

Sustainability Statement 2012

The Sustainability Statement sets Middlesbrough's commitment to sustainability

Introduction

1. In April 2008, the Council adopted an enhanced sustainability policy based on the ten guiding principles of 'One Planet Living'[®]. Following public consultation Middlesbrough and Middlesbrough Partnership adopted a comprehensive One Planet Living Action Plan in July and September 2011 respectively.

2. One Planet Living is based on the concept of ecological footprinting; the amount of land and productive sea a community requires to maintain a chosen lifestyle. The true motivation for Middlesbrough Council adopting the One Planet Living programme is to improve local quality of life, the local environment and to save money.

3. In the 1980's global ecological footprint caused by human activity exceeded the bio capacity of the planet for the first time, so lifestyles became unsustainable and exceeded One Planet Living levels. This means that lifestyles use the Earth's natural resources at a rate faster than which they can be replaced, eroding the biological 'capital' of the planet and preventing society from living off the planet's 'interest'. At present, if everyone in the world used resources as we do in Middlesbrough, we would need three planets to support us. By adopting sustainable lifestyles we can reverse the three planet trend and allow the needs of the present to be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4. Middlesbrough Council's One Planet Living Action Plan sets out an ambitious vision and pathway to improve local quality of life and by doing so reduce the ecological footprint to One Planet levels by 2025. Through the effective application of the ten principles of the One Planet Living framework, Middlesbrough Council will deliver practical actions that improve the local environment and promote better social and economic conditions for the community and improve the well being of residents, assisting them to lead greener, healthier and more affordable lifestyles. By adopting One Planet lifestyles local residents will save money.

5. One Planet Living is embedded within the Council's vision for the town and in the way the Council sets priorities

6. Middlesbrough's commitment to achieving sustainable environmental, economic and social improvements and tackling climate change saw it formally endorsed as a One Planet Living Council in November 2011 by creators of the concept of One Planet Living; BioRegional.

One Planet Living – The Detail

7. The global science behind One Planet Living is robust.

8. There are approximately 12 billion global hectares of productive land and sea on the planet. If 10% is left for nature and other species to survive, 10.8 billion global hectares remain for humanity to share. Currently individual UK resident requires 4.71 global hectares on average per year to maintain a specific lifestyle. A fair share of the Earth's resources, split amongst its population of 7 billion is approximately 1.5 hectares per person, per year on average. At present, Middlesbrough residents, in common with the whole UK population, are using resources as though we had three planets to support it.

9. The One Planet Living model is a global initiative based on ten guiding principles of sustainability to improve local and global social, environmental and economic conditions. The framework provided by these ten principles tackles sustainability in an integrated way to help local communities become more sustainable with better environments and quality of life. The

framework can be used to review how well sustainability is being addressed, identify areas where more attention is needed, and help to develop actions to achieve more sustainable lifestyles.

The Ten Principles of One Planet Living

Zero Carbon: Making buildings more energy efficient and delivering all energy with renewable technologies.

Zero Waste: Reducing waste, reusing where possible, and ultimately sending zero waste to landfill.

Sustainable Transport: Encouraging low carbon modes of transport to reduce emissions, reducing the need to travel.

Sustainable Materials: Using sustainable, healthy products with low embodied energy, sourced locally, made from renewable or waste resources.

Local and Sustainable Food: Choosing low impact, local, seasonal and organic diets and reducing food waste.

Sustainable Water: Using water more efficiently in buildings and in the products we buy; tackling local flooding and watercourse pollution.

Land Use and Wildlife: Protecting and restoring biodiversity and natural habitats through appropriate land use and integration into the built environment.

Culture and Community: Reviving local identity and wisdom; supporting and participating in the arts.

Equity and Local Economy: Creating bioregional economies that support fair employment, inclusive communities and international fair trade.

Health and Happiness: Encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to protect good health and wellbeing.

Local Position

10. Middlesbrough Council is building One Planet Living into the way it plans and delivers services.

(i) A One Planet Living Action Plan sets out how Middlesbrough will achieve targets and guide the Council's approach to sustainability up to the year 2025. The Action Plan is supported by annual work programmes which detail the priority actions for each principle.

(ii) Council services take One Planet Living priorities into account when developing and delivering services.

(iii) The Council's One Planet Living Action Group oversees the implementation of the annual work programme of priority actions and take collective decisions to develop the OPL programme.

(iv) Middlesbrough Council works in partnership with Middlesbrough Environment City and is producing a One Planet Living Community Framework to work with more partners in the town.

(v) Middlesbrough Council works with the Middlesbrough Partnership to engage partner organisations and the wider community.

(vi) Middlesbrough Council continues to work in partnership with BioRegional to help to improve the local environment and well being of residents.

(vii) Council employees have access to training to ensure they have awareness of One Planet Living and the practical application of the ten principles.

(viii) Sustainability is embedded into the culture of the organisation by incorporating One Planet Living into the way services are provided and into existing strategic frameworks

(ix) One Planet Living offers an effective communication tool to explain in simple terms the importance of what sustainability means in practice. We will continue to provide practical advice and enable residents to adopt better One Planet living lifestyles.

(x) A One Planet Living Assessment Tool is being developed to assess the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of projects at the development stage and advice will be offered to improve proposals.

(xi) The Middlesbrough Climate Change Partnership continues to meet to deliver action on activities to adapt to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.