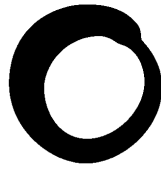


**Campaign
Introduction**

September 2010



**Friends of
the Earth**

**GET
SERIOUS
ABOUT
CO₂**

Campaigning for local action to tackle climate change

Friends of the Earth is campaigning for a nationwide system of local carbon budgets – to drive ambitious CO₂ emissions cuts by helping local authorities lead effective carbon reduction strategies across local areas.

The **transition to a low carbon future** will involve big decisions at a national level. But also thousands of important smaller local decisions – about things like how we power and insulate our homes and offices and how we travel to work and school.

Emissions from these kinds of activities amount to a massive 80 per cent of the UK's total climate pollution. If we are to meet

our national commitments in the Climate Change Act, we need to tackle climate change locally.

Councils are ideally placed to develop strategies to cut carbon in the community – by bringing together local people, businesses, and institutions like hospitals, schools and colleges, the police and fire service.

Friends of the Earth local groups have been working with their councils, asking them to get serious about climate change by doing more to cut CO₂ emissions. The result: councils around the country, from Birmingham to Brighton, Harrogate to

Haringey – covering both major cities and rural areas, and led by all political parties – have passed motions committing to cut CO₂ in their area by at least 40 per cent by 2020, drawing up climate change strategies showing how it will be done. This shows **ambitious action at a local level** – in line with the scientific evidence of what is needed to avoid dangerous global warming – is both politically and practically possible.

Although many pioneering local authorities are working hard to tackle climate change, too many are being left behind. **We need a nationwide system to ensure emissions come down in every local authority area.**

Conservative backing for local carbon budgets

On behalf of Greg Clark, Caroline Spelman and myself, I can confirm that we recognise the need for local carbon budgets as part of the implementation of the Climate Change Act.

Oliver Letwin

Minister of State at the Cabinet Office,
28 April 2010

Lib Dem backing for local carbon budgets

A local carbon budget for every local authority: that caps CO₂ in the local area in line with the scientific demands for emissions cuts and local circumstances.

Election pledge by Chris Huhne

Secretary of State for Energy
and Climate Change
27 April 2010

Local Carbon Budgets

Local carbon budgets are a way to coordinate action to cut emissions in every local area, and provide the support to roll out the green policies we need to hit our UK Climate Change Act targets.

Local councils will be central to the new system. The new system will make it easier for councils to lead and plan climate change-fighting action, and strengthen their hand in winning resources for things like clean energy, green travel and home insulation.

The local community will be at the heart of decisions about the low carbon future of their area. They will get to say what green measures they want and make sure action benefits the whole community.

How local carbon budgets would work

Every council area in England will negotiate a fair local carbon budget – a ‘pot’ of carbon that can be emitted in their area over the next five years.

Each council will do some work to find out what their emissions are and the technical considerations determining how they can be reduced – things like the number of poorly insulated homes in the area, what the wind speed is and whether there are suitable locations for wind turbines.

Then every local council – in consultation with local residents, community groups, businesses and institutions – will draw up a climate change strategy showing how the local carbon budget will be met. Some councils may choose to work with neighbouring councils on cross-border projects like green transport plans.

The carbon cuts we already have to make to meet our national targets will be done in a more efficient, cost-effective way - which also gets the local community fully involved.

Local carbon budgets would cap emissions in each area and:

- Be for all council areas – not just those currently prioritising action
- Involve local people – so local action benefits local people
- Be set in line with national carbon budgets and local circumstances
- Help drive investment
- Support new green jobs and training
- Help meet UK commitments in the Climate Change Act

We want your support

There is widespread support for local carbon budgets. All political parties back a form of local carbon budgeting, along with many leading councils, the Local Government Association, the public service union Unison, the Federation of Small Businesses, environment organisations and membership organisations, including the Women’s Institute.

Now action is needed to make this a priority for government to introduce legislation in this session of Parliament.

1. Councils supporting local carbon budgets

A growing number of councils, led by all political parties, are backing an ‘offer’ to national Government – saying they support local carbon budgets as a way of helping the UK meet our Climate Change Act commitments.

- For more information and to support this initiative, please email donna.hume@foe.co.uk

2. MPs backing local carbon budgets

Members of Parliament around the country are hearing from their constituents and their local councils that they want legislation for local carbon budgets.

- To contact your MP about this, please visit www.getseriousaboutco2.com

Our website is packed with information about local carbon budgets, our campaign and what councils can do now to lead action on climate change. Visit www.getseriousaboutco2.com