

vision

sustainable development and climate
change strategy for falkirk council



2012 - 2017

the 2 minute version

If you had the choice, what kind of place would you want to live in? To work in? You'd probably say something like – I'd like to live in an area that has plenty of jobs, where the economy is thriving, we've got good quality housing, good schools and where my family and I feel safe.

Can you have that?

We deserve warm, well built homes, with well used and affordable public transport. It would be great for children to be able to cycle safely to school. Many of us would like to grow some of our own food and maybe generate some of our own energy.

What about the jobs? Could Falkirk become the cradle of another Industrial Revolution? We've got the workforce, the work ethic, the skills and our population is growing. But can you really grow the economy without damaging the quality of people's lives or destroying the environment? Yes you can. That's what sustainable development is all about.

Who could make that happen?

It's a matter of scale. Take just one example – waste. As a householder, you can choose to recycle all that you can and to dump as a last resort. As a council, we can make sure that we provide the bins and uplifts and that we set up contracts where as much 'waste' as possible is recycled with landfill only as the last resort. As a business, you can look at that recycling and work out who would buy it and how you can turn that waste into jobs. So the answer is – everyone.

I thought that we were all meant to be doomed by climate change.

We're not doomed. We will have more severe weather events but we're resilient and we're learning to cope. We've shown that we can cope with heavy snow, storms and heavy rain. Our communities and businesses are good at coping and we'll get better still. We also need to use less energy in order to cut greenhouse gases. Rocketing fuel bills mean that most of us are already very keen to do that. Turn these threats on their head and you've got some fantastic business opportunities. Falkirk wasn't the cradle of the Industrial Revolution for nothing...!

Turning it into action

This document spells out how Falkirk Council plans to work on sustainable development and climate change over the next five years. It will help you to understand what the area could look like if we all worked on it together. This document is a strategy, which means that it paints the general picture. The detail of actions that are planned are in the action plan which supports this. The Sustainability & Climate Change Action Plan highlights over 100 examples of projects in our Council area that will help to turn these ideas into reality. So tell us about your ideas and projects too.

contents

How to use this Document	4
Foreword	6
Introduction	8
Sustainable Development & Climate Change	10
Context	14
The Strategic Vision And Aims	16
• Living Within Environmental Limits	
• Achieving A Sustainable Economy	
• Ensuring A Strong, Healthy And Just Society	
• Promoting Good Governance	
• Using Sound Science Responsibly	
What Can You Do To Contribute?	30
Appendices	32
• Appendix 1 - UK Guiding Principles	
• Appendix 2 - Falkirk Council's Community Planning Partners	
• Appendix 3 - Sustainable Development & Climate Change Legislation & Policy Context	
• Appendix 4 - Sources of Useful Information	
• Appendix 5 - Glossary of Terms Used	

how to use this document

When writing this document, we were aware that many people find it difficult to envisage what Sustainable Development means in reality. We also tried to keep it brief and easy to read.

Throughout the strategy we have tried to paint a picture of what our Council area might look like if we did manage to achieve a balance of sustainable development, and therefore give readers an idea of what we can aim for. The Council and its partners have already made substantial progress in many areas. When we describe what we might aim for, this does not necessarily imply that we have not already achieved it in some instances, or to some degree. The action plan that will follow this strategy will amply demonstrate the progress to date and projects underway.

A photograph of a family of five walking on a grassy hill. There are two adults and three children. The sky is blue with large white clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

foreword



Councillor
Dr Craig R. Martin

Sustainable development and climate change are becoming increasingly prominent issues that affect each and every one of us.

Great strides have been made since the term 'sustainable development' was coined in the 1980s and we all benefit from having cleaner water, cleaner air and safer working environments than used to be commonplace. However, increasing populations, improved living standards, greater mobility and higher individual expectations are placing even greater pressure on finite supplies of energy and natural resources. In addition, the pressing threat of climate change to our environment, communities and economy is now widely recognised. The need to maintain a sustainable development and climate change strategy is therefore greater than ever.

This strategy has been prepared so that Falkirk Council can remain at the centre of tackling the issues of sustainable development and securing a prosperous and healthy future for generations to come. However, sustainable development cannot be achieved by any organisation working in isolation. We want this strategy to be an inspiration to our community planning partners, businesses and everyone who lives or works in the area. We all have an important part to play in ensuring the Falkirk area is a safer, wealthier, fairer, healthier and greener place for the generations to come.

“a wheen o’ mickles
mak’s a muckle”



introduction

This document updates the Council's Sustainable Falkirk Strategy 2006 – 2011 which successfully promoted sustainable development throughout the Falkirk Council area during this period. The main aims of that strategy were to achieve a healthier environment, a more prosperous economy and inclusive society. In 2013 these aims are as relevant as ever.

This revised strategy further commits Falkirk Council to putting sustainable development and dealing with climate change at the centre of everything it does. It also sets out the Council's responsibilities for actions it can implement directly and areas that the Council can influence by enabling others within the wider community.

Early discussions with the public suggested that they find it difficult to imagine what a sustainably developed area might look like. We picked out the Scottish Government's five priorities and, in each section, listed examples of actions or values that describe what our area might look like if we reach those goals. They also reported that they found some policy documents to be 'dry' and full of jargon. We have tried to keep this document as concise and as clear as possible.

This strategy has been developed by the Council through consultation with its community planning partners, partner organisations and public consultation. Consultees will also be invited to contribute actions to the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Action Plan that will result from this strategy. Actions will have clear targets and timescales with a constant revision process and progress reported annually through the committee process.

A glossary of terms used is provided at the back of the document.



“sustainable development and climate change are becoming increasingly prominent issues that affect each and every one of us”

Sustainable Development & Climate Change

Who Will Implement This Strategy?

We are all affected by the impacts of climate change and unsustainable forms of development, whether it is through rising fuel bills, loss of biodiversity or local traffic congestion. The strategy is therefore intended to be implemented by a wide range of community interests:

Council Elected Members and officers - by applying the policies and principles of sustainable development and climate change set out in the strategy.

Community planning partners - by signing up to these principles both as a basis for partnership working and in undertaking their own activities.

Community groups, businesses and individuals – by increasing awareness of how sustainable development and climate change can be placed at the centre of everything they do.

What Is Sustainable Development?

The concept of sustainable development goes back over 25 years. In 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development published the report "Our Common Future" which sought to find a way forward that tackled the need to address development as well as environmental protection. The Commission coined the term, 'sustainable development' and defined it as,

"Development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

In the past development was synonymous with commerce, new housing, infrastructure and industry. Making a profit often was at the expense of living conditions, social justice, health and the environment. However, it is now widely recognised and accepted that material consumption only contributes to wellbeing up to a point and that quality of life depends on social and environmental improvement as well as economic growth. A strong economy needs a strong society, and both of these depend on a healthy environment – see Figure 1.

Sustainable development is about integrating social, economic and environmental considerations, and achieving balance between the population's requirements and the carrying capacity (see glossary) of the environment. Finding solutions that achieve this "win-win" outcome is not straightforward and requires an approach that challenges previous thinking and changes the way that things are done at present.

Figure 1
Strong Sustainable Development

Diagram based on Scottish Government Theories and Principles for Sustainable Development



“climate is average data over 30 years... weather is what you see out of your window”

What Is Climate Change?

Climate is the average weather experienced over a long period. Climate change is said to be occurring when average temperature, precipitation, wind etc. differ significantly from previous average conditions and are seen to endure, bringing about corresponding changes in weather, ecosystems and socio-economic activity.

Climate change due to human activity is a step beyond this and is the most extreme manifestation of unsustainable development. Its impacts are now widely recognised at a local and global scale. As the volume of greenhouse gases (see glossary) from industrial, domestic and vehicle emissions issuing into the atmosphere continues at unprecedented rates, severe weather events have become more commonplace.

source * World Meteorological Organisation

Hasn't The Earth's Climate Always Changed?

Yes it has. The Earth's climate is not fixed, and in the past has changed many times in response to a variety of natural causes. Ecosystems have changed and adapted in response. The issue in the 21st century is enhanced climate change caused by human activities. Problems arise when the climate changes more quickly than ecosystems and communities can adapt.

Is Climate Change Science Sound?

Yes it is. The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is considered the world's definitive authority on the subject. In 2010 it noted:

“Globally, average temperatures have increased by 0.6 degrees centigrade since 1860 in the northern hemisphere. However the temperature increase during the 20th century was greater than during any other century in the last millennium, with the 1990s being the warmest decade of the millennium. The probable temperature rise by the end of this century will be between 1.8 and 4 degrees centigrade.

Sea levels have been increasing by one to two millimetres each year and are likely to rise between 28 and 43 centimetres by the end of this century. In the northern hemisphere, bird arrival, plant flowering, the animal breeding season and the arrival of insects is occurring earlier in the year. Tropical storms and extreme flooding are becoming more frequent.”

What Could Climate Change Means For Us?

In the UK we are likely to experience changes to weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including 'storminess' and associated risks of flash flooding. The severe cold and snow of December 2010 in central Scotland may or may not have been directly attributable to climate change, but did provide a graphic example of the disruption which severe weather can cause to transport networks, local infrastructure, social services and fuel supplies.



context

National Context

The UK Government published its first national sustainable development strategy in 1994. This was updated in 2005 with the publication of "Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy". This identified a key role for the public sector, particularly devolved and local government. This was to be achieved through consideration and review of their own practices and policies and as facilitators, enablers and educators over matters they may be able to influence, even though these may not be within their direct control.

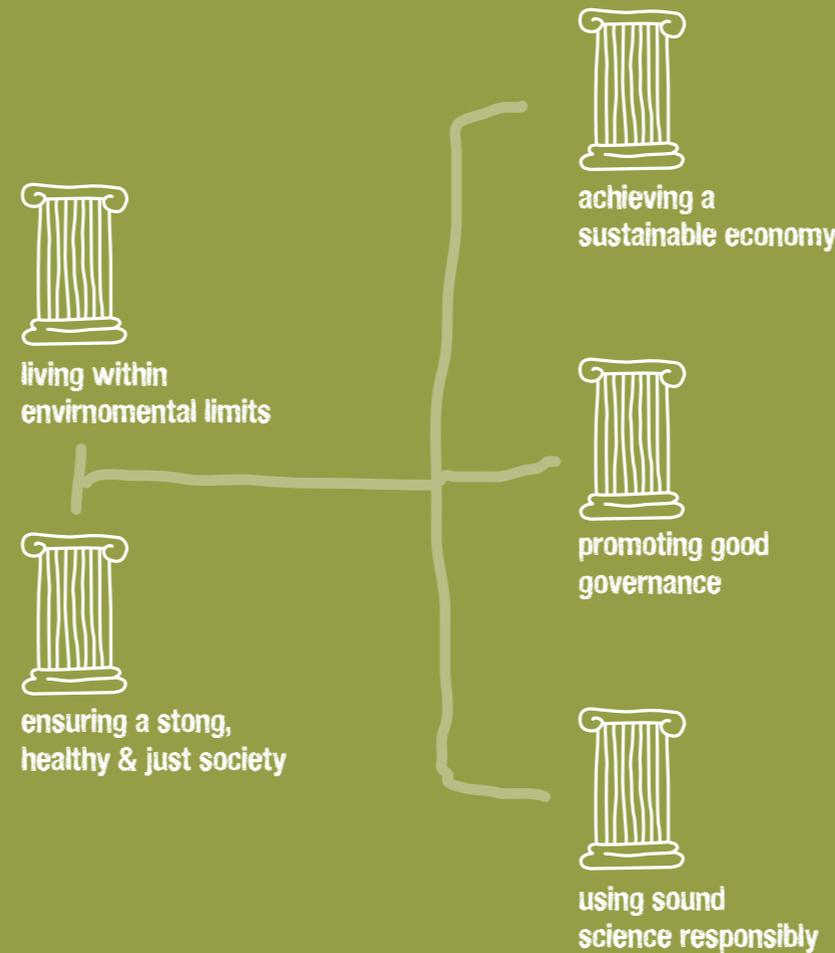
It also set out five key sustainability principles which now form the strategic basis for sustainable development in the UK. The diagram is based on the UK Sustainability Strategy and sets out these principles.

The relationship between national principles and the vision and aims of this strategy not only enables the strategy to focus on what is right for the Falkirk Council area, but also ensures that we are making a meaningful contribution to national sustainability objectives.

These principles underpin the central theme in this strategy: that a good quality of life for all can only be achieved if we recognise that economic, environmental and social requirements are inextricably linked. The successful delivery of sustainability also depends on good governance at national and local levels and making responsible use of the latest thinking in the development of policies, initiatives and projects.

the 5 pillars of sustainability

(Full version in Appendix 1)



Scottish Context What Are Falkirk Council's Obligations?

Falkirk Council has a responsibility under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to,

"discharge its duties ... in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development".

Best value guidance (see glossary) makes it clear that there should be commitment at Elected Member and senior officer level to contribute to achieving sustainable development. This should be reflected in the Council's strategies, policies and plans. The guidance also requires that these are informed by the views of its communities and community planning partners (see glossary). These partners include Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Forth Valley College, Transition Town Grangemouth, CVS Falkirk & District etc. A full list of partners is given in Appendix 2. Best value also places emphasis on measuring improvements in quality of life and reporting on this.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 looks at the role of public bodies and has made it a legal obligation for them to build climate change and sustainable development into all of

their work. The Act is the world's most ambitious climate change legislation, introducing a headline target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050, with an interim target of 42 per cent by 2020. The Scottish Government's delivery plan for achieving these ambitious targets envisages largely carbon neutral (see glossary) electricity generation by 2020, primarily carbon neutral heating for buildings by 2050, and the almost complete decarbonisation of road transport by 2050.

The full legislative framework guiding sustainable living and climate change mitigation and adaptation, is set out in Appendix 3.

This strategy will look at how Falkirk Council can meet its obligations and help elected Members, officers, community planning partners, community organisations and local people understand what they can do to contribute. The vision and aims included in this strategy, and how the Council intends to achieve these will be developed in a Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan and Carbon Management Plan (see glossary), along with targets and indicators of progress.

the strategic vision and aims

Sustainability Requirements

For development to be truly sustainable it must:

- Be concerned with the integration of social, economic and environmental objectives and not with trading advantages in one sphere against losses in another.
- Recognise the impacts that decisions taken locally will have on global concerns.
- Recognise the impacts that decisions taken now will have on generations in the future.
- Place a high emphasis on public engagement in decisions that affect them.

Consequently our **Strategic Vision** for the future is:

A Falkirk Council area where the sustainable use of resources and partnership working has resulted in economically and socially vibrant communities living in a flourishing natural environment.

The central **Strategic Aims** will be:

- To improve Falkirk Council's own performance with regard to its sustainable development and climate change duties.
- To support and encourage the efforts of Community Planning partners and local people in tackling the issues of sustainable development and climate change.
- To pursue goals, indicators and targets for continuous improvement, which can be monitored, reviewed and revised as conditions change.

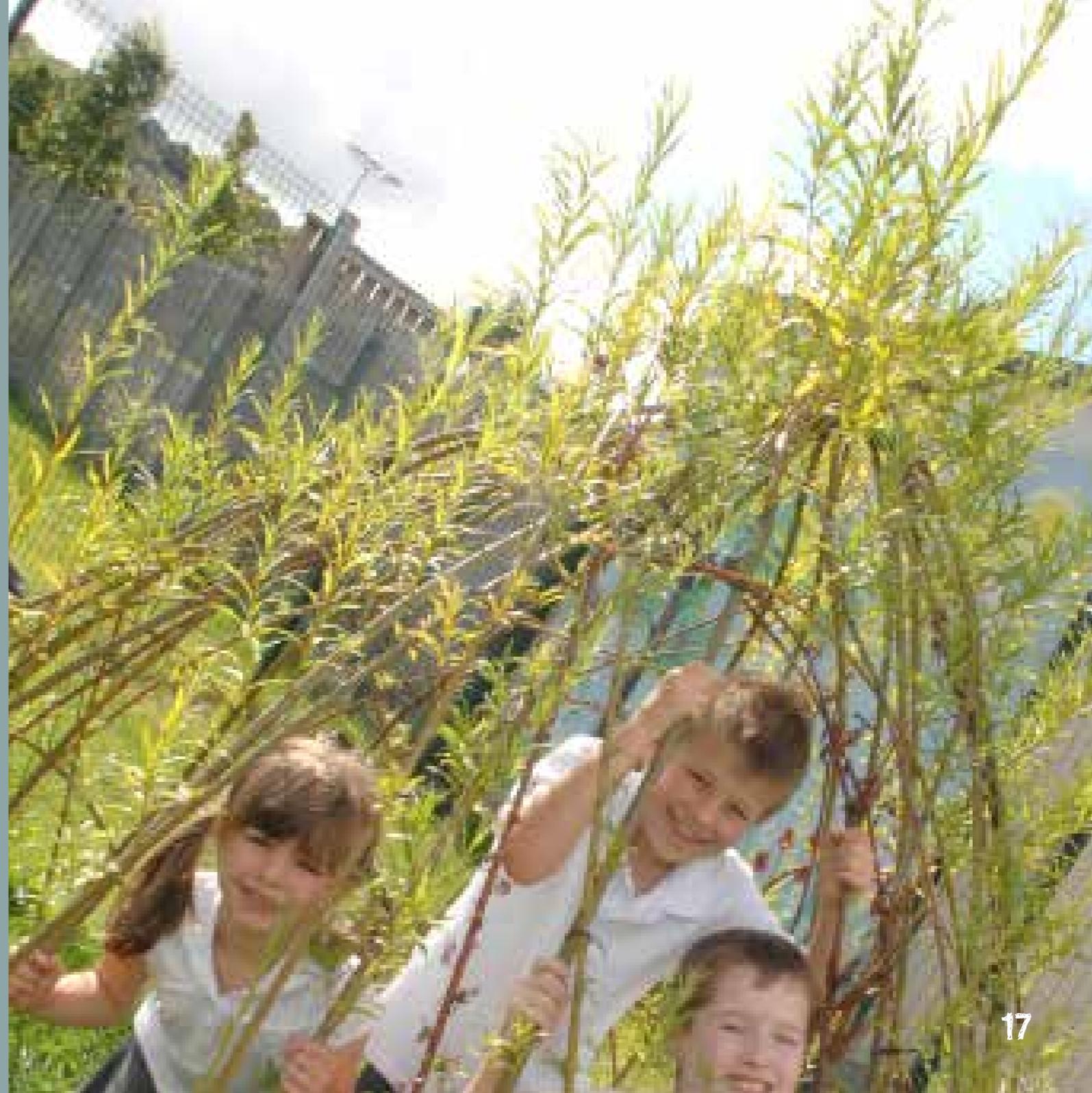
The environmental impacts of this strategy have been assessed and are documented in the accompanying strategic environmental assessment (SEA) report. The SEA has been prepared using a methodology which predicts and assesses the impact of plans, programmes and strategies on the environment.

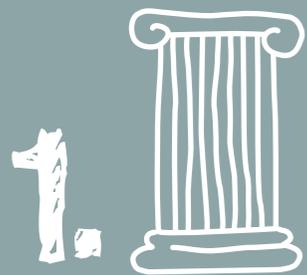
How are we going to tackle the strategy?

By considering the UK Government's five key sustainability principles:

- living within environmental limits
- ensuring a strong healthy and just society,
- achieving a sustainable economy
- promoting good governance
- using sound science responsibly

We have identified a framework for action which will take forward the above strategic vision and aims.





1. living within environmental limits

Locally and globally we are already “living beyond our means” and material consumption is out of balance with long term ecological sustainability. Increasing populations, improved living standards, greater mobility and higher individual expectations are placing even greater pressure on natural resources. If we don’t live within the carrying capacity of our environment, then we will not only jeopardise our economic prosperity and quality of life, but also the ecological systems on which we depend for our survival. We shall also deplete the stock of natural resources for future generations.

In order to ensure that we live within our means, we must establish what resources we currently use and how much we should use. Ecological footprinting can help with this. Your ecological footprint is a measure of how much of the planet’s natural resources – farmland, forest, minerals, oil, fresh water and sea would be needed to produce the goods and services for you to live your lifestyle. Globally people are using about 25% more than the planet can replace and, in the UK, we’re consuming three times our fair share. One of the greatest impacts on the environment and principal causes of climate change are carbon emissions from burning of fossil fuels (see glossary) to produce energy for heating, manufacturing and transportation. If we can reduce demand in all these areas we can use our natural resources more sustainably.



“people are using about 25% more than the planet can replace”

What would the Falkirk Council area be like if we did live within our environmental limits?

- It would be an area where the amount of energy used, especially in heating and lighting our homes, work places and public spaces would be minimised. Increasing the thermal efficiency of our homes will reduce energy waste and energy demand which can assist in the reduction of fuel poverty levels (though will not eradicate it whilst fuel prices remain high).
- Car use, particularly one person per car on the daily commute, would decrease. Public transport, car sharing, cycling and walking would become more common.
- Energy would be generated locally, from an appropriate network of renewable energy (see glossary) generators, using a variety of technologies. Communities, public bodies and businesses would set up these renewable energy sources, selling any excess to make profit for the local economy.
- Recycling and reclamation of valuable metals and chemicals from all our gadgets, cars and disposable items would be maximised. Dumping of waste in landfill would eventually become a thing of the past. Upgrading and repairing items instead of replacing would eventually once again be commonplace.
- A lot more of the food we eat would be produced locally.

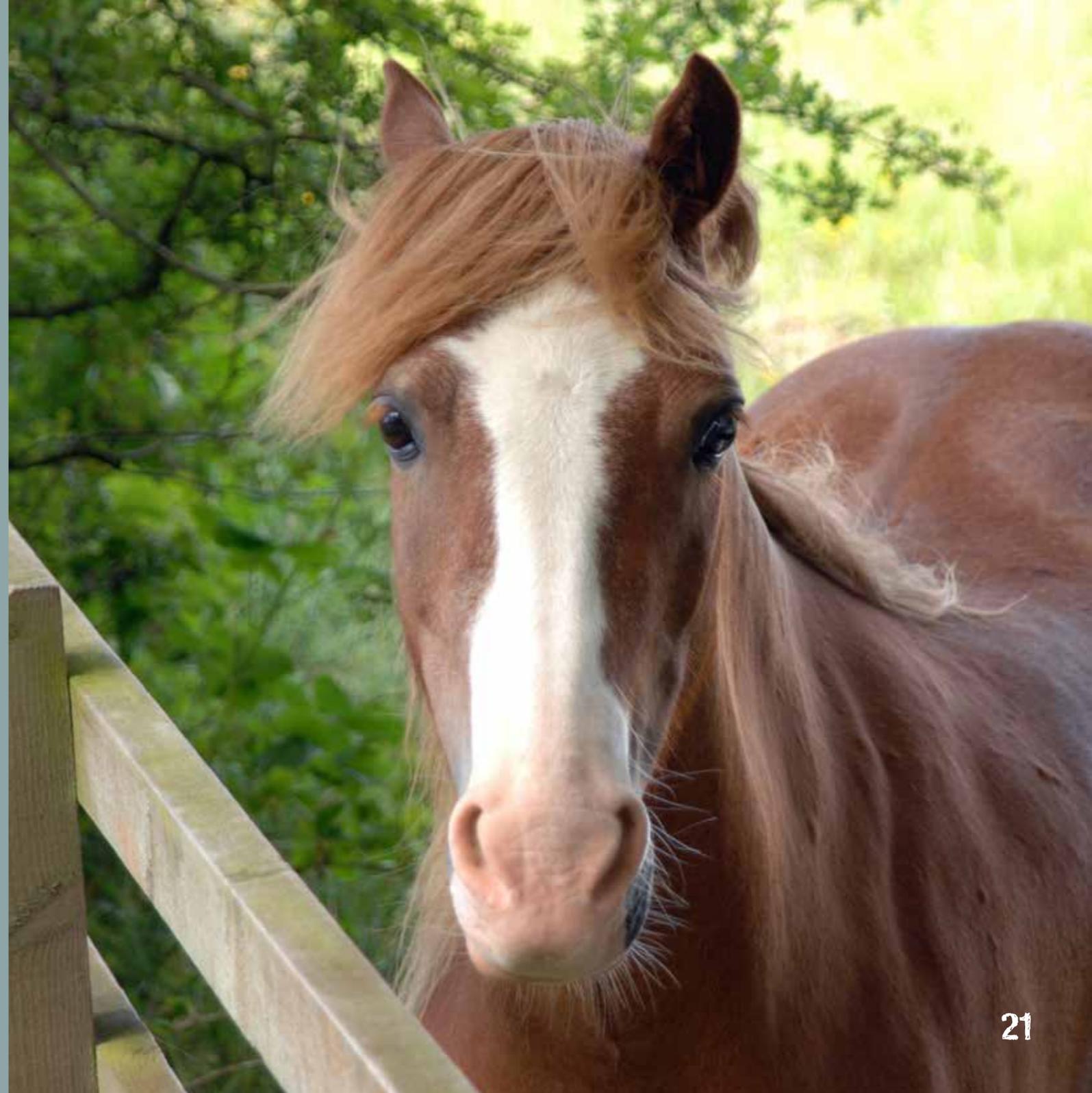
“improving the quality and quantity of open space”

How can we achieve this?

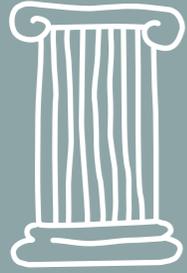
- By producing a Falkirk Council carbon management plan with targets and time-scales, to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations.
- By working with young people, communities, businesses and projects such as Transition Town Grangemouth (see glossary) to raise awareness of ecological footprinting to enable them to work out what things they can change and influence.
- By publicising the results of Low CO2 Vehicles Project with hybrid vehicles trialed by Falkirk Council and Police Scotland to show the benefits, and drawbacks, of these.
- By continuing to develop work with school communities to get parents and school staff to choose alternatives to the car, with walking buses and by co-ordinating lifts.
- By using advances in information technology to share school resources.
- By ensuring that all planning

- permission related Travel Plans are implemented and monitored.
- By encouraging large local employers to cut the mileage that their fleet vehicles travel by carefully planning routes and by setting targets to cut staff travel.
- By providing facilities for and encouraging use of conference calls and video conferencing.
- By continuing programmes to improve building fabric, insulation and heating systems.
- By moving away from a disposable society and lobbying manufacturers to produce items that are designed to allow upgrade and repair and amending procurement policies to favour these.
- By purchasing re-used, recycled furniture.
- By using Government Buying Standards in all relevant procurement activities.
- By improving air and water quality and using water more efficiently.
- By improving soil quality and

- promoting sustainable agriculture and forestry.
- By promoting and increasing biodiversity, and extending care for designated nature areas, habitat networks and green spaces.
- By improving the quality and quantity of open space.
- By understanding how our natural systems can be valued more in terms of their contribution to managing flood risk.
- By accelerating climate change adaptation (see glossary) in the Falkirk area.
- By encouraging allotment provision throughout the Council area and the production of locally grown food.
- By maintaining and extending a Council-wide footpath/ cycling network.



2.



achieving a sustainable economy

Economic development used to go hand in hand with environmental damage and the exploitation of communities. Sustainable development improves the environment whilst boosting economies and supporting communities. In times where we are seeing energy prices escalate and demand surge from new industrial nations our economy faces threats and also opportunities. The potential for green jobs (see glossary) is becoming a reality, with more and more people moving from landfilling to recycling, energy from waste projects, renewable energy and green tourism. The Falkirk Council area's strong industrial past presents the opportunity for a green industrial future.

What would a sustainable Falkirk Council area economy be like?

It would be an area where none of its waste goes direct into landfill - a target date of 2050 has been set by the Scottish Government for this. The area would have facilities to recover large quantities of waste resources to resell, and would use any left over to generate energy. Continuous commitment to the Waste Hierarchy will continue to be the key decision making tool, with energy from waste as the last resort. The opportunity for job creation and finding new economically viable uses for what we used to call waste would be developed.

Existing industrial expertise would have installed renewable technologies, in the right locations, allowing the Council area to reduce its carbon footprint and increase fuel security whilst decreasing its reliance on fuel sources with a large ecological footprint.

A significant proportion of Scotland's petro-chemical industry is located in Grangemouth which is home to Scotland's largest container terminal handling in excess of 8 million tones of cargo per year, including 145,000 containers in 2011. Approximately 350 businesses and 10,000 homes in the Council area are at risk of flooding during a 1 in 200 year flood. So, for the area to be truly sustainable, it would be one where the threat of severe weather events such as flooding is planned for through coordinated contingency planning. Businesses and communities would be aware of threats and actions that they could take to reduce risk and both would have developed mechanisms to adapt and cope with threats.

Local producers would work with national and public body procurement staff and co-operative type models to overcome procurement barriers to enable them to supply large local contracts.

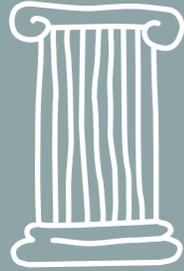
Tourist businesses and operators would tap into the growth area of green tourism to combine business efficiency with green marketing credentials. Visitors to the area would have a wide choice of sustainable travel, accommodation, modern activity and attraction provision.

How can we achieve this?

- By having a strategic approach to green jobs.
- By encouraging and pulling together existing and potential initiatives such as renewable energy generation, waste/resource management and green tourism.
- By managing and treating waste in accordance with best practice standards with the majority recycled and the remnants used for energy generation.
- By assessing the feasibility of using photovoltaic, solar thermal (see glossary), or other renewable energy power in Council buildings.
- By undertaking sustainable procurement.
- By incorporating community benefit clauses in all our procurement and development activities.
- By actively promoting sustainable production and consumption, in particular of eco-labeled, organic, ethical and Fairtrade (see glossary) products.



3.



ensuring a strong, healthy and just society

Strong, healthy communities are essential for a sustainable Falkirk. A sense of community spirit and mutual responsibility are key to quality of life and it means people are willing to work together to improve their environment. Developing sustainable communities involves reducing significant inequalities in people's life chances and prospects. It also requires development of strong social networks, access to jobs, life long learning opportunities, and freedom from crime.

What would a strong, healthy and just Falkirk Council area be like?

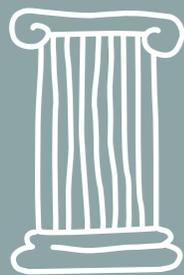
- It would be a place where people want to live and work and would enjoy good health and a high quality of life. It would meet the diverse needs of all people regardless of race or ethnic background, and be safe and inclusive, well planned, well built, well run, and offering equality of opportunity and good services for all.
- There would be a low incidence, and perception, of crime. Residents would feel safe in their houses and on the streets and the quality of the environment and public spaces would not be diminished by graffiti, litter or fly-tipping.
- It would be a place that builds on its strong sense of community spirit. Residents would feel they belong to their local area and it is a place where people can get on well together.
- There would be a range of available employment opportunities. There would be a suitable balance between lower paid opportunities and higher skilled jobs, a diverse business base and opportunities for business start ups.
- There would be easy access by various modes of transport to the major economic centres in the vicinity and walking and cycling encouraged.
- Throughout the population there would be a wide spread of ages, low mortality rates and low hospital admissions.

How can we achieve this?

- By investing in opportunities that support local communities and involving local citizens in the decision making process.
- By planning for a mix of housing types and tenure in areas that have accessible public spaces and clean, safe streets.
- By striving to become the focus of a new Scottish network of travel, tourism and employment opportunities.
- By striving to maximise the benefits of the area's cultural diversity and rich historical, industrial and natural heritage.
- By promoting the Central Scotland Green Network
- By raising awareness and taking action on aspects of health which lie outside the health sector – e.g. fitness through recreational activity.
- By integrating health considerations in our corporate planning strategies, initiatives and projects.

“residents would feel they belong to their local area”

4.



promoting good governance

This applies to any organisation that makes things happen for others and could include churches, schools, multi national companies, councils – the list goes on. Governance is about how organisations ensure that they are doing the right things, in the right way, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which they are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities.

Good governance leads to good management, good performance, good stewardship of public money, good public engagement, and ultimately, good outcomes for citizens and service users. Developing partnerships is a key component of this and working with others helps build a strong sense of community and encourages individual citizens to play a full and constructive part in development of their communities.

The Council sets out its purpose in strategies, policies and action plans. The Council's Corporate Plan and its Single Outcome Agreement reflect its firm commitment to sustainable living and development. This commitment is reflected in many of its other policies and strategies which cover, amongst other things, the natural environment, housing, employee welfare, schools education, adult learning, health, industrial development, and procurement. Despite many successes the need for continuing effort in this area is recognised. Policies, developments and decisions must be prepared with due regard to their environmental impacts. As the Council has a legal obligation to build climate change and sustainable development into all of its work, it is important that these are considered fully and transparently when making decisions on project outcomes that may compromise sustainability.

What would good governance be like in the Falkirk Council area?

- Local citizens, businesses and community planning partners would be even more actively involved in developing policies and strategies and in decision making processes where appropriate.
- The Council's strategies, policies and action plans would be well publicised and freely available to those who wish to read them.
- The Council, citizens and local businesses would demonstrate their commitment to sustainable development through their own actions.

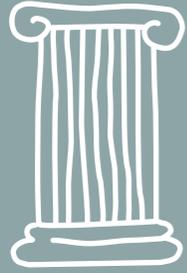
How can we achieve this?

- By ensuring that consideration of sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation are at the core of all the Council's strategies, policies and action plans.
- By ensuring the Council's strategies, policies and action plans are prepared following extensive and open consultation with our Community Planning partners, community groups, individuals, businesses and other organisations.



“organisation that makes things happen”

5.



using sound science responsibly

To use science responsibly, we need to ensure policy is developed and implemented on the basis of sound scientific evidence. A strong evidence base should be founded on undertaking primary research and feasibility work, analysing and reviewing existing data, engaging with key stakeholders. We also need to take in to account scientific uncertainty as well as public attitudes and values and the need for training.

How would the responsible use of sound science be addressed in the Falkirk Council area?

- Council staff, our community planning partners, community groups, individuals, businesses and other organisations would be trained and kept up to date with developments in the policy and science of sustainable development and climate change actions.
- Well informed sustainability considerations would influence the day to day actions and decision of everyone in the Council area, each day, at work and at home.

How can we achieve this?

- By ensuring the sustainable development and climate change message is promoted as widely as possible.
- By identifying and providing appropriate training and developing the necessary skills to implement and influence change both within the Council and in the wider community.
- By ensuring learning about sustainable development and climate change continues to be integrated into all stages of the school education system.
- By ensuring lifelong learning opportunities on sustainable development and climate change are provided through the further education system.

“leave enough for me”



finally... what can you do to contribute?

Making a difference

So sea levels are increasing, the rate of population growth is increasing and we are running out of space for landfill. Is there anything you can do to make a difference to this? Individually possibly not, but together we can make a huge difference. "A when o' mickles mak's a muckle", after all!

Sustainable development is an innovation agenda, which asks us all to rethink how we organise our lives and work, so that we don't destroy our most precious resource – the single planet on which we all depend. We recognise that action across society and throughout the Falkirk Council area may not be easy or comfortable to implement. Some of the decisions required may not be universally popular and we all on occasions find reasons for avoiding the more sustainable choices. There will also be divided opinion on the range of sustainability options that from time to time present themselves.

Addressing these dilemmas is one of the biggest challenges we all face. However, by working together, we believe we can create a more sustainable Falkirk Council area and in so doing contribute to addressing the wider global agenda.

What practical actions you can do to help deliver a more sustainable future, whether in your workplace, your home or the community, are set out in the Falkirk Council Sustainable Development and Climate Change Action Plan.

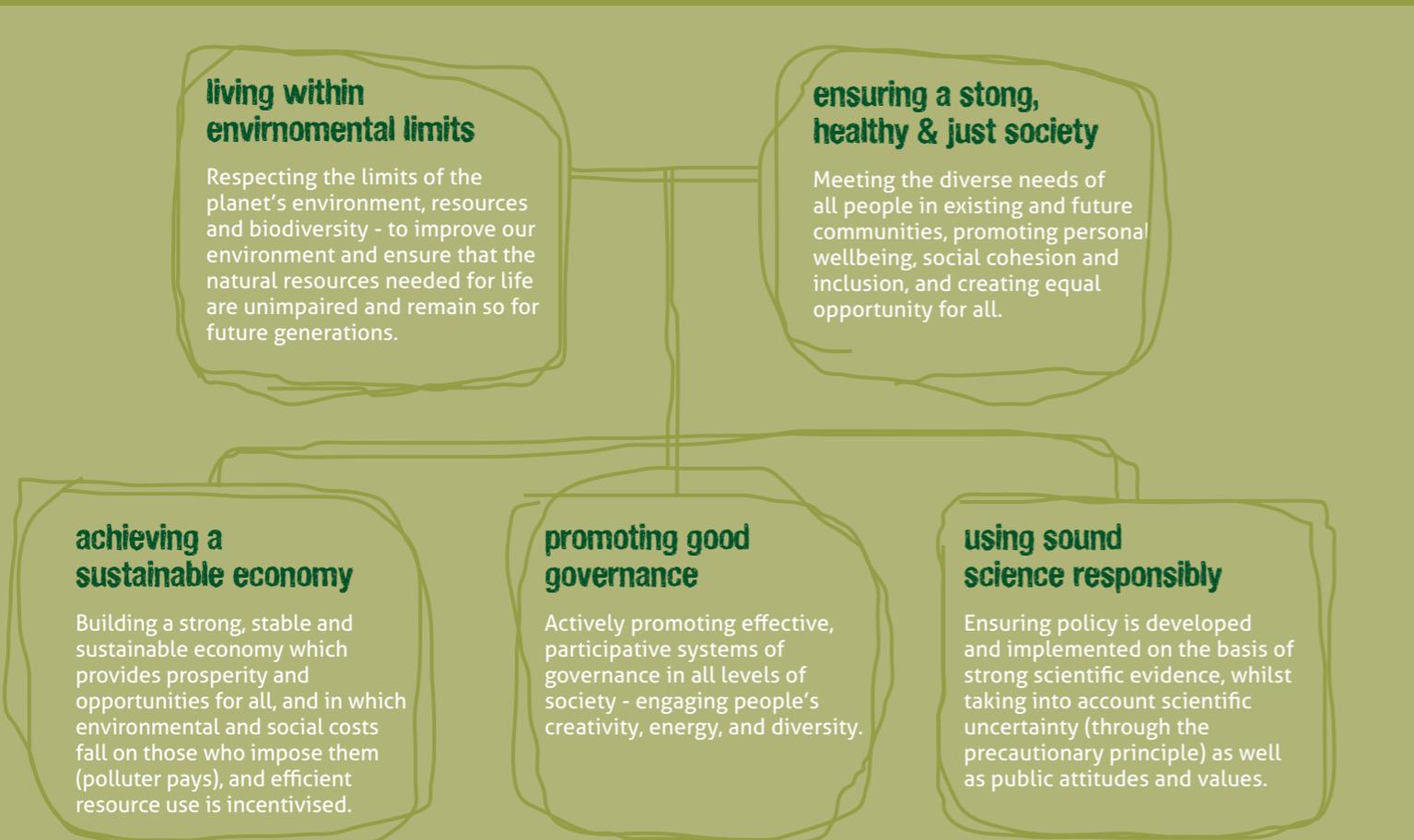
How do I find out more?

This document lays out the strategic vision and aims for Falkirk Council's actions on sustainable development and climate change. It gives a brief overview of a complex subject. A list of useful sources of further, more detailed information is given in Appendix 4.



Appendix 1.

figure 1. UK guiding principles the 5 pillars of sustainability



Source: 'Securing the Future - delivering UK sustainable development strategy'
- The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy

Appendix 2

falkirk council's community planning partners

The following organisations are the most active community planning partners at present. As the nature of community planning changes the list of partners also changes.

Scottish Enterprise

Scottish Prison Service

Forth Valley College

The Falkirk Community Health Partnership & NHS Forth Valley

Falkirk Council Service Representatives

Police Scotland

Scottish Fire Service

Transition Town Grangemouth

Council for the Voluntary Sector Falkirk and District

SEStran: The South East of Scotland Regional Transport Partnership

The Scottish Government

Appendix 3

sustainable development and climate change legislation and policy context

The full legislative framework guiding sustainable living and climate change mitigation and adaptation, is set out below.

Topic	Act, Plan, Programme or Strategy
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<p>Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds Council 92/43/EEC the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</p> <p>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</p> <p>Conservation (Natural habitats &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007</p> <p>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2007</p> <p>UK Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Scotland's Biodiversity – It's In Your Hands.</p> <p>Falkirk Area Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Wildlife & Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011</p>
Population and Human Health	<p>Improving Health in Scotland – the Challenge</p> <p>My Future's In Falkirk (economic development strategy)</p> <p>Falkirk Joint Health Improvement Plan</p> <p>Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 –Part 1 Access Legislation</p>
Soil	<p>Scottish Soil Framework (2009)</p> <p>Scottish Land Use Strategy</p>
Water	<p>Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC</p> <p>Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS) Act</p> <p>Scotland River Basin Management Plan (2009)</p>

Topic	Act, Plan, Programme or Strategy
Air	<p>2008/50/EC Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe</p> <p>The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)</p> <p>Directive 2003/30/EC "Biofuels Directive"</p>
Climatic factors	<p>UK Climate Change Act 2008</p> <p>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009</p> <p>Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009)</p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2009)</p> <p>UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009)</p> <p>Conserve and Save: Consultation on the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (2009)</p> <p>Low Carbon Economic Strategy (Scotland), November 2010</p> <p>Draft Report on Proposals and Policies (Scotland), November 2010</p> <p>Public Engagement Strategy (Scotland), December 2010</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Action Plan (Scotland), October 2010</p> <p>Public Bodies Climate Change Duties: Putting Them into Practice (Scotland), Dec 2010</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) 2009</p> <p>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</p> <p>Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes (consultation drafts)</p> <p>Falkirk Council Cultural Heritage Strategy</p>

Topic	Act, Plan, Programme or Strategy
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council of Europe, European Landscape Convention (2000) SNH Landscape Policy Framework SNH Wildness in Scotland's countryside SNH Natural Heritage Futures SNH National Scenic Areas Programme
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Forestry Strategy Strategic Transport Review Project National Transport Plan Scottish Planning Policy A Vision for Scottish Agriculture The Zero Waste Plan for Scotland
Falkirk Council Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single Outcome Agreement Corporate Plan Local Transport Strategy Sustainable Procurement Strategy Corporate Asset Management Plan Strategic Community Plan Corporate Risk Strategy Falkirk Council Service Plans Core Paths Plan Local Housing Strategy Home Energy Strategy Community Participation Strategy

Appendix 4

sources of useful information

Sustainable development, climate change and ecological footprinting

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/SustainableDevelopment

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange

www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/footprint_science_introduction/

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The worlds leading organisation on climate change

www.ipcc.ch

Adaption Scotland

www.adaptionscotland.org.uk

Resource Efficient Scotland

www.resourceefficientscotland.com

Sustainable Scotland Network

www.sustainable-scotland.net

Scottish Natural Heritage - Sustainable development

www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A328641.pdf

Green Business Partnership

www.greenbusinesspartnership.org.uk

Go Greener Scotland

www.gogreenerScotland.org

Food Production

www2.btcv.org.uk/display/freefoodguide

www.fairtrade.org.uk

Appendix 5.

glossary of terms used

Carrying Capacity

'Carrying capacity' is the maximum population of a given species that can survive indefinitely in a given environment. It depends on the conditions and resources available in the specific area, and the consumption habits of the species considered. Because both what is available in the area, and the consumption habits of the species change over time, carrying capacity is always changing. Carrying capacity is a measure of sustainability within these changing conditions.

Greenhouse Gases

In climatic terms the 'greenhouse' effect is a process by which thermal radiation from the Earth's surface is absorbed by atmospheric 'greenhouse gases' and is re-radiated in all directions. Some of this re-radiation is back towards the surface and this causes a warming effect of the Earth and the lower atmosphere. As a result the temperature there is higher than it would be if direct heating by solar radiation were the only warming mechanism. The principal 'greenhouse gases' are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorocarbons. The higher the concentration of these in the atmosphere the greater the warming effect.

Best Value

Best value provides a framework for the planning, delivery and continuous improvement of local authority services. The overriding purpose is to establish a culture of good management in local government for the delivery of efficient, effective and economic services that meet the users' needs.

Community Planning Partners

Falkirk Council's community planning partners are the public sector organisations it regularly works with to embed the principles of sustainable development into their everyday actions. Effective partnership working enhances the degree of openness and engagement and maximises the contribution that each partner can make to the quality of service delivery and the well-being of communities. A list of the Council's partners is given in Appendix 2.

Carbon Neutral

Carbon neutrality or having a net zero carbon footprint is achieved by balancing the amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount being absorbed or locked up through, for example, planting trees. This term is generally used in the context of carbon dioxide releasing processes, associated with transportation, energy production and industrial processes.

Carbon Management Plan

Falkirk Council's Carbon Management Plan sets out how carbon emissions can be cut across all of the Council's estate and activities.

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is energy which comes from natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides and geothermal heat.

Fossil Fuels

Fossil fuels are formed over millions of years through natural processes and are therefore a non-renewable resource. Their use emits high levels of carbon. The main examples are coal, natural gas, petroleum and methane.

Transition Town

A 'transition initiative' – which can be a town, village, university etc. – is a community led response to the pressure of climate change, fossil fuel depletion, unsustainable living and economic stagnation or contraction. An example in Falkirk Council area is Transition Town Grangemouth.

Climate Change Adaptation

Dealing with the consequences of climate change is "adaptation", for example modifying our buildings so they remain cool during the hotter summers that climate change will bring.

Green Jobs

Green jobs and enterprise refers to employment and business opportunities that are created through new technologies for greater eco-efficiency or through the demand for environmental services and eco-management.

Photovoltaic and Solar Thermal Energy

Photovoltaics are a method of generating power by converting the sun's energy into electricity.

Solar thermal energy is the harnessing of the sun's energy for the generation of heat.

Fairtrade

The Fairtrade Foundation is the independent non-profit organisation that licenses use of the FAIRTRADE Mark on products in the UK in accordance with internationally agreed Fairtrade standards. The Fairtrade vision is of a world in which justice and sustainable development are at the heart of trade structures and practices so that everyone, through their work, can maintain a decent and dignified livelihood and develop their full potential.



Falkirk Council