



## Climate change, Government and local authorities

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Deputy Regional Director  
Environment & Durham Group

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### Action taken

- 1992 Kyoto Agreement
  - reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2012
- 2005 Gleneagles Summit
  - informal discussion of innovative ideas and new measures to tackle climate change outside UNFCCC
- 2006 UK Climate Change Programme
- 2006 Stern Report
  - costs of inaction far outweigh the costs of action

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### Moving forward – the Climate Change Bill

- statutory requirement to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050
- Committee on Climate Change to reduce emissions over time and across the economy
- enabling powers to put in place new emission reduction targets; and
- improved monitoring and reporting arrangements, including how the Government reports to Parliament

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**TOMORROW'S CLIMATE**  
*Today's Challenge*

**LGA climate change commission regional roadshow**

Local government has a key role in tackling climate change and is leading the way in influencing people to change their behaviour. The work of the Local Government Association's Independent Climate Change Commission will investigate how authorities can do more to advise, support and help local people make these essential changes. The Commission will also look at the ways in which councils can tackle carbon emissions in their own buildings and facilities, in the services they provide and decisions they take in housing, transport and social services."

*Cllr Paul Bettison, Chairman of the Environment Board at the Local Government Association*

**Local government has a key role**

- strong and visible leadership;
- leading by example through its own practice and the services it delivers;
- responding to calls for action and the priority local people place on tackling these issues;
- coordinating innovative partnerships that can deliver results and real changes

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**TOMORROW'S CLIMATE**  
*Today's Challenge*

**The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change**

- a commitment to take action
- a commitment to work in partnership with other organisations
- we want to be the first region with 100% local authority sign-up

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**TOMORROW'S CLIMATE**  
*Today's Challenge*

**Local authorities have a key role**

- Three key areas to take action
  - as managers of their own estate
  - as providers of services to citizens
  - as leaders of local communities

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 **TOMORROW'S CLIMATE**  
*Today's Challenge*

Local authorities key role – managing their estate




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 **TOMORROW'S CLIMATE**  
*Today's Challenge*

Local authorities key role – providing services to citizens




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 **TOMORROW'S CLIMATE**  
*Today's Challenge*

Local authorities have a key role – leading their communities



**OUR Newcastle**  
*Let's take care of it!*

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### Summing up

- Local government has a crucial role in climate change work
- Local government has and will have the means to take action locally and lead behavioural change
- Central government is committed to support local government on climate change activity

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