

Take a Pride in Fife



Environmental Strategy for Fife
2003-2006

Fife Environmental Network



Fife Environmental Network

FOREWORD

When the Fife Partnership launched the Fife Community Plan in 2000 one of its six key themes was to 'Safeguard and Improve Fife's Environment'. I am therefore pleased to welcome this 'Take a Pride in Fife' strategy - the first Environmental Strategy for Fife which aims to do just that.

The quality of Fife's environment is an integral part of all our lives. The quality of our local neighbourhood, the purity of the water we drink and the air we breathe and the beauty of our open spaces and countryside all affect our health and well-being. However, the impacts of our everyday lives on the environment have led to more and more of us thinking about the consequences of our actions. For example, increasing amounts of traffic and waste are resulting in growing problems and it is important we tackle these and other issues at a local level.

It is these issues that the 'Take a Pride in Fife' Strategy for Fife seeks to tackle and within it you will find described actions and targets to achieve this. The Strategy is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all issues, but aims to represent those key themes and priorities for action which Fife communities have highlighted through the consultation process.

In developing the Strategy, the Fife Environmental Network has brought together a wide range of partners and contributors to produce a single vision for Fife's environment. It is another key building block which has been put in place to take forward Community Planning in Fife.

The Strategy will lead to more effective partnership working to improve our environment and this process will become increasingly effective as the Strategy evolves through the monitoring and review cycle.

Everyone can contribute to achieving the aims of the Strategy and the more people who get involved, the greater the impact of the Strategy will be. If you want to get more involved in the Network or in implementing the Strategy please contact Councillor Bill Kay, FEN Chair on 01592 741400 or Ross Spalding (contact details on p.5). We hope that you will join us in protecting and enriching Fife's environment and the quality of life for all.

Councillor Bill Kay
Chair, Fife Environmental Network

Ian Buchanan
Vice-chair, Fife Environmental Network

Councillor Christine May
Chair, Fife Community Planning
Partnership





CONTENTS PAGE

1	Executive Summary	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Community Learning & Development	8
4	Energy	14
5	Local Environments	19
6	Natural Heritage	26
7	Pollution	30
8	Transportation	36
9	Waste Minimisation & Wise Resource Use	40
10	Monitoring & Review Framework	46
	Appendix 1: Exemplar Environmental Policy	50
	Appendix 2: Organisations	52
	Glossary and Index	56

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fife Environmental Network (FEN) is one of 8 strategic partners within Fife's Community Planning framework. FEN's vision is to "deliver a continuously improving high quality environment within Fife capable of supporting our communities now and in the future". In order to achieve its vision FEN was tasked with producing this 'Take a Pride in Fife' strategy that provides a focus for environmental effort within Fife.

The Strategy has been developed following a series of workshops, audits and consultation exercises involving Community Planning partners, Community Councils and the voluntary sector as well as government and non-governmental organisations. These exercises identified seven key themes for action which now form the basis of this Strategy:

Community Learning and Development
Energy
Local Environments
Natural Heritage
Pollution
Transportation
Waste Minimisation and Wise Resource Use

Each of these seven chapters is set out to give a broad background picture of its current situation and what action is currently being undertaken.

The Actions & Initiatives identified in the Strategy set out the activities, projects and programmes which FEN partners have signed up to between 2003-2006 to give some idea of how we aim to improve Fife's environment. A lead partner has been identified for each action who will have the responsibility for carrying out that action within the timeframe identified in the Strategy.

To facilitate the Strategy's implementation, a Monitoring and Review framework is presented, including arrangements for monitoring actions and review. Key Measures and targets have been established for each theme and these will be used to measure our progress towards an improved environment within Fife. The Strategy will be a "rolling" process being regularly updated and will be reviewed during 2005/2006.

In addition to the themed chapters the Strategy also sets out:

- Actions that partners will take corporately to improve the Environmental performance of their own organisation.
- An exemplar Environmental Policy for partner organisations and others to adopt.



Fife's rich and varied landscape

INTRODUCTION

WHY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY FOR FIFE?

Fife has a tremendously diverse environment with some of the most important natural and historic features in Scotland. From gently rolling hills ideal for farming, to windswept islands and an impressive coastline dotted with fishing villages and Blue Flag Beaches. The challenge for Fife is how to protect and enhance these environmental assets, whilst recognising the impact we have on the local and global environment, and the impact it has on our lives and the state of our communities.

Global

This challenge was reaffirmed on a global scale at last year's World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. National and local government, together with the communities they serve, were called upon to intensify local efforts to 'create sustainable communities and protect the global common goods.'

National

The Scottish Executive's priorities for sustainable development (waste/resource use, energy and travel) recognise their cross-cutting nature and the need for greater community involvement and participation. The Executive also advocates and guides local authorities to develop 'joined-up thinking' to integrate social, economic and environmental issues into decision-making processes. The Community Planning process is therefore a powerful mechanism for Councils, local agencies, businesses, the voluntary sector and communities to work together to improve the quality of life for the people of Fife.

Local

The Fife Community Plan, published in June 2000, embraces the ethos and actions of Local Agenda 21 and states the commitment of key agencies to work together to improve the quality of life for everyone in Fife. One of the six key themes identified in the Community Plan for Fife is to 'Safeguard and Improve the Environment'. Although much positive work is ongoing, it was felt that there was a need for an overarching strategic approach to the Fife Environment. To this end the Fife Environmental Network - (FEN) Co-ordination Group was set up within the Community Planning strategic partnership framework and tasked with producing an action orientated Strategy which would be a focus for environmental effort in Fife.

FIFE ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

FEN has the following remit:

- To provide a strong environmental element to the Community Planning process.
- To promote partnership working to safeguard and improve the environment of Fife.
- To promote the development of practical and innovative projects which will reduce our negative impact and increase our positive impact on the wider environment.
- To act as a platform for the exchange of views on Fife's environment.

The FEN membership currently comprises Community Planning partners, key statutory agencies and a non-governmental agency. Many other organisations including voluntary sector organisations, Community Councils and utilities have already participated in the Strategy development process through participation in workshops and brainstorming sessions.

We hope that this Strategy together with the actions set out under the Community Learning & Development chapter will help us widen the membership of FEN considerably and strengthen dialogue across Fife. Membership of FEN is free and open to everyone and members will be kept informed of what's happening in the partnership in terms of environmental action. FEN will also help bring potential partners together to work on relevant projects through e.g. a regular newsletter and on the Fife Direct website at www.fifedirect.org.uk. If you wish to join the network please contact Ross Spalding on 01592 413436 (email: ross.spalding@fife.gov.uk).

A VISION FOR FIFE'S ENVIRONMENT

The overall vision of FEN and for the Strategy is to:

"deliver a continuously improving high quality environment within Fife capable of supporting our communities now and in the future"

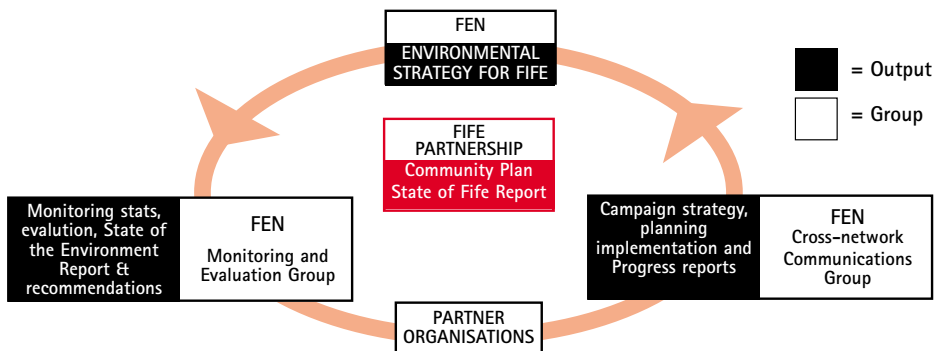
Through as much positive action as possible the Strategy aims to:

- Effectively protect and improve local environments, the Fife-wide environment and make a positive contribution to wider potential environmental problems.
- Increase awareness of environmental issues and promote community participation in action to improve environmental quality.
- Place the environment, along with social and economic issues, at the heart of all the Community Plan partners activity and decision-making.
- Encourage partners to improve their own environmental performance with regard to their internal operations including business planning and management processes and budgetary provision.
- Encourage partnership working between community groups, key agencies, organisations and businesses.



Fife has a rich
flora and fauna

FEN STRUCTURE: Groups and Outputs



DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

The Strategy has been developed following a series of workshops and environmental audit exercises involving Community Planning partners, Community Councils, the voluntary sector, government and non-government organisations. The environmental audit identified seven key themes for action which now form the basis of this Strategy:

Community Learning and Development
 Energy
 Local Environments
 Natural Heritage
 Pollution
 Transportation
 Waste Minimisation and Wise Resource Use

Each of the seven themed chapters is set out to give a broad picture of its:

- Links to other Environmental Strategy and Community Planning themes.
- Current situation and what is currently being done.
- What do we want to achieve - our longer-term aspirations for the future.
- Actions & Initiatives - the main activities, projects and programmes which will be undertaken between 2003-2006 in order to achieve the FEN vision.
- How will we gauge our performance - measures and targets which can be used to measure our progress towards an improved Fife environment.

In addition to the themed chapters the Strategy also sets out:

- Actions that partners will take corporately to improve the environmental performance of their own organisation.
- The Monitoring and Review framework for the Strategy which the FEN Co-ordination Group will oversee.
- An exemplar Environmental Policy for partner organisations and others to adopt.

CORPORATE COMMITMENT

Each of the FEN partners fully accepts the responsibility to improve the quality of Fife's environment and that effective protection and improvement will only be achieved by working together with the communities they serve. The FEN partners intend to play a key role in this combined effort and in addition to the actions they are taking forward within the themed chapters, each has set out their commitment to improve the environmental performance of their own organisation.

Communities Scotland

Will review existing sustainability indicators and checklist given to Registered Social Landlords who are expected to meet specific sustainability criteria. Additionally we will introduce new indicators and targets e.g. minimising construction waste throughout the year 2003 and onwards (2003-06).



Fife Council

Will develop and implement an Environmental Policy to be delivered through existing, key mechanisms, including the 'Take a Pride in Fife' strategy and campaign and ongoing Service programmes and activities (2003-06).



NHS Fife

Will actively develop our Environmental Management System, which will enable us to achieve sustainable development of the Health Service in Fife, while making a significant contribution to the improvement to the local and global environment (2003-06).



Scottish Enterprise Fife

Will enhance our own office performance in waste minimisation and energy efficiency and undertake an overall review on our approach toward environmental management (2003-06).



Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Will continue to participate in FEN and other environmental improvement initiatives within Fife. We will also:

- act upon the principles of our internal Environmental Policy.
- reduce our use of resources, re-use materials where possible and recycle the maximum we can.
- implement all necessary procedures to improve our energy efficiency and water conservation.
- use public transport whenever possible (2003-06)



Scottish Natural Heritage

Will implement our 'Greening the Workplace' strategy to improve our own environmental performance and set targets to measure our success. In particular we shall seek to minimise our reliance on non-renewable resources and motor vehicles, work to minimise energy consumption and waste production and build environmental considerations into all contracting decisions (2003-06).



Scottish Water

Will minimise the environmental impact of our core business activities of providing safe drinking water and collecting, treating and returning treated wastewater to the environment. In particular we will aim to:

- avoid, reduce or control pollution through all our activities.
- continually improve our environmental performance in relation to our activities, products and services.
- set environmental objectives and report on performance towards
- achieving set targets. (2003-06).



COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Community Learning and Development are key elements to a successful environmental strategy where individuals, communities, schools, organisations and businesses are aware of the environmental issues that affect their everyday lives and are able to make informed choices about their own actions. Only with a better understanding of the issues and consequences of actions do people generally change their behaviour and participate in positive action.

LINKS TO OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY PLANNING THEMES

All of the issues in this Strategy will require action. There will also be close links with all other Community Plan partnerships to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Achieving the objectives of this Strategy requires that we engage people's interest in the environment and encourage Fifers to change their behaviour in some way to benefit Fife's environment. This can be achieved by advising individuals on what they can do, where they can get help and what facilities are available. It is also necessary to promote a certain level of self awareness, such that, at all levels, we are aware of our impact on Fife's environment, what that will mean for us and how we all can become instruments of change.

A co-ordinated approach to raising community awareness is essential. Without co-ordination there is a risk of 'overloading' the target audience or not making best use of existing resources or new initiatives.

To achieve these aims it is important that FEN can help those involved in raising awareness, promoting action and changing behaviour. Fife is fortunate to have a strong and dedicated group of voluntary organisations who are actively involved in engaging communities at grass roots level and FEN welcome the involvement of such groups in raising environmental awareness and positive action. FEN can act as a hub to:

- Provide a support framework (including a guidance on effective means of raising awareness and promoting action and accessing information)
- Co-ordinate initiatives across Fife
- Monitor and report on activities

Managing and developing effective two-way communications is a vital component of any good strategy. This is especially important when the success of the 'Take a Pride in Fife' Strategy relies heavily on the involvement of community groups and individual citizens together with contributions from voluntary, statutory and private organisations.

Quality communications help strengthen the day-to-day link between organisations and the wider community but, perhaps most importantly, good communications can often make the difference between a good strategy and one that is truly achieved in partnership with others. With this in mind, FEN intends to design and develop a 'Take a Pride in Fife' communications campaign that will, over time, cover the work and involvement of all those concerned. The 'Take a Pride in Fife' Campaign aims to:

- Raise awareness of environmental issues
- Improve access to appropriate information
- Positively change behaviour
- Increase community participation
- Co-ordinate communication activities to improve efficiency and effectiveness

Key messages will be developed as the campaign is finalised. However it will include:

'Take a Pride in Fife' for:

Individuals - we can all make a contribution by making small changes in our lifestyle e.g. take less car journeys, be energy aware/efficient at home and in work, recycle more, make more use of Fife's green spaces and natural resources, take litter home, clean up after your dog.

Schools - work within the guidance of the national curriculum and the education service plan to ensure that pupils are aware of the issues relating to the environment on a world wide basis and in a school and Fife context.

Communities - take direct action in your own area, develop new projects, use and promote the facilities available, look for improvements and get involved in planning for them.

Businesses and organisations - being aware of and acting on your environmental impact can improve efficiency, productivity and image, promote good practice to your employees and support your local community.



Fife children travelling to school in their Walking Bus.



Benarty Self Build, low energy ecologically designed housing.



Tree planting by Fife Volunteers

WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE?

A great many community projects are currently underway and being driven forward by dedicated voluntary groups across Fife, including the Fife Environmental Education Forum, CVS Fife and WECAN!

Some examples of initiatives which are underway to encourage community participation include:

- Craigenalc Farm Ecology Centre, with a wide range of environmental awareness and education initiatives.
- Fife Air Cadets Conservation Group, which aims to promote environmental awareness in young people across Fife.
- Community Partnerships at Inverkeithing and St.Monans.
- Robert Gough Centre Environmental Projects, a day centre for people with special needs which encourages service users to participate in environmental projects.

In an effort to promote sustainable initiatives like these, FEN are preparing an Environmental Case Studies Guide which identifies over 50 projects involved in positive environmental action. All of these projects have a significant awareness raising or community involvement theme. WECAN! also produce a directory of environmental bodies in Fife which they intend to keep updated.

Copies of the Case Studies Guide can be obtained from the contact details listed on page 60.

One of the most important groups this Strategy needs to focus on is children and young people, both through the curriculum and community learning processes. At present school pupils learn about environmental issues through the 5-14 curriculum, science and social study subjects which cover areas of the human, physical and the natural environment. This includes studying topics relating to energy, pollution and conservation, living things, weather, seasons and climate. By studying these pupils will develop an understanding of the interaction between people and the Earth's natural environment: land use, resources and change, environmental issues and sustainability - all important aspects to this 'Take a Pride in Fife' Strategy.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Demonstrably change environmental behaviour of individuals, schools, communities, organisations and businesses.
- Raise the level of environmental awareness, education and participation amongst all sections of the community.
- Ensure available access to information regarding the environment, projects and responsibilities.

Capacity Building within the FEN partnership

If the Strategy is to succeed in achieving its aims and tackling the wide-ranging environmental issues, it would be impossible for FEN to carry out this action alone. By working in partnership, significant achievements can be made and we will look for ways of assisting the wider community, organisations and business to help themselves develop capacity to do this. By supporting each other to help ourselves we get the very Best Value from the resources we have available.

ACTIONS & INITIATIVES

The Community

- Expand the Fife Environmental Network which will:
 - Create 'branding' for the network through a logo and format for publications based on the Community Plan (*FEN Communications Group, 2003*).
 - Undertake an advertising campaign to effectively raise awareness in Fife (*FEN Communications Group, 2003/04*).
 - Organise an annual conference/seminar and/or participate in the State of Fife Conference (*FEN Communications Group, 2003-06*).
 - Maintain a membership list (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service FERN, 2003*).
 - Produce a FEN newsletter or contribute to a Community Planning newsletter and/or the Fifer (*FEN Communications Group, 2003*).
 - Develop and maintain a web-site presence (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service FERN, 2003*).
- In partnership with other Fife Council Services and Keep Scotland Beautiful, seek funding to recruit a dedicated Project Officer to work with Fife schools in developing the 'Eco-schools' programme, aimed at promoting environmental stewardship among children and young people (*Fife Council - Education Service, 2003*).
- Produce environmental learning schemes that will raise awareness and understanding of the natural environment and our relationship with it by:
 - Developing and implementing an Outdoor Learning Plan as part of the Community Learning Strategy (*Fife Council - Community Services, Summer 2003*).
 - Establishing an Outdoor Learning Partnership to share best practice, and promote and support the provision of outdoor learning activities and opportunities (*Fife Council - Community Services, Summer 2003*).
 - Developing and implementing an outdoor learning programme, "Natural Connections", that encourages participation by all sections of the community. (*Fife Council - Community Services, Summer 2003*).
- Develop good practice environmental guidance for Community Councils and community groups in relation to their work including guidance on project development and management, funding opportunities and developing an environmental policy (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service MSU, 2004*).
- Partners will support the development of community action groups such as the Benarty Regeneration Group, the Broom Community Forum, the Burntisland 2020 Development Trust and the Culross Development Trust which aim to develop 'sustainable communities' in their local community. Partners will assist them where possible in taking positive environmental action (*All Partners, 2003-06*).



St Andrews Young Ornithologists Club creating nesting boxes



Fife residents disposing waste sustainably



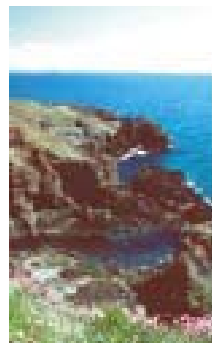
Fife Air Cadets Conservation Group

- Partners will look to assist with the training and development of unemployed and disadvantaged people through contracting New Deal teams and organisations such as the FEAT Enterprises to carry out relevant environmental project work (*All Partners, 2003-06*).
- Fife Council's Policy & Organisational Development Service will:
 - Investigate the potential to introduce an environmental checklist into the new monitoring and evaluation framework for all Council grants to voluntary bodies (*by Dec 2003*).
 - Promote community environmental grants in the Council's Community Grants Schemes booklet (*by end Jan 2004*).
- Encourage communities on the Forth Estuary coast to take part in the Forth Estuary Forum Coastal Litter Campaign, designed to raise awareness of marine litter and provide opportunities for volunteers to help improve the beach environment (*Fife Council - Community Services, 2003*).
- Subject to funding, progress a 'Food For Fife' project to encourage and support Fife residents on a low income to engage in sustainable community action related to food growing and distribution and composting (*WECAN, 2003-06*).
- Produce an Environmental Directory to be maintained and updated as necessary and comprising:
 - An Indexed Responsibilities guide, clearly identifying who is responsible for all aspects of the environment (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service FERN, 2003/04*).
 - A directory of all environmental projects relevant to Fife (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service MSU and FERN, 2003-06*).
 - A directory of individuals willing to carry out environmental improvement work (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service MSU and FERN, 2003-06*).
 - Support and develop FERN as a point of contact for information on all aspects of the environment, including environmental information, contacts, projects etc (*Fife Council, 2003-06*).

Public Bodies and Businesses

- Partners currently without an Environmental Policy and management system should develop and adhere to an Environmental Policy as soon as possible and integrate environmental management into the business planning and management framework of the business or organisation. Please note that an exemplar environmental policy is included for the use of businesses and organisations in Appendix 1 - this may be adopted as it stands or can be amended to suit the specific circumstances of your business or organisation (*All Partners, by 2006*).

- Partners should develop and implement a training programme for employees to raise staff awareness of the potential environmental implications of their actions *(All Partners, by 2006)*.
- Develop the Environmental Management System (EMS) Users Group to share experience, promote best practice and encourage companies and organisations without an EMS to adopt such a system *(Fife Council's Planning & Building Control Service, 2005-06)*.
- Develop a Sustainable Design Guide to improve the overall standard of development proposals across Fife *(Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service, 2004)*.
- Continue to investigate the business development opportunities for Fife companies relating to the global market for environmental goods and services including products for renewable energy equipment and recycling *(Scottish Enterprise Fife, 2003-06)*.
- All partners to seek innovative funding sources including European and Scottish Executive funding, Lottery grants, landfill tax funding etc. to develop projects promoting positive environmental action *(All Partners, 2003-06)*.



Kinraig is home to rare and interesting wildlife and is very popular with walkers and tourists



Dam Wood, Leven Valley - maintained by Robert Gough Centre



Gillingshill Reservoir, Nature Reserve was created by the local community

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Key Measures:

Everyone in Fife will have access to information about the environment by 2006 (information from random sample surveys across Fife).
60% of Fife residents will be aware of the work of the Fife Environmental

Network by 2006 (information from random sample surveys across Fife).
30% of Fife residents will have changed their environmental behaviour in some way e.g. recycling by 2006 (information from random sample surveys across Fife).

Identify baseline figure of people prepared to volunteer to carry out environmental improvements and significantly increase by 2006.

ENERGY

Energy is at the heart of the way we all live. We need energy in our homes for heating and light, for public and private transport, in our workplaces, and to provide us with leisure facilities and services.

LINKS TO OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY PLANNING THEMES

Environmental Strategy

- There is a need to minimise the use of fossil fuels, which are a finite resource and pollute the environment reducing air quality and contributing to climate change.
- Climate Change will result in an increased frequency of storms, more rainfall and consequently increased frequency of flooding.

Community Plan

- Energy efficiency improvements in housing are needed to reduce the level of fuel poverty, improving health, comfort and well-being.
- Economic growth will be enhanced through improved business efficiency and competitiveness, security of supply and employment.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Our current energy use from fossil fuels is resulting in climate change, acid rain and atmospheric pollution as well as the rapid depletion of non-renewable resources. However, the long-term costs and health risks associated with alternative sources (e.g. nuclear) means that we urgently need to increase energy efficiency and the supply of renewable energy such as wind and solar power.

Nationally, energy policy is being developed which will attempt to achieve long-term sustainable energy supply and use. In Fife we must ensure that we contribute to national targets and assist in complying with the Kyoto objectives while at the same time meeting local needs and providing local benefits.

Overall the main energy issues we need to consider in Fife in the public, domestic and business sectors are:

- Reducing fossil fuel energy consumption (coal, gas, petrol etc.).
- How the pollution impacts of energy generation can be controlled by use of abatement technology, clean coal technology in coal fired power stations and use of low sulphur fuels.
- Developing new forms of energy production such as solar power, wind, hydropower, use of bio-diesel etc.

Fife Council has a responsibility to implement the Home Energy Conservation Act (1995) (HECA) which attempts to tackle the issues of fuel poverty and climate change. While the primary objective is to reduce energy consumption, there are other benefits including reducing fuel bills, improving warmth in homes and associated health benefits.

The Scottish Parliament requires local authorities to develop strategies which will achieve a 30% improvement in energy efficiency in housing by 2010. Fife Council's Housing Service have reported a 6.7% reduction in energy usage in Fife homes, across all tenures, between 1997 and 2001. This is the equivalent of around one third of a tonne of coal (at the power station) per household per year.

WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE?

Fife Council's Home Energy Management Service is tackling domestic energy use through an Energy Efficiency Programme, in partnership with ScottishPower and other agencies. A comprehensive programme of capital works is being undertaken to modernise housing stock and an advisory service is provided to all domestic energy users.

The Council is improving its own energy performance by technical improvements in its public buildings and offices. The work carried out by the Council's Energy Management Unit has reduced energy consumption by 12% over its overall property portfolio during 2000/01 compared to the previous year.

Organisations such as the Fife Health Trusts, Scottish Water, Elmwood College and businesses including Fife paper companies, Silberline and Shell Fife Ethylene Plant have implemented, or are developing environmental management systems that include procedures for reducing energy consumption. Fife Acute Hospitals Trust and Fife Primary Care Trust have been particularly successful in the area of energy conservation over the last few years and have regularly won national awards. In October 2002, the Trusts became the only ones in Scotland to achieve accreditation in the National Energy Foundation's Energy Accreditation Scheme.

The Fife Structure Plan (2002) has a policy objective to encourage the production of electricity from renewable resources. It includes policies aimed at creating an enabling framework for the development of renewable energy technologies such as wind power and Combined Heat & Power (CHP). Additionally, guidance for prospective developers has been prepared to further assist them in preparing their proposals. Land at Westfield, Kinglassie has been identified as a potential site for an 'Energy Park' to enable demonstration projects.

The Westfield Biomass Plant, Fife's first renewable energy generator, has been operational since 2000 and burns poultry litter to generate electricity with fertiliser as a by-product. It has an electricity output of 10MW.



Methil Power Station



Changing climate patterns will result in a cost, such as coastal defences.



Climate change will make snow an unusual event in Fife.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

The change to renewable energy sources is very much a nationally led initiative. Locally, our greatest impact on unsustainable energy use is through increased efficiency in our homes and workplaces.

Unlike many other themes within this Strategy and with the exception of HECA, energy does not have a current co-ordinated approach or process in place. Many of the actions and initiatives are aimed at producing such a framework.

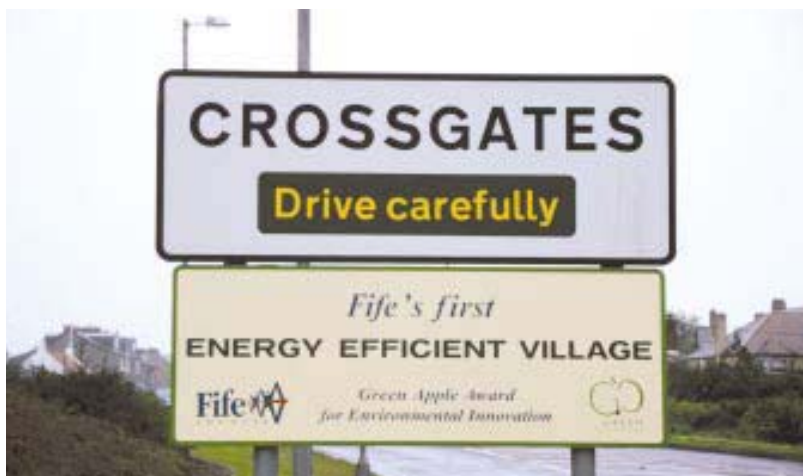
ACTIONS & INITIATIVES

- Produce a Fife-wide Energy Strategy which will include:
 - An overall strategic approach to energy management within Fife.
 - Clear roles and responsibilities of partners.
 - Partners will include key Fife Council Services, Energy Suppliers and organisations such as Scottish Enterprise Fife, SEPA etc, Community Plan Strategic Partnerships e.g. the Health Alliance, Economic Forum etc and business partners.
 - A direct monitoring method, to be developed in conjunction with energy suppliers.
 - The approach to be taken in securing renewable energy sources.
 - HECA, including both Council housing stock and others.
 - A means of involving the business community.
 - A campaign and communications element.

(Fife Council - Environmental Policy Implementation Group, 2003/04).

Improve the energy efficiency of all housing and public sector buildings.

- Continue to conduct energy audits in public buildings, recommending improvements to reduce energy use, and implement these where possible
(Fife Council - Facilities Management Section, 2003-06).
- Increase levels of energy contracts for 'green energy' with its suppliers where this capacity is available
(Fife Council - Facilities Management Section, 2003-06).
- Investigate methods of reducing the environmental impact of any future amenity floodlighting schemes by the use of energy from renewable sources, energy efficient lamps and effective control light switches
(Scottish Enterprise Fife, 2003-06).



Encourage individuals, public bodies and businesses to reduce their use of energy.

- Provide home energy efficiency advice to 2000 householders each year and raise awareness of home energy issues by a combination of methods including home visits, road shows, presentations to community groups, publications and questionnaires (*Fife Council - Housing Service, 2003-06*).
- Re-establish the 'Brass Monkeys' campaign, providing energy efficiency advice to young householders (*Fife Council - Housing Service 2004/05*).

Promote and facilitate the development of new energy technologies in Fife.

- Monitor a pilot geothermal heating project until 2005 to evaluate its operation and effectiveness (*Fife Council - Housing Service, 2003-05*).
- Pilot a range of solar water heating systems in Council owned housing stock (including heated slates) until 2003 and beyond, with the aim of promoting mainstream implementation of successful techniques (*Fife Council - Housing Service, 2003-06*).
- Continue to implement, monitor and review its renewable energy policy and guidance to direct renewable energy developments to acceptable locations in Fife (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service, 2003-06*).
- Install comprehensive gas management systems at the Council's Landfill Sites, including the generation of electricity from landfill gas (*Fife Council - Environmental Services, 2004*).
- Conduct at least 20 visits to premises selling domestic electrical appliances, to ensure energy labelling complies with all the relevant Energy Efficiency and Information Regulations (*Fife Council Trading Standards in co-operation with lead partners - Dept. of Trading and Industry, Environment Agency, Office of Fair Trading and Local Authorities co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) (2003-04)*).

Promote and facilitate the establishment of energy related businesses in Fife, both in conservation (e.g. insulation) and renewables, e.g. manufacturing solar panels.

- Scottish Enterprise Fife will:
 - Continue to investigate the business development opportunities for Fife businesses in the manufacture and supply of materials and products for energy conservation and renewable energy sources and provide support to exploit such opportunities where appropriate (*2003-06*).
 - Make appropriate use of its Common Action Group approach for local businesses designed to improve business performance in areas including energy efficiency, and the use of energy from renewable sources, in addition to its one-to-one delivery relationships (*2003-06*).



Electricity is essential for modern lifestyles.



Low Energy Lightbulb



Kingdom Housing Association
Development at Turner
Crescent, Methil



HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Key Measures:

A Fife Energy Strategy will be produced and will include direct measures of energy consumption.

Fife's housing stock will be 30% more energy efficient by 2010 (interim target of 15% by 2006).

Fife Council will work towards minimising the consumption of energy in its buildings and reduce the Council's energy costs by 20% by 2010.

Within Fife's business community, the number of businesses with accredited environmental management systems in place (including measures to reduce demand for energy) will have increased by 10 by 2006.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTS

Our lives are affected by the quality of our local surroundings. Activities such as dog fouling, graffiti and litter, together with the general character, appearance and accessibility of our local area can significantly impact on our well-being, quality of life and feelings of safety.

LINKS TO OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY PLANNING THEMES

Environmental Strategy

- Pollution may arise from the litter and rubbish within our local environment.
- A waste management strategy may help to address the inappropriate disposal of rubbish.
- The quality of our local natural heritage, in particular wildlife, can be affected by local environmental issues such as litter, rubbish and landscape design.

Community Plan

- A key theme of the Community Plan is strong, safe and thriving communities. The high quality of the local environment is a vital element in promoting community safety and well-being.
- Access to the countryside as well as in and around communities, plays a vital role in recreation, health, tourism and sustainable transport.
- The protection of built heritage features can contribute to community identity and provide economic and leisure opportunities.

Local environments are closely linked to the Community Learning & Development theme and it is often difficult to categorise an initiative between them. The quality of life for an individual resident can be significantly changed if local services such as waste collection, cleaning or street lighting are changed. The quality of our built environment has a significant impact on health, both physically (e.g. air pollution) and psychologically (e.g. creating a sense of well-being and providing places to relax). Built heritage features are important in that they can create a sense of place and distinctiveness. Community safety considerations are also important e.g. inappropriate planting may shade out areas or create no go zones for local residents.

Possibly more than any other theme, the three aspects of a sustainable community – the social, economic and environmental requirements of an area link very closely within the local environments theme. This balance is best achieved through close partnership working and by listening to the community.

The key benefits of a quality local environment can be:

- Improved physical and psychological health
- Increased safety
- More convenient e.g. access to local services
- Investment and economic development (including tourism and town centre regeneration)



Many environmental issues have their roots in other areas such as social problems



Cardenden



Quality local environments promote recreation

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Within the environmental audit which was undertaken as part of the development of this Strategy, Community Councils identified litter, dumping and pollution among their top issues (over 10%), with dog fouling identified by over 5% of respondents. Litter was also identified as an issue by partner organisations within FEN.

A further survey was carried out in early 2002 as part of the West Fife Sustainable Communities project, a partnership between Fife Council and Forward Scotland. Householders in three villages (approx. 2000 households) were asked what their concerns were about the way of life in their village. More than one in three households responded and three of the top four concerns in each of the villages were environmental (with crime reduction being the top concern):

- Dog fouling (57% of all respondents very concerned);
- Litter (53% of all respondents very concerned) and;
- Village attractiveness (49% of all respondents very concerned).

A public consultation exercise carried out during late 2000 surveyed 1000 residents, asking views on environment related services of Fife Council. Cleaning up dog mess (19%) and street sweeping (13%) were given by more than 10% of respondents when asked to identify the one local environmental issue they would most like to see improved.

Proactive environmental enhancement work is being carried out successfully at a variety of levels from residents themselves taking action to clean up their own neighbourhoods to multi-agency funding partnership approaches.

In terms of the wider countryside, the Kingdom of Fife Tourist Board Survey 2002 shows that recreational use of the countryside is a major part of Fife's attraction as a tourist destination. Most of the facilities that attract tourists are well used by local people. Fife Council works in partnership with other agencies to promote access to paths and countryside throughout the Kingdom.



WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE?

A new Environmental Services function has been formed during a recent Fife Council re-structure. It is intended that this rationalisation will bring about activities which are, across the whole Council, increasingly integrated, responsive and locally accountable.

Fife Council has recently joined with Keep Scotland Beautiful to participate in their 'People and Places' programme. This association will assist in improving local environmental quality through appraisal, development, action, enforcement and education. The Council is also promoting a Cleaner, Tidier Fife through the 'Take a Pride in Fife' campaign with additional funding identified to action various initiatives during 2003.

Examples of Community Groups playing an active role in helping their own local environments in such work include:


- Saline Community Council has prepared a Saline Village Improvement Scheme to improve the local environment.
- Aberdour Community Council has prepared a Conservation and Management Plan for the town.
- The Leven Valley Development Trust and the Leven Environment Group are working to improve the environment in the Leven area.

The promotion of Fife's local environments is also being undertaken through encouraging people to visit their countryside and in promoting the health benefits of doing so. A healthy walking initiative is already being piloted in the Dunfermline, Cupar and Levenmouth areas. The aim is to get people walking in the local area to improve their health and well being. The 'Bums Off Seats' project, as it is known, includes Fife Council, Fife Primary Care NHS Trust, Ramblers Association, Fife Society for the Blind and Scottish Disabled Ramblers.

One of the important factors in managing access will be the new access legislation in 2004. A Fife Access Forum has been set up to make sure that all interested partners have a voice in the future development of access and includes representatives from user groups, community groups, land managers and government agencies. They will be driving forward the implementation of the Access Strategy for Fife as well as the development of a Core Path Network.



Varying land uses
of a local
environment



Fife Council, The Kingdom of Fife Tourist Board, Scottish Enterprise Fife and Scottish Natural Heritage, recently set up the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. The Trust will also play a key part in access management. It's priorities are to promote and develop access around the Fife Coastal Path, the Lomond Hills Regional Park and Countryside for Communities.

A range of environmental initiatives have been undertaken with multi-agency funding, often through public consultation and in partnership with community groups and other organisations such as Fife Environment Trust. These include Townscape Heritage Initiative projects, Buildings Facelift Schemes and conservation area enhancement schemes, some of which are listed below:

- Blairhall Memorial Garden
- Cupar facelift
- Grounds For Learning schemes in schools throughout Fife
- Kelty Recreation Improvements and heritage trails
- Kirkcaldy Esplanade Banners project
- Kirkcaldy Harbour/Port Brae Townscape Heritage Initiative
- Leven streetscape improvements
- River Eden project, Cupar
- Templehall Millennium Garden
- West Wemyss Townscape Heritage Initiative

Protection of our built heritage has generally been successful through the statutory provisions of the planning system. Nevertheless, the natural deterioration of parts of our built heritage remains an on-going threat. Key areas in need of conservation action include conservation areas in rural settlements in East Area and in coastal settlements in West Area, Dunfermline Town Centre, Burntisland, Kinghorn, the Wemyss villages and the early central Kirkcaldy industrial area and harbour.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

A Fife where statutory agencies, voluntary and local groups and individuals work together to ensure that:

- Local environments are enjoyable to live in.
- Appropriate action is taken to clean up litter, graffiti and dog fouling.
- Solutions are in place to prevent litter and other nuisances from occurring in the first place.
- Continuous improvements are made to the quality of our local environment.

ACTIONS & INITIATIVES

Take action to clean up litter, fly-tipping and dog fouling and put in place solutions to prevent them from occurring.

- Fife Council's Environmental Services will:
 - Develop its partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful as part of the 'People and Places' programme, contributing to national campaigns, promoting clean up kits and providing education and training (2003).
 - Promote a Fife-wide initiative in conjunction with SEPA to tackle the problem of fly tipping and encourage the community to play a part in keeping their environment clean and tidy (2003-06).
 - Continue to progress its Town Centre Initiatives in Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy (2003-06).
 - Introduce environmental wardens across Fife, tasked with promoting clean streets and tackling litter offenders (2003-06).
 - Continue the use of 'hit squads'/'fast response teams' to deal with local environmental incidents requiring immediate attention and feedback from the community. A first point of contact phone number should also be publicised for use by the community, other Council Services and organisations (2003-06).
 - Continue and extend the pilot high profile Police/Dog Warden patrols to raise public awareness of dog fouling problems (2003-06).
 - Continue to promote responsible dog ownership by:
 - Expanding the provision of free dog poop bags to more outlets.
 - Implementing a pilot initiative to provide bag dispensers in suitable locations such as entrances to parks.
 - Providing additional dog waste bins.
 - Considering a more wide ranging positive publicity strategy in partnership with animal welfare and community organisations (2003-06).

Promote access to paths and the countryside throughout Fife.

- Create a series of Walking for Health projects, including volunteer led walking groups and signed healthy walking routes and packs. In all by 2005, there will be 41 signed health walks, 74 recruited walk leaders and walk packs with 41 routes (Fife Council - Countryside Services, by 2005).
- Improve promotion and access to the Lomond Hills Regional Park from the surrounding communities including gateway signing from Glenrothes and Leslie and piloting community involvement in path management and maintenance in the Lomond Hills (Fife Council - Countryside Services, by end of 2004).
- Pilot a Sustainable Visitor Management System looking at the carrying capacity of paths and beaches (Fife Council - Countryside Services, by 2004).
- Produce a draft Core Path Network Plan for the Dunfermline, Cupar and Levenmouth pilot areas, through the Access Steering Group and advised by the Access Forum (Fife Council - Countryside Services, by 2005).
- Develop the cultural and natural heritage and economic opportunities along Fife Coastal Path through working with local communities and participating in the NAVE Nortrail Trans-national project, linking paths around the North Sea (Fife Council - Countryside Services, for completion in 2007).



Culross



River Ore



Stone Circle-Balbirnie Park
Glenrothes

Make continuous improvements to the quality of our local environment.

- Fife Council's Community Services will:
 - Contribute to the quality of the local environment through a range of environmental improvement projects in partnership with local communities (2003-2006).
 - Develop and expand its 'Best Kept Villages/Towns' Scheme across Fife (2003-2006).
 - Determine sustainable levels of open space through a 'Parks and Open Space Strategy' (2004).
- Investigate the feasibility, promote and action the setting up of urban green recreation/play areas, aiming to produce one pilot site by 2006 (*Fife Council - Community Services, 2006*).
- Fife Environment Trust will continue to contribute to the quality of the local environment by supporting a wide range of eligible projects meeting the landfill tax regulations (2003-06).
- Fife Council's Planning & Building Control Service will:
 - Continue to enable opportunities for improving the quality of the local environment through its Local Plan policies and proposals for the development of specific sites (2003-06).
 - Contribute to the quality of the local environment through the implementation of a programme of environmental improvements along with its partners including local communities (2003-06).
 - Develop Outstanding Conservation Area projects in partnership with Scottish Enterprise Fife.
 - Implement Cupar Outstanding Conservation Area closes enhancement project involving environmental improvement of key pedestrian routes through closes (2003-06).
 - Implement Cupar Outstanding Conservation Area Buildings Facelift Scheme (2003-06).
 - Complete St Andrews Outstanding Conservation Area enhancement project involving streetscape environmental improvements (2003-06).
- Implement the 3 year component of the Kirkcaldy Riggs Townscape Heritage Initiative (a multi-agency partnership funded project including Heritage Lottery Fund support for conservation/ regeneration of north Kirkcaldy High Street/ Harbour area) (2003-06).
- Undertake investigations into partnership funding measures for a proposed Townscape Heritage Initiative for Kinghorn and Burntisland and if successful, commence implementation within a 3 year programme (2003-06).
- Undertake initial phase of Pittencrieff Park 10 year Action Plan for restoration/ enhancement, involving bid to Heritage Lottery Fund's Public Park Programme (2003-06).

- Scottish Enterprise Fife will continue to undertake environmental improvement work, generally in partnership with others, within the limits of our budgetary availability and the need to achieve our specific targets (2003-06).
- Assist in developing and co-ordinating environmental action in regeneration areas (Fife Council - Policy & Organisational Development Service, April 2004).

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Key Measures:

10% of people will note an overall improvement of some kind to their local environment by 2006 (information from random sample surveys across Fife).

The overall condition of Fife's streets, based on issues such as litter, graffiti and dog fouling, will be improved from the 2002 baseline survey (results pending).

The number of households within 10 minutes walk of an attractive greenspace will be increased by 5% by 2006.

The speed at which streetlights are repaired will be improved by 2006. Currently 91% (2000/2001) were repaired within the Statutory Performance Indicator target of 7 days.



Kirkcaldy Harbour
Regeneration



Aerial view of housing in
Fife



Lochore Country Park

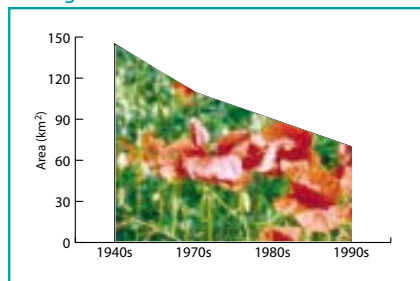
NATURAL HERITAGE

Our natural heritage encompasses all of the ecosystems, species, habitats, landscape and geology which surrounds us. Much of this resource is finite or difficult to replace and has been steadily lost or degraded over long periods of time. These losses have mainly related to changes in land use and management.

LINKS TO OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY PLANNING THEMES

Natural heritage is linked intimately with most other issues and themes because it provides the background on which we do everything. Natural resources are important both economically, e.g. soils for farming, mining, fishing etc, and socially e.g. pleasant surroundings, leisure, affordable resources and health. Wildlife in particular is affected by pollution and changes in land use.

Change in semi-natural habitat in Fife



WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Natural heritage comprises three key elements – biodiversity, landscape and geology.

Biodiversity is a broad term covering all wildlife and their associated habitats and interactions. Fife has varied and important biodiversity, including sites, species and habitats of international importance, but also many, much more common but well loved and widespread species.

Although much work has been undertaken to enhance biodiversity locally, overall natural habitats and species are being lost at a worrying rate (see above figure).

The Fife landscape is surprisingly varied for such a small area, extending from flat agricultural plains, hills formed from extinct volcanoes to towns and seascapes. Much of Fife is protected in some way for its natural heritage. About 4% is designated for its natural heritage and 52% of the area is designated of Great Landscape Value.

The geology of Fife has and continues to have significant economic and educational value. Coal mining, quarrying and extraction of sand and gravel has been, and continues to be enormously important. Fife also has many geological sites which are of international importance, but which are unprotected.

WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE?

The Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is the long-term strategic plan for the support of wildlife and habitats in Fife. The LBAP is led by the Fife Biodiversity Partnership, which involves many environmental organisations and members of the public with an interest in biodiversity. A second edition of the LBAP is due out in late summer 2003, to update the 1997 edition and take into account Community Planning and the 'Take a Pride in Fife' Strategy.

There are numerous targets contained within the 1997 LBAP, and as a result a strategic approach has been developed to effectively implement these targets. This approach focuses on rationalising the targets into practical projects, a number of which are already underway. These projects are based in urban and countryside areas, and include:

- A project based in Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy, where the local community will be involved in planting wildflowers and erecting nest boxes to enhance the park's biodiversity.
- The Fife LBAP Rivers Project, which aims to improve the extent and quality of river habitat in Fife. This project will initially focus on enhancing river habitat for water voles, Britain's most threatened mammal. A mink control and habitat enhancement project will take place in and around Lochore Meadows Country Park, with the involvement of the local farming community.
- Townhill Biodiversity Project, where the LBAP and Fife Ranger Service are working with ScottishPower to implement biodiversity measures on their land around Townhill Substation.
- The LBAP's Wood to Go Initiative, which provides recycled wood free to community groups wishing to build and erect bird and bat nest boxes.

Future plans for the LBAP include:

- increasing the scope of the LBAP by initiating larger scale projects,
- developing stronger links with the 'Take a Pride in Fife' Strategy.

As well as the LBAP, other innovative projects are underway across Fife, including the FWAG River Eden project, and the enhancement of 9 Wildlife Reserves by the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

The Plans and Projects Team within Fife Council's Planning & Building Control Service are producing landscape plans for major settlements.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Stop further loss of natural habitats, enhance what is left and create new habitats where possible.
- Sustain and increase the population of priority species.
- Improve the quality of freshwater rivers, coastal and estuarine waters.
- Conserve and enhance our varied landscape.
- With key local groups, raise the awareness amongst the general public of the biodiversity and landscape value within Fife.



Ruddons Point SSSI - part of the Fife Coastal Path



Bluebell Woodland, Fife Millennium Forest



Habitats for Corn buntings have become increasingly scarce due to changes in farming practices.

ACTIONS & INITIATIVES

Holistic approach to land management issues

- Create large scale environmental zones integrated with other issues such as coastal zone management, access, nature conservation, blue flag beaches. Initially a framework will be developed and a pilot area decided upon (*Fife Council - Community Services, 2003-06*).
- Create long term forest plans (20-25 year framework) for publicly owned forests to find an appropriate balance between landscape, recreation, natural heritage and timber production (*Forest Enterprise, 2003-05*).
 - Cardenden (2003-04)
 - Balgownie (2003-04)
 - Ladybank (2004-05)
- Produce and implement landscape plans for the countryside around settlements (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service, 2003-06*). These plans will:
 - Inform the preparation of development plans (Structure and Local Plans).
 - Provide a local context for landscape.
 - Assist in management and enhancement of landscape setting and improve access to surrounding countryside.
- Assess six Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) within Fife and acquire funding to produce interpretation material for each site (*Fife RIGS Group 2006*).

Support the Local Biodiversity Action Plan by:

Enhancing Farmland for natural heritage

- Implement practical projects and develop research and advice to conserve Fife's important farmland bird populations, focusing on the corn bunting, the region's key priority farmland bird species (*RSPB Scotland, 2003-06*).

Enhancing urban areas for natural heritage

- Promote and assist in the development of local or town biodiversity action plans, derived from the Fife LBAP, developing the Dunfermline Eastern Expansion Site as an example (*LBAP, 2003-06*).

Seeking innovative funding sources to develop wider biodiversity action

- Seek capacity and resources to take forward projects in the following areas:
 - River catchments
 - Woodland and community woodlands (*LBAP, 2003-06*).



Assist partner organisations to enhance natural heritage on their own land

- Set up a Fife seed bank to allow easier access to locally sourced planting material. This will ensure that projects have access to seed stock that is from Fife and adapted to the local conditions. This maintains Fife's genetic distinctiveness and often makes it more likely that planting will succeed (*Fife Council - Community Services, 2003-06*).
- Work proactively with partners, businesses and organisations to help conserve biodiversity on their land and ensure biodiversity considerations are integrated into existing environmental management systems and action and development plans (*LBAP, 2003-06*).

Monitor Fife's natural heritage

- Prepare a biodiversity monitoring framework for Fife (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service FERN, 2003*).
- Produce and maintain an agreed list of natural heritage which is important in a Fife context for use within the Development Plan process (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service FERN, 2003*).



Puffins on the Isle of May

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Key Measures:

375 Ha of land will be enhanced for biodiversity through the management of selected sites by 2006.

The population of a range of 6 key indicator species, detailed in the biodiversity monitoring framework, will be increased by 2006.

Create 3 long-term forest plans by 2006.

Six Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) will be designated with interpretation material produced by 2006.



Horse Chestnut



Fleecefaulds Meadow SSSI - an example of a very threatened habitat

POLLUTION

Pollution can be caused by any substance or material that has a harmful impact on the environment. Everyone has the potential to cause pollution at home and at work that will not only affect the local environment but may also have a global impact.

LINKS TO OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY PLANNING THEMES

- Waste disposal to landfill may result in pollution of surface and groundwater by leachate from the site.
- Energy production resulting in pollution of air.
- Transportation emissions to atmosphere.
- Some industrial processes may result in contamination of the land e.g. chemical production.
- Agriculture - use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides resulting in diffuse pollution with run-off from fields into rivers and streams.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Human activity in many forms has resulted in the pollution of Fife's air, land and water since the industrial revolution. The sources of pollution are many and varied and have changed significantly over time. Many parts of the Fife environment still suffer the effects of historical pollution. In recent decades much tighter controls on sources of pollution have seen significant reductions in the amounts of pollutants we are adding to the environment and it is important that we continue these reductions.

Significant sources of pollution are considered to be:

Agricultural activities

There are over 1200 farms in Fife each with the potential to cause pollution from its activities and sources include:

- Storage and spreading of animal wastes and slurries
- Spreading of fertilisers
- Application of pesticides and fertilisers
- Inappropriate disposal of farm wastes
- Application of industrial and other wastes to agricultural land

The most likely consequences of the above sources of agricultural pollution are a reduction in the quality of watercourses and degradation of soils through contamination.

Road Traffic

Traffic on Fife's roads is responsible for 23% of all CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere as well as 90% of the carbon monoxide in the air.

Marine Pollution

Fife lies between two major estuaries, the Tay and the Forth, both of which carry fairly heavy volumes of marine traffic including freight and pleasure craft. Consequently there is a problem with litter of all types being washed up on the beaches as a result of waste disposal from ships using the estuaries. While the major harbours provide facilities for disposal of waste including oily wastes and sewage, many of the small pleasure harbours do not.

Industrial Processes

There are many varied industrial processes within Fife which have the potential to cause various forms of pollution. The table below illustrates some of the types of industry, which are present in Fife and the types of pollution they have the potential to emit:

Industry Type	Potential Pollution
Petrochemicals	Hydrocarbons
Paper making	Organic compounds into watercourses; carbon dioxide into the air
Electronics	Solvents into the air
Open cast mining	Particulates into the air; run-off of solids into watercourses
Garages	Disposal of waste oils, tyres, batteries etc
Construction	Wastes which can pollute land and water, run-off from sites which can pollute water

Past Industrial Activities

Fife played a leading role in the industrial revolution and as a result there was historically a concentration of industrial activity within Fife. In previous decades there was little control over the amounts of pollution caused by these industrial activities. As a result significant pollution occurred from these activities, much of which is still present in contaminated land or polluting mine water discharges.

Electricity Production

The production of electricity through the combustion of fossil fuels results in significant amounts of pollutants being discharged into the atmosphere. These pollutants include carbon dioxide, acid gasses (sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide) and particulates. The Global Energy gas turbine at Westfield produces electricity through the combustion of natural gas, which produces much smaller quantities of pollutants.

Water and Sewage Treatment

As a consequence of treating water and sewerage, wastes are produced which have the potential to cause pollution. Sewage treatment produces a liquid effluent, which is discharged to a watercourse and a solid cake, which can be spread on land. The liquid effluent from sewage treatment plants can and does cause pollution. Care has to be taken with the solid cake from sewage treatment plants in order to avoid pollution particularly when this is spread on land.



Pollution can occur from a variety of sources



Treating sewage in reed beds at Valleyfield



Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) are being used at the Dunfermline Eastern Expansion Area to counter potential flooding

Water Quality

Water quality in the Fife area is monitored by SEPA. This includes inland (rivers and Lochs) and marine (estuary and coastal waters) water quality. In addition, SEPA and Fife Council monitor Bathing Waters.

Overall, river and loch quality is good although the quality of some rivers is being affected by discharges from sewage treatment plants, diffuse agricultural pollution and discharges from closed mines. Discussions are ongoing with SEPA to determine the most relevant indicator relating to river quality.

Fife beaches, classified as Bathing Water Beaches have improved in recent years largely driven by investment required under the Urban Wastewater Treatment (Scotland) Regulations 1994. In Fife, over £100 million has been invested in new and improved methods of wastewater treatment during the last 6 years.

Air Quality

There are a number of test sites in Fife where Fife Council monitor air quality. The site at Kincardine has been monitored using diffusion tubes and results indicate that nitrogen dioxide levels are approaching air quality standards. A second site at Saline indicates that sulphur dioxide levels are close to the air quality standard. Transportation is the primary source of pollutants, which affect air quality.

Housing

Construction of housing on brownfield sites can help to restore previously polluted land. The Fife Council Structure Plan actively encourages new build housing to be constructed on brownfield sites and discourages greenfield development. Inefficient heating and insulation can lead to excessive energy use and result in emissions of carbon dioxide and acid gasses. Drainage from housing schemes, if inappropriately designed, can result in run-off of pollutants to watercourses.



WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE?

There is a significant amount of work being carried out by a number of organisations to reduce and control pollution in the Fife area.

SEPA regulates many of the most potentially polluting industrial processes in the Fife area. Each has a permit with conditions which control the pollution these processes produce and impact they have on the environment. Inspections of these premises are carried out by SEPA staff to ensure the premises are operated in compliance with the permit. New regulations (The Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations 2000) are coming into force that will require higher standards than before and control industrial processes not previously covered.

In addition Scottish Enterprise Fife are promoting and facilitating the development and implementation of environmental management systems designed to ensure best practice and reduce waste and pollution.

Fife Council with assistance from SEPA is currently carrying out an exercise to identify contaminated land in the Fife area. Following the identification of land as contaminated it will be prioritised with a view to ensuring it is remediated. This process will take a number of years to complete.

In terms of water and sewage treatment, any discharges from treatment plants are controlled by a discharge consent, which is issued by SEPA. These consents set limits on the concentration and quantities of pollutants, which are discharged. Compliance with the discharge consents is determined by sampling the discharge and inspections. The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive has resulted in significant extra investment in the upgrading of sewage treatment systems resulting in significantly less pollutants being discharged to surface waters. This investment and improvement will continue for a number of years.

All new planning applications for housing will be assessed against Structure Plan criteria. Preference will be given to brownfield development and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) will be used wherever appropriate.

Some communities in Fife have recently expressed their concern about the potential impacts of the environmental pollution on people's health. Fife NHS Board are currently working with Fife Council and Fife Primary Care Trust Health Promotion to explore approaches to incorporate potential links between environmental changes and people's health through a Health Impact Assessment process, taking into consideration relevant research and guidance.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Ensure good air quality and minimise air pollutants
- Maintain and improve all water environments
- Ensure contaminated land is identified and remediated and minimise future contamination of land



Burning of fossil fuels will continue to deteriorate our environment



Sewage pipe



Silversands beach, Aberdour - one of Fife's blue flag beaches

ACTIONS & INITIATIVES

Regulate reduce and monitor pollution discharges

- SEPA will:
 - Continue to regulate permitted processes through the issuing of permits, inspections and sampling programmes and take enforcement action where required (*ongoing*)
 - In partnership with the Coal Authority, continue to monitor the potential discharge of iron contaminated water from abandoned coal mines and set up treatment areas as necessary (*2003-06*).
 - Monitor discharges to air and controlled waters (*ongoing*).
 - Continue with the collection of data for the Diffuse Pollution Initiative and develop dissemination materials (*2003*).

Fife Council's Transportation Service will:

- Monitor and report on transport generated pollution as part of the Air Quality Strategy Initiative in Fife (*Fife Council - Transportation Service, 2003*).
- Set a timescale to identify and address the health risks associated with transport related pollution (*Fife Council - Transportation Service, 2005*).
- FWAG will:
 - Carry out phase 2 of the River Eden Project to restrict animal access to close proximity of the water and investigate nutrient budgeting (*2003*).
 - Produce a report to consider the potential advantages of nutrient budgeting and riverside planting of the River Eden project and results disseminated to local farming community (*2005*).
- Fife Council will set up a working party of partner organisations to determine any required alterations to the Pesticide Policy, monitor compliance with the policy and consider extending to other partnership members (*Fife Council - Pesticides Working Group, 2003*).
- Fife Council's Environmental Services will:
 - Carry out a further review and assessment of Fife's Air Quality (*2006*).
 - Carry out remediation work set out in the action plans developed in relation to the Contaminated Land study (*2006*).
- Local Plans, when reviewed, will incorporate a policy requiring the incorporation of SUDS in all developments where practical by 2005. Following this the number of development schemes incorporating SUDS will increase (*Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service, 2005*).

Raise awareness of pollution prevention and control

- SEPA will:
 - Work with the agricultural community in order to reduce pollution from farming (*ongoing*).
 - In partnership with Fife Council's Environmental Services, develop an action plan to deal with any problems identified within the forthcoming Contaminated Land report (*2004*).
 - Initiate awareness raising exercises covering a range of pollution prevention and control issues (*SEPA and Fife Council, annually to 2006*).

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Key Measures:

The length of rivers classified as being of good or fair quality will increase.

River water quality is monitored based on the number of consents to discharge that are within compliance. Target for:

2002	90%
2003	92%
2004	95%

Number of bathing water samples meeting EC Mandatory Standard to be maintained above 95%.

Compliance with national air quality standards in a range of parameters by 2005.

We will meet the targets set at Kyoto to reduce CO₂ emissions by 5% by 2005.

Within Fife's business community, the number of businesses with accredited environmental management systems in place (including measures to reduce pollution) will have increased by 10 by 2006.



Achieving good air quality standards will help meet the Kyoto targets



Bathing waters in Fife have improved in recent years



Elie Harbour

TRANSPORTATION

The rate of increase in ownership of private cars has escalated dramatically in recent times, giving us more flexibility and freedom to travel. However this has led to increasing traffic volumes and congestion, necessitating the need to reduce dependency on car use and widening travel choices by integrating the transport network.

LINKS TO OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY PLANNING THEMES

- Potential to reduce air pollution and climate change by encouraging the use of public transport and moving freight by rail.
- Improved public transport services can improve people's quality of life through greater accessibility to employment, learning and leisure opportunities.
- There is a need to continue to improve Fife's link to national and international transport networks and the internal transport network within Fife to allow Fife businesses to be competitive.
- Developing safe home to school routes is one way of developing stronger, safer communities - for example, by encouraging the "Walking Bus" concept to improve safety and reduce congestion around schools as well as helping to reduce pollution.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

The number of people travelling to work and going about normal daily activities by car is increasing. On a normal day 60,000 cars cross the Forth while only 14,000 passengers use the trains and buses.

Fife does not have some of the severe traffic congestion or pollution problems that are found in major cities but nevertheless the level of car use in Fife still impacts on climate change and inevitably many Fifers contribute to congestion elsewhere. Consequently the environmental impact of travel will be addressed by encouraging public transport use, cycling and walking. There is already available a network of rail, express and local bus and community transport services which can be developed further.

Public transport infrastructure is such that 99% of the population live within 1.6km of a bus stop and 72% within 8km of a rail station although it is acknowledged proximity to a bus stop in itself is not enough if there is a poor frequency of service or if an individual has a mobility impairment. Consequently, Fife Council's Transportation Services are currently carrying out assessments of people's accessibility to public transport in certain areas of Fife.

Of the total journeys made, 23% are by walking, 60% by car (43% driver only), 1% by cycling, 12% by bus (under 16km) and 1% by rail.

WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE?

The Local Transport Strategy for Fife, published in October 2000, established Fife's Strategy for transport integration. This set out our vision of quick, safe and cheap integrated travel, a programme of actions to achieve this vision and targets to measure our success against. The Local Transport Strategy is due to be reviewed in 2004.

Partnerships have been established with other Fife Council Services, external organisations and stakeholders to help deliver this vision. On a regional basis, Fife Council is a member of the South East Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN), together with eight other Local Authorities all with a shared vision of improving transport choices and integration.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Decrease our dependency on car use whilst widening travel choice.
- Plan and provide for safe and efficient movement of people and goods and the effective maintenance of the transport network, while minimising any detrimental effects on our communities and countryside.
- Support economic development and social inclusion in Fife through access to employment and education opportunities, health, shops and leisure facilities etc.

ACTIONS & INITIATIVES

Fife Council's Transportation Services are pursuing a wide range of planned actions to help deliver the vision set out in the Local Transport Strategy.

Promote transport culture change

- Encourage the public to change travel habits by providing attractive alternatives such as walking, cycling and public transport and allocate priority to these road users where appropriate. Pilot schemes for pedestrian, cycle and bus priority (2003).
- Develop and implement a Fife Council Travel Plan and encourage other major employers to do so (2003-06).
- Develop strategies to meet future targets to tackle congestion and pollution (by 2004).



Congestion can affect access to services



Bus lanes can reduce journey times



Town cycle path

Encourage the use of public transport

- Continue with the Fife Traveline (01592 416060) while developing the National Traveline, expanding the public transport information provision at stops (by 2003).
- Investigate scope for establishing maximum fare scales on buses by 2006 to encourage greater use of Public Transport *(with a view to setting up quality partnerships and contracts for maximum fare scales by 2010)*.
- Pursue innovative alternatives to conventional bus services such as demand responsive transport e.g. at Dalgety Bay *(2003)*.
- With Public Transport operators pursue year on year increased public transport provision across the Forth *(2003-06)*.
- Implement in partnership with the rail industry the remaining new rail facilities and services under the Fife Rail Investment Plan including the additional parking at Dunfermline *(2003)*.
- Implement the enhanced Inverkeithing interchange with bus link to Edinburgh Airport *(2003)*.

Develop freight transport

- Develop intermodal freight strategies with SESTRAN (South East Scotland Transport Partnership), Scottish Enterprise Network and north of Scotland partners *(2003)*.
- Negotiate with relevant stakeholders to bring about the reopening of the Dunfermline to Stirling rail line as a freight route *(by 2006)*.
- Continue to support sea freight from all Fife ports and airfreight from Edinburgh and Dundee *(2003-06)*.
- Continue to support and promote the ferry link from Rosyth to Zeebrugge/mainland Europe for both freight and passengers *(2003-06)*.

Minimise private transport

- Develop local Area Transportation Plans in Central, East and West Fife to encourage the use of sustainable transport at the expense of private car use *(by 2004)*.
- Further develop cycleways and facilities and provide safe quality walking routes for functional and leisure purposes by 2004.
- Introduce maximum parking standards for new developments in areas well served by public transport in major centres namely Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, St Andrews and Glenrothes *(2003)*.
- Expand the Ferrytoll Park and Ride facility and provide additional park and ride facilities at Dalgety Bay Rail Station *(by 2006)*.

Integrating transport and land use

- Develop policies and strategies in conjunction with Fife Council Planning & Building Control Service for land use and sustainable transport by 2006.

Maintenance of transport infrastructure

- Continue the use of sustainable road maintenance practices such as recycling and reusing road materials (2003-06).
- Maintain road edges, cycleways and facilities in the interest of safety of cyclists (2003-06).
- Use Pavement Management Systems to aid identification of maintenance requirements and ensure resources are targeted at areas of need (2003-06).
- Continue deploying winter maintenance policies which include clearing snow from footways and provision of grit bins which give secure storage of material (2003-06).
- Install energy efficient street lamps on a replacement basis to conserve energy and effective lighting which will minimise light pollution (2003-06).
- Maintain verges to protect and preserve natural habitats (2003-06).
- Restrict the use of weedspraying using selective herbicides to essential areas only, e.g. footpaths, kerb joints, road channels, etc. (2003-06).



Kirkcaldy Bus Station

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Key Measures:

Increase express bus use by 50% for cross Forth travel by 2010 (interim target of 25% by 2005).

Increase cycle usage from 1% to 4% by 2010 (interim target of 2% by 2005).

Maintain walking trips to work at 15% by 2010 (interim target of 15% by 2005).

Increase car sharing to work to 25% of all commuting trips by 2010 (interim target of 15% by 2005).

Increase the amount of freight carried by rail by 75% in line with national targets by 2010 (interim target of 25% by 2005).



Fife Council Car Sharing Scheme



Kirkcaldy train station is ideally located on the main rail line between Edinburgh and Dundee

WASTE MINIMISATION AND WISE RESOURCE USE

Waste minimisation is the prevention or reduction of waste at source and is therefore an important element of wise resource use and should be practiced by every business and household in Fife. The misuse of resources can result in environmental problems including pollution, which may result in global warming, ozone depletion and reduction in biodiversity. Making better use of resources by reducing the amount of waste we produce, and increasing levels of reuse and recycling of materials will bring economic as well as environmental benefits.

LINKS TO OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY PLANNING THEMES

- Potential water and air pollution due to leachate and greenhouse gas emissions from landfill.
- Potential health hazards associated with pollution.
- Potential economic benefits through cost savings by reuse and recycling.
- Potential to create employment through recycling initiatives.
- Potential to reduce waste and harmful environmental impacts by adopting a sustainable purchasing policy.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

At present almost 95% of Fife's household waste is landfilled – an unsustainable practice since valuable resources that could be reused or recycled are lost. The low recycling rate of 5% must be increased if we are to conserve valuable finite resources. Fife's current recycling rate compares poorly to the Scottish average of 7.4% which, in itself, is poor compared with other European countries. It should be obvious that continuation of existing attitudes and behaviour will result in a harmful effect on the environment and on people.

Legislation derived from European directives and new thinking on sustainable lifestyles is forcing a new approach to waste, which will lead to a massive shift away from traditional landfill disposal towards waste reduction, re-use and recycling of materials. Communities often have concerns about potential health hazards associated with landfill sites, and this is another key reason to minimise landfill. Reducing the volume and types of waste being deposited in landfill may have a tendency to result in fly tipping unless firm action is taken to prevent it.

New controls governing the disposal of fridges, freezers and old vehicles designed to reduce their environmental impact could result in these being dumped or abandoned at the roadside if people try to avoid the costs involved.

More effective use of resources is a major part of promoting sustainability. Finding cost effective solutions and best practical environmental options for managing waste is not easy but it is a challenge that must be met because of legislative and public pressure, and the over-riding need to protect our environment for future generations to come.

In 1998, industry, commerce and householders in Fife generated 1.5 million tonnes of waste. Of this figure, 165,000 tonnes was collected by Fife Council from householders. This averages just over 1 tonne from each household.

Of the total 1.5 million tonnes generated, 850,000 tonnes was from industrial sources. Private sector waste management companies disposed of the majority of this waste material. Because of this there is presently a lack of accurate information on the quantity, sources and content of industrial and construction and demolition waste.

Around 135,000 tonnes of commercial waste was collected from shops and offices. Most of this was packaging waste and paper from offices.

There are currently no re-processors within Fife who can use recyclable materials contained within the Municipal Solid Waste stream with the exception of good quality office paper, newspaper and magazines for paper manufacture. Scotland's main glassworks and recycling centre is, however, located close to Fife's western boundary. There are also a number of scrap merchants who accept all scrap metals and pass these onto reprocessors.

Fife Council employs a team of professional Purchasing Officers whose role is to obtain Best Value for the Council across a wide range of commodities and services. The purpose of the team is to seek to secure the best possible terms available to the Council and at the same time ensure that the goods, materials and services purchased comply with all relevant quality standards, health and safety, legal and environmental regulations.

Competitive tenders received from potential suppliers are evaluated using a quality/price matrix and environmental issues are considered as an integral part of this process.

To date, the Council's purchasing policy has concentrated on sourcing products whose use significantly reduces environmental impacts such as recycled paper, solvent free adhesives and chemicals, low energy electrical items and timber from sustainable forests. For the future, the Council is committed to developing sustainable purchasing strategies which emphasise the whole life costs of products and which may also result in providing better value for money.



A recycling centre - partnership between Fife Council and Sainsbury's



Stockpiling of fridges awaiting suitable disposal



Landfill waste - much of which could be re-used or recycled

WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE?

The National Waste Strategy: Scotland required that a Local Area Waste Plan should be developed for Fife to determine long term planning and major operational issues in relation to waste. The Fife Waste Strategy Area Group, which comprises representatives of relevant Fife Council Services, SEPA, Scottish Enterprise Fife and waste management businesses, is taking this work forward. The plan was finalised following a public consultation exercise and published in February 2003. The longterm objective of the plan is to reduce the volume of waste being landfilled by reducing the volume of waste being generated and increasing the volume reused, recycled and composted.

At the present time, there are a limited amount of civic amenity sites where the public can bring their household waste for recycling and where on-site staff are able to help people segregate their waste. In addition, the Council are expanding the network of community 'Bring Sites' designed solely for people to bring an increasing range of specific recyclable materials such as glass, cans and plastics.

Plans are being produced to increase the number of civic amenity facilities to encourage the collection of recyclable materials and communities are being encouraged to support their neighbourhood Bring Site. Where sites are not in place, Community Councils are being asked to identify potential sites within their community.

It is planned to 'phase in' a separate collection of recyclable and compostable materials throughout Fife within the next two years. Consequently, a series of projects are being conducted at the present time:

- Home composting scheme in East Area. Volunteer householders have been given a composting bin to segregate their vegetable and garden waste for composting. The volumes being diverted from the normal disposal route are reported each month.
- Residents in Dalgety Bay are segregating compostable waste for separate collection and transfer to the Council's Lochhead waste management facility near Dunfermline, for large scale centralised composting trials.
- Selected areas of Glenrothes and other parts of Fife were the first areas to be involved in the implementation of kerbside collection of paper (mainly newspaper and magazines) for recycling at the Smith Anderson paper mill in Leslie. This new initiative will gradually be expanded across the whole Kingdom.

The results of these trials and others should confirm the feasibility of recycling and composting as one of the methods of achieving the targets contained within the Fife Area Waste Plan.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- An increased public awareness of the volume of waste that we all generate and ways in which that can be reduced or eliminated.
- An attitudinal change in all communities away from our throwaway culture to a culture of wise resource use.
- To reduce the volume of waste being landfilled to meet the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive by implementing the waste hierarchy of:
 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, before Disposal.
- To ensure that major organisations develop and implement policies such that the environmental impacts of purchasing materials are given full consideration within the procurement process.



Fly tipping has a detrimental affect on the quality of our environment

ACTIONS & INITIATIVES

Promote waste awareness and develop waste minimisation schemes

- The need to conduct a major exercise to raise the public's awareness of the need for waste minimisation and the processes involved has been identified. The Fife Waste Strategy Area Group will develop and implement a Waste Minimisation Strategy for household waste by March 2003 in partnership with the Scottish Waste Awareness Group (SWAG). SWAG has been set up to develop waste awareness projects and have already conducted investigative work to establish awareness levels. Employees of Fife Council and the Fife Health Board represent a substantial percentage of the households throughout Fife. There is therefore potential to implement awareness raising measures within these two organisations as quickly as possible.
- Fife Waste Strategy Area Group will:
 - Work with SWAG to pilot a Waste Aware Fife Campaign, prepare training materials and develop ideas for projects (2003).
 - Continue to ensure that information on industrial wastes generated, will continue to be collected so that an area waste plan for industrial waste can be developed and implemented (2003/04).
- Lead in a series of waste minimisation projects in partnership with the Scottish Waste Awareness Group, including exhibitions and roadshows, to raise the level of awareness of members of the public (Fife Council - Environmental Services, 2004).
- Raise awareness of the benefits of waste minimisation within the business community and encourage businesses to join waste minimisation projects such as the Scottish Water Resource Efficiency action Programme (REAP) (Scottish Enterprise Fife in co-operation with Scottish Water and SEPA, 2003/04).



Landfilled waste



Waste disposal

- Fife Council's Policy & Organisational Development Service will, through its Modernising Project reduce the amount of paper and postage utilised in the existing manual recruitment process. In particular it will:
 - Encourage candidates to apply 'online' for Council and NHS posts using the Council's and Partner's Internet and intranet sites and forwarding online recruitment packs by email (2003-06).
 - Encourage those searching for information relating to the Council, (reports etc.) to do so 'online' via the Internet/Intranet as opposed to print and issue via postal services (2003-06).
- Partners will support enterprise projects that effectively divert furniture from landfill for reuse where resources permit and relevant funding criteria are met (All partners, 2003-06).

Encourage communities to participate in recycling and composting schemes

- Fife Council's Environmental Services will:
 - Approach communities to encourage them to identify areas within their community area suitable for a Bring Site and encourage setting up of community recycling/ reuse and possible composting schemes (2003).
 - Encourage the public to segregate green waste at Bring Sites by providing relevant facilities (2003).
 - Provide a kerbside collection service for waste paper to all households in Fife (2005).
 - Provide a kerbside collection service for organic waste to 50% of households in Fife (2006).
 - Investigate the potential for kerbside collection of all packaging material (2005).
 - Increase the number of Bring Sites within Fife to provide an average of 1 facility per 500 houses (2006).
 - Improve the operation of existing Civic amenity sites to encourage recycling (2005).
- Encourage all developers to incorporate "Bring Sites" in major developments through Development Plan policy (Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service, 2004-2006).



Implement sustainable procurement and purchasing practices

- Fife Council's Procurement and Supplies Service will:
 - Provide advice and assistance in the development of sustainable purchasing strategies within Fife Council (2003).
 - Lead on the development of a sustainable procurement policy which supports Council initiatives in terms of sustainable development, the local economy, green procurement and energy management (2003).
 - Expand the principles of sustainable purchasing, including whole life costing, over a wider range of products (2004).
 - Take account of expected changes to the European Union Supplies and Services Directives in implementing green procurement practices (2005).
- Members of the Fife Economic Forum will be approached to encourage businesses to adopt an environmental procurement policy (*Scottish Enterprise Fife, 2005*).
- In order to help reduce excess packaging, make visits to those businesses in Fife who pack goods and place them on the market, and who have not received a previous visit, to establish whether they are complying with the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 1998 (Fife Council Trading Standards, in co-operation with lead partners (SEPA, Environment Agency, LACORS), March 2004).



Refuse Collection



Recyclable Rubbish

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Key Measures:

Compliance with all Scottish Executive legislation governing recycling targets for Local Authorities, and:

- Reduction in biodegradable waste going to landfill reduced to 70% from the current rate of 98% in 2002 by 2010 (interim target of 81% by 2006).
- Increased recycling rates to 25% by 2006
- Increased composting rates to 10% by 2010 (interim target of 7% by 2006).



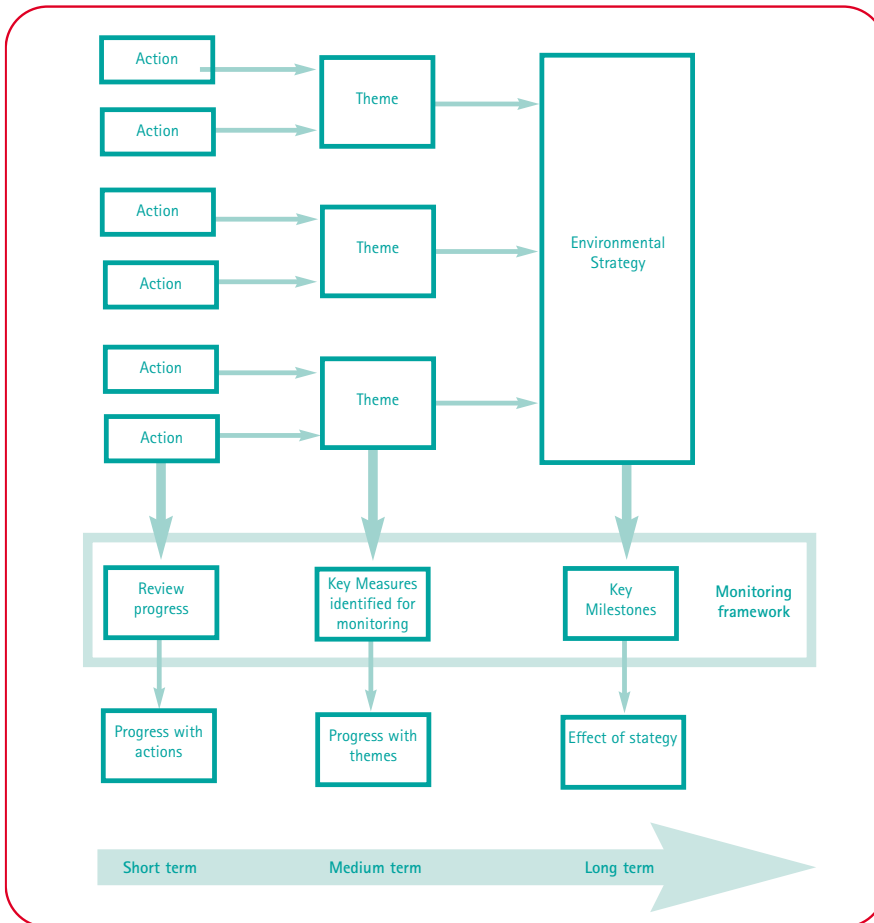
Kerbside collection of waste paper for recycling

MONITORING AND REVIEW FRAMEWORK

Monitoring and review is an essential part of the 'Take a Pride in Fife' Strategy. It allows us to identify progress, areas requiring further work and to provide feedback on our performance.

To ensure the Strategy is having the intended effect we must monitor it at several levels:

1. Progress with the actions and initiatives detailed in the Strategy
2. Achievement of the Key Measure targets for each theme
3. The effect of the strategy as a whole using Key Milestones



The monitoring of the Strategy will be conducted by the FEN Monitoring Group who will ensure that there is public access to the required information and that the indicators are being correctly applied. The group comprises key information specialists in the range of themes covered in this Strategy.

Fife Environmental Recording Network (FERN) will liaise with partners to collate the necessary information required for monitoring and hold the information on a series of databases.

Methods used to monitor our environment are continuously being developed. It is essential to the success of the strategy that monitoring is conducted in the most efficient and effective way. It should be recognised that a process of continuous improvement in the way we monitor the environment needs to be adopted. In monitoring the strategy we will aim to make use of, and develop new techniques to do so.

MONITORING PROGRESS WITH ACTIONS & INITIATIVES

The monitoring of listed actions and initiatives will allow us to check if proposed actions within the strategy are being carried out and establish the reasons why any actions are not completed.

Monitoring these will be carried out through the development of an Environmental Projects Database. This will contain details of each of the actions identified in the plan and all other environmental projects being undertaken within Fife. It will be kept up-to-date with information including the current stage of the action and/or completion date.

The information collected in the Environmental Projects Database will benefit the Strategy by:

- Providing feedback to partners on actions being undertaken
- Help to identify best practice
- Allow any duplication of effort to be identified and minimised
- Help to target resources by identifying areas where action is not being carried out



Poppy field

MONITORING PROGRESS WITH THEMES

Within each theme of the Strategy is a list of Key Measures. These are effectively targets for that theme that allow an assessment of whether the actions being undertaken are sufficient to effect a change. Are they the correct actions or do they require to be supplemented with further action?

The key measures will show whether that theme is contributing sufficiently to overall environmental improvement.

The Key Measures were developed initially by the partners who proposed a draft set for each theme. Fife has an established history of measuring its environment quality through sustainability indicators including 'Fife Council Sustainability Indicators' (1995) and the 'Sustainability Indicators for Fife - Quality of the Environment' (1999) and where appropriate these works were used in the development of the Key Measures.

After the publication of the Consultative Draft Environmental Strategy and the resultant consultation, each Measure was assessed by the FEN Monitoring Group. For each Measure an assessment was made to make sure that it:

- Is specific and focussed
- Has or will have data available to measure it
- Is achievable within the timeframe of the Strategy
- Has the resources available to meet the target
- Has an identified target for 2006
- Is relevant to Fife and not effected by factors outwith the control of the Strategy

To monitor progress with themes, lead partners will provide annual updates on the current status of the key measures. These will be maintained in a database of key measures held at FERN.



Grass of Parnassus



Tentsmuir Sands, East Fife.

MONITORING THE EFFECT OF THE STRATEGY

The intended purpose of the Strategy is to produce positive change in the Fife Environment. To identify what this change is, we require a series of key environmental quality indicators – Key Milestones. Key Milestones are available for all Community Plan Actions and a provisional set of environmental indicators were published in the Community Plan under the Safeguarding and Improving Our Environment section.

The Milestones were assessed by the FEN Monitoring group using the same methods to assess the Measures.

Below is a set of Key Milestones which will allow us to monitor the overall effect we are having on the environment.

Key Milestones	Description
Increase Public Transport Usage	Increase the number of bus journeys on seriously congested routes by 10% by 2010 (interim target of 5% by 2006)
Volume of waste diverted from landfill	Percentage of waste either recycled, reused or no longer generate by population.
Improve in quality of bathing water	Number of beaches complying with bathing water quality standards.
Increase the number of managed beaches	Number of managed beaches and beaches achieving the EU Blue Flag Status.
Improve biodiversity key indicators	Number of the 8 biodiversity measures identified in Biodiversity Action Plan Monitoring Framework showing significant improvement.
Maintain Air quality	Compliance with national air quality standards in a range of parameters.
Improve River quality	Length of river classified as good quality.
Reduce CO ₂ production by sector	Percentage change in Fife wide CO ₂ production estimated in the domestic and transport sectors.
Improve environmental awareness	30% of residents to change their behaviour in some way e.g. recycling by 2006.

REVIEWING PROGRESS

The review process for the Strategy will rely on annual monitoring of progress and a complete review in year 3. This will allow successes to be identified and areas requiring improvement to be re-examined.

The State of the Environment Report will be produced annually and will be the main feedback mechanism during the life of the current Strategy. It will contain:

- An update on current progress of actions
- A review of the Key Measures
- A review of the Key Milestones
- An indication of the action expected in the following year.

A full Environmental Strategy Review will be undertaken in 2005-2006. The purpose of the review is to identify:

- The overall progress with the Key Measures
- Progress with the Key Milestones
- Areas requiring further work
- Gaps in coverage which may have arisen.

ACTIONS & INITIATIVES

- Maintain a Fife Environmental Projects Database and report through the Case Studies Guide and the annual State of the Environment (annually in April)
(Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service, FERN, 2003-06).
- Maintain a Fife Environmental Targets Database, including Key Measures and Milestones and report progress through the State of the Environment (annually in April) and the State of Fife (annually in June)
(Fife Council - Planning & Building Control Service, FERN, 2003-06).

REPORTING PROGRESS

It is necessary to be able to provide a range of environmental information, both to monitor progress with the Strategy and to make the process open and accountable. FEN considers that access to basic environmental information is essential. Currently, information is collected across a wide range of partners which can sometimes make it difficult to access. FERN will provide a simple means to either gain access to this information or to find out where it is held. It is not intended that FERN will hold all environmental information. Often it is far better to obtain such information from the source that collected it, who can provide advice and further information. FERN will maintain a directory of information sources in Fife and make this publicly available.

In addition to the State of the Environment report, the Key Milestones will also be reported within the yearly State of Fife Report which identifies progress made towards priorities identified in the Community Plan and allow our Milestones to be reviewed in the wider Community Plan context.

The following formal and informal reporting mechanisms are summarised in the table below.

Mechanism	Purpose	Lead	Timescale
State of Fife Report	Reporting on overall performance with regard to the Community Plan.	Community Plan Partnership	Annual (June)
State of the Environment Report	Reporting on progress with the 'Take a Pride in Fife' Strategy.	Fife Council, MSU	Annual (April)
'Take a Pride in Fife' Strategy Report	To review progress with the 'Take a Pride in Fife' Strategy with a view to formulating new actions.	FEN Co-ordination Group	March 2005
FifeDirect website (www.fifedirect.org.uk)	To provide easily accessible information on progress with the 'Take a Pride in Fife' Strategy.	FEN Communications Group	Developed by March 2003. Thereafter ongoing
Enquiry service	To provide an ad hoc enquiry service to anyone who needs it in particular directing enquiries to the correct information source.	FERN	Ongoing



Agricultural Fife



Balfarg Monument, Glenrothes



Blanket Bog

APPENDIX 1

DEVELOPING AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS)

It is recommended that partner organisations and businesses should develop and adhere to an Environmental Policy and Management System as soon as possible. There are currently around 25 businesses and organisations with an externally accredited (ISO14001 and/or EMAS) Environmental Management System (EMS) in Fife. It is hoped that many more businesses and organisations will integrate environmental management into the business planning and management framework of their business or organisation during the life of the Strategy.

DEVELOPING AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The adoption of an Environmental Policy is recognised as a useful first step for organisations and businesses to take in order to integrate sound environmental management practice into their business planning processes and everyday operations.

An Environmental Policy is similar to other types of organisational policy in that it acts as a guiding principle(s) by which an organisation determines its aims and objectives. It is essentially a commitment by the organisation to improve the quality of the environment at the very least through in-house action and preferably through other means too.

An exemplar Environmental Policy is set out below to demonstrate of what types of issues are involved. An Environmental Policy will vary in accordance with an individual organisation's activities and it is therefore not essential to adopt the exemplar policy - it may be amended to suit the specific circumstances of your business or organisation.

Exemplar Environmental Policy

Achieving excellence

- Sound environmental management is both good housekeeping and common sense. We are committed to achieving continuous environmental improvement and will incorporate the principles set out within this environmental policy within our business planning framework and everyday management, developing appropriate action plans and targets.
- We will seek to operate at a level of best practice and will seek to influence the development of accepted environmental best practice towards achieving the goal of sustainable development

Managing Energy and Water

- Climate change, rapid depletion of non-renewable resources as well as the hazards associated with nuclear energy use and disposal, provide urgent reasons to achieve the highest possible energy efficiency in our operations. We will measure our energy consumption and set targets to minimise its use. We will optimise the efficient and effective use of energy and support the use of energy from sustainable renewable sources, whenever appropriate or possible.
- We will seek to use water efficiently and promote water conservation through appropriate systems, targeting and monitoring.

Managing Waste

- We will seek to reduce consumption of materials, adopting a 4-tier approach: first, reduce; next reuse; then recycle; and finally, as a last resort, dispose of waste using the safest and most responsible means available.

Transport and travel

- We will aim to reduce travel within our operations. Partners will encourage and/or adopt the use of public transport and car sharing by their employees wherever appropriate, the use of systems, such as tele-conferencing, as a substitute for travelling and the use of low emission vehicles.

Controlling Pollution

- We are committed to safeguarding the quality of water, air and land on which we depend by ensuring that our plant, equipment and processes are operating at optimum performance and through regular compliance monitoring.

Obeying the law

- We will meet and, where possible, exceed the requirements and within the spirit of all relevant environmental legislation and regulation.

Purchasing and Supplier Performance

- We will require our suppliers of goods and services to operate to high environmental performance standards. Suppliers will be asked to demonstrate their commitment to environmental performances annually.
- We recognise the contribution made by our staff to achieving environmental goals and aims and will provide training and motivation for employees to conduct our operations in an environmentally responsible manner.

N.B. the above exemplar policy is based to a large degree on SEPA's Environmental Policy and grateful acknowledgement is made in this respect.

DEVELOPING AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS)

The development of an Environmental Policy is only one step (often the first step) in developing an EMS. An EMS aims to ensure that all activities of an organisation are in accordance with its Environmental Policy and to promote continuous improvement in the organisation's environmental performance. An EMS should be integrated with or complementary to an organisation's overall/corporate management system.

The complexity of an EMS will vary according to the activities of individual organisations. The main components of an EMS will however, include:

- An assessment of the environmental issues associated with an organisation's activities.
- A detailed programme of action with clearly stated performance objectives and targets.
- Identified responsibilities and procedures to ensure that the programme is carried out.
- Periodic auditing of the system to ensure that it is working effectively.

For more information with regard to developing an Environmental Policy and/or an EMS please contact Charles Dorrance, Environmental Strategy Officer on 01592 416876 (email charles.dorrance@fife.gov.uk).

APPENDIX 2

Information on organisations listed in the Environmental Strategy as taking actions forward:

Communities Scotland

Communities Scotland was established in November 2001 as part of the Scottish Executive's modernisation of housing and regeneration. Building on the success of Scottish Homes and the Area Regeneration Division of the Scottish Executive, Communities Scotland have a broader remit which centres around three main areas:



- Regeneration - improving the physical fabric of neighbourhoods and enhancing the quality of life which people experience in their community.
- Investment & Performance - helping disadvantaged urban and fragile rural communities, housing homeless people and upgrading houses in a state of disrepair or with low energy ratings.
- Regulation & Inspection - overseeing the housing management, factoring and homelessness functions of all local authorities in Scotland, in addition to the social landlords who are currently registered with Communities Scotland.

Communities Scotland's aim is to improve the quality of life for all people in Scotland by fostering sustainable and healthy communities which are attractive and safe. The long-term impact of working with others to improve community regeneration will be to:

- reduce inequalities between and within communities
- help residents feel more satisfied with their neighbourhoods
- visibly improve the physical fabric of neighbourhoods and rural settlements
- create a greater sense of belonging, ownership and empowerment
- improve the quality and relevance of local services
- create strong links within communities and between communities
- make a better connection to jobs, services and the mainstream economy

Fife Council

Fife Council was created in 1996 from the former Regional and District Councils and is now a unitary authority that provides all local government services for the kingdom.



The Council's services relating to the environment range from curriculum and outdoor education to the protection of rare plants, from refuse collections to managing country parks, from improving the energy efficiency of housing to planning for future land use and transport infrastructure. With over 20,000 full or part-time employees, Fife Council is the largest employer in the Kingdom.

NHS Fife

Fife NHS Board is responsible for maintaining and improving the health of the population of Fife of just under 350,000 people. The Board's role is to assess health needs, commission health services to meet these needs, promote healthy living and plan future health services.



Fife NHS Board are increasingly working in partnership with Fife Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Fife Primary Care Trust, Fife Health Council, Fife Council and a significant number of voluntary organisations to improve all aspects of the health service for the local population.

Scottish Enterprise Fife

Scottish Enterprise Fife is one of 12 Local Enterprise Companies in Scotland which, along with Scottish Enterprise, work in partnership with the private and public sectors to secure the long-term future of the Scottish economy by making the country's industries more competitive.



Scottish Enterprise Fife covers the same geographical area as Fife Council and has a remit to assist with the development of the economy of Fife, through business development, training and property and environmental activities. Scottish Enterprise Fife commits more than 60 per cent of its resources to supporting existing companies in Fife and priority is given to those companies with the potential to create jobs. The primary areas of concern are the need to develop new products and markets, train and develop the workforce and improve systems and processes.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

SEPA was established by the Environment Act 1995 and became operational in April 1996. As the public body responsible for environmental protection in Scotland its main aim is to:



"provide an efficient and integrated environmental protection system for Scotland that will improve the environment and contribute to the government's goal of sustainable development."

In broad terms, SEPA regulates activities that may pollute water and air; the storage, transport and disposal of waste and the keeping and disposal of radioactive materials.

In fulfilment of its broader duty to bring about environmental improvement in Scotland, SEPA provides guidance and advice to regulated organisations and works in partnership with others to deliver environmental goals through non-statutory means.

Some of SEPA's other principal responsibilities include:

- maintaining a flood warning system
- implementing the National Waste Strategy
- controlling, with the Health and Safety Executive, the risk of major accidents at industrial sites
- operating the Scottish part of the Radioactive Incident Monitoring Network.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

The statutory remit of SNH is set out in the Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991. Since 1992 their task has been to secure the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's unique and precious natural heritage - the wildlife, habitats and landscapes which have evolved in Scotland through the long partnership between people and nature.



SNH advise on policies and promote projects which aim to improve the natural heritage and support its sustainable use. SNH's aims are:

- to safeguard and enhance Scotland's natural heritage, particularly its natural, genetic and scenic diversity;
- to foster awareness and understanding of the natural heritage;
- to promote enjoyment of, and responsible public access to, the natural heritage in ways which do not damage it;
- to encourage public support and voluntary effort for the benefit of the environment;

- to promote improvement of the natural heritage in and around towns and cities, where most of Scotland's people live; and
- to encourage environmental sustainability in all forms of economic activity.

Scottish Water

Scottish Water is a new organisation replacing East of Scotland Water, North of Scotland Water and West of Scotland Water which provides water and waste water services to household and business customers across one third of the land area of Britain.



Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

The purpose of Fife's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (or LBAP) is to provide a long-term plan for the support of wildlife and habitats in Fife. The LBAP is led by the Fife Biodiversity Partnership, which involves many environmental organisations and members of the public with an interest in biodiversity.



Fife Environment Trust

Established in 1997, Fife Environment Trust (FET) is an enrolled body with Entrust, the Regulator of Environmental Bodies under the Landfill Tax Regulations. The main aim of the Trust is to distribute landfill tax funds to help encourage and fund local community groups and organisations to protect and enhance the environment of Fife through projects that meet the Trust's criteria.



Over the last four years, FET's Landfill Tax Fund has supported 141 local environmental projects throughout Fife, representing a new investment of £2.4 million and leveraging in a total sum of £11.9 million.

Forest Enterprise

Forest Enterprise is the agency of the Forestry Commission entrusted with the management of the nation's forest estate. This estate amounts to more than 1,000,000 hectares of land, of which around 800,000 hectares is forest and woodland.



The aims of Forest Enterprise are to produce environmental, economic and social benefits from the forests it manages which can be appreciated by people in Britain. This means balancing timber production with the wider benefits from recreational and environmental programmes.

The main aims of Forest Enterprise are:

- To maintain and increase the productive potential of the forest estate
- To increase opportunities for public recreation
- To increase the conservation value of its forests
- To increase the net value of commercial activities

Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group

FWAG was set up to provide farmers, landowners and other clients with the best opportunity for environmental gain through cost effective, quality solutions. With 66 local groups throughout Scotland and England, FWAG provides farmers and landowners with practical advice on making adjustments to farm operations and enhancing farm features in order to support wildlife, landscape, archaeology, access and other conservation issues.



WECAN!

WECAN! is a network of organisations that seek to enable communities to take action to improve their environment.

WECAN! aims to support, encourage and sustain the involvement of people, and their communities, in

environmental community action and awareness-raising. In so doing, WECAN! seek to improve people's quality of life and influence over their environment.



WECAN! work closely with local groups to establish their training development needs, and supports these groups to undertake environmental projects by assisting them to access funding and skills. WECAN! works with people of all abilities to help them look at current levels of access to the countryside and how it could be improved.

Objectives:

- Develop and service a network of organisations which involve people in environmental community action and awareness-raising.
- Strengthen the capacity of the community and voluntary sector to contribute to environmental action and awareness-raising, and involve more people in this work.
- Work with others to encourage and support people - of all backgrounds and abilities, particularly those who have been marginalised in our society - to get involved in their environment and play their part in shaping it.

WECAN! receives funding from a variety of charitable trusts and the European Social Fund. Our management committee meets every two months, and comprises people involved in a range of organisations and groups. We have no full-time staff but are in the process of seeking funding from the National Lottery Charities Board to expand our services

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Since its founding in 1889, the RSPB has grown into Europe's largest wildlife conservation charity, with more than a million members. It has offices across the UK and while its original campaign, to end the plumage trade, was successful, it has widened its sphere of influence to include a huge range of issues that affect both wildlife and habitats.



GLOSSARY

Acid Rain - Rain which because of dissolved gases is acidic.

Best Practical Environmental Option (BPEO) - This is the option which provides the most benefits or least damage to the environment as a whole, at acceptable cost, in the long term as well as the short term. It can be applied to waste management systems, development proposals, etc.

Best Value - A process through which Councils and other public bodies seek to continuously improve their performance in the delivery of affordable and effective services to meet local needs.

Biodiversity - Describes all wildlife, habitats and their interactions.

Blue Flag Beach - An award scheme organised by the European Union on an annual (season by season) basis. The award of a European Blue Flag Beach is based on compliance with 27 criteria covering, water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management and safety and services.

Bring Sites - (see Civic Amenity Sites)

Brownfield site - A site which has been previously developed e.g. the development of derelict land or the re-use of existing buildings by conversion.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) - A naturally occurring gas which is produced during combustion of fuels. The recent marked increase in levels of CO₂ threaten to significantly accelerate the greenhouse effect resulting in global warming and dramatic climate change.

Civic Amenity Sites (Bring Sites) - Facilities provided by Fife Council for the public to deposit waste which is not collected through normal household waste collection. In Fife these sites also provide facilities for the recycling and re-use of waste.

Climate Change is the effect human activity is having on our climate and is widely recognised as the most environmentally serious threat to our planet. This could result in a rise in sea levels, increases in severe weather events, massive changes to agriculture and the movement of diseases such as malaria into new areas. These effects could in turn increase the risks to human health and political stability. (see Greenhouse Gas).

Community Plan - A statement of commitment by the key agencies in Fife of how they will support and work together with the people of Fife to improve the quality of life for everyone over the next 10 years.

Composting - A naturally occurring process whereby organic waste is broken down. Compost is a humus-like material rich in organic matter and plant nutrients.

Development Plan(s) - These guide the use and development of land and are made up of 2 parts - (a) a Structure Plan which sets out key strategic policies as a framework and (b) related Local Plans which set out more detailed policies etc. including proposals for specific sites.

Diffuse Pollution - Contamination not at source, such as run-off from fields or seepage of nutrients from soil into ground water.

EU Directive - One type of European Community legislation which is binding as to results to be achieved but leaves to Member States the choice of form and methods of compliance.

Environmental Management System (EMS) - An EMS is a set of management processes and procedures that allows an organisation to analyse, control and reduce the environmental impact of its activities, products and services and operate with greater efficiency and control.

Environmental Policy - A commitment of an organisation to protect the environment by improving its own environmental performance.

Fife Area Waste Plan - A plan for the sustainable waste management for Fife as part of the overall Waste Strategy for Scotland.

Fife Environmental Network (FEN) - A group of organisations, and individual members of the public who are interested in environmental protection and enhancement.

Fife Environmental Recording Network (FERN) - Based in Fife Council's Planning and Building Control Service, FERN monitors and co-ordinates environmental information relating to the Community Plan and inputs such information to the State of Fife Report. (previously Fife Nature).

Fife Structure Plan - (see 'Development Plans').

Fossil Fuel - A natural fuel such as coal or gas formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.

Fuel Poverty - A fuel poor household is one that needs to spend in excess of 10% of household income in order to maintain an adequate standard of warmth. This can result from a combination of factors including poor energy efficiency, household income, fuel costs and dwelling size.

Geothermal Energy - Energy extracted from the earth either near the surface as heat only or by drilling to higher temperatures at greater depth where steam can be used for power generation.

Global Warming - Increasing temperature of the earth's surface as result of the greenhouse effect.

Greenhouse Gases - Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane which absorb heat leaving the Earth, thereby keeping the Earth warmer much as a greenhouse does.

Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) - Came into force in 1996 requiring local authorities to publish an energy conservation strategy which is considered practical, cost effective and will result in 30% improvement in energy efficiency of residential accommodation by 2010.

Inclusion – (see 'Social Inclusion')

Kyoto Protocol – In response to increasing concerns about climate change, developed countries agreed in 1997 at a United Nations conference in Kyoto, to reduce the 1990 level of greenhouse gases by differing levels by 2012. The EU agreed to an 8% reduction and the UK agreed to a 12.5% reduction as a contribution to the EU requirement.

Landfill – The deposit of waste into or onto land (e.g. quarry or sandpit) in such a way that pollution or harm to the environment is minimised or prevented.

Landfill Tax – Introduced in 1999, aimed at diverting waste away from landfill by charging for the disposal of waste to landfill.

Leachate – Leachate is formed when rainwater is contaminated as it passes through landfilled wastes. It may contain high levels of organic and inorganic pollutants such as ammonia and heavy metals.

Local Transport Strategy – A strategy which explains how Fife Council will go about providing travel choices that meet the needs of Fife residents, businesses and visitors up until 2010.

Fife Waste Strategy Area Group – A group comprising representatives of Fife Council, SEPA, Scottish Enterprise Fife and waste management businesses which is producing the Fife Area Waste Plan (see above).

Natural Habitat – Habitat that has not been affected by human activity, in practice there is unlikely to be any genuine natural habitat in this country.

Nutrient Budgeting – A farming system technique to keep track of nutrient movement (particularly nitrogen and phosphorus) and is designed to ensure that the nutrient inputs match nutrient outputs to prevent adverse impacts on the environment and to run a cost effective fertiliser regime.

Ozone depletion – Ozone is a form of oxygen which forms a vital layer in the upper atmosphere that protects us from the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation, a cause of skin cancer. Chemicals which humans have produced are destroying this layer and causing an increase in the amount of UV radiation that reaches the Earth's surface.

Renewable Energy – Energy which can be replenished naturally e.g. sunlight, wind and flowing water or wave power. Also includes energy which can be generated from other "renewable" sources such as crops and waste.

Social Inclusion – Ensuring that everyone whatever their personal circumstances has access to the opportunities and services they need.

State of Fife Report – An annual report charting our progress to the 10 year vision set out in the Fife Community Plan.

State of the Environment Report – Proposed annual report charting the changes in Fife's environmental performance.

Sustainable Development/Sustainability - Improving people's quality of life by integrating social, economic and environmental issues and ensuring the availability of and access to resources for current and future generations.

Waste Hierarchy - The ranking of waste minimisation and management options to indicate their relative sustainability. The hierarchy includes Reduction, Re-use, Recovery (recycling, composting and energy from waste) and Disposal e.g. Landfill.

Waste Minimisation - The reduction of waste at source - everyone taking responsibility to produce less waste at work, in the home and at leisure.

For up-to-date information on Community Planning,
the Environmental Strategy and FEN
Please see the Fife Direct website at: www.fifedirect.org.uk

(Note: at the time of printing this document and the information
regarding FEN on the website is limited but this will increase over time).

If you would like further information on
the Environmental Strategy
or FEN please contact:

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FEN acknowledges the following organisations for their
contributions and funding to produce this Environmental Strategy:

Communities Scotland
Fife Council
Scottish Enterprise Fife
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Water



