

## Brighton & Hove – Sustainability record

Brighton & Hove is one of the most sustainable cities in the UK, having come in the top 3 in the national Sustainable Cities Index of 20 UK cities for three years' running. The index is drawn up by independent sustainability body, Forum for the Future. We have a high national profile on these issues and explore them in detail, for example at an annual Sustainability Conference, this year about the sea  
<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1209854>

### **Energy saving**

With EDF Energy we have launched a £6 million energy efficiency grant scheme over three years to help householders cut costs and carbon emissions. We have one of the largest housing renewal grants in the south east to do this work and tackle fuel poverty. Our grants cover everything from boiler replacement and loft insulation to solar hot water heating.

### **Environmental policy**

The council developed a new Environmental Policy in October 2009.  
[http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000298/M00002260/AI00011018/\\$Item12Appendix1.docA.ps.pdf](http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000298/M00002260/AI00011018/$Item12Appendix1.docA.ps.pdf)

This was agreed by a new Sustainability Cabinet Committee which is chaired by the Leader of the Council. The authority has also recently set up, and supports a City Sustainability Partnership with cross-sector representation.

### **Waste management & Recycling**

Our rates of domestic waste recycling and composting are improving year on year.  
2005/06 – 24.5%  
2006/07 – 26.7%  
2007/08 – 28.4%  
2008/09 – 29.2%

With major investment in a Materials Recovery Facility - now open - and a new waste strategy imminent, we are seeking to improve performance further.

### **Carbon Management programmes**

The city council has shown strong leadership by signing up to the 10:10 Commitment and encouraging key partners and households in the city to do the same. It is also supporting a growing city-wide campaign which is business-led and launches in February. The national 10:10 aim is to cut CO2 emissions by 10% in 2010 country-wide, in homes, workplaces, schools, hospitals, football clubs, universities, and councils as the first real steps on the road to becoming a low-carbon society.

We have launched a comprehensive on-line Low Carbon Economy guide for Brighton & Hove businesses. <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1192814> and the Business 10:10 Campaign will launch in the city on February 9

The council runs its own successful Carbon Management Programme, saving more than 400 tonnes of CO2 and £145,000 to date through energy efficiency measures, with more to follow.

A city partnership has also shown thousands of local residents how to green their own homes through new "Eco Open Houses" weekends: <http://www.ecoopenhouses.org/>

Also in partnership - with Oxfam and Brighton Peace and Environment Centre – the city has secured £180,000 from the Department for International Development for Climate Connections, a three year city-wide public engagement project which is getting underway now. This will use a website, touring exhibition and workshop programme to focus on human stories of people living in climate vulnerable parts of the world, linked to stories of local residents and how both are learning to cut emissions and adapt to the changing climate.

### **Transport**

In the first project of this scale in the UK outside of London, Brighton & Hove is installing 10 on-street electric vehicle charging points across the city. It unveiled its first charging point in Brighton on 2 October 2009.

The charging points have been developed by local company Elektromotive at the Innovation Centre on the University of Sussex campus. So far, 4 charging points have been installed in two separate locations and another 6 charging points, to be installed in three other locations, are planned for early 2010.

These have been partially funded from the European Civitas scheme and following installation, the council is setting up a registration scheme to trial the scheme with electric car users, which is expected to be up and running soon.

Brighton & Hove won £2.2 million to invest in small-scale transport projects and is the only city in the country to win European money from the Civitas Archimedes Project for such schemes. Council officers are working with five other cities in Europe to share best practice, experience and skills.

Council Leader Mary Mears said: "Brighton & Hove really is at the forefront of creative and innovative transport schemes. We're successful because we have a reputation as a market leader in transport policy and putting it into practice.

"Brighton & Hove has 15 small projects for which we have won funding, ranging from car sharing improvements and road safety, to public transport information for visually impaired people.

"We're proud to be able to share our expertise with other countries on how to achieve a clean and energy-efficient transport system. It's exciting to think that what we do here will influence future transport policy, not only in the UK but also in Europe."

Other projects in Brighton & Hove funded by Civitas include:

- Working with freight companies to investigate ways of moving goods through the city in a more energy-efficient way
- Monitoring vehicle emissions in schools through electronic signs so that pupils can learn about emissions, carbon footprints and travel choice
- Expanding existing car sharing and car club opportunities into outlying areas of the city
- A road safety campaign targeted at groups shown to be especially at risk of traffic accidents

Brighton & Hove Bus Company has also won Civitas funding to develop an integrated ticketing system, like London's Oyster card, where people can use the same ticket on the bus and train.

The council has won the award of Local Transport Authority of the Year for two of the past three years.

It also recently won two national awards from the Institute for Highways and Transportation.

New Road in the city centre won an award for innovation in the urban design category, beating off strong competition from entries from the London Underground and Highways Agency. The street, previously busy with traffic, has been transformed into a popular shared space where pedestrians and cyclists have priority over vehicles. Since work was completed last summer, traffic has dropped by 93%, while cycling and pedestrian numbers have soared by 162%.

The city's trailblazing talking bus stops for the blind also won an award - last year the city became the first area in the country to introduce talking bus stops, giving blind and partially sighted people spoken information on bus services. There are 22 bus stops where people can hear which buses are coming and when they are due, meaning they no longer need to rely on fellow passengers for help.

The council's cabinet member for environment, Cllr Geoffrey Theobald, said: "These awards highlight our commitment to the environment and to instigating innovative ideas that make a practical difference to people's lives."

### **Other recent achievements**

1. Launched a major Buy Local campaign to support local jobs and the environment, in line with its first priority - "protect the environment while growing the economy".
2. Developed tough new sustainability standards for developers, with plans for a local carbon offset scheme to expand the energy efficiency grant fund.
3. Introduced a ground-breaking sustainability checklist for developers, winning a national planning award.
4. Won a national Green Apple Gold Award for its own Brighton & Hove Young Environmentalist of the Year Award; and increased the number of high-performing Eco Schools in the city.
5. Launched an impressive bid at an internationally-recognised conference to become the world's first Urban Biosphere - prioritising green spaces and wildlife in the city.
6. The city's Food Partnership secured a grant of £500,000 over four years recently from the Big Lottery to launch the Harvest Brighton & Hove - a four-year programme to increase the amount of food grown in the city and to encourage people to eat more locally produced food.