Corporate Objectives:

1. *Achieve our own environmental management targets to reduce the Authority's carbon footprint in 2010-11 by 10% (Priority level 2)*
2. *Deliver the priority actions of the Climate Change Action Plan (Priority level 1)*

The Climate Change Action Plan has set challenging targets to mitigate the effects of climate change. During 2009/10, the Authority reduced its carbon emissions by a further 8%, giving a cumulative reduction of 16% on 2007/08 baseline levels. This represents a total reduction in emissions of 160 tonnes over 2 years. Increased use of low emission pool cars for Authority business use has achieved a total reduction in emissions of 8 tonnes.

Reductions in energy, particularly electricity use, were achieved across a number of properties resulting from a combination of awareness-raising amongst staff and capital investment. Electricity consumption was reduced by over 12% (a carbon emission reduction of 54 tonnes). Gas consumption was reduced by 8% (a carbon emission reduction of over 8 tonnes). Improvements at the Moorland Centre alone led to a 25% reduction in energy use at that property, while improvements in our buildings at Upper Derwent, Parsley Hay, Losehill Hall, Brunts Barn and Bakewell visitor centre also led to notable savings.

Further stabilisation and restoration of blanket bog was carried out through the Moors for the Future partnership, achieving 592 hectares of moorland restoration. Other work included planting over 6,000 trees and restoring over 31,500m of fences, paths and walls. This work was given a significant boost with additional European funding to support the MoorLIFE project, which will further expand moorland restoration work.

The Environment Agency has led the Moors for the Future 'Making Space for Water' project in the Upper Derwent Valley. The aim is to demonstrate how practical restoration of degraded moorland can help to reduce flood risk by restoring presently heavily eroded moorland through blocking drainage channels and re-establishing vegetation on bare soils.

The Fire Operations Group work to reduce the incidence and severity of moorland fires continued. Two training events for incident commanders were held at Losehill Hall, along with two joint training events for National Park Rangers and the Staffordshire and Derbyshire fire services. During the year, the Group responded to sixteen fires within the National Park.

A key priority in the Climate Change Action Plan is supporting energy conservation and small-scale renewable energy generation within the National Park. In 2009-10 a large number of Sustainable Development Fund projects included carbon reduction as a key theme. Examples include a feasibility study for renewable energy potential at Gradbach Youth Hostel, a thermal imaging / heat loss assessment device and training to improve energy efficiency at Combs Village Hall and the 'Peak Power' study which identifies and assesses a range of hydro power sites in the Peak District.

Looking ahead to 2010/11

An ambitious target, part of the national 10:10 campaign, of a further 10% reduction in carbon emissions in Authority owned properties has been set for the 2010/11 year which will mean a cumulative decrease in emissions of 26% against baseline levels.

Key actions for 2010/11 include:

- *Further moorland stabilisation and restoration work, especially through the MoorLIFE programme*
- *Supporting carbon reduction projects through the Sustainable Development Fund*
- *Providing environmental advice to local organisations and communities*
- *Increasing the number of businesses with the Environmental Quality Mark Award*
- *Working with constituent authorities to contribute to national climate change / energy reduction targets*
- *Developing a better understanding of the climate change risks to the National Park and the Authority's operations*
- *Ensuring the Local Development Framework contains appropriate supporting policies and guidance on renewable energy, climate change adaptation/ mitigation*

Fire Operations Group

This group, involving the Authority, relevant fire services, local landowners, a helicopter company and the Moors for the Future Partnership, was originally set up in response to a major moorland fire in the Bleaklow area in 1997. The fire burned for over 2 weeks with resulting catastrophic loss of biodiversity from key Sites of Special Scientific Interest and the Special Area of Conservation. There was also a significant increase in carbon released to the atmosphere from the damaged moorland. Healthy moorland stores carbon, reducing the impact of climate change – however once damaged or degraded it releases the stored carbon into the atmosphere further contributing to climate change.

The Fire Operations Group compiled a programme of measures to respond to the risk of future moorland fires including a comprehensive fire plan for all areas of moorland. The plan is kept updated with regular training and simulations for all the professionals in the partnership. During periods of higher risk observations are scheduled, triggered by the National UK Fire Severity Index. Alongside these measures, an ongoing programme of talks are produced and delivered, particularly in urban areas, to raise awareness of the importance of the moorlands.

The University of Manchester is now carrying out a study to calculate to the cost saving to the public purse as a result of this initiative.