



## Investigating the Global Warming Industry in Local Government

Global warming has become a growth industry. Consultants, journalists, ex-Vice Presidents and countless scientists justify their positions based on the threat of climate change. As the TaxPayers' Alliance has now discovered, the global warming industry has even filtered down to town halls and this is costing taxpayers large amounts of money each year.

The TPA sent out Freedom of Information requests to a random sample of 30 councils across the country asking for details of council employees working to reduce carbon emissions in their area.

Twenty-five councils responded within the allotted time. The figures they gave were quite startling:

- On average, **8 people work on climate change in each council**. If the same is true in all the 442 councils that means **3,494 local government employees working to prevent global warming across Great Britain**.
- The council in our sample with the highest number of employees working on climate change was **Tower Hamlets, with 58 people**.
- The 'Carbon Reduction Advisor' that Islington council advertised for in the Guardian (20 June 2007) was at the junior end of these roles. That position was advertised at £28,536-£30,030. Assuming that council employees working to curb carbon emissions are paid, on average, at the mid-point of that salary range (£29,283), the **total pay of local government staff working to curb climate change is over £102 million**.

**Matthew Sinclair**, Policy Analyst at the TaxPayers' Alliance, said:

*"Council tax has doubled in a decade and town halls are spending more and more of our money just so they can say that they are doing something to tackle climate change. Local bureaucrats are wasting huge amounts of staff time and huge amounts of our money trying to save the planet. It is an expensive and futile gesture when China is building big coal power plants every ten days."*

## Growth

The number of town hall staff working on climate change appears to be growing, with many of the councils telling us they were looking to increase staffing:

- Bristol City Council told us that they were looking to increase the 3 days per week of the part-time officer who “leads the work on climate change”.
- Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council told us that they are planning to increase the number of staff in their Energy Conservation Section from 7 to 9.

## Other efforts

Only 32 per cent of councils reported having no employees working on climate change. But these same councils were keen to highlight their efforts:

- East Hampshire District Council are educating their staff with an “interactive event” where they can “learn more about the range of climate change issues”. This “follows earlier screenings of the Al Gore film, ‘An Inconvenient Truth’”. The council has also installed a small wind turbine and photovoltaic units on their reception roof as a “demonstration project” for visitors. Finally, they are hoping to install a “small bio-mass boiler” in the autumn.
- Nottingham City Council has, as well as its 22 staff, a network of 70 volunteer ‘Green Champions’ working to combat climate change.
- Taunton Deane Borough Council provides “dedicated bicycles for use by staff for business purposes”.

For any enquiries, please contact:

**Matthew Sinclair**

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Table 1: The Freedom of Information responses

Council	Response?	No. of climate change jobs
Tower Hamlets	Yes	58
Kingston upon Hull, City of	Yes	30
Nottingham	Yes	22
Birmingham	Yes	17
Renfrewshire	Yes	10
Wirral	Yes	10
Haringey	Yes	10
Glasgow City	Yes	8
Swansea	Yes	8
Poole	Yes	7
Easington	Yes	6
Rotherham	Yes	5
Enfield	Yes	2
Middlesborough	Yes	2
Exeter City Council	Yes	1
Halton	Yes	1
Bristol, City of	Yes	1
Basildon	Yes	0
Cannock Chase	Yes	0
East Hampshire	Yes	0
Kensington and Chelsea	Yes	0
North Hertfordshire	Yes	0
Salford	Yes	0
Taunton Deane	Yes	0
Tonbridge and Malling	Yes	0
Barrow-in-Furness	No	?
Brent	No	?
Haringey	No	?
Lambeth	No	?
Newcastle upon Tyne	No	?
<b>Average number of climate change jobs per council</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Total number of councils</b>		<b>442</b>
<b>Estimated total no. of climate change jobs in councils across country</b>		<b>3,494</b>
<b>Average pay assumption</b>		<b>£29,283</b>
<b>Estimated total pay of climate change jobs across country</b>		<b>£102.3 million</b>



## Appendix – FOI Letter Sent to Councils

### Freedom of Information Act Request

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FAO: Freedom of Information Officer  
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12 June 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act.

I am very concerned about the issue of climate change and don't believe that the response to it can be left to national governments. All individuals have a part to play and we need local government involved.

I am interested to know how many employees of XX work day to day on reducing carbon emissions or have "global warming" or "climate change" as part of their job description and/or title?

If you need further clarification please contact me by e-mail or phone.

I would like to receive the information in an electronic format.

Regards,

M. Sinclair