



# Southampton

Low Carbon City 2011 - 2020

Part 1: The Story

## **Part 1 – The Story**

This sets out the story so far and a summary of the key priorities listed in the strategy.

## **Part 2 – The Strategy**

The Low Carbon City Strategy sets out our ambition for Southampton to be a world-leading low carbon city. We've identified eight key priorities to deliver this ambition.

## **Part 3 – The Delivery Plan**

This document lists the specific actions that we are going to undertake to deliver the vision set out in the strategy. It will be updated every 3 years to the end of the Low Carbon City Strategy period (2020). We will report on our progress annually.

## **Part 4 – The Facts**

This gives a snapshot of what we're doing and gives an idea of the progress we're making.

You can get involved by contacting us at: [sustainability@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@southampton.gov.uk)

To get hold of all the documents and to find out more go to our web pages at [www.southampton.gov.uk/sustainability](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/sustainability)

## **The Story**

Southampton has ambitions to become the country's leading low carbon city. To achieve this, the council has produced its Low Carbon City Strategy (LCCS). The vision is that **Southampton will thrive in a new low carbon economy. By galvanising local action we will be competitive, prosperous and future-proofed; a focal point for green business as we move swiftly to low carbon energy, low carbon transport and a low carbon built environment.** A city adapted to a changed future which is greener, healthier and safer.

Working with partners, the aim is to be an epicentre of green business; a location of choice for environmental technology and service firms and new and cleaner investment, a magnet for innovation and talent, a frontrunner in the emerging low carbon economy using the city's knowledge base, existing assets and low carbon infrastructure as a catalyst for development, inward investment, business growth, energy security and new jobs. It's about creating the best environment for business success in the city and creating business success that is best for the environment.

Backed by the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and world-class research and development institutions in the form of the city's two universities, and led by a council that strives to be a national leader in the field, Southampton's vision is moving forward. Southampton and the surrounding sub-region has the UK's largest concentration of environmental technology companies outside of London and the largest number of sustainability researchers – many of whom specialise in marine and maritime energy. There are 600 environmental technology and service firms, with around 11,000 employees and annual sales turnover of £1.4 billion and the University of Southampton's world-leading Sustainable Energy Research Group has significantly more researchers (266) and PhD students (188) working in sustainability than any other UK university.

The first seeds for the vision were sewn nearly 25 years ago, when Southampton City Council embarked on a major project to supply heat, chilled water and electricity to the city, powered by deep aquifers under the city. Fast forward to 2011 and, the scheme is hailed as the blueprint for success by other authorities and now supplies power to thousands of homes and more than 45 major businesses. The city's green energy network will expand further still, with plans to install solar panels throughout the city and build a sustainable biomass power station, which will generate enough power to supply energy to the entire city.

The Council knows it is not alone in this vision. Across the country there is a growing drive to change the way we generate energy, the way we heat our homes and workplaces and the way we travel in response to the Governments carbon budgets. But we are already on the

way. Take a walk around Southampton and you will see a low carbon city emerging before your eyes: as part of a huge street light replacement project, Southampton will soon be the first European city to have all its lights fitted with low carbon technology. Every house in the city is being fitted with a water meter to save water, 55% of schools are registered eco-schools, the city academies will soon be carbon neutral, the airport has solar powered airfield lighting, new walkways have been constructed, there's a 5 acre community farm in the heart of the city, the city's traffic lights are now LED – saving 400 tonnes of carbon a year - code level 6 homes are already being built, over 10% of the city centre is designated for biodiversity, and the list goes on.

We've teamed up with the University of Southampton to create the most detailed carbon map of the city in the country. This will give us a plan of the challenges that face us and help us cut our emissions by a further 40 per cent in less than ten years. We're committed to managing our shoreline and looking at ways to manage risks such as flooding, erosion and sea level rise. Our raft of forward-looking planning documents will be as advanced as anywhere in the country and will set the foundation to make the city resilient.

But our forward thinking approach doesn't stop there. Our ecological standards will be more clearly defined than anywhere else nationally. We're developing an 'a la carte' menu of natural features including foliage on walls, green roofs, bodies of water, large trees and bushes, and smaller items such as plant beds that developers can use to meet our 'green space factor' and help the city adapt to climate change.

With its already successful energy schemes, future energy, flood and green infrastructure plans and expertise to move forward, which are brought together in the LCCS, Southampton is primed to fulfil its potential and realise the benefits that a low carbon future brings.

#### **1. We will invest in, strengthen and grow the city's low carbon economy**

Southampton will be a magnet for innovation and talent as a centre for high value green jobs and low carbon business opportunities. The city will be a leading location and growth hub for green business, capitalising on the sectoral strengths of the area.

#### **2. We will generate and use energy in a sustainable way**

Southampton will be a city where carbon-intensive living will be 'powered down' by reducing energy demand and diverse low-carbon energy supply will be 'powered up' by new technologies through efficient design and a diverse low-carbon energy supply mix.

#### **3. We will reduce the carbon footprint of the city**

Southampton will be a city with a low carbon culture - low carbon intensity and high standards of living. We will continue to reduce the carbon output of our local economy.

#### **4. We will minimise the impact from flooding for the city**

Southampton will be a city that is resilient to all but the most extreme floods and has robust emergency plans to respond to, and recover from, flooding.

#### **5. We will incorporate sustainability into all of our buying decisions**

We will measure the value of a product or service by more than just the price on the label. We will buy goods and services that have social, economic and environmental benefits.

#### **6. We will strengthen biodiversity in the city**

We will improve the way we link together the rich patchwork of diverse, living green spaces and tree-lined streets in the city.

#### **7. We will increase low carbon travel and transport**

Southampton will be an accessible city with a reduced reliance on oil and less dependent on the car.

#### **8. We will use less, waste less and recycle more**

Southampton will reduce unnecessary consumption and production. Resource efficiency will be a hallmark of the city.

