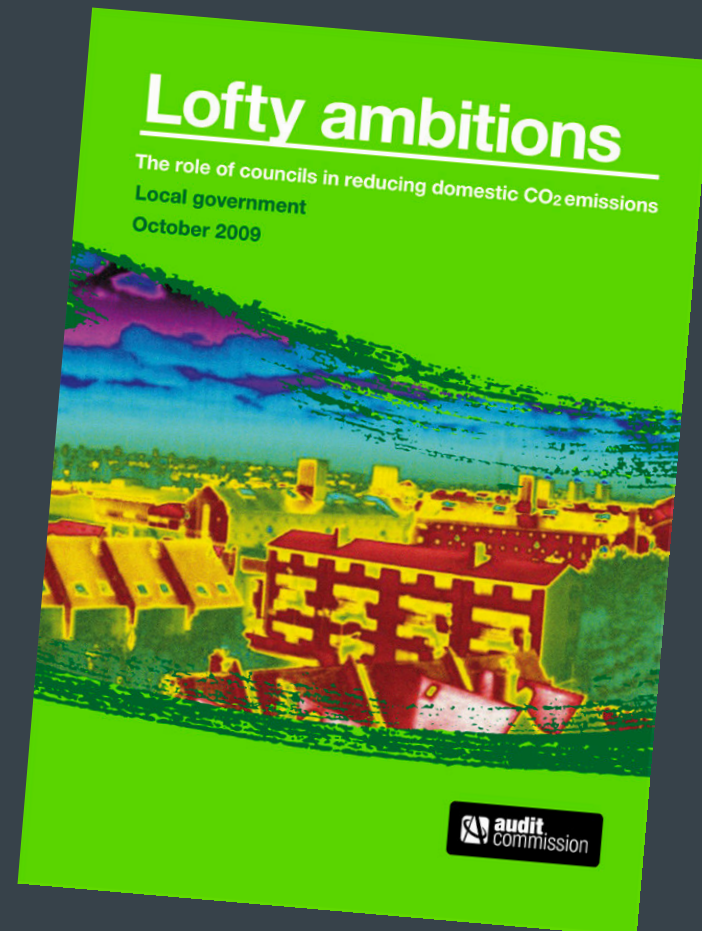


Lofty ambitions

The role of councils in
reducing domestic CO₂
emissions

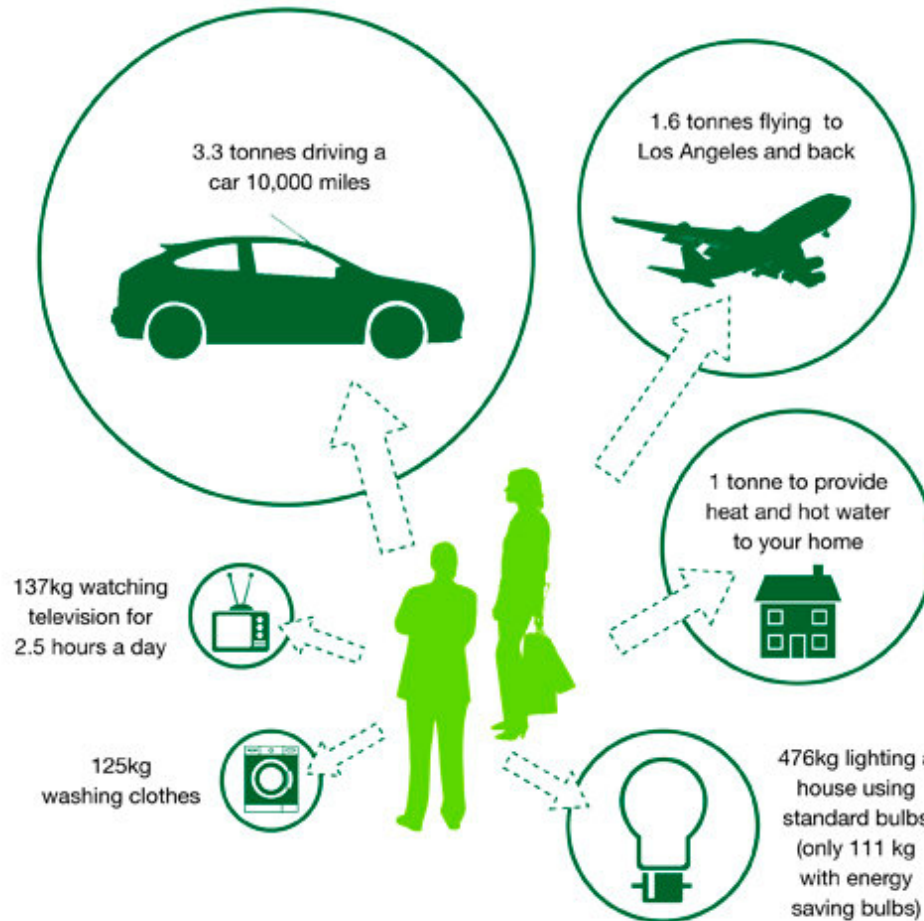
David Pottruff
November 2009



Climate change poses a major strategic challenge

- Major consequences for the natural and built environment, human health, the economy and public services
- Target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of 1990 level by 2050
- Reducing emissions less costly than adapting to climate change effects

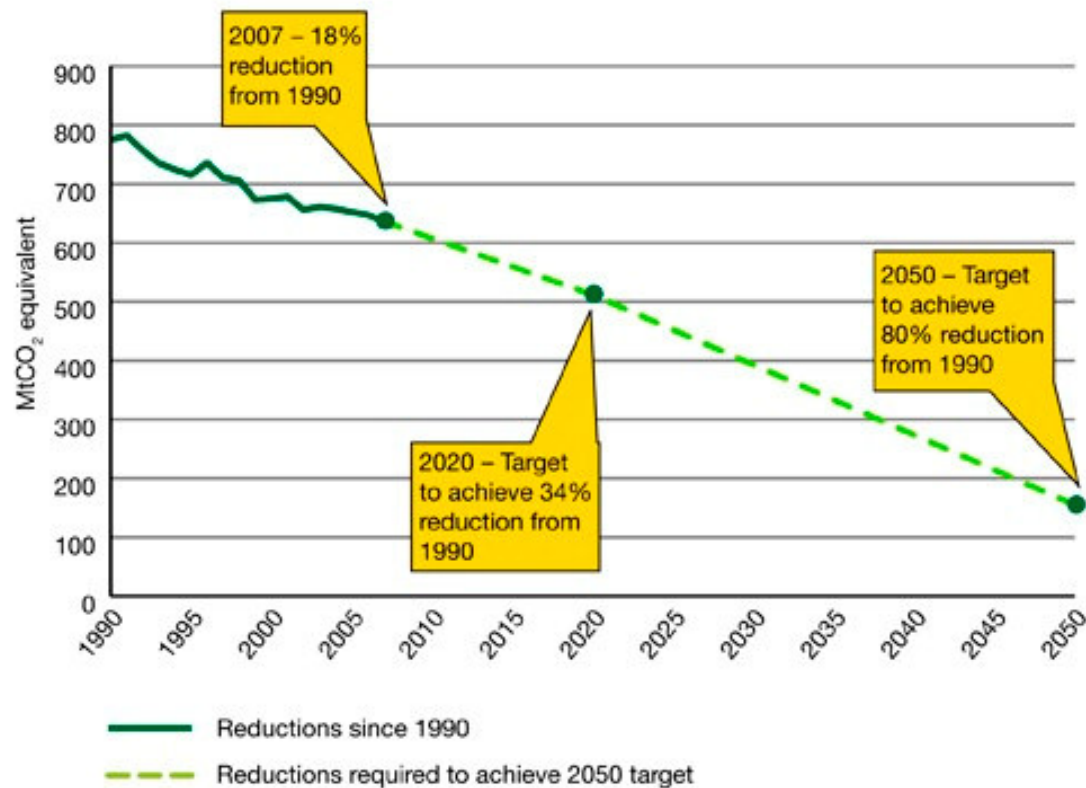
We will need to change the way we, as a society, use energy



1 tonne = 1,000kg

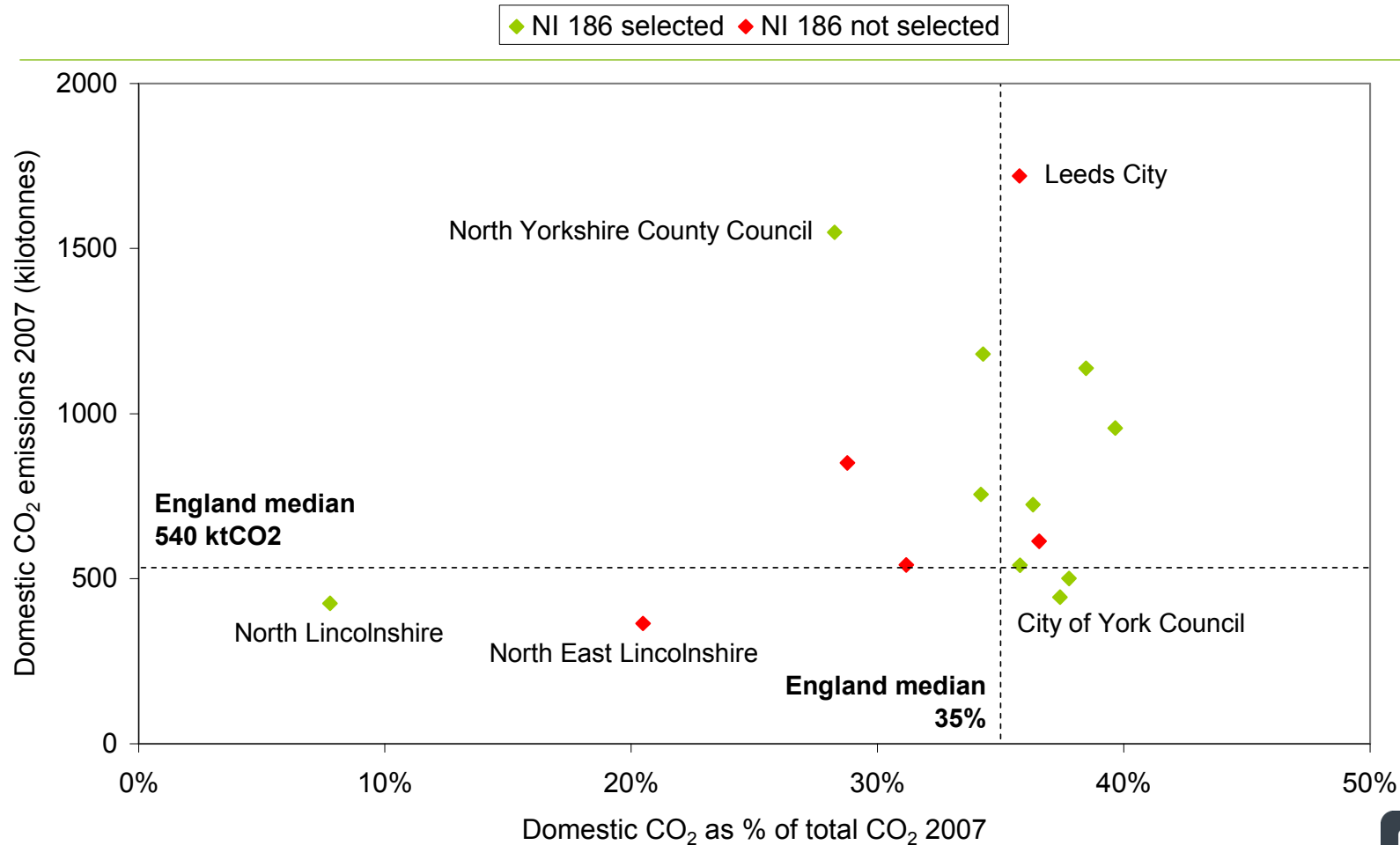
Source: Audit Commission

There is a long way to go to achieve national emissions reduction targets

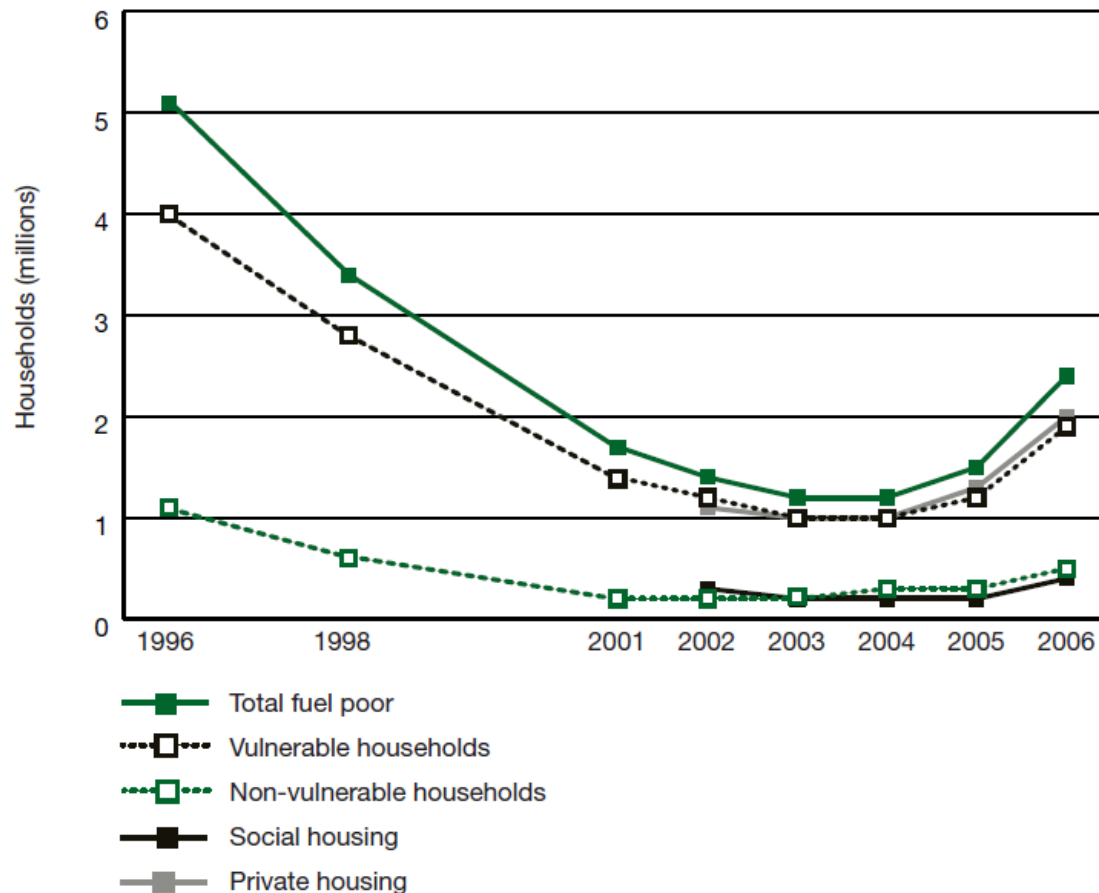


Source: Defra, Estimated Emissions of Greenhouse Gases by National Communication Source Category and End User: 1990-2007 (Table 5a)

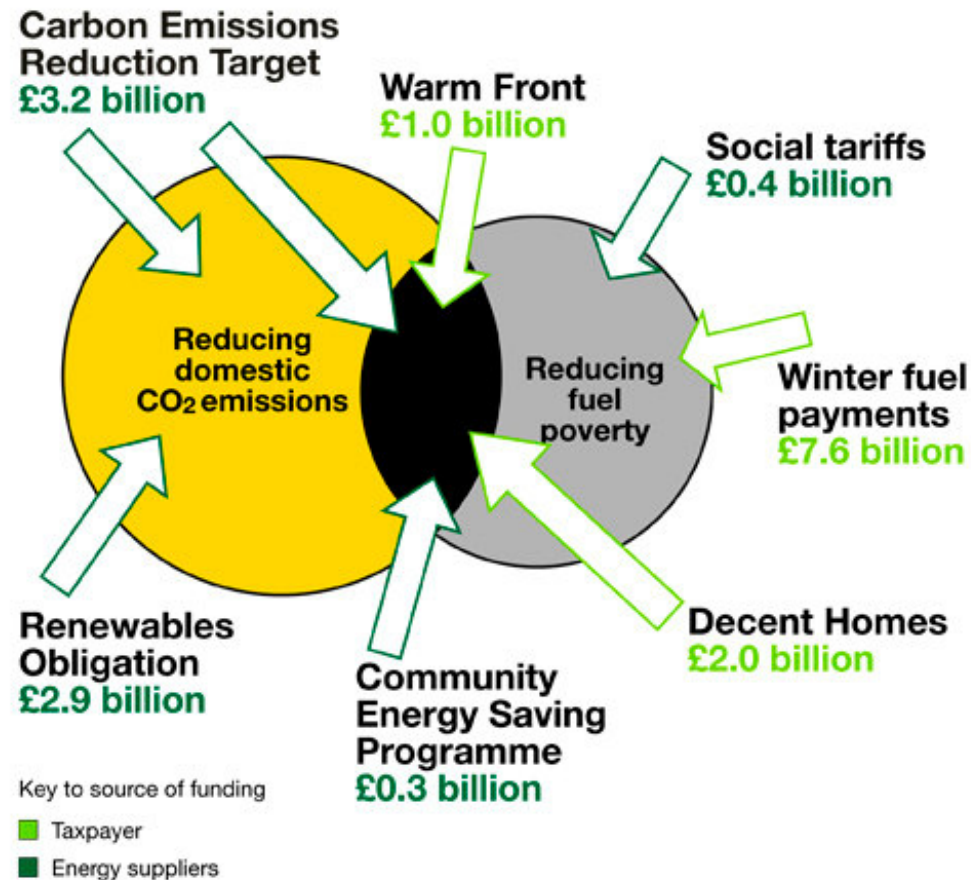
Priorities for emissions reduction vary in different areas



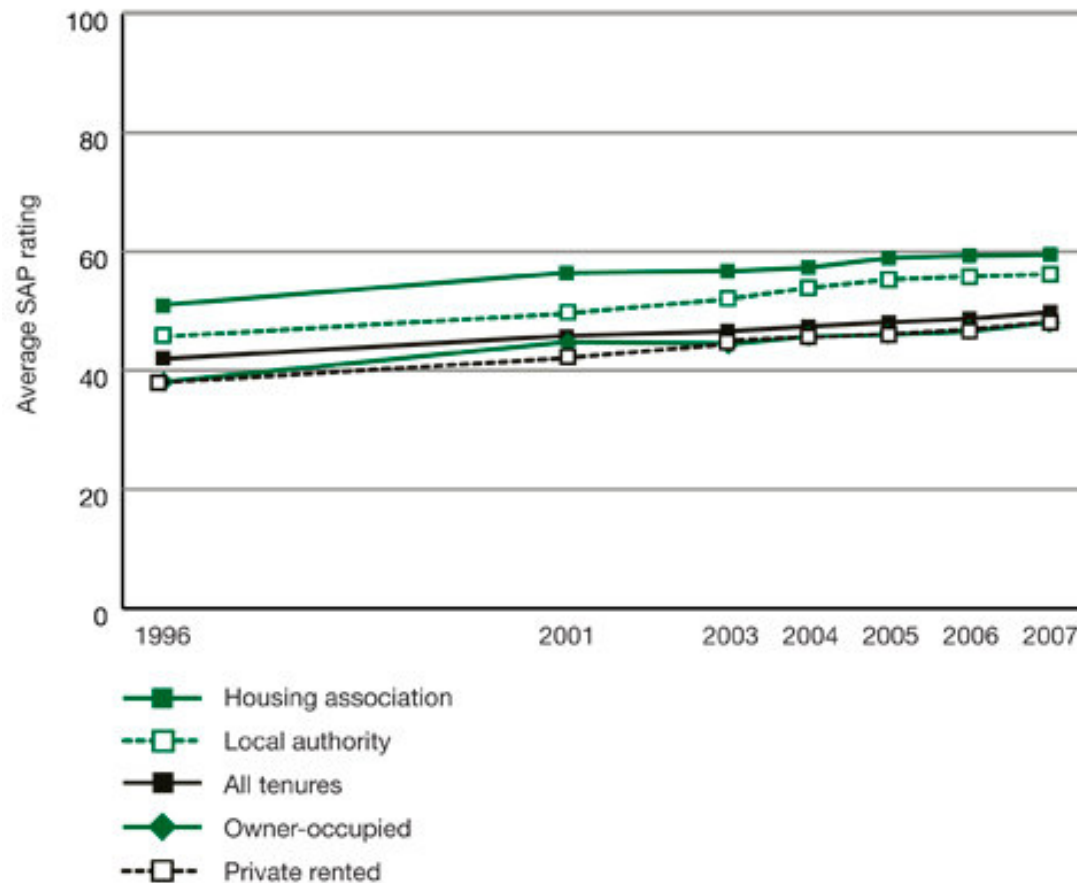
Tackling domestic energy will reduce emissions and bring financial savings for households



A lot of money is spent on tackling domestic energy, but it is not always well-targeted or sustainable



Home energy efficiency has improved, although there is much more to do



Source: Communities and Local Government, English House Condition Survey 1996-2007

More effort is needed to promote low-carbon and renewable sources of energy

- European Union target for 15 per cent of UK energy to come from renewable sources by 2020
- Renewable energy generation in the UK increased by nearly 90 per cent from 2004 to 2008
- But still accounts for just 2.3 per cent of UK energy consumption
- Councils have been slow to exploit their own land holdings for renewable energy generation

Councils spend relatively little money themselves in this area, but can punch above their weight

Reduce energy consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Provide information and advice on energy efficiency and energy reduction■ Promote behaviour change■ Build area-based partnerships to address domestic energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Use planning system to set standards for home energy efficiency■ Enforce Building Regulations■ Enforce the Housing Health and Safety Rating Systemⁱ	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Fund energy efficiency measures in own homes■ Provide grant funding or loans for energy efficiency improvements in private sector homes
	Lead	Oblige	Subsidise
	Influence	Legal powers	Resources

Councils spend relatively little money themselves in this area, but can punch above their weight

Increase low-carbon and renewable energy supply

- Promote microgeneration
- Encourage investment in medium-scale and large-scale low-carbon and renewable energy
- Use own land for low-carbon or renewable energy generation
- Champion sustainable energy schemes
- Use planning system to set standards for sustainable energy use in homes
- Identify sites for energy generation through local development plans
- Fund low-carbon and renewable energy measures in own homes
- Provide grant funding or loans for renewable energy installations in private sector homes

Lead
Influence

Oblige
Legal powers

Subsidise
Resources

Councils have an important role to play

- Lead by example
- Use influence, legal powers and resources to encourage partners and local communities to act on domestic CO₂ emissions
- Make greater use of existing powers to address domestic emissions reduction
- Pursue greater economy, efficiency and effectiveness

Councils have an important role to play

- Ensure funding is targeted at households most in need of financial support
- Identify sites for renewable energy generation and make the case locally for the development of renewable energy capacity
- Explore opportunities to make use of own land for renewable energy generation

Further information

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