



**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report**  
***Perth & Kinross Council***  
***Carbon Management Strategy & Implementation Plan: 2007-2017***

**5.2.2007**

**PART 1**

**To:** [SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

or

SEA Gateway


Scottish Executive

Area 1 H (Bridge)

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

**PART 2**

<p><b>Name of Responsible Authority</b></p>	<p>Perth &amp; Kinross Council</p>
<p><b>Name of plan, programme or strategy</b></p>	<p>Perth &amp; Kinross Council Carbon Management Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan (2007-2017)</p>
<p><b>Area covered by the plan, programme or strategy</b></p>	<p>Perth &amp; Kinross Council Area - 5,286 km<sup>2</sup> (see map below).</p>  <p>The map displays the geographical boundaries of the Perth &amp; Kinross Council area. Major roads are shown as blue lines, including the A9, A92, A94, A90, and A20. Towns and locations marked include Blair Atholl, Pitlochry, Aberfeldy, Kenmore, Blairgowrie, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Comrie, Chert, Auchtermuchty, Blackford, and Milnathort. The River Tay is also depicted flowing through the area.</p> <p>Topic area specifically pertains to the Council's opportunities and actions to reduce carbon emissions from its buildings (including schools, Council housing and community care facilities), and from street lighting, waste management processes, fleet management and staff transport arrangements.</p>

**PART 3**

<p>Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:</p>	<p>√</p>
<p><b><u>An SEA is required</u></b> because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects <b><u>or</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>An SEA is required</u></b> because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects <b><u>or</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>An SEA is not required</u></b> because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects</p>	

**PART 4**

<p>The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 day timescales for views from Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.</p>	
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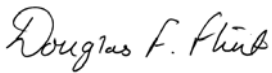
**PART 5**

<p>None of the above applies. We have prepared this screening report because:</p>
<p> </p>

**PART 6 - CONTACT DETAILS**

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**PART 7**

<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	5.2.2007

**SEA SCREENING REPORT – KEY FACTS**

<b>Responsible Authority</b>	Perth & Kinross Council
<b>Title of PPS</b>	Perth & Kinross Council Carbon Management Strategy & Implementation Plan (2007-2017)
<b>Purpose of PPS</b>	To quantify and reduce carbon emissions from Council activities
<b>What prompted the plan</b> (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision?)	Voluntary opportunity to further reduce carbon emissions by working with the Carbon Trust through its Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACMP).
<b>Subject</b> (e.g. transport)	Energy management and climate change mitigation
<b>Period covered by PPS</b>	2007-2017
<b>Frequency of updates</b>	To be determined – regular (annual) implementation and carbon reduction progress reviews will be undertaken but may not result in amendments to the Strategy & Implementation Plan (SIP) itself.
<b>Area covered by PPS (km<sup>2</sup>)</b> (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	5,286 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Summary of nature/content of PPS</b>	Quantification of total carbon emissions (establish baseline) arising from Council Services and identification of opportunities to reduce these emissions through development of business cases and a prioritised action plan. Scope includes Council buildings (including schools, Council housing and community care facilities), street lighting, waste management processes, fleet management and staff transport arrangements. The Council hopes to benefit by reducing its overall energy use and its dependence on fossil fuels. Adoption of appropriate green fuel/technology may also be considered. It is hoped that cost savings and energy security benefits may arise as a result.
<b>Are there any proposed PPS objectives?</b> Yes/No	Yes
<b>Copy of objectives attached</b> Yes/No	Yes. By participating in the Carbon Management Programme, Perth & Kinross Council will endeavour to achieve the following objectives (extracted from the original 2006 Project Plan, which will also be submitted, along with the Carbon Trust's SIP template, to the SEA Gateway for information): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To quantify carbon emissions associated with running the Council and delivering its services in order to identify opportunities and</li> </ul>

priorities for emissions reduction in a researched and costed 10 year action plan

- To establish a sound baseline from which to monitor and report future progress on carbon emissions after implementation of the proposed action plan.
- To raise awareness amongst staff and members on mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in order to encourage their participation in the production and implementation of the final action plan.
- To embed carbon management principles in all relevant corporate and service approaches to sustainability and energy management.
- To lead by example and add value through joint working to help encourage community planning partners, businesses and the public to reduce their own carbon emissions.

**Date**

5.2.2007

Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of [insert PPS title] are set out in Table 1.

**TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b></p> <p>(1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b></p> <p><b>YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (positive and negative)</b></p>
<p>1(a) the degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Council's participation in the current (2006/7) round of the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACMP) has established climate change (and the requirement for carbon emissions reductions and associated energy cost savings) as a corporate, cross-Service priority. Essentially therefore, this PPS - the Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan (SIP) - will deliver that priority by establishing a framework (vision, strategy and action plan) for a consistent approach by the Council towards seeking carbon reductions from and 'climate-proofing' of its projects and activities from now on. This will influence the location, nature, size and operating conditions, and, therefore, resource allocation associated with such Council projects and activities. Additionally, in mid January 2007, along with all 31 other local authorities in Scotland, PKC signed <i>Scotland's Climate Change Declaration</i> a far-reaching national initiative with 7 climate change-related commitments. Although beyond the direct <i>scope</i> of the SIP, its <i>effects</i>, combined with the Declaration's commitments, are likely to influence future policy development within the Council, and may include policies and conditions being set or delivered through e.g. the Planning process to influence the activities and carbon footprints of others within the Council <i>area</i>.</p>
<p>1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Given the corporate, cross-service nature of the SIP (and its scope – specifically energy management/efficiency in and reduced emissions from Council buildings, street lighting, waste management processes, fleet management and staff transport arrangements), and as alluded to in 1(a) above, the SIP is highly likely to directly or indirectly influence other PPSs arising from all Council Services at various levels. To deliver this corporate, national (and international) priority, all Council Services are cooperating to identify opportunities to minimise their carbon emissions related to the scope as stated above. They will need to do this through a consistent and responsible approach to service- or sector-related policy development and operational planning in future. The emerging SIP has already been identified as being closely linked to and is likely to influence other sustainable development-related issues such as the Perth Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), and</p>

		its associated Action Plan (AQAP), which itself requires SEA beyond the screening stage. The SIP may also influence Council procurement at the policy and operational plan level (e.g. related to the embodied energy, including transport mileage, of goods, works and services).
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Yes	The SIP is highly relevant to the environmental considerations of climate change and carbon emissions, and these are inseparable from the Council's duty under Best Value to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Council's sustainability performance will be a measure of everything it does, from procurement to transport to energy and waste management, to mention a few activities, all of which have a carbon footprint to varying degrees.
1 (d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	Yes	The last 4 years have been the hottest on record, the environment and socio-economic effects of which have not been fully evaluated. Major flooding and storm events have also occurred in the Council area in recent years. Whether these are directly or indirectly attributable to climate change may be debated by some, but the links are increasingly being suggested. There are also perceived threats to local biodiversity, and potential disruptions to service delivery, as well as economic and social impacts on communities, tourism, etc (similar references at the national scale are included in the UKCIP 02 scenarios, and mitigation and adaptation toolkits). An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) order has been declared for Perth for levels of Nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) and fine particles (PM <sub>10</sub> ). Reduced levels of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM <sub>10</sub> from the AQMA actions, combined with carbon reduction measures from the SIP, should lead to air quality improvements and human health benefits, and lessen the impacts of acid rain. The Council has also been very active and effective in responding to national targets to divert waste from landfill, which raises a number of issues and opportunities relevant to the SIP.
1 (e) the relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. PPS linked to waste management or water protection)		The SIP has direct or indirect relevance to the EU Climate Change Programme and the following EU Directives (not exhaustive list): Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD); Habitats Directive; Directive on the conservation of wild birds; Water Framework Directive (WFD), Directive on Waste, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Renewable Energy Policy, and the European Community Biodiversity Strategy. The EU Landscape Convention may also be relevant.
		<b><u>Qualifying comment:</u></b> for all aspects of section 2 (a-g), and section 1 (d), the significance and impact of any action or benefit from PKC will be overwhelmingly influenced (hugely outweighed) by the non-UK 98% of total global carbon emissions combined with the 'non-PKC' element of the UK's 2% (both clearly beyond any effective control or influence of PKC's SIP). This is particularly true where total global atmospheric carbon levels are rising dramatically and are likely to do so for the foreseeable future.

2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Uncertain	<p>The SIP's effects are intended and thought likely to be positive rather than negative, and in that sense it is desirable that their duration and frequency are long and regular, and their effects irreversible. Whether they are probable and significant is questionable, as neither the extent to which emissions reductions can be achieved and sustained is yet known, nor is it unrealistic to assume that gains made by PKC will not be reversed by increased consumption by others. Nevertheless, the latter would still represent an overall benefit as inaction by PKC would have meant higher total emissions. It is also not yet known what is the Council's contribution to the 'local carbon emissions total' (parallel work under the AQAP by Netcen should reveal this), or whether that is a significant proportion locally, let alone at the national or international scale. However, as a major employer, and with an opportunity to lead and influence the behaviour of others, including partner organisations, businesses and communities, the Council is trying to establish its local impact in this context, and the Council feels it is important to set a good example.</p> <p>In terms of duration, it is worth noting the timescale relative to the scope of the SIP. The SIP is intended to be from 2007 to 2017, but the national targets which are driving activity within Scotland, and presumably the Carbon Trust programme too, are over a longer timeframe. Over and above the UK's Kyoto Protocol commitments (a 12.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2008 and 2012), Scottish targets seek a 20% carbon reduction (from 1990 levels) by 2010, and being well on the way to a 60% reduction by 2050. PKC will need to determine its own relative contribution to the 2010 and 2050 targets, and how it might determine its own progress since 1990 (and, where available, source the necessary data to track this).</p>
2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	Yes	<p>Despite the uncertainty in 2 (a) above that PKC cannot predict whether the SIP will significantly reduce carbon emissions, the Council believes that even small reductions will be beneficial and the greater the number of small reductions the greater will be the cumulative and positive impact. Small reductions may also make a difference due to the time lag between when greenhouse gases are emitted and when the impacts of these emissions are felt. Additionally, PKC is one of 6 Scottish local authorities, and 35 UK-wide, participating in the LACMP in 2006/7. That builds on what the Carbon Trust programme has achieved previously with other local authorities, industry and business, other public bodies in the past 3 years, and will continue to do so presumably until all UK local authorities and further sectors (e.g. health service providers) have done so or some of the previous participants begin a second or review phase. There are many other related 'campaigns' in the UK, e.g. Energy Saving Trust, and internationally, to which any progress by PKC would add a cumulative benefit. However, the actual impact and environmental benefits from PKC's carbon reductions will be small in global terms when considering the whole of the UK is said to contribute 2% of global carbon emissions, but there may be a stimulatory effect among peer</p>

		organisations and communities to emulate similar carbon reduction activities, and therefore further cumulative and environmental benefits. Greenhouse gases can also have synergistic effects, as demonstrated when NO <sub>x</sub> and CO react and cause a localised increase in tropospheric ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ).
2 (c) trans-boundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	Yes	A reduced local carbon footprint contributes to a reduced pollution load internationally.
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	Uncertain	Health improvements might arise through improvements to air quality (already recognised as an issue specifically for Perth, as noted in 1(d)).
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Uncertain	Although the Council area covers 5,286km <sup>2</sup> with around 140,000 inhabitants, the SIP's direct impacts and benefits are likely to be relatively localised primarily although not entirely to Council-controlled facilities and staff in terms of air quality (albeit with some wider local and cumulative benefits well beyond the Council area).
2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to		<b><u>Qualifying comment:</u></b> for both 2(f) and 2(g), the significance will very much depend on the influence of the SIP on the future policies and operations of all Council Services and then their respective combined (cumulative) effect or influence on the policies and operations of others, e.g. partner organisations, businesses and communities (please refer to 1(a) and 1(b) where PKC has already taken the view that the SIP could be a key or catalyst plan that sets a framework for the activities and PPSs of others, both internal and external to the Council. The greater the influence of the SIP, the greater the likelihood to have a 'yes' response in 2 (f)(i) and (ii) and 2(g) below. It should also be noted that the positive actions of others will lessen the impacts on characteristics of local importance.
(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;	Uncertain	Perth & Kinross is notable for its high quality environment, particularly its biodiversity, and various conservation designations which reflect these aspects. Some local habitats and species are said to be under threat from global warming, so the SIP have an influence in reducing direct and cumulative impacts on these. Similarly, cultural and built heritage sites affected by adverse air quality or pollution may benefit as a result. Landscape, as part of our cultural heritage, may also be affected directly or indirectly, including through land use choices (see 2 (g)).
(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or	Yes	The Perth AQMA/AQAP is a prime example where related environmental standards and limit values are being or likely to be exceeded in the future unless source issues are successfully addressed, albeit largely due to high background levels from outwith Perth & Kinross. The SIP's carbon reduction actions may result in some benefits e.g. from staff and fleet transport measures, that help reduce NO <sub>x</sub> and PM <sub>10</sub> levels of concern to

		the AQMA.
(iii) intensive land-use.	No	Although land-use intensity undoubtedly influences carbon emissions, the SIP has little or no direct influence on land-use at the moment or for the foreseeable future. However, this may change as PKC becomes more aware of climate change through the SIP and other activities (including performance on sustainable development, and SEA). Greater understanding of the issues may lead to more stringent policies being put in place that will have an impact throughout Perth and Kinross.
2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Yes	The SIP may lead to impacts (although possibly secondary ones) on landscapes, townscapes and sites of community and conservation interest. For example, in line with the carbon reduction opportunities indicated in the draft Scottish Planning Policy (SPP6), the Council may wish to consider how it could facilitate the adoption of low- or no-carbon renewable energy supply developments, and in parallel, seek to develop a 'Merton-type' policy that requires a proportion of on-site energy generation for new build developments. It may also wish to consider development of a sustainable construction policy, as a number of Scottish councils have already done. All of these options have potential carbon-related effects in line with the SIP's objectives, and any of them might have visual implications at various scales, from the wider landscapes and townscapes, including changes to the appearance of vernacular architecture. The EU landscape convention may also be relevant here as it gives recognition to all landscapes being important, not just those with designations.
3 Conclusion		Although the SIP appears to be a Council-specific approach to reducing corporate-wide carbon emissions, the SIP has some far-reaching objectives. The actions in the SIP may have cumulative effects and impacts when considered with other programmes in Perth and Kinross, as well as other authorities, organisations and communities. PKC concludes that a SEA is required principally due to the scope of the SIP (energy management in and emissions from Council buildings and operations including fleet management and staff transport, waste management, and street lighting), and its potential effects on other PPS within and outwith the Council, possibly including procurement strategies, and the cumulative impacts arising from these. It is however anticipated that the impacts will be positive, rather than negative.

## TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Possible effects may include:

- Improved local air quality, and cumulative benefits at wider scale through reduced air pollution.
- Public health benefits
- Small scale, cumulative benefits in terms of reducing the predicted impacts of climate change through carbon reduction;
- Direct and indirect landscape and cultural heritage impacts associated with management and control of built development standards, including siting and scale of renewable energy developments
- biodiversity effects

**TABLE 3****SUMMARY RECORD OF COMMENTS FROM THE CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES**

It is not a requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes

<b>TITLE OF PLAN/PROGRAMME</b>	Perth & Kinross Council Carbon Management Strategy & Implementation Plan (2007-2017)
<b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</b>	Perth & Kinross Council

<b>CONSULTATION AUTHORITY</b>	<b>DATE COMMENTS RECEIVED</b>	<b>VIEWS (IF KNOWN AT THIS STAGE)</b>
<b>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</b>		Significant environmental effects – YES/NO
		If YES, note SEA topic/issues here (e.g. soil and water)
<b>Scottish Natural Heritage</b>		Significant environmental effects – YES/NO
		If YES, note SEA topic/issues here (e.g. flora, fauna and biodiversity)
<b>Historic Scotland</b>		Significant environmental effects – YES/NO
		If YES, note SEA topic/issues here (e.g. landscape and cultural heritage)

**TABLE 4 - RECORD OF POST SCREENING ACTION**

It is not a requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes

<b>TITLE OF PLAN/PROGRAMME</b>	
<b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</b>	Perth & Kinross Council
<b>1. Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <u>is</u> likely to have significant environmental effects</b>	
<b>Date of determination</b>	
<b>2. Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <u>is not</u> likely to have significant environmental effects</b>	
<b>Date of determination</b>	
<b>3. Scottish Ministers' determination</b>	
<b>Date of determination</b>	
<b>5. Publicity requirements met YES/NO</b>	
<b>6. Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	