

# Kent Environment Strategy

Pre-consultation presentation

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# Prosperity within our Environmental Limits

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## **Vision**

A Kent where we produce and use sustainable goods and services and we throw away as little as possible. We are seen as a great location for green technology companies. As a result our natural resources – air, rivers, sea and soil - are clean and safeguarded and Kent is sheltered from the excesses of global commodities markets.

## **Target**

By 2016 Kent will reverse the annual growth in its ecological footprint on the way to a 40% decrease by 2030

# Prosperity within our Environmental Limits

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## Objectives

- Enable residents and businesses to consume at sustainable levels by offering smart choices for the way we live, work and travel, e.g. Fast Track
- Reduce the negative impact of consumption by understanding the lifecycle of products and supporting lean and clean production methods and service provision.
- Use resources more efficiently by reducing waste, enabling reuse and recycling and optimising energy from waste
- Maximise the opportunities to create Kent markets for green products, services and technologies.

# Prosperity within our Environmental Limits

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## Potential Priority Actions

- Reduce domestic water usage - Water saving devices in new build and existing stock
- Reduce waste arising - Love Food Hate Waste Campaign
- Reduce waste to landfill - Site Waste Management Plans
- Establish a competitive small grants scheme to support communities wishing to develop sustainable living solutions in their area
- Public procurement of local and seasonal food.
- Improve domestic sustainability - exemplar new homes

# Rising to the climate change challenge

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## **Vision**

A Kent with a thriving low carbon economy that drives a year on year reduction in the county's green house gas emissions. Our residents are protected from the immediate risk of climate change and are able to derive benefits from 'local lifestyles'. As a county we are prepared for the medium and longer term effects of climate change with urban design that reduces the impact of extremes of temperature, homes and businesses that are safe from flooding, public services and transport networks that are resilient to severe weather events and wildlife habitats that can adapt to changing conditions.

## **Target**

A 40% reduction in Kent's carbon dioxide emissions by 2030

# Rising to the climate change challenge

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## Objectives

- Support Kent residents and businesses to reduce their energy consumption and to benefit from a high quality 'local lifestyle'.
- Increase the opportunities for renewable energy generation
- Provide information to enable services, businesses and individuals to make decisions that are resilient in the face of a changing climate.
- Enable opportunities for wildlife to adapt to climate change
- Create the conditions to encourage a move to a low carbon economy in Kent.

# Rising to the climate change challenge

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## **Potential Priority Action**

- Reduce carbon emissions from public sector projects - Carbon budgets
- Reduce domestic energy usage - retrofit homes with energy saving systems.
- Grow the green technology and services economy - Public procurement of green products and services and provide training opportunities
- Increase the market for renewable energy - Feasibility of a 'Merton Rule' style policy with a steady increase in % renewable energy required .

# Value from our Natural and Living Environments

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## **Vision**

A Kent where our environment enhances our economy and quality of life and environmental services provide value for money solutions to economic and social aspirations. A place where all our natural, geological, historical and cultural heritage are protected, enhanced and celebrated. Where we live, work and play in attractive, clean, healthy and enjoyable places.

## **Targets**

- Halt the decline in biodiversity by 2015 (having failed to do this by 2010!)
- % increase in people using greenspace as part of their weekly exercise by 2015
- % increase in the number of landscape character areas in the county that are in a favourable condition.

# Value from our Natural and Living Environments

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## Objectives

- Improve the places where Kent's most deprived communities are situated by working on green infrastructure and heritage
- Engage people, communities and schools to help them use, understand and take responsibility for their local green spaces and cultural heritage.
- Add to Kent's distinctiveness by protecting and enhancing our natural, cultural and recreational heritage.
- Focus on wildlife by improving habitat connectivity
- Provide the information to place environmental solutions at the heart of business cases for economic and social programmes

# Value from our Natural and Living Environments

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## Priority Action

- Connect the 'public' estate
- Plan a Kent wide Green Grid – Map and feasibility study
- Habitat improvement - Habitat connectivity project
- Develop economic tool that quantifies the financial benefits of environmental design for public health, education and other social needs.
- Improve children's connection to the environment - 13 'open air schools'.

# Consultation – Oct – Nov 2009

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- Letters and copy of the draft strategy to stakeholder organisations
- Draft Strategy on KCC website
- Small number of focus groups with members of public