



## **A Carbon Budget for the Lake District National Park:**

### **Progress report, July 2012**

The Lake District National Park Partnership is committed to leading the way on climate change. The Lake District is one of the first local areas to set itself a carbon budget, as part of our Low-carbon Lake District initiative.

The principle behind a carbon budget is simple: like a financial budget, we aim to find out how much carbon the Lake District is responsible for, and then reduce the carbon 'spend' year on year.

We aim to reduce the emission of carbon and other greenhouse gases, measured on a consumption basis, by 1% per year, against a baseline of 2.3 million tonnes in 2010. The target tracks the national carbon budget, as set out in the 2008 Climate Change Act.

The baseline was established through a carbon footprint analysis in 2010. This analysis, together with regular updates on progress, is available at [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/carbonbudget](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/carbonbudget).

Progress is reported in February and July each year, to inform the Partnership's March and September meetings, and the revision of the Partnership's Plan each September.

### **Progress so far this year**

An audit of all the projects in the Lake District National Park has identified measurable carbon savings of nearly 16000 tonnes of savings, using optimistic assumptions. This is an increase on previous years, showing that we are moving in the right direction, though we are not meeting the target (see below).

Savings have come from across the Partnership, in areas including home energy efficiency, advice to businesses, travel advice for visitors, renewable energy developments, and promotion of local, seasonal food and drink. The biggest savings came from advice to businesses by CBEN (Cumbria Business and Environment Network), saving 2000 tonnes; the Cumbria Warm Homes Project, offering energy efficiency checks to householders, saving 5600 tonnes; small-scale renewable energy developments, saving 1527 tonnes; and the Taste Cumbria programme, promoting local food and drink, saving an estimated 911 tonnes.

The GoLakes Travel project, which is expected to deliver significant carbon savings, has been in the development phase, so has not yet resulted in savings. However, initiatives now under way will result in savings in the next assessment period.

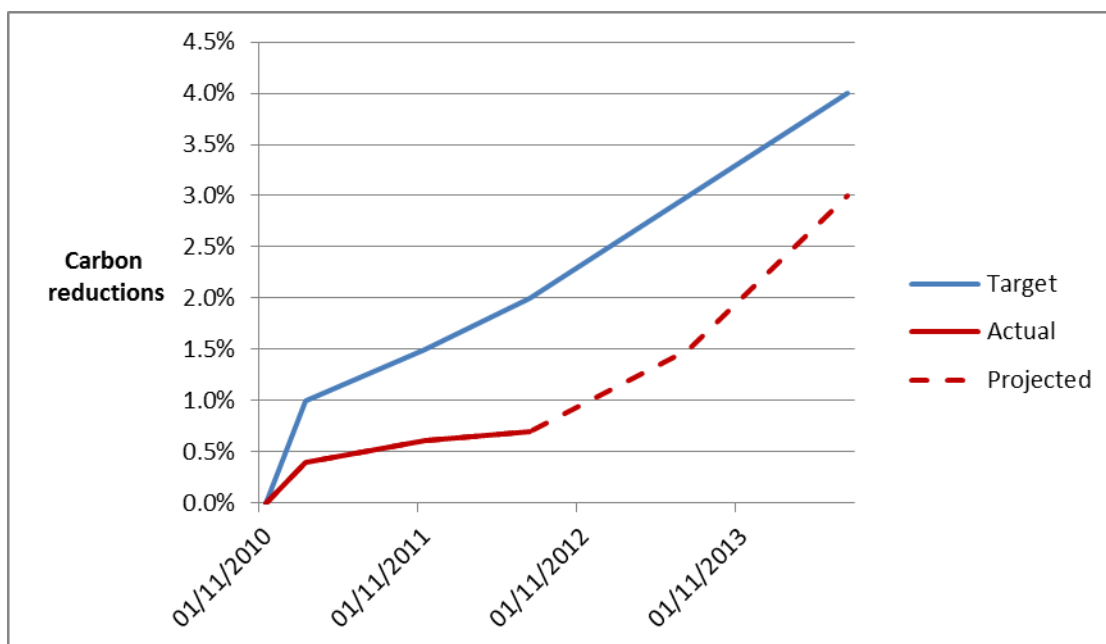
There are a number of actions which will result in carbon savings, but can't be easily estimated. For example, the switch to superfast broadband may result in reduced business travel, but we don't have a good way of estimating savings.

In addition, land management activities including woodland management and tree planting, as well as peatland restoration, have a carbon benefit, and work is underway to find a method to measure this, to include in calculations of carbon savings.

### Progress against the target

Although we are seeing an increase in carbon savings, we are not yet on track to meet the target of 1% savings per year. We are saving nearly 16000 tonnes, whereas, to hit the target of 2% after two years, we should be saving 46000 tonnes. The table and graph below shows our performance against the target.

date	target reduction (tonnes)	target reduction (%)	actual reduction (tonnes)	actual reduction (%)
01/11/2010	0	0%	0	0
01/02/2011	23000	1%	9249	0.40%
01/11/2011	23000	1%	14000	0.61%
01/07/2012	46000	2%	15985	0.70%

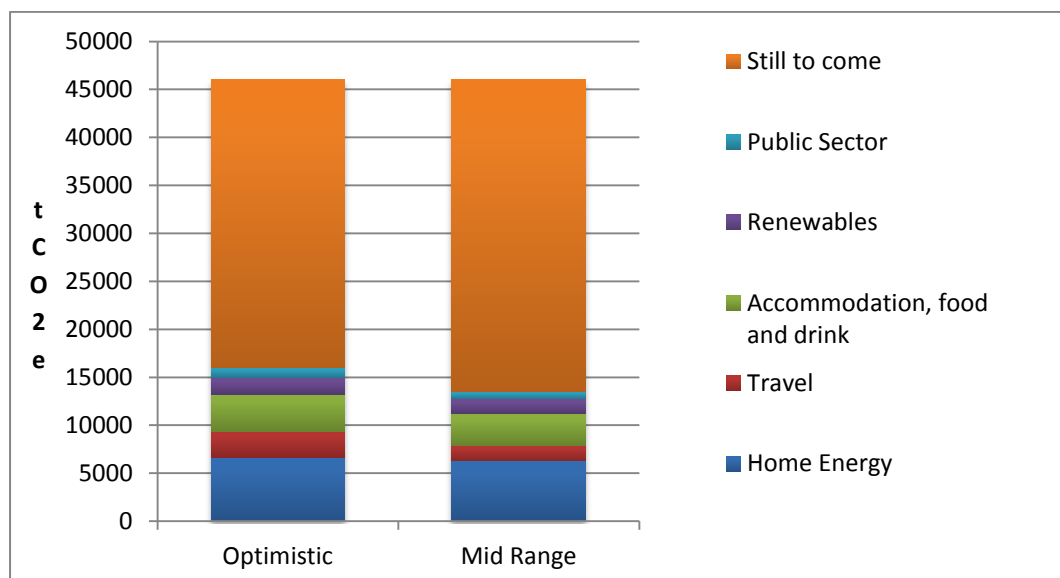


Actual carbon reductions (using optimistic assumptions) compared to target reductions

## Where have the savings come from?

The chart and table below shows where savings have come from, with the biggest savings coming from improvements to home energy efficiency, and savings in accommodation, food and drink.

		<b>Optimistic</b>	<b>Mid Range</b>	
<b>Categories</b>	<b>t CO2e</b>	<b>% of baseline</b>	<b>t CO2e</b>	<b>% of baseline</b>
Home Energy	6,663	0.29%	6,311	0.27%
Travel	2,703	0.12%	1,625	0.07%
Accommodation, food and drink	3,894	0.17%	3,306	0.14%
Renewables	1,725	0.08%	1,527	0.07%
Public Sector	1,000	0.04%	750	0.03%
Still to come	30,015		32,480	
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>0.70%</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>0.59%</b>



## **Further actions**

If we are to achieve the target of 1% reductions per year, the pace of change will have to accelerate. The new Partnership Plan outlines how this will be achieved. There is a commitment to:

- Developing a shared Partnership understanding of the carbon budget, sources of carbon emissions and identify priority actions to reduce emissions
- Agreeing an action plan to reduce carbon emissions
- Monitoring progress on reducing carbon emissions and reporting to the Partnership every six months the carbon budget target for the National Park of 1% reduction (per year) and report to LDNPP every six months

The Climate Change subgroup of the LDNP Partnership have identified a range of possible areas for carbon saving, and work currently underway by Partners which contributes toward this target.

**Becky Willis, September 2012**