

# **Regional Groups Initiative: Sussex Summary Project Plan**

**March 2010**



**Low Emission  
Strategies**

Building on Good Practice

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## **Introduction**

The Sussex group is led by Lewes District Council and Sussex Air Quality Partnership (Sussex-air), with the following partners:

- Eastbourne Borough Council
- Chichester District Council
- East Sussex County Council
- West Sussex County Council
- Hastings Borough Council
- Brighton and Hove City Council
- Worthing Borough Council
- Adur District Council
- Environmental Protection UK
- Climate South East

The Regional Champion for the group is Nigel Jenkins, Project Manager (Sussex-Air)

Sussex's vision for engaging with the LES Regional Groups Initiative is to enable air quality and climate change professionals to link into and engage in the promotion of a low emission strategy for Sussex with regional strategic, transport and land-use planning authorities. The initiative will enable the partnership to "link-in" air quality and climate change into the LDF process to ensure that these two key elements are a consideration for further planning policy, which are key to delivering a low emission strategy.

## **Long Term Aim (beyond 2010)**

To integrate Low Emission Strategies into the core strategy of Local Development Frameworks (LDF), linking into Local Transport Plans (LTP3), land-use planning

## **Objectives for 2010**

1. Engage with and work with strategic and regional policy makers to encourage adoption of the Low Emission Strategy approach in Sussex.

2. Develop closer cross regional working on air quality, climate change and planning in Sussex.
3. Secure commitment to adopt or a timeline/action plan for adoption of Low Emission Strategies from the partner local authorities in the Sussex Regional Group.
4. Identify key Low Emission actions which can deliver air quality and climate change improvements regionally, focusing on transport and land-use.

### **Key Deliverables Targeted for 2010**

1. Develop over-arching Low Emission Strategy consultation document, in partnership with key stakeholder bodies in Sussex.
2. Develop new or enhanced policy statements for the core strategies of the Local Development Frameworks (LDF) on air quality and climate change in Sussex local authority.
3. Develop a Sussex regional Low Emission Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) focusing on “air quality & climate changing impacts from new developments”. This will be adapted from the LES SPD presently under development by the LES Partnership.
4. Develop CIL and Section 106 agreements templates which can be adapted by individual authorities in Sussex.
5. Work with LES partnership and test and develop LES Toolkit (from July 2010).
6. Identify low emission initiatives that the Sussex region can assist develop or promote (future LES project areas).

## Communications

The Sussex Air Quality Partnership (Sussex-air) is made up from the following regional grouping of authorities:

Adur District Council	Arun District Council	Brighton and Hove City Council
Chichester District Council	Crawley Borough Council	Eastbourne Borough Council
Hastings Borough Council	Horsham District Council	Lewes District Council
Mid Sussex District Council	Rother District Council	Wealden District Council
Worthing Borough Council	East Sussex County Council	West Sussex County Council
The Environment Agency	Health Protection Agency	

The partnership has a mixture of local authority officers, specialising in air quality (plus some noise and contaminated land), with transport planners, environmental managers and Chief Environmental Health Officers. There is strong link to transport planners in East and West Sussex and Brighton, plus good links to land-use planners in most local authorities. We also have links to sustainability and climate change officers, however these need further development.

Within the local authority network in Sussex there are key workgroups which interlink and share best practise, expertise and resource pooling. These include East and West Sussex planners groups:

- East Sussex LDF planners group
- West Sussex LDF planners group
- East Sussex Planning Liaison Group (Chief Officers Group)
- Sussex Chief Environmental Health Officers Group
- East Sussex Strategic Partnership      West Sussex Strategic Partnership
- East Sussex NI 185/186/188 groups

In addition we have links to other key authorities who participate and link in with activities we are involved in:

The University of Brighton	The University of Sussex	Hastings and Rother PCT
Brighton and Hove City PCT	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	
West Sussex PCT	ERG, King's College London	

The partnership works across UK and EU regions and participates in projects with NGO's, other air quality regional groups, authorities, agencies and institutions:

- Environmental Protection UK      Climate South East
- Essex, Kent, Surrey, Herts&Beds      Atmo Picardie, AirNormande , INERIS (Fr)
- VMM (Belg) UWE (UK)

The following partnership will be built on over the course of the initiative.

Local Development Frameworks:

The Director of Planning at Lewes District Council, Lindsay Frost, will promote and assist the lead officer in engaging with the regional Local Development Framework (LDF) workgroups. The lead officer will review and ascertain the status of the Sussex LDF's to establish where each one is positioned in 2010. This will help us target specific LDF's which are best accessible and open to engagement. We will engage with officers in local planning authorities, particularly with those developing strategy LDF plans, this will include the Waste and Minerals LDF planners.

Land-use planning:

Local authorities will use their planning contacts to enhance and further develop links with their planning colleagues. Sussex-air introduced the LES concept at its 2010 seminar on Planning for Air Quality.

Transport planning:

The partnership will develop links to the regions transport planners, through the East and West Sussex and Brighton authority links. Mike Langthorne (ESCC), will be the link between the LTP3 and LDF planners.

Climate change and air quality:

The partnership will utilise the expertise of climate change and air quality workgroups to develop Supplementary Planning Document Templates (SPD's) and the overarching Low Emission Strategy. We will be engaging with Climate South East on best practices as we are already involved on workgroups.

Specific planning target groups:

We will be engaging the newly designated South Downs National Park Authority (2009) to ensure air quality and climate change is integrate into any new policy. The SDNP planning authority is not yet in place, however we will utilise links through the Lewes DC Planning Director to forge links with this important cross regional strategic planning body.

We will also be engaging with development agencies such as Eco-towns (Shoreham Harbour). Targeting a potential eco-town ma provide an excellent opportunity for the LES, as government and local bodies will see such developments as beacon developments for the future.