 2005 (this alone will reduce our annual CO₂ emissions by about 20%);
 - Installed burner management controls in 14 Social Services buildings, following the successful trial at County Hall during 2003/04;
 - Publicising a good housekeeping guide on the intranet to encourage staff to 'do their bit' to reduce energy costs.

Graph 1 shows the amount of CO₂ generated as a result of the energy used in our schools and buildings between 2000 - 2005.

Graph 1:



During 2005-6 we have a target to reduce our CO₂ by a further 1%. We will achieve this by:

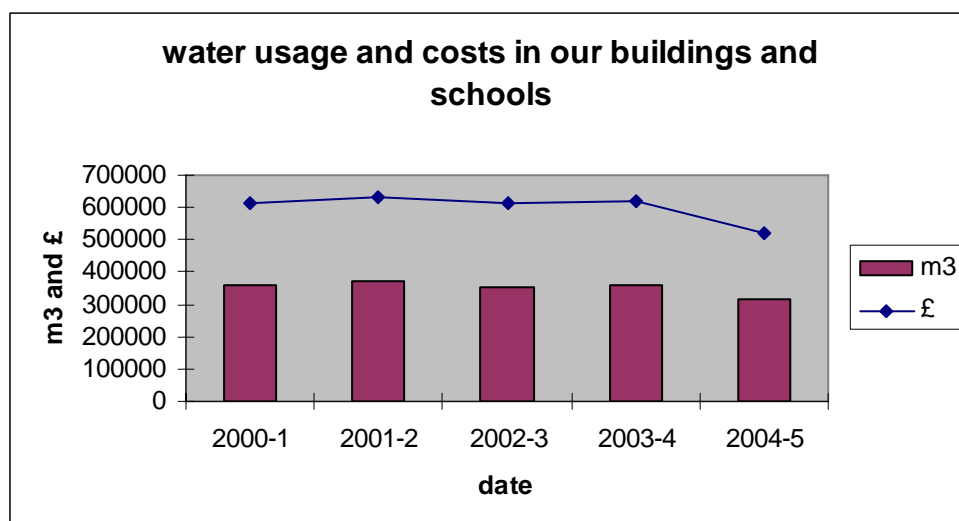
- implementing our carbon management programme through our 'invest-to-save' fund of £100,000 p.a. from 2005-6, which has been provided for in the County Council's capital programme. This will be targeted to projects that achieve a financial pay-back of five years or less, and will be used to lever in external funds, where possible.
- We will produce a league table of poor performing buildings, so that we can target our resources at those buildings that will yield the best savings. Other schemes being considered include, for instance:
 - installing a transformer at County Hall that will match our electricity usage more effectively to our needs;
 - installing a biomass boiler at Beacon Community College;
 - providing training to controllers of premises on what they can do to help reduce energy costs and CO₂.
- Producing a Sustainable Buildings Brief, which will be developed into an output specification with targets for energy performance, for use in our maintenance and new build programmes.

WATER

During 2004-5 the County Council:

- used approximately 320,000 m³ of water in its buildings and schools stock (see: graph 2). This is a decrease of approximately 11% over 2003-4, partly due to outstanding bills and changes in our building stock;
- reduced our water usage by installing water efficiency measures at 2 locations with high water usage.

Graph 2.



During 2005/06 we will:

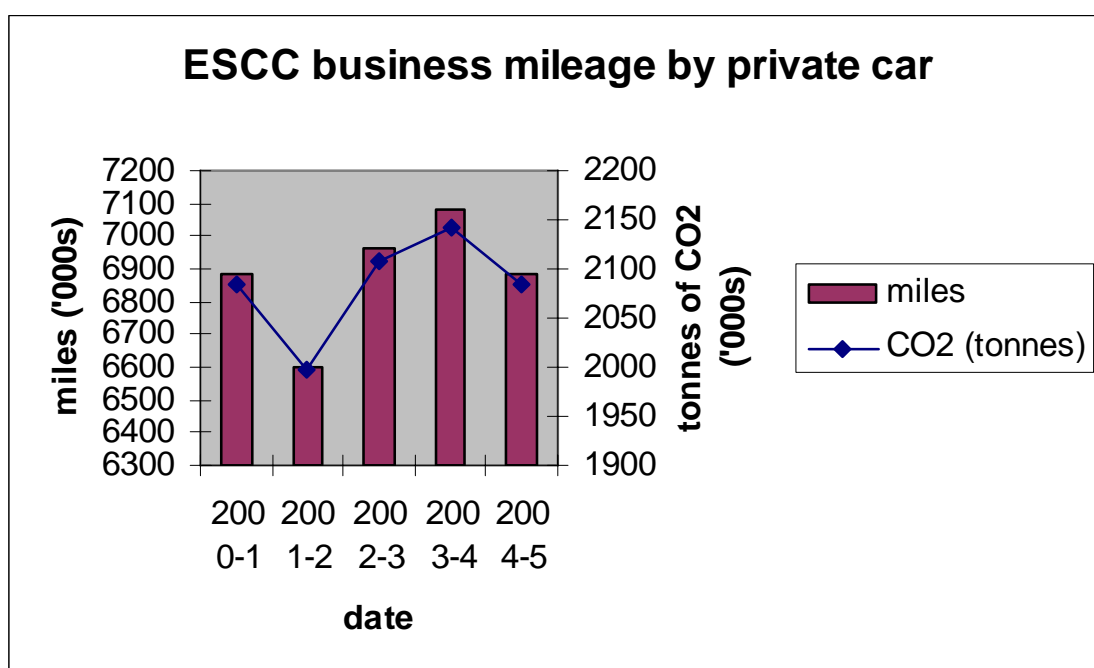
- measure the benefits of our actions taken during 2004/05;
- carry out 2 more detailed site audits of poor performing buildings in order to identify the most economical improvement measures.

TRANSPORT

In 2004/05:

- County Councillors and staff travelled over seven million miles by private car on business at a cost of approximately £2 million, a decrease of approximately 3% over 2003-4 (see: graph 3). This may be due to the measures implemented via the staff travel plan, for instance the greater use of the pool cars;
- the County Council introduced parking charges for staff at County Hall, as part of the wider decriminalisation of parking scheme within Lewes;
- we bought four additional video-conferencing units for key County Council locations, to reduce the need for business travel.

Graph 3.



During 2005/06 we will:

- set new targets and an implementation plan for phase 2 of our staff travel plan;
- monitor the average CO2 emissions from our leased fleet.

WASTE

During 2004-5 the County Council:

- implemented a waste reduction programme across key office accommodation, including St Mary's House, St Mark's House and Milton Court residential care home in Eastbourne, and County Hall in Lewes, in order to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill;
- achieved a total reduction of 17 tonnes, representing an average of 16% from the above sites (see graph 4 for the reduction achieved at County Hall).

Graph 4.



During 2005-6 we will:

- maintain the rate of waste reduction achieved at the above sites during 2004-5 through a targeted staff awareness campaign, and measure our success through detailed waste audits;
- roll out recycling facilities to another 3 key locations.

East Sussex County Council's Environmental Support to Businesses: 2003-5

The County Council leads the Sustainable Business Partnership, which includes representatives from all East Sussex local authorities, GOSE, the Environment Agency, Ecosys (a local environmental charity) and Business Link Sussex, and is a delivery partner within SEEDA's Regional Economic Strategy. During 2003-5 some of the key services offered free to local businesses via SBP projects included:

- Training 300 businesses;
- Carrying out 53 environmental audits;
- Awarding small grants to 16 businesses to make environmental improvements;
- Raising business awareness via 40 case studies and the distribution of 6 issues of a newsletter to over 4,000 businesses.

From these services 189 businesses have implemented improvements, enabling them collectively to:

- save nearly £263,000 p.a., year on year;
- reduce waste going to landfill by over 1,900 tonnes;
- save 469 tonnes of CO₂ and over 17,000m³ of water.

The table below illustrates the potential financial benefit to businesses of reducing their operating costs:

Assuming a turnover of:	£1 million
A profit of 10%:	£100,000
Energy costs of 4% of turnover:	£40,000
Energy savings potential of 20% of the energy bill:	£8,000
A 20% reduction in energy bills would increase profits by:	8%
The increased equivalent turnover required would be:	£80,000