

Assigning a Climate Change Rating to Your Proposal or Recommendation

The purpose of assigning a climate change rating to your proposal or recommendation is to ensure that, wherever possible, key decisions help to strengthen the ability of the Council to reduce carbon emissions and manage the negative impacts of climate change on Cambridge.

Step 1: Impact on carbon emissions

Using the prompts in the Table 1 below, consider whether your proposal/ recommendation will:

- Help to reduce carbon emissions: if so, assign it a positive (+) impact rating;
- Or*
- Increase carbon emissions: if so, assign it a negative (-) impact rating;
- Or*
- Have no (nil) impact on emissions of carbon dioxide.

Where you have identified a positive or negative impact, consider whether this impact is likely to be High, Medium or Low. The Impact Classification provided in Table 2 may help with this.

Table 1: Carbon Emissions		Is Impact +, - or Nil?	Is Impact High, Medium or Low?	Comments
1.	Reduce the City Council's energy consumption	Nil		
2.	Reduce energy consumption by others in Cambridge	Nil		
3.	Increase the proportion of the City Council's energy consumption from solar, wind, biomass or other renewable sources	Nil		
4.	Increase the proportion of energy consumption by others in Cambridge from solar, wind, biomass or other renewable sources	Nil		
5.	Reduce the level of motor vehicle traffic by City Council staff commuting or operations	+	Low	Mobile working and scheduling will increase the efficiency of the service by planning journeys to limit mileage, however this is estimated at less than 10% gain.

Table 1: Carbon Emissions		Is Impact + , - or Nil?	Is Impact High, Medium or Low?	Comments
6.	Reduce the level of motor vehicle traffic by others in Cambridge	Nil		
7.	Increase the proportion of the City Council's vehicles powered by biofuel, electricity, LPG or other low-carbon fuels	Nil		
8.	Increase the proportion of other vehicles in Cambridge powered by biofuel, electricity, LPG or other low-carbon fuels	Nil		
9.	Reduce the amount or increase the level of recycling of the City Council's own waste	Nil		
10.	Reduce the amount of waste or increase the level of recycling by others in Cambridge	+	Low	Mobile working will eliminate the need for paper job orders for operatives. It is estimated that this will save approx 15,000 sheets of A4 paper (based on 2011-12 jobs issued to CSO) which require storage and ultimately re-cycling

Table 2: Impact Classification	Description
Low Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No publicity • No energy related infrastructure or vehicles • Capital assets with lifetime <3 years • Few risk management benefits
Medium Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local publicity • Affects delivery of corporate/regulatory commitments • Affects service energy/transport/waste performance by >10% • Capital assets with lifetime >3 years • Management of identified service risk

Table 2: Impact Classification	Description
High Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional/national publicity • Essential for meeting corporate/regulatory commitments • Affects corporate energy/transport/waste performance by >10% • Capital assets with lifetime >6 years • Management of identified corporate risk

Step 2: Helping to manage the impacts of climate change

Using the prompts in Table 3 below, consider whether your proposal/ recommendation is likely to:

- Increase the ability of Cambridge City to withstand the impacts of climate change (such as hotter summers or more heat waves): if so, assign it a positive (+) impact rating;
- Or*
- Decrease the ability of Cambridge City to withstand the impacts of climate change: if so, assign it a negative (-) impact rating;
- Or*
- Have no (nil) impact on the ability of Cambridge City to withstand the impacts of climate change.

Again, where you have assigned a positive or negative impact, refer to table 2 to determine whether this impact is High, Medium or Low.

Table 3: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change	Is Impact +, - or Nil?	Is Impact High, Medium or Low?	Comments
1. Hotter summers	Nil		
2. Drier summers	Nil		
3. Warmer winters	Nil		
4. Wetter winters	Nil		
5. Heavier downpours	Nil		
6. Heat waves	Nil		
7. Drier soils (subsidence)	Nil		

Step 3: Assign an overall rating and provide an explanation

Taking account of Step 1 and Step 2 above, assign a single, overall climate change rating to your proposal/ recommendation. You are required to provide a brief explanation of the rating that you have given.

If you have identified that your proposal/ recommendation is likely to have a negative climate change impact, take time to consider whether the project or course of action that you are proposing could be designed and delivered differently, so as to reduce or avoid this impact. If 'doing things differently' brings additional cost implications, then consider whether you may be able to apply to the Climate Change Fund, which invests in initiatives that help to reduce the carbon emissions and climate change risks of City Council operations. Full details of what the Climate Change Fund is able to support, as well as how to make an application, can be found on the Council intranet site at <http://intranet/sustainability/climate-change-fund.html>

Help and Advice

For help and further information, contact a member of the Sustainability Team:

- Sally Pidgeon, Climate Change Officer (Job Share), ext. 7174;
- Clare Palferman, Climate Change Officer (Job Share), ext. 7176.