

**Mapping & Gapping
Climate Change Activity
across
Cheshire & Warrington**

Final Report



Prepared for:
Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance
and
Cheshire County Council

Published January 2008

Quality Assurance

CONFIDENTIALITY (Confidential or not confidential):		NOT CONFIDENTIAL
Project Name:	Mapping & Gapping Climate Change Activity across Cheshire & Warrington	
Project Number:	CWEA 001	
Document:	Final Report	

Quantum Strategy & Technology Limited has internal quality procedures which are registered with Certified Quality Systems Limited as compliant with BS EN ISO 9001 (Registration No: GB2002499). All work conducted by Quantum and its subcontractors is carried out in accordance with these in-house procedures and documentation systems.

UNIT APPROVAL	Name	Date
WRITTEN BY:	Bob Bailey	12/12/07
ISSUED BY:	Quantum Strategy & Technology	
APPROVED BY:	Teleri Cousins	12/12/07

Revision History Records

Revision	Date	Creation / Update summary
R0	26/09/07	Bob Bailey
R1	23/10/07	Bob Bailey
R2	12/12/07	Bob Bailey

Quantum Strategy & Technology

Station House
Stamford New Road
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA14 1EP

Tel (Office): +44 (0) 161 924 2388
Tel (Mobile): +44 (0) 7711 565339
Fax: +44 (0) 161 924 2389
Email: bob.bailey@quantumst.co.uk

Executive Summary

This study on “Mapping and Gapping Climate Change Activity” across Cheshire & Warrington has been undertaken for Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance (CWEA) and Cheshire County Council (CCC) on behalf of the Cheshire & Warrington Climate Change Group. The study was aimed at identifying the current position of all partners in the Cheshire & Warrington sub-region in relation to initiatives that address climate change through mitigation and adaptation. The findings are intended to establish the ‘baseline’ of activity prior to the preparation of a Climate Change Action Plan for the sub-region, which CWEA will be responsible for preparing.

A large proportion of the work programme was taken up with telephone interviews from 33 organisations in the sub-region including local authorities, voluntary organisations, community groups, charities, NGOs and several large commercial organisations. A summary of the status of climate change action plans in the other four NW sub-regions has also been provided, together with examples of initiatives being taken by local authorities elsewhere in the UK. Suggestions for establishing the baseline CO2 emissions for Cheshire & Warrington and potential funding sources to assist with implementation of the plan have also been made.

The initiatives implemented and planned by the respondents are summarised in the table at the back of this report. It is clear that there is a considerable amount of activity on climate change in the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region. Most of this activity is aimed at mitigation and includes:

- Energy efficiency programmes in buildings and large businesses;
- Renewable energy schemes;
- Sustainable travel plans;
- Planning policies to support sustainable energy in new developments;
- Awareness schemes for employees and the general public.

Some of these are linked to national programmes, many are taking place at a local authority level and there are also some impressive community scale initiatives. Local Authorities are also beginning to adopt sustainable procurement policies and to build climate change into supplementary planning documents.

Overall there are few notable gaps in the mitigation activity, though there is clearly scope for sharing ideas and experience between different organisations. There is also very little evidence of action at a local or sub-regional level on engaging businesses in the climate change agenda. There is scope for linking into existing national and regional support mechanisms to provide more focussed assistance on sustainable energy to engage smaller businesses.

As in the rest of the UK, there is far less activity on adaptation than mitigation. Most respondents are now starting to develop their plans for this aspect of climate change and there are several examples of schemes which have already been implemented. There is a need for joint working to avoid duplication of effort in this area.

Whilst there is some evidence of partnership working, this is fairly limited and most organisations appear to be developing their plans and taking action in isolation. Consequently there is considerable scope for sharing best practice on tools, methodologies and successful actions which is currently not being exploited.

The survey has shown that there is widespread support for more coordination of climate change activities in the Cheshire & Warrington sub-region and for the appointment of a “Climate Change Champion” to develop a Climate Change Action Plan. There are several sources of funding which could be available to implement parts of the Plan. These include the NW Regional Bodies (especially NWDA), the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust and the energy utilities.

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 INTERVIEW RESPONSES	2
2.1 THE INTERVIEW PROCESS	2
2.2 SUMMARY OF RESPONSES	2
2.2.1 <i>Local Authorities</i>	2
2.2.2 <i>Voluntary Organisations</i>	6
2.2.3 <i>Community Groups</i>	7
2.2.4 <i>Charities and NGOs</i>	7
2.2.5 <i>Other Organisations</i>	8
2.2.6 <i>Regional Bodies</i>	9
3 REVIEW OF BEST PRACTICE	10
3.1 OTHER NW SUB-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS	10
3.2 OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY INITIATIVES	11
4 BASELINE METHODOLOGY & FUNDING SOURCES	12
4.1 BASELINE METHODOLOGIES	12
4.2 FUNDING SOURCES	12
5 CONCLUSIONS	14
6 TABLE OF ACTIVITY IN CHESHIRE & WARRINGTON	15
APPENDIX 1 – ACTIVITY QUESTIONNAIRE	16
APPENDIX 2 – ORGANISATIONS INTERVIEWED	18
APPENDIX 3 – LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES	19
APPENDIX 4 – FUNDING SOURCES	24

1 Introduction

This study on *"Mapping and Gapping Climate Change Activity"* across Cheshire & Warrington has been undertaken for Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance (CWEA) and Cheshire County Council (CCC) on behalf of the Cheshire & Warrington Climate Change Group. The study was aimed at identifying the current position of all partners in the Cheshire & Warrington sub-region in relation to policy, processes, posts, awareness and intervention that address climate change through mitigation and adaptation. The findings will establish the 'baseline' of activity prior to the preparation of a Climate Change Action Plan for the sub-region, which CWEA will be responsible for preparing.

The work has involved:

- Obtaining a list of partners for interview from CCC and CWEA and identifying suitable respondents;
- Preparation of a questionnaire to act as a telephone interview guide;
- E-mailing the guide to all respondents;
- Telephone follow up to obtain the required information and discuss responses;
- Analysing the results.

As part of separate studies for the North West Regional Assembly and Warrington Borough Council, Quantum has investigated 'Best Practice' initiatives on climate change initiatives by other Local Authorities (LAs) as well as sources of funding to implement individual actions. We have also worked on establishing CO2 emissions baselines for LAs' own activities and the wider community. The results of these investigations have been summarised as part of this project for CWEA.

2 Interview Responses

2.1 The Interview Process

A copy of the telephone interview guide is included as Appendix 1. This was agreed with the Steering Group before being e-mailed to the selected organisations. Essentially this sought to determine:

- How important climate change is in the organisation's policies;
- Who is responsible for climate change activities and what level are they in the organisation;
- What specific actions have been/are being undertaken or are proposed in climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Which have been successful, which are not;
- What funding sources are being used;
- Whether they are members of other partnerships for climate change;
- Which initiatives they think would be the most important for a sub-regional Action Plan;
- Whether they think more coordination of activities across the sub-region would be beneficial.

Responses were obtained from 33 organisations (a response rate of almost 80%); these are listed in Appendix 2. They include all local authorities in the sub-region, several large businesses, voluntary organisations, community groups and various NGOs who are likely to be involved in climate change activities. No responses were obtained from eight voluntary organisations and chambers of commerce. The questionnaire was not sent to the regional bodies (NWDA, NWRA, GONW) and the Environment Agency since their position was known from other projects that Quantum is involved in.

We were also sent a Scrutiny Review report on Climate Change from Cheshire County Council which includes much relevant information, including brief summaries of what is happening at the county level and some information for each local authority in the county.

2.2 Summary of Responses

2.2.1 Local Authorities

Responses from the LAs are included on an individual basis since they are likely to be the most important partners in moving the Climate Change Strategy forward.

Cheshire County Council

Councillors in the County Council have recently voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of a Scrutiny Review report on climate change. This includes initiatives aimed at reducing CCC's own emissions and influencing the wider community to do likewise, as well as measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The review sets out a total of 87 individual actions, all with timescales and allocation of responsibility for implementation, under 14 main headings:

- Internal Actions:
 - Provide greater commitment and increase support to energy & resource management within the Council's estate;
 - Review internal transport policies to achieve an overall reduction in emissions from transport from service delivery and support activities;
 - Coordinate internal waste collection to achieve reductions and greater recycling;
 - Ensure that a Sustainable Procurement Policy is developed and implemented across all services.

- Service Delivery
 - Provide support for better sustainable energy advice to Cheshire residents;
 - Review transport policies to achieve an overall reduction in emissions from transport across Cheshire;
 - Continue to support the Waste Management Strategy and its implementation;
 - Embed and maintain climate change mitigation and adaptation in the planning process.

- Adaptation
 - Ensure climate change impacts on flood risk, water resources and emergency planning are taken into account in current and future developments.

- Leadership
 - Give explicit corporate acceptance of climate change and how human activity contributes to it;
 - Clarify political and management leadership and accountability on climate change within the Council;
 - Undertake a detailed assessment of climate change impacts on Council services and develop adaptive responses;
 - Develop a Climate Change Action Plan supported by clear targets;
 - Develop a high profile communications programme.

Clearly this is a wide-ranging and comprehensive strategy with strong political support. It could form a framework for what needs to be done within the sub-region with appropriate partners for individual actions.

Chester City Council

Chester City Council is a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. They have developed a carbon management plan and made a start on implementation. The council has pledged to become carbon neutral by 2020 and has purchased 100% renewable electricity since 1999. During 2006 they undertook an 'energy audit' of all service areas and developed plans to reduce emissions from each.

With a focus on wider emissions in the city, the Council has introduced a CRed 'Pledge' scheme in which individuals commit to reducing their own emissions. Advice on how to do so is available from the Council and from Energy Projects Plus, the local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre. They have introduced a comprehensive park & ride scheme which has reduced vehicle use within urban Chester by around 10% over the past 10 years. There has also been a year on year expansion of walking and cycling routes across the District. The Council has supported a number of community groups aiming to become 'carbon-lite'.

On adaptation, the Chester Flood Group has been in place for some time to bring together partners and community groups as a forum for dissemination of information, planning and identification of flooding issues and alleviation schemes. This model has been replicated by other authorities. In 2005 the Council won the "Green Apple Award" for its carbon reduction and tree planting initiative.

Clearly there are a number of initiatives here which could be replicated across the sub-region.

Congleton BC

Congleton Council has just signed the Nottingham Declaration (September 2007) and this will stimulate the development of an action plan. The respondent believes that they are "catching up" in terms of addressing climate change issues. A staff group has been established to collate what is already happening in the Council and to highlight best practice in different areas to bring it all together. For example, the new council offices are making use of recycled materials and the Housing Service is offering grants for insulation.

At this stage of development, Congleton could benefit significantly from sharing best practice with other councils in the sub-region.

Crewe & Nantwich BC

Crewe & Nantwich signed the Nottingham Declaration in June 2007. Some policies (e.g. the Corporate Strategy) and the Local Strategic partnership (LSP) reflect climate change issues but there needs to be more input on putting things into practice. The Council has undertaken a number of 'eco-audits' on its own operations and is ahead on recycling targets. The Procurement Strategy is being reviewed to take sustainability into account. They have also been involved in insulation projects for households with Energy Projects Plus and have held several events to raise awareness. In addition, the LSP has become involved in sustainability issues, concentrating so far on recycling and the use of sustainable materials and technologies in new developments.

As with Congleton, Crewe and Nantwich would benefit from contact with other councils on climate change actions.

Ellesmere Port and Neston BC

No response received.

Macclesfield BC

Macclesfield signed the Nottingham Declaration in May 2006 and since then has been working on measures to improve energy efficiency through procurement, fleet management and staff travel. They have had Carbon Trust reports recommending efficiency improvements in buildings and have also introduced tree planting schemes. Nothing has been done on adaptation so far.

Macclesfield is already working with Vale Royal and Chester City Councils to share experience but there is clearly room for more sharing of best practice.

Vale Royal BC

Vale Royal has signed both the Nottingham Declaration and the North West Climate Change Charter and has developed a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. They also have a Sustainable Procurement Policy and a working group to implement it. The Council has launched a climate change awareness campaign - '*Little actions, Big impact*' using billboards, buses and websites as well as raising awareness amongst Council staff. They are currently implementing EMAS which includes energy in buildings and fleet vehicles and have undertaken Carbon Trust audits on four key buildings. One Council building (the Lifestyle Centre) is powered by CHP and they are investigating the use of renewable energy on council buildings in order to achieve a target of reducing energy use by 20% by 2012. There is a cap of 180g/km of CO₂ on the Council's fleet vehicles which is reduced by 5g/km each year.

The planning policy requires a minimum of 10% renewable energy in all new developments (Energy Projects Plus provide the technical support for this) and the Council is developing supplementary planning guidance for sustainable construction.

On the wider environmental front, Vale Royal have instigated the "*Supporting My Local Environment*" (SMYLE) awareness initiative in which residents are encouraged to adopt the SMYLE pledge, promising to take action to support the local environment and climate change challenge.

Little has been done so far on adaptation but there are proposals to require sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) in new developments.

Vale Royal, along with Chester City, are leading the way in the sub-region on implementing climate change initiatives and there is much that the other LAs could learn from their experience.

Warrington BC

Until recently climate change has not featured highly in Warrington's strategies and policies but they signed the Nottingham Declaration in December 2006 and this has prompted the development of a Climate Change Strategy. This is still at the draft stage but is expected to be adopted by the Council in November 2007. It will include actions on reducing emissions from the Council's own operations (particularly buildings), influencing the wider community and developing an Adaptation Plan. A Sustainable Procurement Strategy has also recently been agreed.

Despite the absence of an overall climate change agenda, there have been a number of initiatives which have reduced CO₂ emissions in the borough including:

- Purchasing electricity from "good quality CHP" sources, saving around 21% of CO₂ emissions;
- Installing loft and cavity wall insulation, high efficiency boilers and low energy lighting in the Council's housing stock;
- Working on "green" travel plans with local employers;
- Opening an "Eco Hut" in the market to provide information to householders on sustainable energy & environmental technologies and to signpost people to grant schemes.

The Council-owned bus company has also been very successful in attracting more passengers (13% increase last year) and hence taking private cars off the road.

The draft Climate Change Strategy will build on these initiatives and includes proposals for an "Invest to Save" fund for building energy improvements and a new travel plan for the Council's staff which will include car sharing and encouraging more cycling, walking and use of public transport. The aim will be to reduce the Council's own emissions by 10% by 2012. There will also be a series of initiatives to engage householders and smaller businesses in reducing CO2 emissions, including a Borough-wide awareness campaign. The Adaptation Plan will include consideration of flooding, storm damage and heatwave responses.

Once the new strategy is adopted, Warrington would benefit from sharing experiences on implementation with other authorities (e.g. on awareness and pledge campaigns).

Summary

It is clear that there are a large number of initiatives on climate change being taken by Local Authorities, though each Council is at a different stage of development. Most of the initiatives are concerned with mitigation, with consideration of adaptation only just beginning. All except Ellesmere Port & Neston have signed the Nottingham Declaration and this provides a strong political base on which to build further action.

Most of the respondents think that climate change is now an important topic in their authority but general awareness of the topic is described as medium. There appears to be a growing level of political support and little evidence of 'failed' initiatives (though it is sometime difficult to find the money for expensive projects).

All of the Councils interviewed are fully supportive of the "Climate Change Champion" role and see the need for more coordination of activities and sharing of best practice. Suggestions for sub-regional priorities included awareness/pledge campaigns, joint promotional events, a biomass programme, engagement of businesses, development of adaptation plans and joint funding bids.

2.2.2 Voluntary Organisations

Voluntary Organisations interviewed included Crewe and Nantwich CVS, Warrington CVS, Macclesfield District CVS, Cheshire Community Council and the Women's Institute (WI).

All but one said that climate change was important in their organisation (the other said 'neutral') and that awareness is generally 'medium'.

The WI nationally is member of 'Stop Climate Chaos' and has a number of ongoing projects including information on reducing the carbon footprint of members and encouraging members to eat local and seasonal food. Locally there have been talks on recycling and climate change.

Cheshire Community Council is working on getting communities together to tackle climate change. They have provided support and advice in village halls, did a survey of their own energy usage and have provided advice on energy efficiency to communities.

Crewe & Nantwich, Warrington and Macclesfield CVS have all concentrated on recycling advice. No organisation is doing anything on adaptation.

The WI and Cheshire Community Council have worked in partnership with local authorities, CWEA, Energy Projects Plus, Ashton Hayes, Cheshire Landscape Trust.

Some respondents reported difficulty in getting the climate change message across to people and Cheshire Community Council said they had had a poor response to some of their village hall events.

Summary

The focus for action amongst Voluntary Organisations appears to be on recycling and awareness raising. They are generally supportive of a sub-regional climate change initiative and variously suggested that the emphasis should be on coordination, transport, recycling, promotional campaigns and engaging young people.

2.2.3 Community Groups

Community Groups interviewed included the Dane Valley Renewable Energy Project, Bosley Community Group, Action Climate Change Tattenhall, Westminster Park Forum and Ashton Hayes. All say that climate change is important or very important in their organisations and all but one claim that awareness is high.

They have been involved in a wide range of activities including a feasibility study for a small hydro turbine on the river Dane (Dane Valley), energy efficiency (Bosley), developing a carbon footprint calculator, providing advice on energy efficiency, insulation and grants, a survey of houses with south facing roofs (Tattenhall), and exhibitions on recycling, insulation, renewable energy, and sustainable transport (Westminster Park). Ashton Hayes has received international recognition for its efforts to become the UK's first small community to become carbon neutral. This has included energy audits, energy efficiency and renewables projects, workshops for schools and local businesses and information campaigns. For adaptation, Bosley have planted trees on a three acre plot in the parish.

Future plans include funding to insulate homes, local fruit and vegetable scheme (Bosley), grants for photovoltaics and ground-source heat pump to heat the swimming pool (Tattenhall), local cycle shop stall on Saturdays (Westminster Park) a renewables microgrid and rebuilding the school using straw insulation (Ashton Hayes).

Summary

Although these initiatives are small in scale, some of them are highly innovative and could be replicated elsewhere if the information and experience is effectively disseminated. There is particularly good experience in energy efficiency projects, small-scale renewables and awareness raising. All respondents support the proposed sub-regional coordination role and would like to see support for funding bids, energy efficiency and renewables projects, public transport, cycle lanes and awareness campaigns. Two would particularly welcome a single point of contact in the sub-region for climate change issues.

2.2.4 Charities and NGOs

Respondents in this category included Groundwork Cheshire, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Energy Projects Plus, Mersey Forest, Warrington Chamber of Commerce, Mersey Basin Campaign, Cheshire Association of Local Councils, National Farmers Union and Natural England.

Almost all said that climate change is important (5) or very important (3) in their organisations and five said that awareness is high.

Again there is a wide range of ongoing activity including:

- *Groundwork* - improved insulation and staff awareness; support local businesses to improve resource efficiency (saved 3000 tonnes CO₂ in 3 years);
- *Wildlife Trust* – Eco-audit of their offices; awareness raising with the public, local authorities and the private sector. For adaptation - wetlands creation for flood alleviation; connectivity of habitats;

- *Energy Projects Plus* - Run the Cheshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre providing home energy checks and energy efficiency advice to householders; also working with local authorities on climate change and run a schools education programme;
- *Mersey Forest* – tree planting schemes; ‘Green Streets’ project; offsetting flights from Liverpool Airport;
- *ChALC* - awareness raising;
- *Natural England (regionally)* – promoting recycling; looking at transport and reducing individuals’ carbon footprint;
- *NFU* - climate change information to farmers via specialist press articles, agricultural shows etc; they are interested in pursuing biofuels, biomass and anaerobic digestion projects.

Most have used external funding to support their work including NWDA, private businesses, Energy Saving Trust, Local Authorities and EU Programmes.

Summary

Although there is an emphasis on awareness raising and information campaigns amongst Charities and NGOs, there are also several other initiatives, particularly on adaptation, which could be useful to other partners. All respondents believe that more coordination of activities would be beneficial to avoid duplication of effort and activities. Suggestions for priority areas included encouraging lifestyle changes, supporting businesses, transport, green infrastructure and more work on adaptation.

2.2.5 Other Organisations

Businesses which responded to the survey included AstraZeneca, Manchester Airport, Scottish Power, Promote Environmental and the University of Chester.

CO2 reduction activities include:

- *AstraZeneca* – Aiming to reduce CO2 emissions by 20% by 2012, compared to 2005. Have implemented a range of energy efficiency measures and have a CHP plant. They have also hosted a conference for small businesses to look at what they could be doing.
- *Manchester Airport* – Have implemented numerous energy efficiency projects and have a CHP scheme for Terminal 2; new fleet vehicles are more efficient and less polluting; have introduced a travel plan for passengers and staff travelling to the airport; researching into improvements in emissions from aircraft on the ground. Currently looking at onsite renewables, biodiesel and offsetting business travel. Are about to commission a study on adaptation actions.
- *Scottish Power* – Support domestic energy efficiency projects such as insulation, efficient boilers and low energy lighting via the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) scheme.
- *Promote Environmental* - Communicate environmental and sustainability messages; have an internet-based ‘green car’ guide.
- *University of Chester* – Have a green travel plan, encourage the use of public transport and recycling, have bicycles for loan and ‘house monitors’ to encourage students to reduce energy use. For adaptation – have water saving features on buildings.

All have worked in partnership with other organisations such as the Carbon Trust, Local Authorities, Housing Associations, other businesses, Manchester Metropolitan University and Natural England.

Summary

As might be expected because they are driven by legislation and rising energy prices, the larger organisations have good experiences to share on energy efficiency programmes. There has also been some good work on sustainable travel planning. Once again there was support for a coordination role to share experience and best practice and to promote greater awareness of climate change issues.

2.2.6 Regional Bodies

The regional bodies (NWDA, NWRA, GONW and Environment Agency) were not interviewed as part of this project but their views are well known to Quantum through previous projects and contacts. These organisations have collaborated in developing the NW Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and this is one of the main drivers for sub-regional plans. They are all keen to support sub-regional partners in implementing the specific actions in the CCAP which they are leading on. These include:

- *NWDA* – Sustainable Procurement; encouraging microgeneration in commercial buildings; climate change pledge initiatives and offsetting schemes; facilitating high levels of energy efficiency and renewables in new and refurbished public buildings; climate change communications campaigns; demonstrations of sustainable energy and adaptation projects; developing an investment fund for low carbon technologies and alternative fuels.
- *NWRA* – Developing robust carbon baselines and targets for improvement; ensuring that public sector strategies, policies and plans take full account of climate change issues; promoting best practice in personal and workplace travel planning; ensure that planning policies encourage sustainable energy systems and minimise transport impacts.
- *GONW* – development of supply chains for biomass and biofuels (including energy from waste);
- *Environment Agency* – Coordinating and assisting in development of adaptation plans.

It can be assumed that the regional bodies will be fully engaged with sub-regional climate change actions and, in some cases, will be able to provide funding and other support for development and implementation.

3 Review of Best Practice

3.1 Other NW Sub-regional Partnerships

As part of this project we have made contact with the other four sub-regional partnerships in the North West to obtain details of their actions to date on preparing their sub-regional Climate Change Action Plans. The responses are as follows.

Greater Manchester

Preparation of Greater Manchester's Plan is being led by Manchester Enterprises. They have established a core group of (mainly) public sector organisations and are currently working on involving the private sector. They are at the very early stages of developing their strategy but intend to move quickly and present a draft Plan and funding bid to NWDA by the end of this year.

Merseyside

Merseyside's activity is being coordinated by The Mersey Partnership. They are not intending to prepare a sub-regional Action Plan but instead are identifying which interventions are best done at a local level (e.g. awareness raising), which at a regional level (e.g. climate change pledge) and which at a sub-regional level (e.g. waste disposal infrastructure). They will then determine the best means of support for each level.

Currently they are concentrating on sub-regional added value, particularly:

- Place and destination for inward investment;
- Sustainable procurement;
- Waste recycling and disposal infrastructure.

They have established a Local Authority Climate Change group to coordinate activities at an operational level and there is a proposal for an Environment and Climate Change Board based on the city-region governance structure. Mersey Partnership intend to appoint someone to lead the climate change activities once funding is available from NWDA.

Lancashire

Lancashire County Council (LCC) is leading on Lancashire's Climate Change Plan with assistance from The Lancashire Economic Partnership (LEP) who are concentrating on the economic aspects. LCC has identified climate change as one of its two "top priority" areas for the next three years and has allocated funding of £1.8 million to support action. They already have a team of four people working on climate change and will soon appoint another two.

LCC has established a Climate Change Partnership which includes the Local Authorities and the Environment Agency and they expect to have a first draft of their strategy available by November 2007. This will set the strategic objectives and propose annual action plans. The aim will be to identify which actions are best done at the sub-regional level to complement those at the district and regional level and then to provide the appropriate coordination. Potential sub-regional activities include a Lancashire carbon pledge scheme and a schools programme which will focus on sharing best practice on climate change. Implementation will start in early 2008.

Cumbria

Cumbria is developing a sub-regional plan under the leadership of Cumbria Vision, the county's economic development agency. We have been unable to obtain details of the plan.

3.2 Other Local Authority Initiatives

In the course of our work for the North West Regional Assembly, we have investigated examples of climate change actions in both mitigation and adaptation by local authorities in the UK. These are summarised in Appendix 3. Whilst it is not exhaustive, it does provide a useful snapshot of what is happening elsewhere.

As is evident from this list, there is a wide range of good examples of mitigation activities including:

- Improving energy efficiency in council owned buildings;
- Establishing "Invest to Save" funds for energy projects;
- Schools climate change awareness programmes;
- Travel planning (often wider than just the council);
- Producing low carbon design guidance for developers;
- Requiring minimum levels of renewable energy contribution in new developments;
- Establishing "zero carbon" zones;
- Community pledge schemes and awareness campaigns.

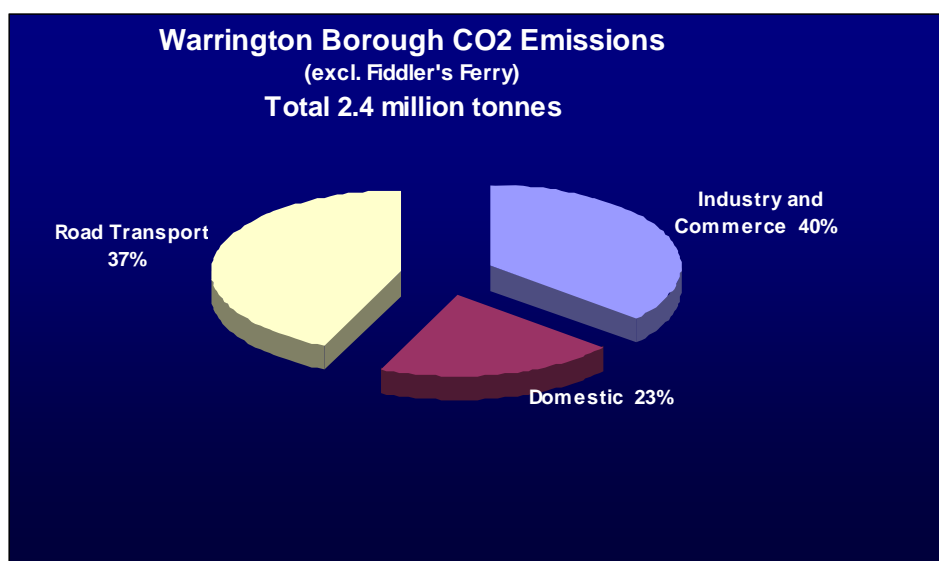
It is noticeable that there are far less examples of adaptation initiatives but Oxfordshire County Council and High Peak District Council have both developed long-term adaptation plans. In the case of Oxfordshire, they have also attempted to put costs on severe weather events over the next 10 years.

We will continue to add to this list as our NWRA project progresses and this can be made available to CWEA on request.

4 Baseline Methodology & Funding Sources

4.1 Baseline Methodologies

The simplest way of estimating the CO2 emission baseline for the sub-region is to use the DEFRA Emissions Inventory which provides figures for each Local Authority area broken down into Industry & Commerce, Households and Road Transport. These may need adjusting based on individual authority information. For example, in our project for Warrington BC it was found that the council's own emissions data for Road Transport was more accurate than that of DEFRA. We also excluded Fiddlers Ferry Power Station from the figures because CO2 emissions there were over four times those of the rest of the borough. This then gave us the following picture for overall emissions:



The emissions for the sub-region can then be obtained by simply adding together the results from the seven local authority areas, taking separate account of point sources such as power plants or large chemical complexes as appropriate.

If an individual organisation (such as a local authority) wishes to calculate the baseline emissions from its own activities, there are several tools available to help. For Warrington we adapted Quantum's own Carbon Footprint Tool, which was originally developed for a single enterprise, to account for the council's service areas. This exercise could be repeated for other authorities in the sub-region at minimal cost.

4.2 Funding Sources

NWDA has committed £23.5 million over three years (starting 2007/8) for implementation of the region's Climate Change Action Plan. Whilst the priority areas for action are defined in the Plan, it is not yet clear how funds will be allocated to individual initiatives. It is the stated intention, however, that some of this funding will be devolved to the sub-regions to assist in implementing their own strategies. The mechanisms by which this will happen should become clearer in the next few weeks.

A list of other potential funding sources for the implementation of sustainable energy schemes is given in Appendix 4. Those most likely to be useful in the sub-region are:

- *Salix* funding from the Carbon Trust to match local authority commitments in "Invest to Save" funds;

- The *Low Carbon Buildings Programme* administered by the Energy Saving Trust to support the installation of microgeneration schemes in residential buildings and community organisations;
- The energy utilities' *Energy Efficiency Commitment* (EEC) to support energy efficiency improvements (and from 2008, renewables) in households;
- *Warm Front* (DEFRA) and *Affordable Warmth* (National Grid) for insulation, heating and lighting projects in low income households;
- *Carbon Trust* interest-free loans for small businesses to purchase energy efficiency technologies and equipment.

For longer-term projects it may be worth investigating the use of European Union funding such as *Intelligent Energy Europe*. These projects tend to be large scale and need to be undertaken with partners from other Member States.

There are also a number of funds other than those listed aimed specifically at research and development of energy technologies but these are less likely to be useful in the sub-region in the short-term.

5 Conclusions

It is clear that there is a considerable amount of activity on climate change in the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region. Most of this activity is aimed at mitigation and includes:

- Energy efficiency programmes in buildings and large businesses;
- Renewable energy schemes;
- Sustainable travel plans;
- Planning policies to support sustainable energy in new developments;
- Awareness schemes for employees and the general public.

Some of these are linked to national programmes, many are taking place at a local authority level and there are also some impressive community scale initiatives. Local Authorities are also beginning to adopt sustainable procurement policies and to build climate change into supplementary planning documents. The initiatives implemented and planned by the various respondent groups are summarised overleaf.

Overall there are few notable gaps in the mitigation activity, though there is clearly scope for sharing ideas and experience between different organisations. There is also very little evidence of action at a local or sub-regional level on engaging businesses in the climate change agenda. Larger businesses receive a high level of national support from the Carbon Trust; environmental support programmes for smaller businesses are coordinated at a regional level by ENWORKS and delivered by Groundwork but these cover broader resource efficiency advice. There is scope for linking into these support mechanisms to provide more focussed assistance on sustainable energy to engage smaller businesses.

As in the rest of the UK, there is far less activity on adaptation than mitigation. Most respondents are now starting to develop their plans for this aspect of climate change and there are several examples of schemes which have already been implemented. There is a need for joint working to avoid duplication of effort in this area.

Whilst there is some evidence of partnership working, this is fairly limited and most organisations appear to be developing their plans and taking action in isolation. Consequently there is considerable scope for sharing best practice on tools, methodologies and successful actions which is currently not being exploited.

The other four sub-regional partnerships in the NW are all working on their Climate Change Action Plans. Lancashire appears to be the most advanced, followed by Merseyside. It is likely that all will be pursuing initiatives which could be of interest to Cheshire & Warrington. The list of initiatives from elsewhere in the UK could also provide useful references for the sub-region.

Suggestions for calculating the CO₂ emissions baseline have also been made. This should not be a difficult task given the information held by DEFRA and the local authorities and the various carbon footprinting tools which are now available.

The survey has shown that there is widespread support for more coordination of climate change activities in the Cheshire & Warrington sub-region and for the appointment of a "Climate Change Champion" to develop a Climate Change Action Plan. There is a wide range of opinion on priorities for sub-regional actions - those most often mentioned include awareness campaigns, transport & travel plans, work on adaptation and joint funding bids.

There are several sources of funding which could be available to implement parts of the Climate Change Action Plan. These include the NW Regional Bodies (especially NWDA), the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust and the energy utilities.

Mapping & Gapping Climate Change Activity in Cheshire & Warrington

Summary of Initiatives

(I = Implemented; P = Planned)

	Energy Efficiency Schemes	Renewable Energy Schemes	Green Travel Plans	Support to Businesses	Recycling	Information & Awareness Campaigns	Adaptation Plans & Initiatives	Sustainable Procurement	Sustainable Planning Policies
Local Authorities									
Cheshire County Council	I&P	I&P	I		I&P	I&P	P	P	P
Chester City Council	I&P	I&P	I		I	I	I		
Congleton BC	P				I				
Crewe & Nantwich BC	P				I	P		P	
Ellesmere Port & Neston BC					I				
Macclesfield BC	P		P		I		I	P	
Vale Royal BC	I&P	I&P	I		I	I	P	I	I
Warrington BC	I&P	P	I&P	P	I	P	P	I	P
Voluntary Organisations									
Cheshire Community Council	P					I			
Crewe & Nantwich CVS					I				
Macclesfield CVS					I				
Warrington CVS					I				
Womens' Institute						I			
Community Groups									
Ashton Hayes	I	I	I		I	I			
Bosley	I&P					I			
Dane Valley		P							
Tattenhall	P	P				I			
Westminster Park			P			I			
Charities & NGOs									
ChALC						I			
Energy Projects Plus	I	I				I			
Groundwork	I			I&P		I			
Mersey Forests							I&P		
Natural England			P		I				
National Farmers' Union		P				I			
Wildlife Trust	I					I	I		
Other Organisations									
Astra Zeneca	I&P					I			
Manchester Airport	I&P	P	I&P				P		
Promote Environmental						I			
Scottish Power	I								
University of Chester	I		I						

Appendix 1



Cheshire and Warrington

Climate Change Activity Questionnaire

Quantum Strategy & Technology is conducting a survey on behalf of Cheshire County Council (CCC) and the Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance (CWEA) as part of a study on climate change activity in the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region. The purpose of the study is to inform a proposed Climate Change Action Plan for Cheshire & Warrington. The aim of this survey is to establish the current position of stakeholders in the sub-region in relation to climate change issues, to identify any gaps in current activities, and to assess the need for improved co-ordination of activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

A representative of Quantum Strategy & Technology will contact you in the next two weeks to discuss your responses to the following questions. There is therefore no need to return the questionnaire unless you would prefer to respond in writing.

Where a question refers to an "organisation", this could also include a group or community and should be read as such.

Organisation Name	
Address	Postcode
	Telephone
Contact Name	Position
Contact e-mail	

1. Do you have someone in your organisation who is responsible for climate change activities? If so, what is their position in the organisation?

Name:

Position:

2. What level of importance is given to climate change issues in your organisation's policies and practices?

Very important/Important/Neutral/Unimportant/Very Unimportant

3. How good is the overall level of awareness of climate change issues within your organisation?

High

Medium

Low

Don't Know

Comments:

4. What specific actions have been/are being undertaken in reducing your organisation's climate change impacts (mitigation) and what plans are in place to deal with the potential impacts of climate change (adaptation)?

Mitigation:

Adaptation:

5. What is the scope of these actions (e.g. level of political support, funding, geographical coverage)?

6. What actions are planned for the future?

Mitigation:

Adaptation:

7. Which actions and/or policies would you say have been successful?

8. What factors do you think has made them a success?

9. Which actions and/or policies have been unsuccessful or proved difficult to deliver?

10. What factors have made them unsuccessful or difficult to deliver?

11. Are you using external sources of funding to assist you in your climate change activities? If so, please specify which.

12. Are you working in partnership with any other organisations on developing and/or delivering your climate change activities?

If so, which are the most beneficial?

13. If a Cheshire & Warrington Climate Change Action Plan is developed, which issues do you think should be a priority?

14. What could Cheshire County Council and the CWEA do to improve the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in the Cheshire & Warrington sub-region?

Space for further comments

If you would prefer not to speak to a representative of Quantum about your responses, please return the completed questionnaire to teleri.cousins@quantumst.co.uk, or fax it to: 0161-924-2389

Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Appendix 2 – Organisations Interviewed

Local Authorities
Macclesfield Borough Council
Vale Royal Borough Council
Chester City Council
Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council
Cheshire County Council
Congleton Borough Council
Warrington Borough Council
Voluntary Groups
Cheshire Community Council
Women's Institute
Warrington CVS
Macclesfield District CVS
Crewe and Nantwich CVS
Congleton District CVS
Private Companies
University of Chester
Scottish Power
AstraZeneca
Manchester Airport
British Waterways
Promote Environmental
Community Groups
Westminster Park Forum
Action Climate Change Tattenhall
Dane Valley Renewable Energy Project
Bosley Community Group
Ashton Hayes
Charities and Non-profit Organisations
Groundwork Cheshire
Mersey Forest
Cheshire Wildlife Trust
National Farmers Union
Warrington Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mersey Basin Campaign
Cheshire Association of Local Councils
Energy Projects Plus
Natural England

Appendix 3 – Local Authority Climate Change Initiatives

Category	LA name	Project Detail	Contact/website
<i>Invest to Save</i>	Leicester City Council	Tied into high energy using building; some money back to service areas; £40k savings a year	www.leicesterenergybeacon.org.uk/more_info.html
	Uttlesford District Council	£300k annual energy bill; £50k plus £50k Salix match plus £170k capital fund for Invest to Save fund.	
	Kirklees	Energy and Water Conservation Fund	Case study on website www.kirklees.gov.uk
<i>New build</i>	York City Council	Straw bale technology eco-depot with rainwater harvesting, solar panels and wind turbine. Rainwater saving £25k annually.	http://www.limetechnology.co.uk/pages/project.php?page_id=66
<i>Energy Efficiency in Buildings</i>	St Helens	No cost savings £17k with energy manager post; Low cost £81k saved	
	Leicester City Council	Energy monitoring software; mentoring; money into service area budgets; £40k annual savings	www.leicesterenergybeacon.org.uk/more_info.html
	Telford & Wrekin DC	Energy monitoring software; awareness campaigns; lighting timer controls; stakeholders involved 10% energy saved £8k in first year	
	Shropshire County Council	Energy reduction targets in new build; also in repair and maintenance working with energy manager; whole site approach; training for property maintenance and building design staff; 35% saved over several years.	
	Carlisle City Council	Energy efficiency built into ongoing repair and maintenance and refit.	
	North Yorkshire County Council	Staffing for energy savings; Carbon Manager and schools carbon officer; £4m expected saving with £2.5m investment; schools £1m saved through awareness	

Schools	Rochdale Borough Council	Building Schools for the Future	
	North Yorkshire CC	Schools officer (carbon mgt programme)	
	Calderdale MBC	Schools officer (carbon mgt programme)	
	Lancashire CC	Schools Climate Change Education Programme – with Lancs Wildlife Trust. Also schools with wind turbines. Building Schools for the Future in Burnley and Pendle will have renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures.	
Planning / Development	Nottinghamshire County Council (and districts)	Sustainable Development Guide events and website with case studies and exemplar buildings	www.sdg-nottinghamshire.org.uk/index.htm
	Greater London Authority (and boroughs)	Engagement for low carbon buildings	
	Cornwall County Council	Partner in setting up Cornwall Sustainable Buildings Trust (CSBT). Working with national award winning architect Bill Dunster (of BEDZED) on new housing schemes in Cornwall. Signed up to "Future Foundations" and are developing a Sustainable Construction Policy.	
	Kirklees	Planning a low carbon LDF. A holistic case for planning, renewables, SUDs, costs benefits to developers – support available to other councils.	
Merton Rule	London Borough of Merton	(version 2) <i>"All residential and non-residential .. on-site renewable energy to reduce CO2 emissions by at least 10%".</i> PV has been the big winner in London. Maximum 3% on-cost for developers.	
	Knowsley	<i>"All large scale new developments will be required to generate at</i>	

		<i>least 10% of the predicted energy requirements from renewable sources";</i> Energy Statement before planning process starts.	
	Kirklees	Will be requiring 35% renewables contribution soon.	
Zoning	Taunton	Zero carbon development – Project Taunton – Breeam excellent/code for sustainable homes rating 5; 11,500 new jobs.	
	Milton Keynes	Zero carbon development plus development 'tax' towards local renewables	
Carbon Management Plans in Partnership	Uttlesford District Council	CMP with Braintree and Colchester DCs	
	Lincoln City Council & Lincolnshire County Council	CMP together; work across all DCs for countywide approach to climate change	
Street Lighting	Dorset County Council	25 year PFI; 68% new Cosmopolis units; covered by Corporate Environmental Plan aims to reduce carbon footprint and energy saving cost reduction.	www.edf.energy.com/dors-etlighting
	North Yorkshire County Council	Half average UK costs through regular maintenance, good time switching, low wattage lights 40w.	
	Essex County Council and North Devon DC	Piloting switching off and dimming for appropriate areas.	
EMAS	High Peak Borough Council	EMAS picks up more than CMP does; can help manage and measure actions on own buildings, but also planning and community. Quality mark helps get funding (£200k in 4 yrs).	
	Leeds City Council	EMAS used to manage sustainability in development, energy and climate change, waste, pollution monitoring and	www.leeds.gov.uk (Business/planning/planning – environmental policies)

		reduction, encourage sustainable transport, improve neighbourhood and environmental quality, reduce impacts of goods and materials used, support biodiversity and conservation, sustainability and environment in education.	
	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	Management for Carbon Mgt Programme, Travel Plan, Sustainable Procurement, Renewable Energy policies and will monitor/measure their effectiveness. (tie into "Eco-champions" programme in offices).	
Climate Change Strategies	Birmingham City Council & Strategic Partnership	Very inclusive consultative approach to the strategy – also includes a risk/financial approach to adaptation/mitigation.	
Community Awareness	Northamptonshire County Council and 7 districts	Climate Friendly Communities with ACRE	http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/ncc/
	Essex County Council	Launched a CRed scheme - www.cred-uk.org/essex	
	Lancashire CC	Lancashire Light Bulb Library	
Community Projects	Leicester City Council	10 yr interest free loans for solar thermal (also 5 and 2 yr loans for heating/insulation)	Energy Efficiency Advice Centre for Leicestershire and Northamptonshire
	Lancashire County Council	Lancashire Locals Climate Change Fund of £250,000 across the DCs for community projects to reduce impact and plan adaptation. Will be supported by a Community Renewables & Climate Change Officer.	
	Leicester City Council	Solar panel 10 year no interest loans; five year no interest loans for heating; two year interest free loans for heating/insulation. Invest to Save funds ensure money keeps going	Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre

		round.	
	Kirklees	Warm Zone door to door energy efficiency advice and grants	
Travel Planning	Nottinghamshire County Council	Parking charges; increase in bike use; Green Fleet Plan (EST)	
	Suffolk County Council	Parking charges introduced with reductions for low paid staff	
	West Oxon DC	3.5% reduction in solo car commute in rural area through travel plan. Provide pool cars and bikes.	
	Stockport Borough Council	Powershift funding to move fleet to LPG/pollution reduction on HGVs. EST Motorvate fleet programme.	
	Stockport Borough Council	Also Phase II of travel plan –discounts for public transport; re-launch car share with PCT and college; pool cars and bikes.	As above
Adaptation	Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council	Extreme weather costs review over 10 years; UKCIP work; work with front line staff to look at adaptation planning.	UK CIP
	High Peak	Climate adaptation work across service areas.	

Appendix 4 – Funding Sources for Sustainable Energy Deployment

Funding Source	Description	Budget	Call Details	Information/advice
Salix Fund	Interest-free matched funding for public sector organisations to invest in energy savings. The scheme has been piloted on local authorities, universities and NHS hospitals.	Government funding of £20 million. The fund is structured so that the energy savings pay the grant back over time. Individual grants range from £100K to 500K and the matched funding is usually 50%..	Currently closed for applications following the pilot phase.	www.salixfinance.co.uk Tel: 020 3043 8800
Low Carbon Buildings Programme	Grants towards the costs of installing microgeneration technologies in residential buildings and for community organisations and SMEs. Also grants for new buildings and major refurbishment projects.	£28.5 million over 3 years from April 2006 with an additional £50 million announced in the budget.	Grants for households to be re-launched on 27 th may 2007. Grants for community groups and SMEs subject to quarterly deadlines. Grants for new buildings and refurbishments.	www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk
Carbon Trust Interest Free Loans	Interest-free loans for SMEs to purchase energy efficiency technologies and equipment. Loans are unsecured, interest free and repayable over a period of up to 4 years	Loans range from £5K to £100K for businesses in England, Scotland and Wales.	Open for applications at any time.	www.thecarbontrust.co.uk
Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs)	The ECA scheme provides businesses with 100% first year tax relief on their capital expenditure on energy-saving technologies, low CO2 emission cars and water conservation plant/machinery.	Not applicable. Qualifying plant and equipment is specified on the Energy Technology List which is managed for the Government by the Carbon Trust	ECAs are claimed along with annual tax returns.	www.eca.gov.uk

Carbon Trust Technology Acceleration	Accelerating change towards a low carbon economy by providing funding, coordination and expertise to bridge technology and commercial gaps.	Currently supporting a range of initiatives including: European Marine Energy Centre, Small Scale CHP Field Trials, Advanced Metering, Low Carbon Buildings, Biomass Heat and Marine Energy.	Only the European Marine Energy Centre and the Low Carbon Buildings Accelerator (LCBA) are open for applications.	www.thecarbontrust.co.uk/technology The LCBA is focused on gathering data and demonstrating expertise in the energy-efficient refurbishment of non-residential buildings.
Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE2)	EU programme which provides co-funding for the promotion and replication of energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport energy technologies and related activities.	€727 million from 2007 to 2013. This includes funding for market replication which will be a new area for support.	Current call opened in April 2007 with a deadline on 28 th September 2007. Call budget = €52 million Topics defined in the annual work programme	Administered by the Intelligent Energy Executive Agency. UK NCP Helpline: 0161 874 3636 www.dti.gov.uk/ent/energie
Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC)	Obligation on energy suppliers to achieve targets for the promotion of improvements in domestic energy efficiency through measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation, energy efficient lighting, boilers and appliances. EEC 2 covers some microgeneration technologies which also improve energy efficiency including micro-CHP, heat pumps and solar water heaters.	EEC 1 (2002 to 2005) stimulated £600 million investment in energy efficiency and EEC 2 (2005 to 2008) should be double this level. EEC3 will run from 2008 to 2013 and could include other microgeneration technologies such as micro wind, PV panels and wood chip boilers.	Each energy supplier has its own programme approved by Ofgem and often delivered in collaboration with local authorities, energy efficiency advice centres and others.	www.defra.gov.uk/environment/energy/eec
Warm Front (Defra)	The main government grant-aided programme for tackling fuel poverty covering insulation,	Grants of £2700 or £4000 for packages of insulation and heating measures tailored to each property.	Individual can apply at any time either directly to Eaga or through their local authority.	Scheme manager is: Eaga Partnership Tel 0800 316 6011 www.eaga.co.uk

	heating, lighting, controls and advice.			
Affordable Warmth (National Grid)	Support for efficient gas central heating systems through local authorities and social housing providers to tackle fuel poverty.	Aiming to help 1 million fuel poor households.	Applications to be made by local authorities and housing associations.	www.affordablewarmth.co.uk Tel: 0121 424 8150
Npower Juice	Funding for the development of wave and tidal stream technologies based on £10 donated by npower for every customer that stays with the Juice green energy tariff throughout the year.	Funding available of around £500K in 2007. Additional funds could be available to support microgeneration field trials.	Closing date for application is 6 weeks prior to panel meetings. Next meeting is in October 2007.	www.npower.com/juicefund Tel: 01905 340843
Shell Springboard	Programme that provides financial support to innovative, low carbon business ideas. Open to SMEs or sole traders in operating in the UK.	In 2007, 6 awards of between £20K and £40K were offered in each of 3 UK regions: North, Central and South.	Funding for 2007 is now closed. New round of funding for 2008?	www.shellspringboard.org