

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan: Gloucestershire County Council



About the project:

Severe flooding in Gloucestershire in July 2007 provided a sharp reminder of the risks of climate change. In 2008, Gloucestershire County Council commissioned CAG Consultants to develop an integrated climate change strategy and action plan. The Council was working to improve the resilience of communities to flooding and heat waves, and had made significant efforts to put its own house in order through awareness raising, participation in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme, and improving energy and resource efficiency across the council's buildings and schools. The County Council's foresight in using its risk management approach to identify risks of future flooding enabled them to insure the County's schools in 2006/07 and save £1.9 million when they were flooded in 2007.

Climate Change involvement:

CAG Consultants brought together these actions under one action plan, and, through desk research, interviews with council officers and stakeholders and an interactive workshop, developed a strategy to take forward the Council's action on climate change. The strategy supported Gloucestershire County Council's vision that by 2020, climate change will be integral to decisions about how it delivers its services, and in its work with partners to secure the future of Gloucestershire, the region and beyond. The strategy and action plan identified priorities and detailed actions across each council directorate to help the Council become an 'excellent' council in mitigating climate change, and to reach Level 3 in line with National Indicator 188: Planning to adapt to climate change by 2012.

Key outputs:

The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan have now been adopted by the Council and has led to work with managers across the Council to understand vulnerability and resilience to climate change. The County Council is also leading a group, including all 7 district authorities, the university and Primary Care Trust to reduce public sector emissions.

"It would be fair to say that GCC's work with CAG enabled us to facilitate a step change towards dealing with issues of climate change."

Peter Wiggins, Corporate Sustainability Manager, Gloucestershire County Council.

