

## Introduction

This research investigates how to measure the progress of local action to implement deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. The quality of data and role of models in evaluating the effectiveness of implementing greenhouse gas mitigation policies is being studied. This research aims to assist local and regional bodies to more accurately monitor progress towards meeting ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets.

## Energy Policy in Local Authorities

Local Authorities' energy policy has changed rapidly over the last few years. There is a broad recognition of the significance of local authorities in climate change mitigation for example in the UK Climate Impacts Programme 2006 and the Energy White Paper of 2007.

Previous Local Authorities' climate change work has been undertaken on a voluntary basis with no statutory framework in place. However, now the new Local Government Performance Framework is proposing to include climate change indicators for local authorities. For example:

- Percentage CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the local area
- Percentage CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the local authority's own operations

It remains to be established how the progress of local authorities will be measured.

A survey of local authorities has been carried out. This found that most authorities are not taking action in their local area. Very few councils are actually measuring their performance by monitoring CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

This project uses Leicester as a case study and explores how Leicester can meet its requirements for measuring its greenhouse gas emissions as part of the proposed Local Government Performance Framework.

## Research Status

The project is ongoing. The research aims to assist local authorities to measure progress in climate change mitigation by means of a greenhouse gas emission protocol for monitoring emissions at the city scale and to inform the proposed Local Government Performance Framework.

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## Data and Energy Models

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform post code energy consumption data for gas, electricity and transport have been reviewed and evaluated. The data are still experimental because the collection methodology changes from year to year, making year on year comparisons unfortunately inappropriate.

A review of models is also being conducted, examining their appropriateness for use by local authorities. Models can be:

- Simple models with low data entry requirements (e.g. CCP and HEAT).
- More complex models which are time consuming to use and require a large set of data from various sources (e.g. DREAM and EEP).

Current practice is to use simple models such as spreadsheets because they can be used easily and rapidly. However, no standard methodology has been developed for monitoring emissions at city wide scale.

