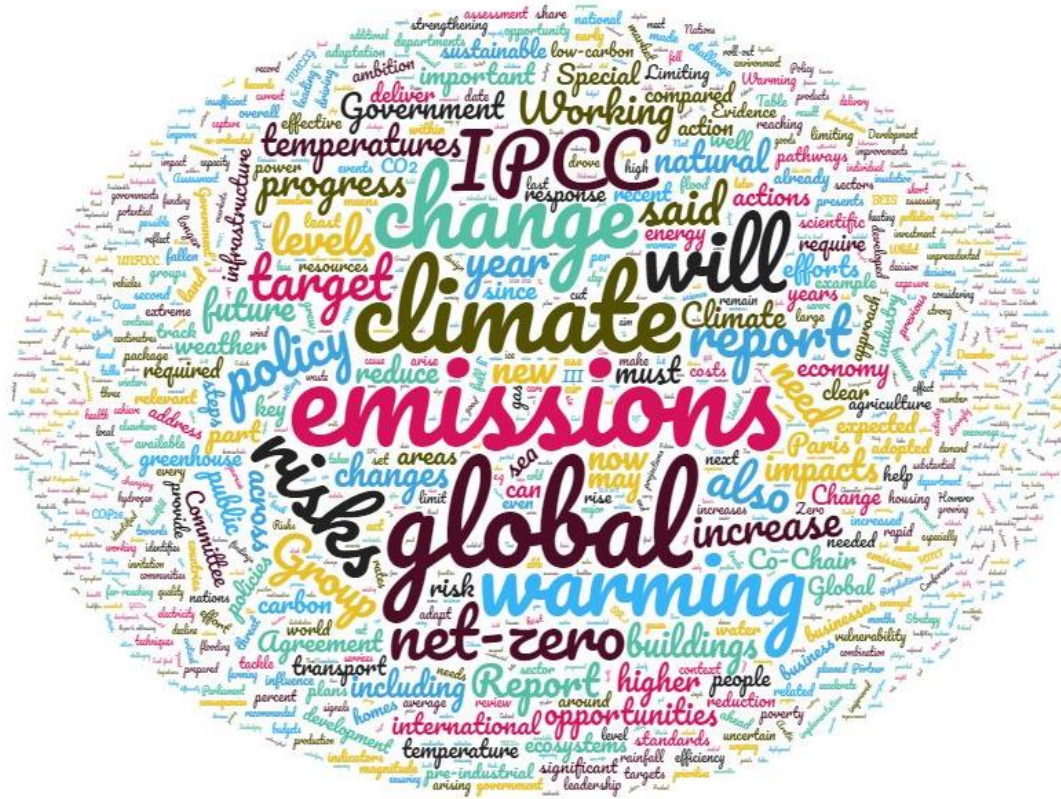




Forest of Dean  
— DISTRICT COUNCIL —

# CLIMATE ACTION for Forest of Dean



## Climate Emergency Rapid Action Plan

January 2020

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Lead Officer: Alastair Chapman Sustainability Team Leader



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## 1. What's our plan?

- 1.1. A Climate Emergency has been declared by the Forest of Dean District Council<sup>1</sup>. The declaration essentially provides the context and objectives in regards to the Climate Emergency.
- 1.2. Put simply:
  - i. Make the Forest of Dean District Council carbon neutral by 2030
  - ii. Make the Forest of Dean District carbon neutral by 2030
  - iii. Work with partners across the district, county and region to help deliver carbon neutrality through all relevant strategies and plans.
  - iv. Call on the Government and other relevant organisations and partners to provide the powers, resources and funding to successfully meet the 2030 target

## 2. The Purpose of this Rapid Action Plan (RAP)

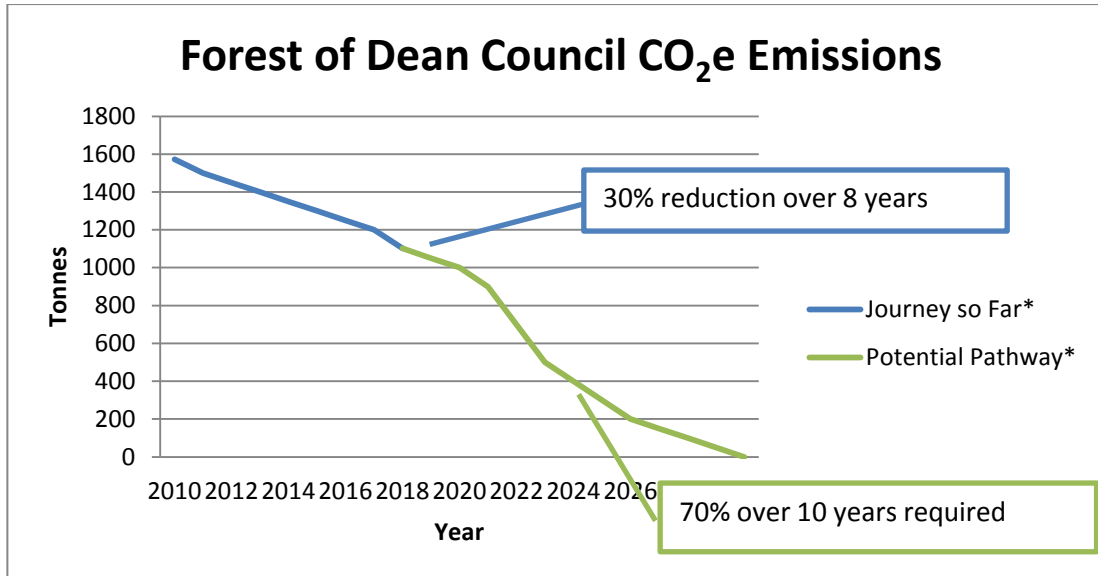
- I. To accelerate activity from the early evidence gathering and foundation stage in to the first phase of priority activity in 2020/21.
- II. To develop a longer term action plan.

## 3. Size of the challenge

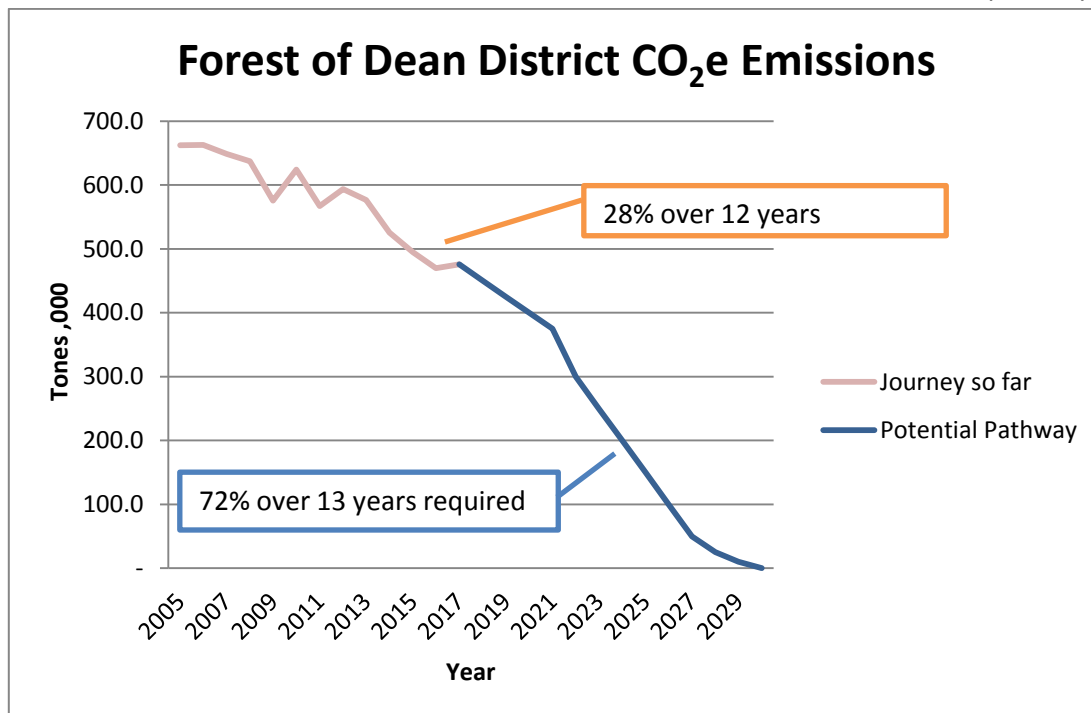
- 3.1. There has been some good progress at a national level in reducing the carbon emissions from energy and transport as well as FoDDC in reducing its carbon footprint. However to meet the challenge of the Climate Emergency there needs to be step change in activity to meet net zero carbon emissions by 2030. A 'business as usual' approach will not enable us to keep below 1.5°C global temperature rise.
- 3.2. In terms of considering emissions, carbon dioxide is not the only greenhouse gas responsible for climate change. However, for ease of reporting, all greenhouse gas emissions are normally expressed as metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). This gives the global warming effect of the mass of greenhouse gas in terms of what mass of CO<sub>2</sub> would produce the equivalent effect.

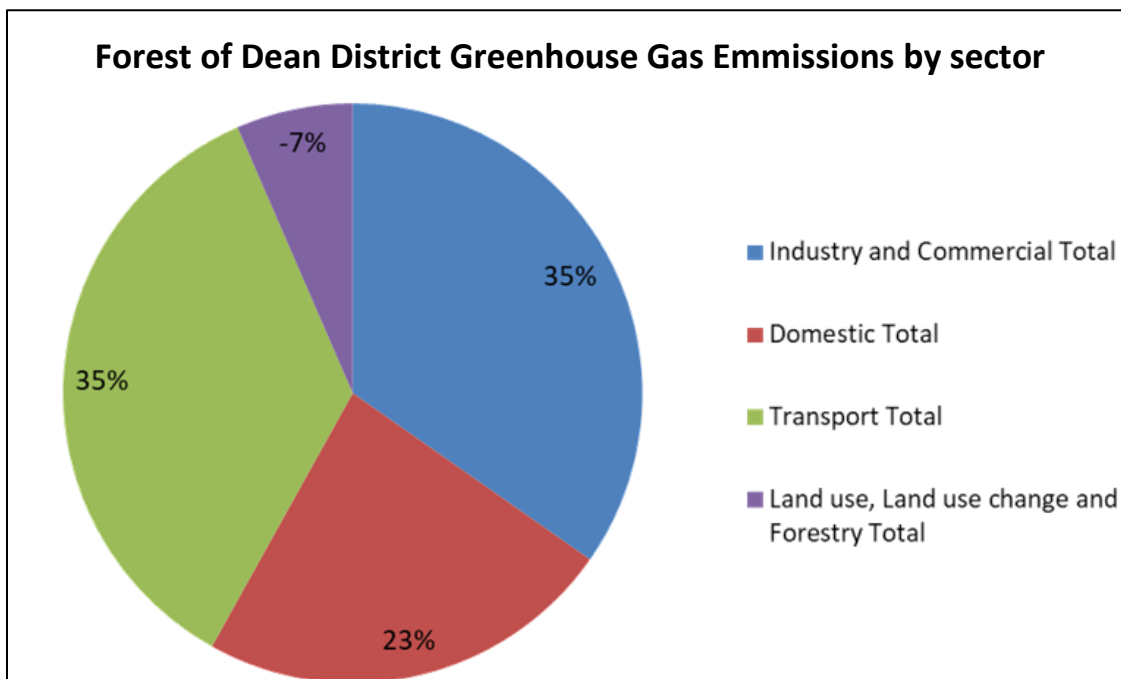
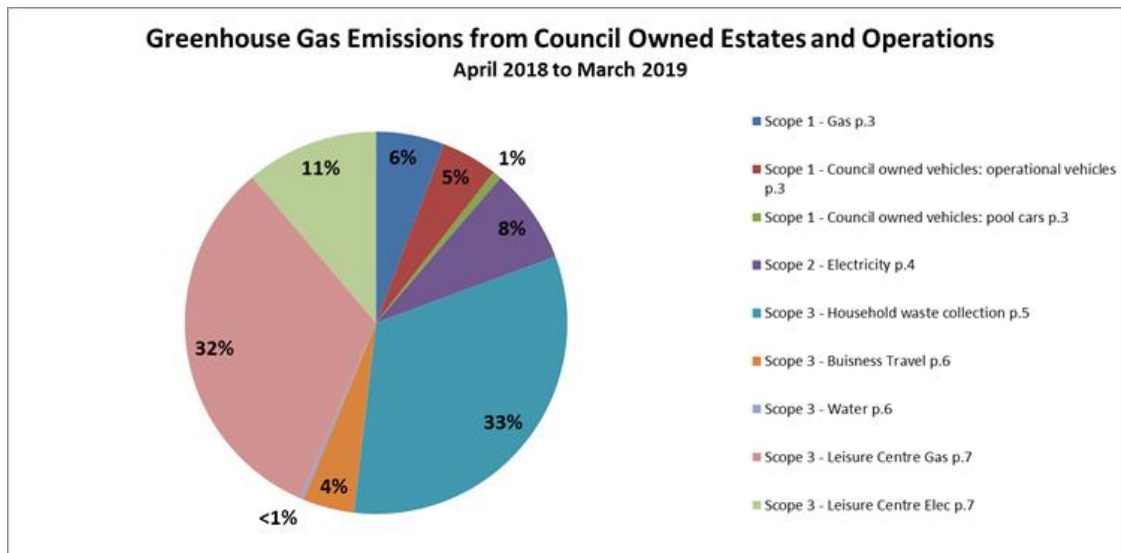
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<sup>1</sup> See Annex B



\* Indicative pathway





#### 4. How the RAP developed

- 4.1. The RAP has not been subject to consultation although a wide variety of interested people and groups have been involved in its development.
- 4.2. The Climate Emergency Cabinet Portfolio Support Group (CE CPSG) formed and met in July and September 2019 to identify key actions and discuss how priority activity could be delivered. The support group meeting involved and had support from a range of interested members of the public and local groups<sup>2</sup>. CE CPSG identified a range of ideas and options (meeting 1). These were then prioritised within themed areas (Energy, Landscape, Planning, Transport, Communication, Procurement) selecting three or four actions under each theme which were of high priority (meeting 2). In identifying priority actions the group was asked to think about the

<sup>2</sup> See Annex C



carbon reduction impact of an action, impact time scale (long-term or quick win) and the likely complexity of the action. The group was encouraged to have a mix of both short and longer term priority actions. The actions selected by the group are referenced as 'PG' in the table at Annex A.

- 4.3. At the same time officers of the council looked at Climate Emergency (CE) actions that the council could prioritise to reduce its emissions, lead in the area and support community wide activity.



## 5. 2019 Evidence gathering and foundation works

Title	Activity
Energy Supply	Enabled switch to 'green' electricity tariff. Planning future steps to true green energy supplies.
	Delivering trial of heating system efficiency measures.
Onsite renewable energy generation	Site assessment undertaken and key sites identified. Survey of council office building for solar PV completed and funding options investigated e.g. Salix Finance.
Vehicle Fleet	Review of fleet arrangements and investigating strategy for carbon reduction.
	Street wardens' trialled hybrid vehicle. Electric van free trial secured (date TBC).
	Survey for electric vehicle charging point in council staff car park undertaken.
	Investigated options for electric pool cars and low carbon waste collection vehicles.
Corporate Priorities	CE declaration embedded into corporate priorities.
	Facilitation of Publica wide CE network
	Working, joining up with other LA/Public sector across the county
Low Carbon planning policy	Working with Planning Policy groups to Re-launch CSP.3 (looking to require higher carbon efficient homes than current building regulations) supplementary planning document.
	Exploring opportunities for Local Plan to reduce carbon emissions in new homes.
Climate Change Risk Assessment	Reviewing council owned built and land assets for vulnerability to impacts of climate change.
Electric vehicle charging	Investigating options for installing electric vehicle charging points in council owned car-parks.
District carbon audit	Review of district wide carbon emissions (2005 – 2017).
Council carbon audit	Review of council carbon emissions 2018/19.
Community Engagement	Developing strategy to support community activity.
	Delivering free energy audit to all long-term industrial unit tenants, act as case studies for other local businesses.
	Launched climate change webpage on council website.
	Parish and Town council and community climate action day planned for March 2020.
	Hosted Solar Streets information evening for District, Town and Parish councillors as an example of solar bulk purchasing.
Partnership Work	Establishing CE partnership projects with Two Rivers Housing, Freedom Leisure and local schools.
	Established Publica Officer Climate Action Group.
Procurement Policy	Embedding low carbon criteria within procurement policy through Publica Climate Action Group.



## 6. Key messages

6.1. Five key messages that have come from discussions:

- 1) There needs to be a partnership, network or assembly to bring parties, individuals and groups to work in a coherent and joined up way;
- 2) The Council can drive its own CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction plan;
- 3) The biggest challenge is moving our communities, economies and life styles to net zero by 2030. Monitoring the effects of individual changes in this area will be difficult as it involves multiple behaviour changes, influencers and actors;
- 4) There needs to be strong leadership and committed lead partners to drive and explain change;
- 5) Good to make a clear start but there needs to be a longer term plan to get us to 2030.

6.2. Whilst strong leadership has got us this far that needs to continue and spread or join up with other organisations. There are therefore two broad organisational recommendations:

- I. Establish a FOD CE partnership or board with a wider forum / network to make connections, share learning and work together (see section 8)
- II. Establish core capacity funding to support the partnership and deliver some key activities.

## 7. Limitations

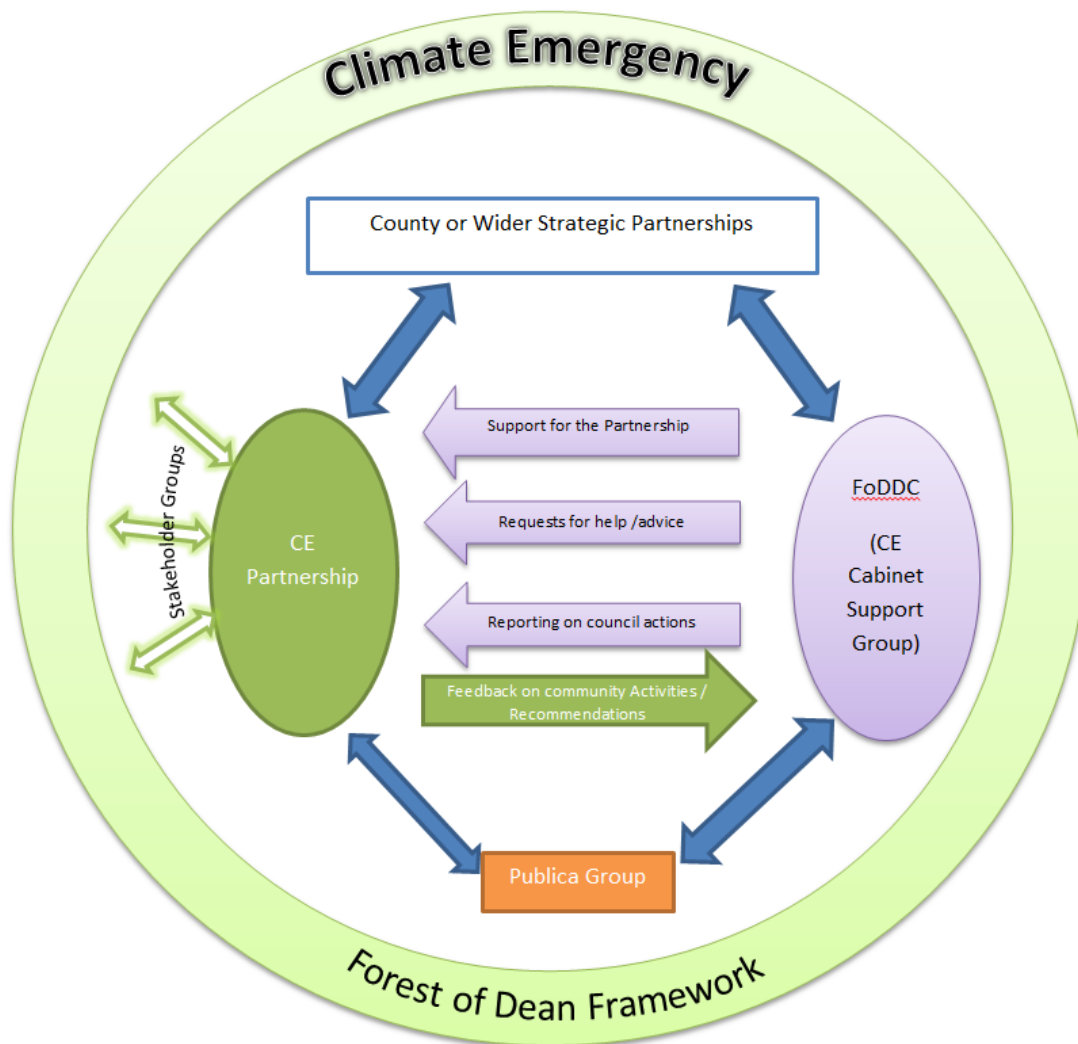
7.1. These priorities have been developed at pace due to the urgency of the Climate Emergency and as such they may change as new information and insights come to light and in this regard it should be seen as an iterative process.

7.2. Actions and resource implications are indicative at this stage. There are a great many alternative actions that could be explored. However in drawing up this list consideration has been given to resource implications and scope or work required.

## 8. Organisational Structures

8.1. As a result of the key messages above the following organisational structures are proposed.





8.2. District Partnership – There is a real need for a common place where ‘actors’ (organisations and individuals) can share ideas and collaborate. The concept for a wider Forest of Dean CE partnership is for a network or organisation which can drive CE activity outside of and, when aligned, with the Council. The partnership will be established following the along the lines of the successful Forest Economic Partnership. It may be virtual or a have regular meetings/events. Draft principles for the group are set out in annex B.

8.3. Forest of Dean District Council – Will establish an elected member Climate Emergency Cabinet Portfolio Support Group to support the implementation of net zero actions from its activities and policies. The support group will focus on:

- 1) CO<sub>2</sub>e from its operations and assets e.g. Council offices, business travel and waste collection etc;
- 2) Direct policies it is responsible for and their contribution to net zero 2030 e.g. Local Plan, Leisure strategy, Waste strategy etc.
- 3) Supporting the district wide partnership.



Draft terms of reference for the group are outlined in Annex C

## **9. Resources Capacity funding**

FoDDC will provide officer support of 0.8FTE to support the delivery of RAP during 2020-21.



## Annex A – CE Rapid Action Plan (2020/21)

Impact Timescale: S = <2yrs, M = 2-4yrs, L = >4yrs

Theme: C= Communication, S= Strategy/Procurement, E= Energy, T= Transport, L= landscape, P=Planning

### Council Activity

Activity	Reason	Impact Time scale	Key Partners	Resources	Theme
<b>Support wider district partnership / network (inc P&amp;TC's) to drive coherent change</b>	Cumulative activity by the many and potential for external funding	S	NGOs (non-governmental organisations) Interest groups etc FoDDC	FoDDC to provide secretariat support	C
<b>Develop a corporate 'Climate Champions' network within the Publica partnership</b>	Create activity and champions at all levels of the Council and Publica business	S	FoDDC Publica partners	Shared resource across Publica partnership	C
<b>Develop and resource plan for a longer term strategy</b>	Develop longer term strategy – 5 years	S	FoDDC NGOs Interest groups etc	FoDDC to lead and provide secretariat support	S
<b>Renewable energy on Council property</b>	Lead by installing renewable energy sources on Council property	S-M	FoDDC Tenants and Occupiers	Legal Property Capital budget	E
<b>EV (Electric Vehicle) charging roll out strategy (PG)</b>	Support the provision of a network for rapid charging for both public and council vehicles	S-M	FoDDC EV suppliers Carparks	Legal Procurement Property services	T
<b>Public sector vehicles strategy</b>	Develop a pathway to low carbon (EV/Hybrid vehicles)	M-L	FoDDC Waste Collection Contractor	Waste contract Long lead in time, propriety work only	T
<b>Taxis Licencing explore an escalator of licencing fees to incentivise hybrid and electric vehicles</b>	Sets out a long term strategy in tandem with EV charging points	S-M	FoDDC	Legal Licencing	T



Activity	Reason	Impact Time scale	Key Partners	Resources	Theme
<b>Cycleways</b> develop a programme to support the delivery of cycle routes particularly between Lydney / Bream / Coleford	This cluster of settlements has a strong relationship and totals about 1/5 of the district population. Increase in electric bikes may address some of the topography issues for users	M-L	Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Parish & Town Councils Sustrans FoDDC	Regeneration /Street Wardens Community Engagement Team	T
<b>Waste Management</b> review (PG)	Consider Climate Change impacts of waste collection	M-L	FoDDC GCC, Contractor	Will begin in 2020 as part of waste strategy review	S
<b>Procurement policy for supply chain</b>	Drive supply chain change	M -L	Publica Suppliers of goods and service	Shared across Publica	S
<b>Develop procurement approaches for Green energy supplies for Council activity and services</b>	In tandem with efficient use of energy develop a pathway to use of true green energy supplies	M-L	FoDDC Publica partnership	Shared resource across Publica partner councils	S
<b>Re-engage policy CSP3</b> of the Core Strategy to make changes to development required from 2020.	CE declaration creates opportunity to re-engage CSP3 and require higher carbon efficiency in residential development than current building regulations.	S	FoDDC	Engagement with planning and building sector Development of guidance and evidence	P
<b>New local plan</b> to set development standards in relation to new development	Sets out strategic Carbon neutral development plan	M-L	FoDDC Development industry bodies	Local plan (FoDDC)	P



Activity	Reason	Impact Time scale	Key Partners	Resources	Theme
<b>Community Level renewable energy generation</b> e.g. Planning policy support for community related wind turbines	Good supply of renewable energy delivered locally for local benefit	M-L	FoDDC Energy Sector Parish & Town Councils	Local plan (FoDDC)	P
<b>Review and support delivery of RAP</b>	To support delivery of actions and ensure the CE Partnership /Network is supported	S-M	FoDDC CE Network	FoDDC	S

Potential activity for Climate Emergency (CE) Network

Activity	Reason	Impact Timescale	Key Partners	Resources	Theme
<b>Encourage and support residents, visitors and homeowners to take sustained action to reduce their carbon footprint</b>	Drive long term behavioural change in all sectors having a cumulative impact	S-L	Community NGOs and Community Groups	CE Partnership / Network	C
<b>Reduce Lighting in public areas</b> and use more LED e.g. carparks, industrial estates and large businesses (PG)	Easy, quick and visible. Follow GCC lead	S-M	FoDDC Parish & Town (P & T) Councils Businesses (Supermarkets etc) Landowners	CE Partnership / Network	E
<b>Reduce public building heating and Air conditioning</b> e.g. shops, offices, (PG)	Easy, quick and visible. Possible local branding advantage	S-M	Businesses (Supermarkets etc) Landlords	CE Partnership / Network	E



Activity	Reason	Impact Timescale	Key Partners	Resources	Theme
<p><b>Green Energy Supply (Electricity) promotion</b> to Households. Promote case studies and cumulative purchase to reduce costs</p> <p>(PG)</p>	Provide easy alternative demonstrating that everyone can make a difference	S-M	Housing Associations Home Owners Landlords Private sector Housing	CE Partnership / Network	E
<p><b>Support public transport change (PG)</b></p>	Work with GCC to deliver more low carbon solutions	M –L	GCC P & T Councils	Potentially through the CE partnership / Network and Cabinet Support Group	T
<p><b>Embed Climate Change</b> implications in decision making at all levels</p> <p>(PG)</p>	Get people to think about Climate Change in their decision making	S-M	CE network / Website	CE Partnership - media / communication strategy	C
<p><b>Dedicated website or App link</b></p> <p>(PG)</p>	Single point for CE activity an information APP	S	FoDDC / Community Groups	CE Partnership / Network / FoDDC	C
<p><b>Support small scale but widespread agro-forestry</b> potential initially on Public land</p> <p>(PG)</p>	Good for ecology, carbon storage and education	S-M	Landowners Community Groups	CE Partnership / Network	L
<p><b>Verge Cutting and public land cutting</b> Advisory/ Partnership approach (See Dymock example)</p> <p>(PG)</p>	Reduce waste, improve biodiversity	S-M	FoDDC GCC, Schools Grounds maintenance leads P & T Councils	CE Partnership / Network	L



Activity	Reason	Impact Timescale	Key Partners	Resources	Theme
<b>Reduce Pesticides use on public estate</b> (See Micheldean Example) (PG)	Reduce waste, improve biodiversity	S-M	FoDDC GCC Schools Grounds maintenance leads P & T Councils	CE Partnership / Network	L
<b>Encourage home owners to plant for wildlife</b> (PG)	Good for ecology, carbon storage and education	S-M	Press & media campaign	CE Partnership / Network	L



## **Annex B Principles for CE Partnership / Network**

1. The Council will invite individuals and groups to form a community partnership to support the delivery of action to address the declared climate emergency.
2. The partnership will be independent of the Council.
3. The objective of the partnership, initially, will be to co-ordinate community wide activity to support the delivery of a carbon neutral and climate resilient district by 2030.
4. The partnership shall elect its own chairperson and agree terms of reference and terms of office utilising the experience gained from other partnerships such as the Forest Economic Partnership.
5. The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency will act as a formal liaison between the community partnership and the Council.
6. The Council will provide some administrative support to the partnership. The ways in which the Council supports and works with the wider partnership will be kept under review by the Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and the Climate Emergency Cabinet Portfolio Support Group.





## Annex C - Terms of Reference for Cabinet Portfolio Support Group

### CABINET SUPPORT GROUP – CLIMATE EMERGENCY

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

##### **Purpose**

To assist in developing and evaluating action to address the Councils declared Climate Emergency through Council policies, its own activities and support for community wide activity. The group shall assist in supporting the delivery of the Council CE Rapid Action Plan or any subsequent Cabinet approved plan/strategy.

##### **Key areas of work**

Climate Change, Carbon Emissions, Energy, Waste, Landscape, Biodiversity and Sustainability

##### **Membership**

The membership of the support group will include:-

- a) The Cabinet Portfolio Holder
- b) Each political group will be invited to nominate a standing member with responsibility for continuity and oversight for their group they represent. (The Cabinet Portfolio Holder will represent their group).
- c) Open to all other members

The public usually will be able to observe.

##### **Chairman**

The meeting will be chaired by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

##### **Terms of Reference**

To assist the Cabinet Portfolio Holder by:-

- a) Supporting the development of Climate Emergency Rapid Action Plan.
- b) Evaluating the progress of environmental policies and their impacts;
- c) Considering the Council's role in supporting community based environmental initiatives and projects;
- d) Assist in developing Council responses to consultations in respects of environmental policies and initiatives.
- e) Examining specific policy topic areas and assisting in developing strategies for delivery.



### Frequency of Meetings

Variable depending on stage of plan making / policy development, normally in the region of 8-10 per year.

### Governance

<b>Attendance:</b>	For meetings with less than four members (including the Chair) the Chair will consider the benefits of continuing with the meeting.
<b>Note Taking:</b>	Action notes and summary will be recorded. The meetings will not be minuted
<b>Circulation of notes:</b>	All members (Electronic)
<b>Decision making responsibilities:</b>	None
<b>Voting procedures:</b>	None



## Annex B - Background and Drivers

[The Committee on Climate Change<sup>3</sup>](#) recommended a new emissions target for the UK: net-zero greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2050. This was agreed by the UK government in June 2019 as a legally binding target. The net-zero GHG target for 2050 will deliver on the commitment that the UK made by signing the Paris Agreement. The Committee on Climate Change considers this is achievable with known technologies, alongside improvements in people's lives, and within the expected economic cost that Parliament accepted when it legislated for its previous 2050 target (which was for an 80% reduction from 1990). However, this is only possible if clear, stable and well-designed policies to reduce emissions further are introduced across the economy without delay.

Overall, UK emissions are down 43% compared to the 1990 baseline while the economy has grown significantly over the same period. However most of this is down to excellent progress in reducing emissions from electricity generation, while reductions in other sectors have stalled. It is a call for rapid and sustained action in order that we globally will be able to cope with the risks to life on the planet.

[The International Panel on Climate Change set out in 2018](#) that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society, the IPCC said in a new assessment. With clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems, limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C could go hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society. "Rapid and far-reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities are needed to limit global warming to 1.5c. Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching 'net zero' around 2050. This means that any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the air.

The report highlights a number of climate change impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C, or more. For instance, by 2100, global sea level rise would be 10 cm lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared with 2°C. The likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5°C, compared with at least once per decade with 2°C. Coral reefs would decline by 70-90 percent with global warming of 1.5°C, whereas virtually all (> 99 percent) would be lost with 2°C.

### Forest of Dean District Council [adopted motion 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018](#)

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Aim to make the Forest of Dean District Council and the district carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3),
3. Call on the Government and other relevant organisations and partners to provide the powers, resources and funding to successfully meet the 2030 target;
4. Subject to receiving the necessary powers, resources and funding to:
  - a) Work with other councils and organisations (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5C; and
  - b) Ask the Leader to initiate work with partners across the district, county and region to help deliver carbon neutrality through all relevant strategies and plans.
5. As a first step, to actively investigate using a local green energy company as the Council's energy provider.

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<sup>3</sup> The Committee on Climate Change (the CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Their purpose is to advise the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on emissions targets and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change



# CLIMATE ACTION for Forest of Dean

## Annex D – Climate Emergency Cabinet Portfolio Support Group output examples

(WWW. WWW LINK)

DATE	CONCISE - COUNTY
16/10/2019	Partnership of environmental
	to this paper received?
	Electric charging points on
	Electric Transport Infrastruct
	More electric car charging ba
	Electric car charging points i
	EV charging unit at Coleford
	Electric car charging points -
	partnership - most people are
	Eco driving training
	Reduce fuel consumption in
	Council transport - electric
	Public transport - electric
	Car charging car share
	Public Transport Links
	Improved public transport
	Partnership of road the
	Energy efficiency - pack
	Training for all business
	Waste collection
	Get rid of the incinerator. Sta
	Get garden waste collection
	by taking out the rubbish
	Waste reuse of plastic: recycl
	Landfill waste should be ban
	prohibited
	Support welfare in the
	Get our own biomass plant
	Communities can make their
	engage every public member
	Reduce energy using & heat
	and needs of all in the commu
	Information point on ways of
	find the local carbon footprint
	Energy saving light switches
	Reduction of street lighting

### Climate Emergency

#### Framework Task 3-9-19 (20mins)

**Objective:** Scope out a high level CE action plan identifying key actors (those that need to be influenced or can deliver) and those with a lead in driving the actions/ change (e.g. Community Group, Council (which one(s)) business etc.

**Task:** Using the ideas identified at our previous meeting for your theme:

1. **Identity 3-5 priority actions** – you don't need to worry about getting them perfect yet there will be further drafts.
2. **Set out briefly why these have been chosen** – it may be quick wins or have the most impact etc.
3. **Identify Impact timescale** net Zero emissions) - Short term)
4. **Who are the key stakehol**
5. **Who would be good at lea** potentially an existing org: role/organisation? Are the

#### Transport Ideas 16-7-19

Electric charging points on all new developments and shops etc (Lidl in Coleford).

Electric Transport Infrastructure and switch of FoDDC fleet. Other Councils have committed to this already.

More electric car charging bays.

Electric car charging points in each market town (maybe in car parks?) or Council Offices.

EV charging unit at Coleford Offices.

Electric car charging points - just 3 pin plugs are at least a start! Advice and guidance and example costs/savings of EV ownership - most people are misinformed.

Eco driving training.  
Reduce fuel consumption in vehicles.

Council transport - electric immediately.

Public transport - electric alongside promoting car share, bike paths, electric charge points.

Car charging can be as simple as installing a weatherproof 3 pin socket in Council car parks - Instavolt will install rapids for free.

Public Transport Links.

Improved public transport and cycle route links.  
Reduction of car engine capacity.

Improved provision for cycling, shared paths, signs, control speed of vehicles.

District-wide voluntary 45 mph speed limit - easy.  
Local transport - green minibuses.

Increase use of cycleways and try to get more slower available travel to work.

Highways to be more proactive - only a bit of point?

Trains - instead of cars improve rail links.

