

The Cambridge Climate Change Charter

We acknowledge that

1. evidence shows that climate change is occurring.
2. climate change will have increasingly significant effects on the people, organisations and environment of Cambridge.

We commit our organisation from this date
to contribute towards tackling climate change by

1. establishing a baseline of emissions from our activities which contribute towards climate change.
2. assessing the risks to our activities posed by climate change.
3. setting challenging targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
4. taking action to reduce the emissions resulting from our activities and the risks posed to them by climate change.
5. reporting the progress we make in taking action at least annually.
6. working in partnership with other organisations to address the causes and consequences of climate change throughout Cambridge.
7. encouraging those we work with to take similar action to address the causes and consequences of climate change and encouraging them to commit to this Charter where they are located in Cambridge.
8. assigning responsibility for these climate change commitments to a senior individual.

Signed:

Position:

■ For further information about how climate change is being tackled in Cambridge please see the following website:

www.cambridge.gov.uk/climatechange

Explanatory Notes

The Cambridge Climate Change Charter provides an effective means for signatories to demonstrate their commitment to tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. There is no requirement to have completed the associated actions before signing the Charter, or by a predetermined deadline. Signing the Charter heralds a commitment to act, and signatories will need to demonstrate progress in fulfilling this commitment.

1 Establishing a baseline of emissions from our activities which cause climate change.

This involves calculating the carbon emissions associated with energy use, transportation and waste disposal. Many tools exist for doing this and Cambridge City Council will share its experiences of using them to assist Charter signatories.

2 Assessing the risks to our activities posed by climate change.

Signatories will need to assess the risks posed by climate change to their activities, for example from more frequent heat waves, droughts, or intense storms. Cambridge City Council will share its approach in undertaking this risk assessment to assist Charter signatories.

3 Setting challenging targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The UK Government has set a target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050. The Charter does not specify what targets signatories should set, but they must be challenging and make a real contribution to the global effort to tackle climate change.

4 Taking action to reduce the emissions resulting from our activities and the risks posed to them by climate change.

Charter signatories will need to take a range of actions to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, such as reducing energy and vehicle use, and to prepare their organisations for the impacts of climate change, such as modifying their buildings and planning for emergencies. Cambridge City Council will share the actions it is taking to assist Charter signatories and identify potential for joint working.

5 Reporting the progress we make in taking action at least annually.

Charter signatories will need to demonstrate the progress they are making in meeting the Charter commitments at least annually, for example on the internet.

6 Working in partnership with other organisations to address the causes and consequences of climate change throughout Cambridge.

By signing this Charter signatories will have already joined a common effort to tackle climate change. They will also have expressed a willingness to collaborate in future activities where a partnership approach seems more effective.

7 Encouraging those we work with to take similar action to address the causes and consequences of climate change and encouraging them to commit to this Charter where they are located in Cambridge.

The Cambridge Climate Change Charter will become more effective with more supporters, and signatories will therefore need to encourage those they work with to also support it.

8 Assigning responsibility for these climate change commitments to a senior individual.

As an indication of its commitment to fulfilling the Cambridge Climate Change Charter it will be signed by the head of supporting organisations. However, it is envisaged that responsibility for delivering these commitments and acting as a contact point regarding the Charter will be assigned to a senior individual within the organisation.