

East Lothian Environment Strategy

2010-15

Living within our means

Our long-term vision is that:

East Lothian will be a place of opportunity for all, with a thriving low carbon economy, high quality environment and healthy communities that are prepared for the challenges of climate change

We will achieve this by:

- **Moving to a low carbon and more localised economy**
- **Reducing dependence on finite resources**
- **Recognising the importance of a well-looked after natural environment to the health and well-being of East Lothian's communities**
- **Encouraging more sustainable land use patterns**
- **Connecting communities and increasing use of sustainable forms of transport**
- **Developing and nurturing environmental education, responsibility and action**
- **Preparing for and managing the impacts of climate change**

The Environment Strategy is a start in moving towards a more sustainable future for East Lothian, by recognising that we live in an interdependent world, in which climate change, over consumption of resources and inequality are serious challenges. It is an overarching Strategy, which informs and guides other strategies and plans, and is intended to influence environmental decision making throughout East Lothian.

The Strategy is supported by the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership (ELCPP), which is a broad based organisation that enables representatives from public, private and voluntary organisations, community networks and partnerships and groups and forums, operating throughout the county, to work together. ELCPP aims to encourage businesses and the wider community to adopt the principles in this document and consider their practical applications.

To see the Environment Strategy in full please visit:

www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk



How can you get involved?

There are lots of ways in which individuals can get involved. Here are our top ten suggestions:

- Complete a Home Energy Check to find out how you can reduce your energy consumption (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk).
- Try to reduce your car travel - walk or cycle where possible; utilise public transport; join a carshare group (www.tripshareeastlothian.com); or work from home when feasible.
- Join in with some local volunteering, like a path building or beach cleaning day with the Countryside Rangers (www.eastlothian.gov.uk).
- Try to reduce the amount of waste that you produce and always recycle and compost where possible (www.eastlothian.gov.uk).
- Switch to a renewable electricity or natural gas tariff or investigate the viability of generating your own energy (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk).
- Try to reduce your food miles - shop locally where possible (www.foodanddrinkeastlothian.com), buy seasonal produce, or even have a go at growing your own.
- Try to limit your air travel – take the train instead of a domestic flight, or perhaps consider holidaying in Scotland this year (www.visitscotland.com).
- Join a local community group, such as one of East Lothian's Transition Town groups (www.transitionnetwork.org), or if there isn't anything in your area, why not think about starting one up?
- Try to reduce your consumption of consumer goods - use services such as libraries (www.eastlothian.gov.uk) and swap sites (www.ecomodo.com) or organise your own swapping event (www.swishing.org).
- Make sure that your household is prepared for extreme weather events such as flooding (www.floodlinescotland.org.uk).

For more information regarding the Environment Strategy please contact the Sustainable Development Officer.

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