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Foreword

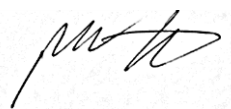
Thank you for taking time to read our Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. Considering and acting on climate change is at the heart of our [Corporate Plan](#). We have committed to consider the impact on climate change in all our decision-making, aiming to make the council (and the District) carbon neutral by 2030. The strategy sets out how we can secure a low carbon future for our District, and the urgent steps we will take to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Most of us will have seen footage of recent extreme weather events affecting the planet, with many of these events made worse by climate change. Our district is not immune to the impacts of climate change, with science based predictions of even hotter and drier summers and wetter, stormier, warmer winters to come in our area. This creates serious challenges for our residents and the local wildlife that we cherish.

There is good news however. Many of the things we need to do, including actions set out in this document, bring other valuable benefits to our communities, for example reducing our energy costs and making the places we live in healthier and even more attractive. In my role as Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Climate Emergency, I'm well placed to help ensure residents see and feel these benefits.

Through consultation, we've taken on board your feedback to strengthen the plan. Your continued engagement with the plan and our resulting work will be vital. Prioritisation of what we do will continue to be important and we will remain flexible to ensure we respond to new evidence, risks or opportunities. You can continue to let us know your thoughts and ideas by contacting our Climate Team via climate.action@fdean.gov.uk. Look out for us sharing the plan and our progress at local events and via updates on the climate action pages of our [website](#).

I care passionately about our local environment, communities and preserving the climate which has allowed these to develop and flourish. We must act fast to prevent a dangerous rise in climate temperature and this is why our plans are ambitious. We rely on our residents and council colleagues joining us to help with the action on this important journey. Everyone can make a contribution and I hope when you have read our plan you will find something that inspires you to take part in what we are doing or generates ideas for you to pursue in your home or work lives.



Paul Hiett - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Climate Emergency

Executive Summary

The 2015 Paris Agreement set a goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. Heating above 2°C is widely agreed by scientists as likely to lead to significant and potentially catastrophic changes to the planet. Despite this current policies do not come close to the level of emissions reduction required to achieve these limits.

In light of this, Forest of Dean District Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2018, making a pledge to make the Council and the district carbon-neutral by 2030. With a dramatic decline in the abundance and diversity of plants and animals across the world including here in the UK, the Council has also vowed to take action to tackle the Ecological Emergency, which is deeply interconnected with the Climate Emergency.

The Council's Corporate Plan committed to producing a climate emergency action plan, and following the baselining of the Council's and the district's greenhouse gas emissions, and an online public consultation, a strategy and action plan for the period 2022 to 25 was produced.

The strategy identified various challenges of responding to the climate change and risks of climate breakdown to the district:

- ❖ Embedding climate change thinking in everyday decision-making processes in the same way that cost effectiveness and health and safety considerations are.
- ❖ Increasing carbon literacy and behaviour change.
- ❖ Risks of flooding, overheating, wildfires and to agriculture.
- ❖ Conflicting ambitions of meeting renewable energy and building retrofit needs and preserving the natural and built heritage of the district,
- ❖ The obvious upfront economic costs of paying for the transition to carbon neutrality, and the dilemma of who is going to pay for it.
- ❖ The current lack of transport and digital connectivity contributing to high car dependency and making home-working challenging.
- ❖ The current lack of electricity grid capacity required for decentralised renewable energy generation in the district.
- ❖ Population sparsity and non-typical rural homes make wide scale retrofit challenging.
- ❖ Potentially radical future changes to the planning system taking control away from local planning authorities.
- ❖ The uncertainty created by the Covid-19 pandemic with regards future ways of working and living and the resulting difficulty in producing reliable business cases for investment projects.
- ❖ Potentially unmatched ambition from national government and the county council.

Despite these challenges and risks, the Climate Emergency also presents several opportunities for the district:

- ❖ The chance to deliver local prosperity as a result of the myriad of economic, health and social co-benefits of taking climate action.

- ❖ Due to its rural setting; the opportunity to lead and champion ecological farming and land management practices that increase both biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
- ❖ The potential for investment on a grand scale to aid the economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic presents an opportunity to place climate change issues and the green economy at heart of the UK's future economy.
- ❖ The wide range of public, private, charity and voluntary sector organisations present in the district provide ample opportunities for effective partnership building and collaborative change.

Informed by 12 organising principles, emissions baselining and the outcomes of the public consultation, the Council has identified the following priorities for focused action between 2022 and 2025.

Council emissions

- ❖ Investigate and start implementing a plan for decarbonising the Council's vehicle fleet, particularly the replacement of its waste collection vehicles with low carbon equivalents. An appropriate pathway for rural settings is still not clear.
- ❖ Working with partners, develop and start implementing a plan for decarbonising the Council's leisure centres, whilst also continuing to transition electricity and heat supplies to renewable energy generation in the Council's other buildings.
- ❖ Reduce unnecessary staff business travel and decarbonise journeys that cannot be eliminated.
- ❖ Divest the Council's investments and pensions from fossil fuels and other polluting industries.

District-wide emissions

- ❖ Prioritise actions that will help reduce emissions from road transport in the district.
- ❖ Establish a positive planning policy framework for maximising the use of renewables within new developments, and opportunities for the deployment of larger scale renewable energy generation.
- ❖ Explore and identify ways that the Council can help facilitate an increase in the retrofit of existing buildings.
- ❖ Identify ways of supporting industry to use renewable energy to substitute for fossil fuels used during industrial installations.
- ❖ Identify ways of supporting the implementation of carbon sequestering and ecologically regenerative land management and farming practices in the district.
- ❖ Support partners to promote and facilitate the development of local low carbon skills.
- ❖ Explore ways to reduce emissions from waste and encourage a circular economy.

The subsequent action plan details 60 actions the Council plans to take between 2022 and 2025, as well as 18 suggested actions for the climate emergency community partnership (Forest of Dean Climate Action), in order to help achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. These cover actions prioritising, but not limited to, the priorities set out above.

The Council's Lead Officers for climate change will review and update this strategy and action plan regularly between now and 2025, reporting on its progress, and the develop a successor document for 2025-30. It will also continue to evaluate and report on its progress as part of its quarterly [Corporate Priorities Report](#). The Council's communications officer with responsibility for the climate emergency and the Climate Emergency Officer will together develop a strategy for informing the public about updates and progress made with implementing the strategy and action plan.

Glossary

Building retrofit – used in reference to the modification of existing buildings to improve energy efficiency or decrease energy demand, for example via measures that improve the thermal performance of the building’s fabric such as insulation and triple glazing. It can also often include the installation of renewable energy generation systems.

Carbon neutral – where net greenhouse gas emissions (measured in terms of their carbon dioxide equivalence) are equal to zero, i.e. reducing emissions as much as possible and then offsetting, via carbon sequestration, those that cannot be eliminated. Offsetting is reserved for mitigating the most stubborn of emissions, with the priority being eliminating emissions wherever possible.

Carbon sequestration – the capture and storage of atmospheric CO₂, for example through reforestation (tree planting), or artificial capture and underground storage of industrially produced CO₂.

Circular economy – a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible, that aims at tackling global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution.

Climate change adaptation – adapting the way that we live and the buildings we live in and use to the significant and unavoidable consequences of climate change we expect to experience, and in many places are already experiencing. This involves increasing our resilience and reducing our vulnerability to harmful effects such as increasing temperatures, increasing frequency and severity of extreme rainfall events, drought induced food insecurity and sea level rise.

Climate change mitigation – reducing and preventing the worst effects of climate change by reducing and preventing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration.

Consumption-based emissions – emissions resulting from the supply of goods and services we buy and consume, including those imported from abroad.

Greenhouse gas – a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by trapping heat in the earth’s atmosphere. Examples include carbon dioxide (CO₂) methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). The terms ‘carbon emissions’ and ‘CO₂ emissions’ are often used interchangeably with ‘greenhouse gas emissions’.

Scope 1 emissions (direct emissions) – activities owned or controlled by the organisation that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. These are direct emissions. Examples of Scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces and vehicles.

Scope 2 emissions (indirect emissions from energy consumption) – emissions being released into the atmosphere associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat,

steam and cooling. These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of an organisation's activities, but which occur at sources they do not own or control.

Scope 3 emissions (other indirect emissions) – emissions that are a consequence of an organisation's actions, which occur at sources which they do not own or control and which are not classed as Scope 2 emissions. Examples of Scope 3 emissions are business travel by means not owned or controlled by your organisation, waste disposal, or purchased materials or fuels.

Territorial emissions – emissions arising from activity taking place within a defined territory. Often also referred to as 'production-based emissions'.

Introduction

Forest of Dean District Council Corporate Plan

The Council's [Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023](#) sets out our high-level areas of focus for the district over the next four years. One of the key areas of focus is protecting and enhancing the local environment and addressing the climate emergency. We need to take bold steps to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the current district average of 5.1 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes. We will therefore ensure that the impact on climate change is considered in all our decision-making, aiming to make the Council (and the district) carbon neutral by 2030.

As part of the Corporate Plan, we committed to developing and implementing a climate emergency action plan to make the Council net carbon neutral by 2030, as well as to engage with the community to encourage and promote immediate and longer-term actions they can take to reduce their carbon footprint.

The Teckal company [Publica](#) delivers the services for Forest of Dean District Council. As an employer Publica also has actions plans for both Corporate Social Responsibility and Climate Change. These action plans incorporate full climate emergency and equality actions for the workforce and operations.

The purpose of the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan

This Climate Emergency Strategy sets out the context, rationale and direction for action needed to tackle the climate emergency in the district. It formalises a high level of ambition, commensurate with the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in December 2018 and sets out the high-level principles that will underpin the development and execution of climate action by the Council.

The Strategy is not a rigid document and is intended to be reviewed and updated multiple times over the next 8 years as new climate science, technology innovation, and public understanding comes to the fore. Changes in local sentiment and behaviour, the international and national policy environment, and evidence of climate impacts will also lead to adaptations to this strategy.

The subsequent Action Plan identifies the key actions the Council plans to take between now and 2025, based on today's understanding, in its role as a key agent to achieving carbon neutrality across the district. The Council has decided against producing an action plan for the full 8 years leading up to 2030 in order to reflect the fact that any plan needs to be a flexible and agile to the kinds of changes mentioned above. Therefore, any plan we produce now for the second half of the decade is likely to become quickly outdated. This Action Plan will include explorative actions that will lay the foundations for further action beyond 2025, at which point the Council will review its progress and produce an updated action plan for 2025 to 2030.

The Action Plan will also provide an update on the actions the Council has taken so far to meet its pledge, following on from and building upon the Council's [Climate Emergency Rapid Action Plan](#) (RAP) published in January 2020. The RAP was key in accelerating activity from the early evidence gathering and foundational stage into the first phase of priority activity. Some of the actions within the RAP will continue to be implemented over time, however now is an appropriate time to review what has been done and still needs to be done to achieve the carbon neutrality.

The Action Plan is not intended to be an exhaustive list of every action the Council will take in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, neither is it meant to be an overly technical document and is written for reference by multiple stakeholders within the Council and across the wider district. Detailed technical and specialist projects will derive from this plan and be developed and implemented as standalone pieces of work.

The Council's Lead Officers for climate change will review and update this strategy and action plan regularly between now and 2025, reporting on its progress, and the develop a successor document for 2025-30. It will also continue to evaluate and report on its progress as part of its quarterly Corporate Priorities Report. The Council's communications officer with responsibility for the climate emergency and the Climate Emergency Officer will together develop a strategy for informing the public about updates and progress made with implementing the strategy and action plan.

Commitments

In Paris in 2015, the international community achieved a breakthrough by reaching the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process. The Agreement stated the aim to "hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C". Global heating is already over 1°C.

The UK has consistently been a global leader in enshrining greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction commitments in law, and the amended Climate Change Act 2008 now commits the country to reducing net emissions to zero by 2050 and by 50% by 2030. The UK has submitted its national emissions reduction commitment to the UNFCCC, alongside all other participating countries.

However, taken together, these individual national commitments do not come close to the level of emissions reduction required to achieve the limits set in the Paris Agreement (Figure 1). If emissions are reduced in line with stated commitments, it would lead to global heating of around 1.9°C - 3°C by 2100. Heating above 2°C is widely agreed by scientists as likely to lead to significant and potentially catastrophic changes to the planet.

In December 2018 Forest of Dean District Council declared a Climate Emergency, making a pledge to make the Council and the district carbon neutral by 2030. This commitment is inclusive of other GHGs, not just carbon dioxide. See the Glossary for definitions of carbon neutral and GHG. Gloucestershire County Council and the county's five other local

authorities have also declared a Climate Emergency and have set varying targets for carbon neutrality. With a dramatic decline in the abundance and diversity of plants and animals across the world including here in the UK, Forest of Dean District Council has also vowed to take action to tackle the Ecological Emergency, which is deeply interconnected with the Climate Emergency.

In order to help deliver the commitments laid out in this document, the Council has so far provisioned £810k for capital climate change initiatives resource provisions through its [medium term financial plan](#), and £66k for a [Climate Emergency Officer post](#).

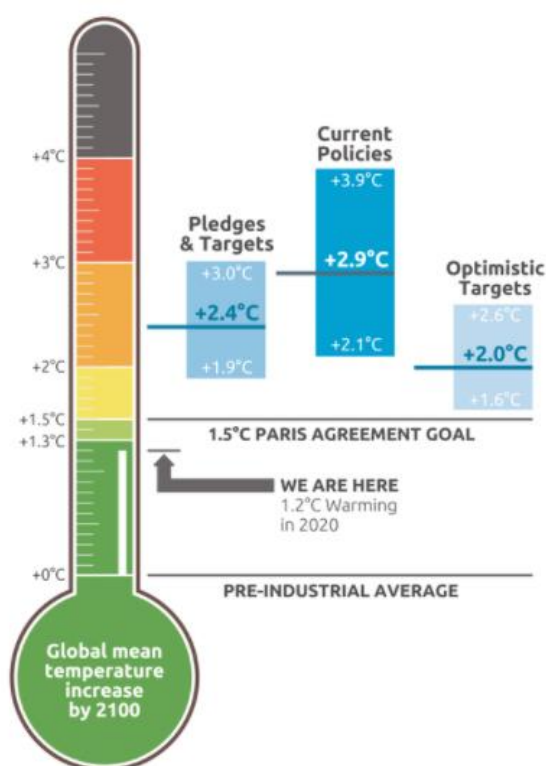


Figure 1: Paris Agreement likely overshoot (climateactiontracker.org)

The Climate Emergency

In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the Special Report on 1.5°C. The report showed that risks rose significantly between 1.5°C and 2°C in terms of damage to ecosystems (species loss, extinction and ecosystems services vital to humans), and extreme weather events (heat extremes, heavy precipitation, droughts). The report also showed that risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply and economic growth are projected to increase with global heating of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C.

Globally, the six hottest years on record have all occurred in the last six years. The UK is already experiencing the impacts of climate breakdown, for example more frequent and extreme weather events such as floods and heatwaves. Such impacts have been heavily felt in Forest of Dean and the wider Gloucestershire area, which has suffered some of the worst flooding in the country in recent years. The floods in Lydney in February and December 2020 demonstrate the increased frequency and severity of heavy rainfall events and are cause for concern, as were the floods around Highnam and areas close to the Rivers Severn and Wye.

Evidence of consensus

The 2020 UK Climate Assembly was commissioned by six select committees of the House of Commons to examine the question: "How should the UK meet its target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050?". Using stratified random sampling, 108 members of the public were chosen to take part in the assembly, ensuring they were representative of the UK population in terms of: age, gender, ethnicity, educational level, where in the UK they live, whether they live in an urban or a rural area, and their level of concern about climate change. Assembly members were given access to expert opinion and data on climate change, presented by some of the most respected experts in their field. Through detailed discussion and cooperation, the assembly arrived at numerous recommendations for how the UK should best move forwards to reaching its net zero target, covering a range of topics such as how people travel, heat and use energy in their homes, what they eat and buy, energy generations and carbon storage. Recommendations included investing in public transport and active travel infrastructure, supporting the switch to electric vehicles, investment and support for retrofit, measures to encourage a circular economy and less meat consumption such as food emissions labelling, and support for wind and solar power generation and forest and peatland restoration.

Stand out recurring themes from the assembly were the need for greater, better and more accessible information for the public about climate change; ensuring a fair transition for everyone regardless of factors such as income, employment and locality; the freedom and choice for individuals and local areas to choose the most appropriate solutions for them; maximising co-benefits such as for health, the economy and the restoration of nature. Furthermore, assembly members identified the importance of strong political leadership and the need for a joined-up approach across society that requires all communities and organisations to play their part. Additionally, a large majority of assembly members (79%) 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that, 'steps taken by the government to help the economy recover should be designed to help achieve net zero'.

Public Consultation

Over August and September 2021, the Council carried out an online public consultation on an earlier version of this document. Due to the need to move at pace given the urgency of

the climate emergency, the consultation was limited to an online call for evidence via the Council's website.

Feedback was invited from residents, organisations and visitors in order to understand people's priorities and concerns, and to gather important local knowledge, so that the strategy and action plan could be developed further.

The call for evidence collected qualitative data using open-ended questions designed to encourage quality in-depth responses rather than a large quantity of shorter responses. The questionnaire enabled respondents to give their views on elements of the proposed strategy and actions within the action plan, as well as the opportunity to make suggestions for additional ones.

Responses were received from a mixture of individual residents and stakeholder organisations, and outcomes incorporated into the final version of this document. Respondents' priorities have been used to inform the priorities section of the strategy.

The Council expects to carry out further public consultation on specific actions within the action plan where appropriate.

Strategic Challenges, Risks and Opportunities

Challenges and Risks

Embedding climate change thinking

Thinking about the impacts of an action or policy on the climate needs to be in our everyday decision-making (business as usual). Moving from climate breakdown as a stand-alone, ring-fenced issue, to a mainstream, integrated issue which is embedded across all thought, assumptions and decisions as automatically as any long-established issue like cost effectiveness, welfare, or health and safety.

Carbon literacy and behaviour change

A major challenge of rising to the threat of the climate emergency will be improving the level of carbon literacy amongst the district's residents and businesses in order to increase public understanding and support for the Council's actions, as well as to engender behaviour change. Although greater understanding alone may not necessarily lead to behaviour change, it is often a prerequisite to it. Easily understood communications campaigns and resident involvement in planning and decision-making may be of benefit.

Natural environment

Some climate change is with us already as result of past emissions and we must learn to manage the impacts of that whilst ceasing further emissions which will make the problems worse. The district's short-term climate change risks include milder and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, and more frequent extreme high temperatures and downpours of

rain. Situated between the River Wye and the River Severn, the district is at risk from fluvial flooding and the negative impacts this has on water supplies, farms, homes, businesses and habitats. There is also expected to be an increased threat of wildfires as the century progresses. Such potential climate impacts also increase public health risks relating to excessive heat, air quality, food and medication supply chain distribution, contaminated water and mortality resulting from extreme weather events.

Although the district benefits from picturesque landscapes and conservation areas, protected landscapes can add complications to climate emergency issues such as how these sites can be used to meet the district's renewable energy needs, as well as constraints around the retrofitting of buildings in these areas. The district's agricultural economy contributes to the features of the landscape but climate change also poses a threat to this due to changes in seasonality, soil moisture content in summer, and loss of biodiversity including pollinators.

Economic cost

Rising to the challenge of the climate crisis will cost money, however not taking action will cost much more and have a greater impact on the future for our children, livelihoods and environment. We need to truly value the impact and benefit that a plan or project will have in reducing the causes of climate breakdown and dealing with the impacts of past emissions. Despite it being unavoidable that economic costs will need to be incurred, many climate projects also have the potential to deliver economic benefits such as savings on energy bills. It is therefore vital that these benefits are highlighting whenever possible in order to overcome the falsehood that being green always costs more.

Connectivity

As a rural district, we experience connectivity issues in both our digital and transport infrastructures and many residents are required to travel long distances for both work and pleasure. We have a very high dependency on cars and a topography requiring innovation for active travel, with further challenges around the affordability of electric vehicles and a lack of control over public transport policy.

Electricity grid capacity

Investments in expanding electricity grid capacity is largely focused on areas of high demand rather than high potential supply, limiting the rural capacity to deliver new renewable generation and electrify heating and transport.

Housing retrofit

Population sparsity in rural districts such as the Forest of Dean reduces opportunities for at-scale retrofit and district heating, whilst the wide variety of non-standard type rural homes found within the district make standardised retrofit solutions often inappropriate.

'Planning for the Future' white paper

If changes are made to the planning system in line with the intentions set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government white paper, 'Planning for the Future'

(August 2020), it will likely restrict the Council's ability to set local policy on carbon and energy efficiency in new developments. The white paper also pushes the requirement of zero carbon development to 2050 well beyond that considered necessary in the district.

Covid-19

The virus has affected many aspects of how we live, shop, travel and work, with some of these changes likely to be permanent. This may in turn alter the assumptions underpinning the investment case for some low carbon projects. The pandemic has reawakened the importance given to a healthy environment and providing healthy places for community life.

Unmatched ambition

Whilst the Council can try to do its utmost to reduce GHG emissions within the district, achieving its net zero goal by 2030 will require both policy and economic support from other levels of government. There is therefore a risk that if Forest of Dean District Council's ambition is not matched by national government, or at county level, the aims of the 2018 Climate Emergency declaration will not be fulfilled. This is particularly the case with regards to local issues that the Council has little control over such as public transport policy and waste disposal.

Opportunities

Local prosperity

There are wide ranging benefits available for us if we take the action needed: a safer and prosperous future, cleaner air, more comfortable buildings and homes, fresh local food supplies, improved natural environment and resilience to weather events. There are also considerable economic benefits as we move from exporting our wealth out of the district by paying for resources such as fuel, food and materials generated elsewhere, to a localised, circular economy with job creation and community wealth building potential.

Opportunities will include the creation of new investment, training and employment in businesses servicing new green industries such as whole-house retrofit of energy efficiency and demand reduction measures to minimise householder energy costs, renewable energy generation, new agricultural systems that emphasise local supply chains, active travel and electric vehicle infrastructure, and all the associated economic benefits / cost savings that would come with improved health and wellbeing.

Natural environment

The district is well placed to champion rural decarbonisation. As a largely rural district, we have huge carbon sequestration potential with 21% of the district being public forest estate and potential for sustainable farming and land management practices to be implemented that help counter both the climate and ecological crises. This is an opportunity to not just improve the quantity of carbon storage via tree planting, but also the quality of it though improving ecological networks, using native species. Furthermore, the district's natural environment can play a key role in climate change adaptation, for example flood management strategies via

wetland and river restoration. The Council is also applying to have the Forest of Dean designated as a UNESCO [Biosphere Reserve](#), which if successful has the potential to bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the area.

The district also has abundant clean renewable resources (solar, wind and tidal) to become 100% self-reliant on zero-carbon energy, as well as being an ideal setting to promote the production and use of sustainable building materials such as timber

Covid-19

The global and national response to the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the potential for rapid and coordinated action and investment on a grand scale, of the kind required to begin to address the climate emergency. It will be vital that this capacity is harnessed to bring about the necessary changes to our society to avert climate catastrophe. The Government's Ten Point Plan to aid a green recovery from the pandemic induced economic recession will mobilise £12 billion of government investment and is an opportunity to place climate change issues and the green economy at heart of the UK's future economy.

Engagement and partnerships

The district benefits from having a wide range of public, private, charity and voluntary sector organisations. There is therefore a wealth of opportunity to engage and partner with these organisations in order to promote environmentally friendly behaviour, for example via building retrofit and ecological land management. There is particularly an opportunity to engage with schools and youth groups in order to encourage environmental education and behaviour.

Organising Principles

In determining and executing our strategy and prioritising the types of action we can take, we will seek to be guided by the following high level organising principles:

1. Be bold and ambitious; accept and manage risks

The scale of the global climate crisis, and its forthcoming effects on the Forest of Dean district, is our biggest challenge. This was spelled out in the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency. Responding to the climate emergency requires the Council to take, and learn to manage, a level of economic and political risk in taking actions, and helping others to take actions, which are commensurate with the scale of the emergency.

2. Provide leadership

The Council's climate emergency declaration commits the Council to providing leadership within the district, and by extension more widely, to help all stakeholders to understand the scale of the emergency more quickly than they might otherwise have done, and to embolden and encourage those already choosing to take action.

3. Follow the evidence

A district council cannot also be a climate science expert. However, we will access highly reputable interpretations of the rapidly evolving science on climate breakdown, and what it means for the Forest of Dean District, provided by bodies like the Committee on Climate Change and the Met Office. We will also track and take account of the evidence of fast, deep and wide-scale change in both public attitudes and corporate decision making in favour of a net zero carbon future, to be achieved sooner than the present national goal of 2050. We also acknowledge that expert evidence does not always have to come from national and international sources and that locally gathered data and knowledge can also be rich sources of evidence and expertise.

4. Focus on the biggest wins

We will seek actions that deliver the largest greenhouse gas reduction impact, and which focus on the largest sources of emissions in the district as well as from the Council's own assets and operations. We will resist the temptation to focus on actions with high public relations value but small emissions value, even though actions delivering large reductions are hard and require us to work creatively with many other stakeholders. This approach will not necessarily preclude actions that deliver smaller emissions savings but may help to build momentum and deliver other important benefits such as community empowerment.

5. Connect mitigation and adaptation

Whilst climate change mitigation and adaptation are separate tasks, wherever possible we will seek actions that link the two, ideally having a useful impact on both objectives simultaneously.

6. Maximise co-benefits

In taking climate action ourselves, and supporting others to take action, we will identify and seek to maximise the co-benefits of those actions, and wherever possible align these with the Council's other priorities and statutory responsibilities. Whilst the primary focus of climate actions will be on adaptation and emissions reduction, there will be co-benefits not measured in tonnes of carbon, which may include, among others, economic regeneration, improved air quality, better public health, increased enjoyment of and access to nature, new employment and skills, investment opportunities, reduced fuel poverty and greater community spirit.

7. Deliver fairness

As well as the long-term benefit of helping to assure a healthy climate for Forest of Dean District residents, and the potentially multiple associated co-benefits of climate actions, there will also inevitably be additional cost, disruption, changes to the status quo and changes to behaviours and expectations. These changes will touch everyone in the country, from individual citizens to every sort of organisation. Public attitude research consistently shows that most people hold fairness as a high principle when enacting necessary change. At local level this will mean thinking carefully about where the burden of costs and changes falls, seeking to protect the most vulnerable and least well-off who may have contributed least to

climate change but may be disproportionately affected by its impacts, and providing leadership to show the justification for necessary changes.

8. Work in partnership

As stated elsewhere, Forest of Dean District Council has neither the powers nor the pocket to deliver emissions reduction across the district at the scale necessary. However we will be able to work in partnership with stakeholders across the district to share information, develop new ideas, align our climate objectives and communications, co-invest, and seek new collaborative opportunities for emissions reduction projects. This includes schools, businesses, resident and voluntary organisations, Forestry England, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, parish, town and county councils, as well as neighbouring authorities. The Council will also do everything within its power to encourage the developers of any large scale or infrastructure projects, which have significant climate impact, to take a courageous lead in voluntarily aiming at the best possible emissions target, consistent with the scale of the climate emergency that faces us all.

9. Encourage and support citizen leadership

The Council's Climate Emergency Rapid Action Plan (RAP) published in January 2020 stated the action of creating a climate emergency community partnership to better link together communities taking action on the climate emergency, as well help guide the Council's actions. Forest of Dean Climate Action partnership has been established in response to this, and the Council will continue to support its development as it becomes established as a key hub for widespread activity.

10. Replicate and share good ideas

To be efficient with limited resources we will avoid re-inventing the wheel. There is a burgeoning range of ideas, support and opportunities for collaboration, all of which can reduce risk for the Council and other stakeholders, speed up actions, and maximise effectiveness. To tackle the climate crisis it is no longer necessary to carry innovation risks alone.

11. Leverage external resources

Commensurate with taking controlled risks and collaborating with others, we will seek to leverage external finance, expertise, ideas, support and projects, to magnify the impact of what we would otherwise achieve with our own much more limited resources.

12. Leverage internal strengths

Whilst Forest of Dean District Council has practical constraints of tangible resources such as finance, land, buildings and human resources, it has important intangible assets which can be leveraged to support others taking action. The Council is a stable long-term body, and therefore able to enter long term contracts that help to de-risk, and therefore reduce the costs of, projects such as renewable generation. The Council has long-term relationships with many stakeholders, a close understanding of the settlements in the district, and is a trusted authority. This can be leveraged to help accelerate the uptake of new initiatives such as green

electricity switching, rooftop PV investment, electric vehicle uptake and home energy retrofit, even when the Council itself is not the implementing body.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Forest of Dean District

Territorial emissions

The most recent Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) local authority CO₂ emissions data for the Forest of Dean District, published in June 2021, shows net CO₂ emissions in 2019-20 of approximately 438.9 ktCO₂, equating to around 5.1 tCO₂e per resident. This relates to emissions arising directly from activity within the district's territory, and is equal to the Gloucestershire average but higher than the average for the South West region (4.6 tonnes). Between 2018 and 2019, total net CO₂ emissions fell by 17.3 kt CO₂ (3.8%), showing that the district is making progress towards the Council's goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. However, it is still far short of what will be required to achieve the 2030 goal - an average annual reduction of 39.9 kt CO₂ (9.1% annual reduction on 2019 total).

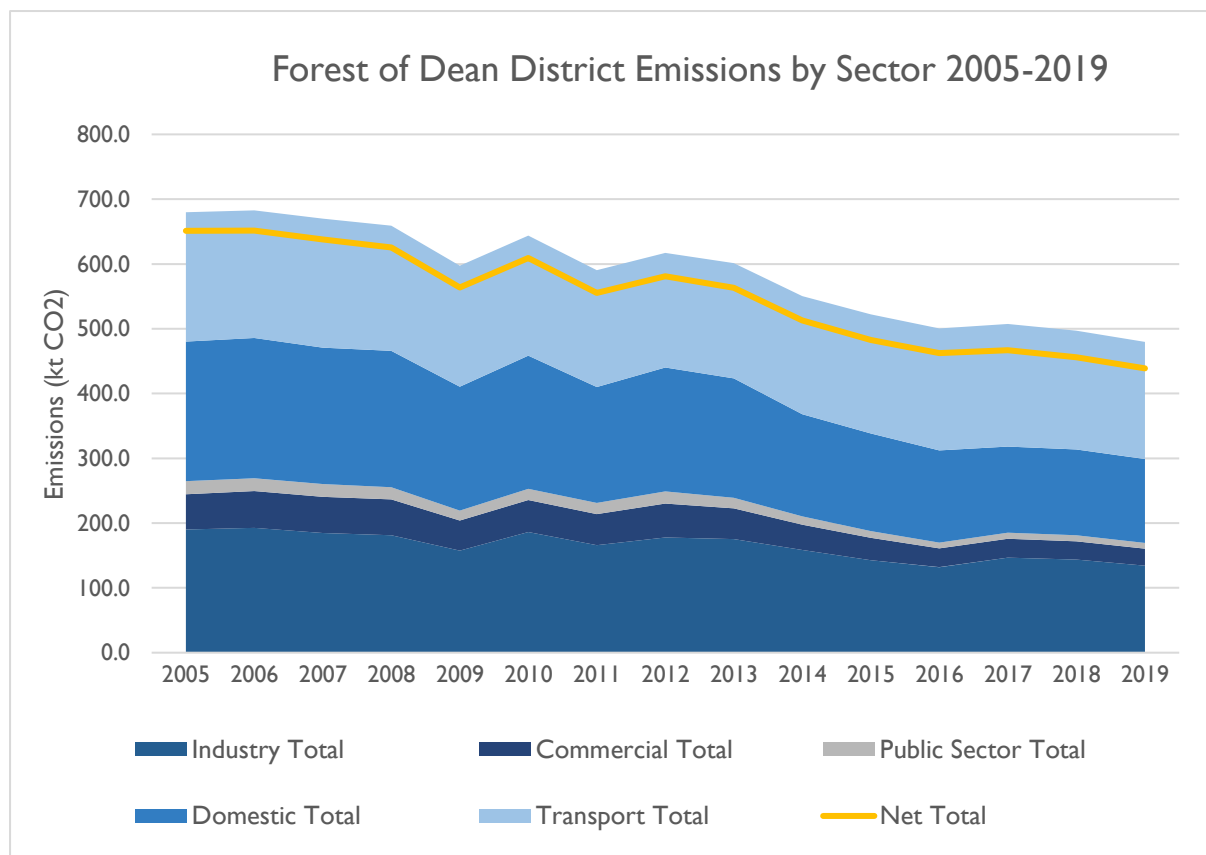


Figure 2: Estimated CO₂ emissions produced by each sector in the Forest of Dean district between 2005 and 2019.

The majority of the district’s territorial emissions come from the transport sector (37.7%), predominantly from road transport (Figure 3). Almost all of this came from road transport (93.1%). Transport emissions have remained stubbornly high since 2005, having recorded the smallest reduction of all sectors (9.4%). This was also the case most recently between 2018 and 2019 (1.4% fall). The challenge, is further highlighted by the fact that emissions from minor road transport has actually increased by 18.1% since 2005, a trend that continued between 2018 and 2019, when there was an increase of 2.2%.

Industry accounts for the next largest proportion of emissions (28%), followed by domestic energy (27%). Whilst all sectors have seen a fall in net emissions since 2005, it is important to highlight that across all of them, the largest percentage reduction in emissions came from electricity consumption. Although this a welcome trend, it is likely mainly the result of increases in the proportion of national grid supplied electricity coming from renewable energy generation, rather than actions taken within the district.

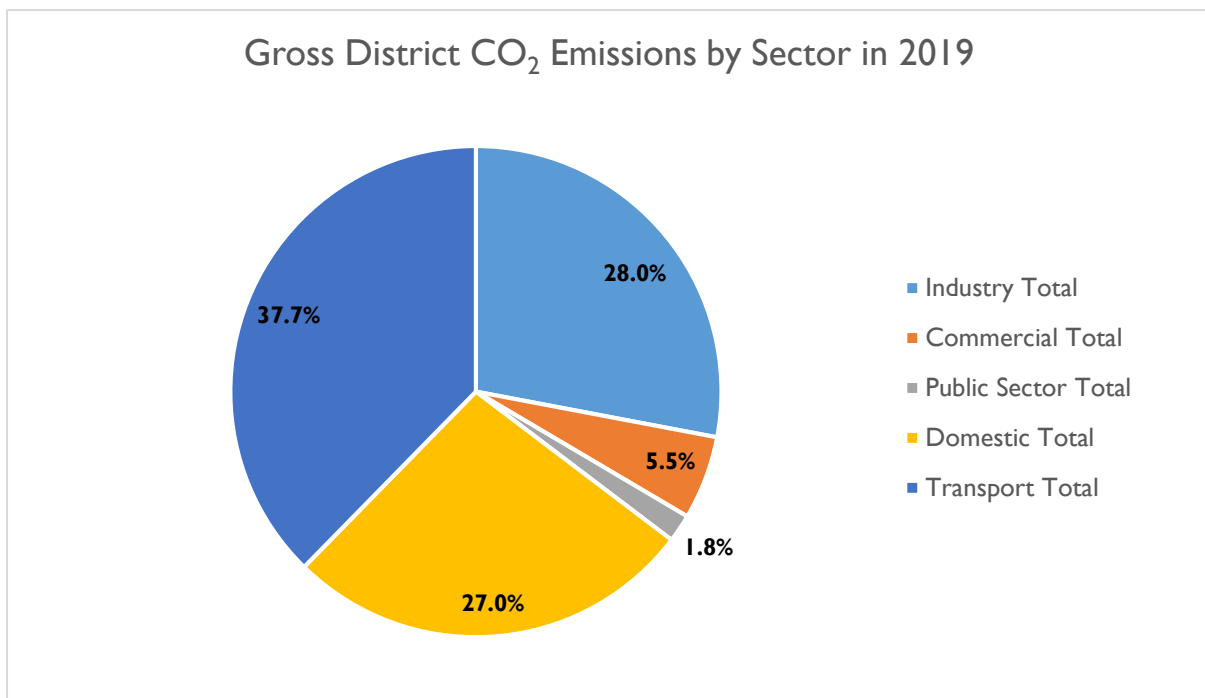


Figure 3: Estimated gross CO₂ emissions produced in the Forest of Dean district in 2019 by each sector.

Another significant challenge will be reducing emissions from gas consumption across the district, which since 2005 has seen significant increases across commercial, domestic, industry and public sectors, and makes up the largest proportion of emissions for the latter three sectors. Other areas that have seen increases in emissions and therefore requiring further attention include large industrial installations (5.2% increase since 2018, 4.4% increase since 2005) and agricultural energy emissions (7.1% increase since 2018).

Due to its natural landscape, the Forest of Dean also acts as a carbon sink, absorbing and storing carbon, therefore offsetting some of the district's emissions. In 2019, net emissions from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) within the Forest of Dean district were -40.8 kt CO₂, meaning that more CO₂ was removed from the atmosphere than was emitted by this sector. This net sink removed an estimated 8.5% of the emissions produced by other sectors in 2019, and contributed 27.7% of Gloucestershire's total net sink from LULUCF (147.23 kt CO₂). However, despite this, net carbon sequestration was 0.2% lower than in 2018, with sequestration from forest falling and emissions from settlements increasing. Emissions from cropland have increased by 21.1% since 2005.

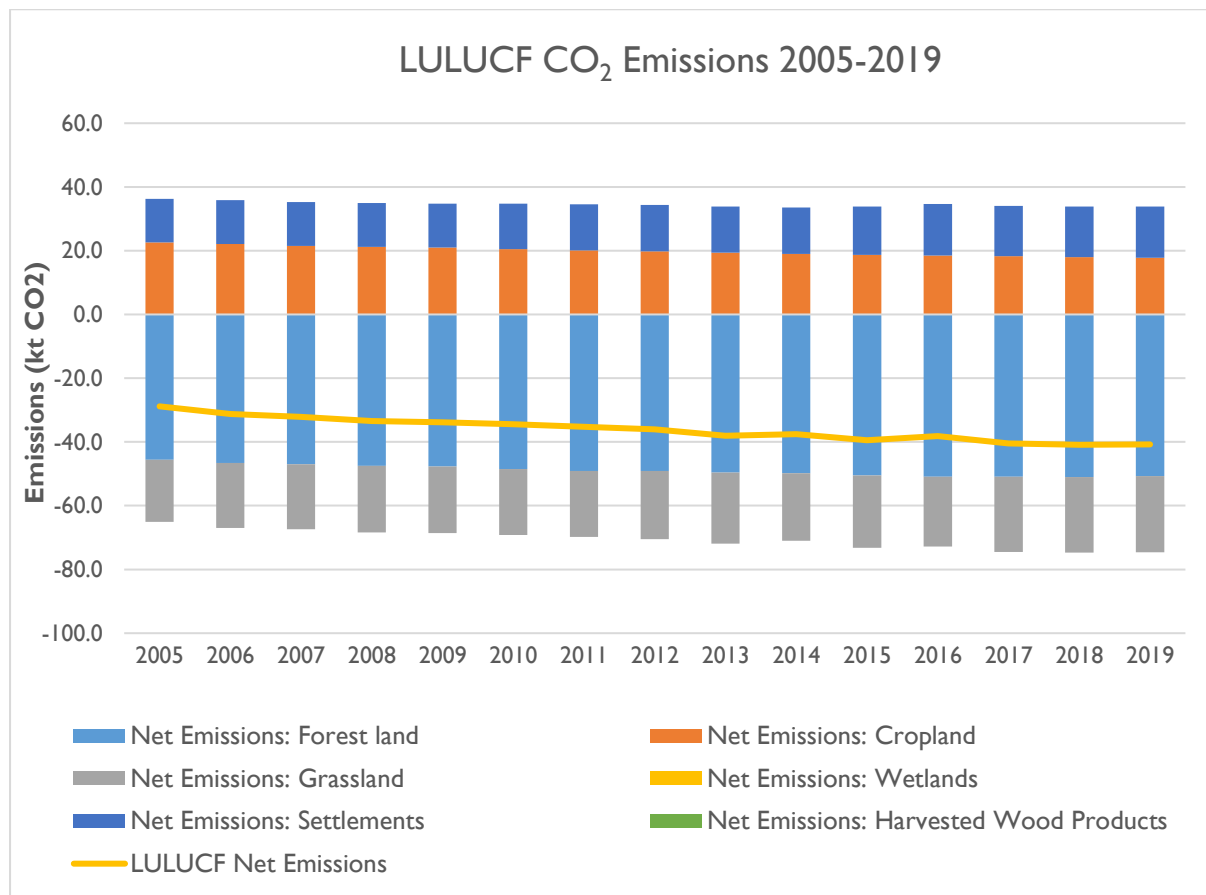


Figure 4: Estimated LULUCF CO₂ emissions by class in the Forest of Dean district between 2005 and 2019.

Increasingly, rural and farming parts of the country will need to find more ways to reduce GHG emissions from land, and increase the amount of carbon sequestered into standing biomass and soils.

For a more in depth analysis of the district’s CO2 emissions, please see Forest of Dean District Carbon Dioxide Emissions Report 2005 – 2019.

Consumption-based emissions

The Government statistics for GHG emissions from Forest of Dean district reported above relate only to territorial emissions (also known as production-based emissions) that arise directly from activity in the district (such as burning fossil fuels in buildings and vehicles), and emissions from electricity consumed in the district, but mainly generated elsewhere. However, for a fuller understanding of how we as residents, businesses and the public sector affect the climate crisis, we must look also at our ‘consumption-based emissions’ – that is, emissions related to the supply of goods and services we buy, including those imported from abroad.

Accurate data for consumption-based emissions is not readily available for Forest of Dean district; however we can draw some high level conclusions from UK-wide data. The first point to note is that, whilst UK emissions from territorial activity have fallen by over 40% in the period from 1990 to 2018, consumption-based emissions from the goods and services we buy and consume have fallen much less – by just 16% to the year 2017 (Figure 5). This discrepancy is because, whilst the UK has markedly reduced emissions from the power sector, we have also reduced the amount of UK based manufacturing, with a much greater proportion of the goods we consume now made overseas, often in parts of the world with high emissions from the manufacturing and power sectors.

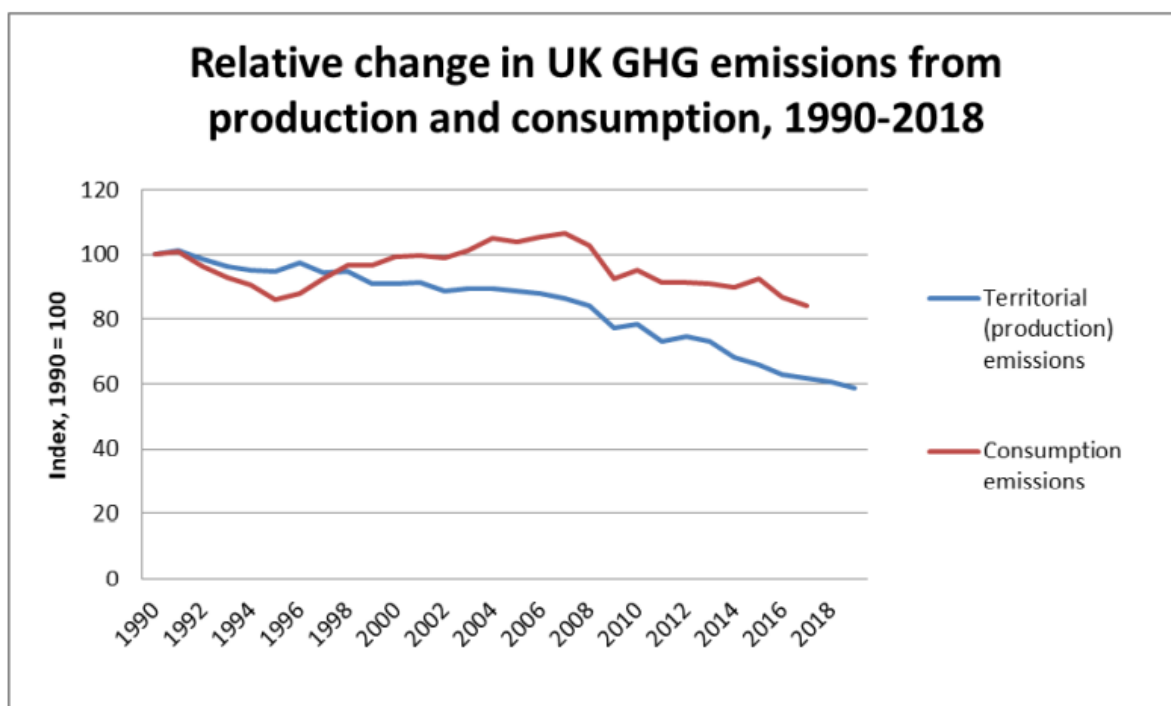


Figure 5: Changes in territorial (production) and consumption emissions 2005-2018

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Forest of Dean District Council

This section considers the total greenhouse gas emissions produced by Forest of Dean District Council in the period from the April 2019 to March 2020 were 1,292.89 tCO₂e. A full report for this accounting period can be found [here](#). A more recent report for the period April 2020 to March 2021 can be found here, however due to the impact on energy consumption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, emissions for this period were atypically lower than in normal years and so not used as the baseline for this strategy and action plan.

GHG emissions producing activities can be categorised into three groups known as scopes 1, 2 and 3, for which definitions can be found in the Glossary. For 2019/20, 52% of emissions came from scope 1, 6% from scope 2 and 42% from scope 3. Broken down further, the largest proportion of 2019/20 emissions came from council owned vehicles (scope 1) at 47% of total emissions (Figure 6). This is followed by emissions from gas consumption by the Council's partner-run leisure centres (scope 3) at 27%.

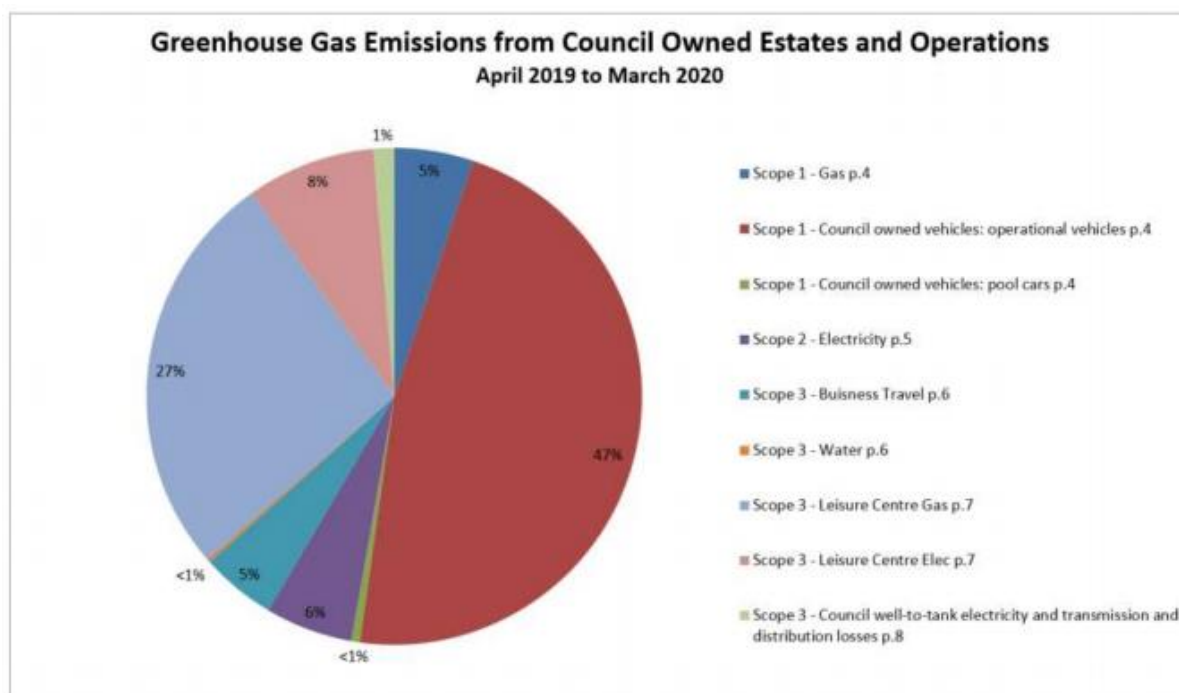


Figure 6: Sources of GHG emissions from the Council's assets and operations in 2019/20

Within the context of the last decade, the Council's total GHG emissions have fallen by 18% since 2010/11. The largest decrease since 2010/11 has come from Scope 2 emissions (direct electricity consumption) at 78%. Scope 3 emissions (including business travel and leisure centre energy consumption) have decreased by 50% since 2010/11. Scope 1 emissions

(including emissions from council gas consumption and council owned vehicles) have increased since 2010/11 by 225% however this large increase is due to waste collection vehicles having been taken into Council ownership and their emissions consequently reported under scope 1.

One result of the Covid-19 crisis has been much more home working and much less commuting. Publica's agile working strategy means that staff commuting emissions will continue to be lower than before, but whilst common sense suggests home working saves carbon, there are many factors and assumptions at play. Estimates by the International Energy Agency using European averages suggest that workers who avoid a commute by car for four miles or more may save carbon, whereas those who drive less far, or who take public transport or active travel may emit more carbon by working from home. True figures will be difficult to monitor and calculate.

Priorities for 2022 to 2025 In line with the Council's organising principles of focusing on the 'big wins' and working collaboratively with stakeholders across the district to develop its plans, the Council has identified several priority areas for focused attention between 2022 and 2025. These have been identified based on the GHG emissions inventory and responses to the public consultation described in the previous sections of the strategy.

Council emissions

- Investigate and start implementing a plan for decarbonising the Council's vehicle fleet, particularly the replacement of its waste collection vehicles with low carbon equivalents. An appropriate pathway for rural settings is still not clear.
- Working with partners, develop and start implementing a plan for decarbonising the Council's leisure centres, whilst also continuing to transition electricity and heat supplies to renewable energy generation in the Council's other buildings.
- Reduce unnecessary staff business travel and decarbonise journeys that cannot be eliminated, for example through the development of policy and guidance that promotes video conferencing where appropriate, and by transitioning the Council's pool cars to electric vehicles.
- Divest the Council's investments and pensions from fossil fuels and other polluting industries.

District-wide emissions

- Prioritise actions that will help reduce emissions from road transport in the district, such as through the provision of cycling and walking infrastructure, investment and planning policy that facilitates the uptake of electric vehicles and access to local

amenities, and lobbying of the County Council and national Government for increased public transport provision.

- Establish a positive planning policy framework for maximising the use of renewables within new developments, and facilitating opportunities for the deployment of larger scale renewable power and heat generation within the district, including community energy projects.
- Explore and identify ways that the Council can help facilitate an increase in the retrofit of existing buildings across the district in order to reduce heating demand and to accelerate the transition away from gas fired heating systems to low carbon ones.
- Identify ways of supporting industry to use renewable energy to substitute for fossil fuels.
- Identify ways of supporting the implementation of carbon sequestering (and ecologically regenerative) land management and farming practices in the district.
- Support partners to promote and facilitate the development of local low carbon skills in order to meet current and future demand for work such as housing retrofit and renewable energy generation, with the intention of also boosting the local economy.
- Explore ways to reduce emissions from waste and encourage a circular economy, for example through encouraging community behaviour change and lobbying national government for changes in waste policy and regulations.

Action Plan for 2022-25

The actions within this action plan have been grouped into the following themes; renewable energy, built environment, natural environment, transport, economy, waste, and community. Each corresponding section of the plan outlines a 2030 vision for each theme, a description of the actions the Council has already taken since the publication of the Council's [Climate Emergency Rapid Action Plan](#) (RAP) in January 2020, followed by an outline of the actions we plan to take during 2022-2025. Residents and stakeholder organisations contributed to the development of this plan via the online consultation process carried out in August to September 2021.

The Council's Scope to Act

Whilst the Council has statutory responsibility for waste collection, local planning policy and other matters, it has neither the powers nor resources to directly drive down district-level emissions which are also the responsibility of individuals and organisations. However the Council has an important leadership role, networks and relationships which can be used to assist and influence key stakeholders. The various 'levers of influence' available to the Council are outlined in Figure 7. There are activities over which the Council has direct control (such as decisions relating to assets and property owned and operated by the Council), but which contribute only a small amount to the whole district's emissions reduction. In contrast, there are also activities that the Council has limited influence and no control over, but which if implemented would have a very large effect on the whole district's emissions.

The majority of the actions in this action plan will require financial resource and their implementation will be dependent on the availability of necessary funding. As well as internal finance, many of the actions are likely to also necessitate external sources of finance, such as central government grant schemes. This action plan is therefore best interpreted as a package of actions that the Council believes it needs to take between 2022-25 in order to accelerate progress towards achieving the goal of net zero by 2030 for both the Council and the district, but that will only be achievable if matched with the availability of internal and external economic resource.



Figure 7: Levers of influence available to the Council

Incorporating the above framework, the actions outlined in this action plan are categorised as either 'direct control' (the Council's own assets and operations), 'indirect control' (procurement and commissioning, placemaking) or 'influence and partnerships' (showcasing, convening, engaging, promoting).

Renewable Energy

2030 vision

Energy consumed within the district is from renewable and decarbonised sources. Much of this is generated within the district using technology that harnesses the opportunities provided by the district's natural environment whilst also respecting it, and via decentralised power systems utilising increased energy storage. Localised markets for energy supply offer competitive value. Our energy systems are smarter and planned to integrate to minimise energy waste.

Forest of Dean's progress so far

Renewable Energy Supply Tariff

In April 2020 the Council (via its Publica contract) began sourcing its electricity through West Mercia Energy's (WME) Pure Green Tariff (power supplied by Total Gas and Power (TGP)). The contract with WME includes conditions committing WME/TGP to supporting the Council with local renewable energy generation, whereby energy generated from a council owned solar farm for example, would be purchased by TGP via their Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and directly offset against the Council's energy consumption.

Renewable Energy on Council Property

In 2019 the Council had an renewable energy assessor carry out an evaluation of all council-owned land and property in order to identify sites where renewable energy generation may be feasible. One of the sites identified as having the greatest potential was the Council's Coleford Offices. Consequently, a solar photovoltaic (PV) renewable energy system is currently being installed on the roof of the building. The system includes battery storage so that excess generated electricity can be stored and used at times outside of peak sunlight hours. A contractor for the design and installation of the system has been instructed and work is underway with the aim of completing the installation by October 2021. The system will provide an on-site source of power generation and contribute to meeting the need for local renewable energy generation in the district, therefore reducing pressure on the national grid. The system is estimated to save 74,363 kWh of energy per year that would otherwise be supplied through the grid, equivalent to 15,789 kg CO₂e per year.

The Council has also produced a heat decarbonisation plan for the council offices that identifies options for replacing the building's current fossil fuel powered heating system with a renewable energy system. Additionally, in partnership with The Dean Academy and Freedom Leisure, the Council has also commissioned an energy audit of Lydney Leisure Centre, in order to identify opportunities for renewable energy there.

Actions for 2022-25

	Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits			
					Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing
Direct Control	A1: Renewable Heat at Council Offices	Investigate an investable renewable heat energy generation plan for the Council's offices in order to reduce the building's heat energy demand.	To lead by example and help create a pathway for renewable energy generation in the district.	Heat Decarbonisation Plan produced identifying most appropriate technology for site.			✓	
	A2: Renewables on Council Owned Land and property	Investigate and deploy viable renewable energy generation on the Council's estate in order to help meet the Council and district's energy demand.	To lead by example and help create a pathway for renewable energy generation in the district.	Renewable energy generation deployed at identified sites and providing a source of revenue to Council / offsetting grid purchased electricity		✓	✓	

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Direct Control	A3: Renewables at Leisure Centres	Investigate and deploy viable renewable energy generation at the council-owned swimming pool building at Lydney Leisure Centre, and use learnings to work with partners to do the same at school-owned leisure centre buildings.	Our leisure centre services combined are responsible for 35% of the Council's total GHG emissions.	Plan for decarbonisation produced for all school sites. Renewable generation installed at Lydney swimming pool building.		✓	✓	
Indirect Control	A4: Renewables Planning	Actively encourage renewable energy projects, including community led schemes, by identifying opportunities and constraints and creating appropriate planning policy.	Private developers and community run schemes both have an important role to play in increasing the district's renewable energy generation capacity.	Substantial increase in the number of renewable energy projects in development within the district.		✓	✓	

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Indirect Control	A5: Renewables in New Developments	Establish a positive planning policy framework for maximising the use of renewables within new developments.	The inclusion of on-site renewables in new developments will increase the district's renewable energy generation capacity and reduce pressure on the national grid.	Fossil fuel powered generation phased out of new buildings. Substantial increase in onsite renewables.		✓	✓	
	A6: Identify Spatial Areas for Renewable Energy in Local Plan	Identify areas in the Local Plan which are suitable for renewable energy generation.	Identifying suitable areas in the Local Plan can help facilitate and secure the development of renewable energy generation.	New local plan published with areas identified. Increase in renewable energy projects in development.		✓	✓	

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Influence and Partnership	A7: Support renewables across the District	Support FoD Climate Action partnership to promote renewable energy technology uptake amongst residents, businesses, industry other organisations.	Achieving carbon neutral across the district will depend on all stakeholders committing to the transition.	Renewables project group established within partnership. Initiatives or schemes developed and implemented. Reduction in emissions from domestic and industry buildings.		✓		
	A8: Signposting	Support residents and business seeking to install renewable technologies by using the Council's communication systems to signpost to advice and local expertise.	The Council can leverage its position as a trusted organisation as well as the learning experiences from installing renewables on its own buildings.	Trusted suppliers listed on Council website, successful social media campaigns.		✓		

Built Environment

2030 vision

Largescale retrofit of the district's buildings is achieving low carbon operation. Energy and environmental considerations give value to our heritage buildings and legislation and technology are opening up their potential. New builds are carbon positive exporting power to the grid or local area. Families and businesses are benefitting from efficient, healthy buildings that are cost effective to operate. The nature is considered an integral part of the built environment, rather than a separate entity.

Forest of Dean's progress so far

Energy efficiency and demand reduction measures at Council property

The Council has received funding to implement energy efficiency and demand reduction measures at the council office building in Coleford. This includes replacing existing lighting in the building with LEDs, installing some automatic lighting controls, fitting seven-day timers on printers, and installing insulation on naked heating valves and pipes. Contractors have been instructed and installations are currently under way with the work planned to be completed by October 2021. These measures combined are estimated to save 64,837 kWh of energy per year, equivalent to 16,416 kgCO₂e per year.

The Council has also produced a heat decarbonisation plan for the Council offices that identifies measures for reducing the building's heat demand and potential for installing renewable heat on site. Additionally, in partnership with The Dean Academy and Freedom Leisure, the Council has also commissioned an energy audit of Lydney Leisure Centre, in order to identify potential energy efficiency and demand reduction measures.

Retrofit

With funding from the Government such as the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme, the Council has been helping to improve the energy efficiency and phase out fossil fuel heating systems of low-income homes, at the same time reducing fuel poverty. The Forest of Dean's coalmining heritage means that a high proportion of households are still reliant on coal fires as their primary source of heat. The district has the most severe fuel poverty in the county, well above the national average, and many properties are of a non-standard construction making them difficult to retrofit. The work has been delivered via Severn Wye Energy Agency's Warm and Well programme, with a particular focus on improving park home properties in the district. In 2020/21, Warm and Well delivered significant numbers of first time central heating systems to off gas grid properties in the Forest of Dean, achieving total life time emissions savings of 3,732 tCO₂e, the biggest carbon reduction in the region.

In partnership with the other Publica councils, the Council has produced a [net-zero toolkit](#) to act as guidance in support of new and emerging planning policies. It will also assist applicants

being encouraged to achieve net-zero carbon developments under the Local Plan. The toolkit will communicate good-practice design for new-build and retrofit homes, with respect to the local character of the area, particularly in sensitive, historic and landscape settings.

Actions for 2022-25

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Direct Control	B1: Energy Efficiency Measures at Council Offices	Investigate and implement measures to improve the thermal performance of the Council's offices in order to reduce the building's heat energy demand.	Reducing gas consumption at our offices is a key step we must undertake before replacing the current fossil-fuel powered system with a low carbon one, as energy demand will determine the size of the new system required.	Measures have been implemented and maximum identified emission savings achieved			✓	
	B2: Energy Efficiency Measures at Leisure Centres	Investigate and implement energy efficiency and demand reduction measures at the council-owned swimming pool building at Lydney Leisure Centre, and work together with partners to explore options to do the same at school-owned leisure centre buildings.	Our leisure centre services are responsible for 35% of the Council's total GHG emissions and reducing energy demand is a key step we must undertake in order to determine what size replacement low carbon energy generation systems are required.	Measures have been implemented and maximum identified emission savings achieved		✓	✓	

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Direct Control	B3: Staff Energy Awareness Training	Deliver energy awareness training for staff in order to improve knowledge and understanding of how to reduce energy wastage in the workplace through the promotion of good practice.	Energy conservation through behaviour change is a fast and low cost means to reducing a buildings energy demand.	Training records showing the majority of staff have undertaken training. Reduction in office energy consumption.			✓	
	B4: Adaptation Review of Council Buildings	Carry out a review of Council buildings and produce a plan identifying specific actions for adapting them to current and future risks of climate change.	The effects of climate change impacts such as greater higher risk of damp, subsidence, flooding, and building cooling demand pose a health and economic risk to the Council.	Production of a risk assessment report and adaptation plan.			✓	✓
Indirect Control	B5: Procurement of Energy Efficient Equipment	Ensure the Council's procurement specifies energy efficient equipment and devices.	When purchasing new equipment and devices, we are locking ourselves in to a set rate of energy consumption for the duration of the product's lifetime.	Criteria added to procurement policies			✓	

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Indirect Control	B6: Encourage Retrofit in Planning Policy	Actively encourage the retrofit of existing homes and other buildings in the district by creating appropriate planning policy, including for properties in conservation areas.	Planning policy helps determine the ease and extent to which building owners retrofit their buildings to reduce energy demand.	Relevant policies included in new Local Plan. Wide uptake in retrofit across the district		✓		✓
	B7: Energy Efficiency Measures in New Developments	Establish planning policy and conditions that require new developments to be built to passivhaus standard or equivalent, exceeding standard building regulations.	New buildings that only meet current building regulations are likely to require requiring retrofitting in the future, potentially at the cost to the home or building owner.	Relevant policies included in new Local Plan and conditions in place.		✓	✓	
	B8: Social Housing Retrofit Planning Pathway	Work with social housing providers to develop a planning pathway for social housing retrofit in the district, including those in conservation areas. Produce case studies and demonstrate opportunities for retrofit of equivalent privately owned homes.	Creating a clear pathway can provide certainty and confidence amongst social housing providers in order to accelerate retrofit in this sector across the district.	Well defined planning pathway, case studies produced. Increased retrofit of social housing in district.		✓		✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Indirect Control	B9: Enforce Minimum Energy Standards (MEES) in Private Rented Property	Apply for enforcement and compliance funding through the Private Rental Sector MEES Competition to ensure private rented properties in the district meet the minimum energy efficiency standard (EPC E) before they are let.	The Energy Efficiency Regulations 2015 introduced a minimum energy efficiency standard of EPC E for the private rented sector in England and Wales in order to reduce fuel bills and emissions, and it is the responsibility of local authorities to enforce this.	Enforcement records and EPC data as evidence. Decrease in fuel poverty		✓		✓
	B10: Climate Risks Identified in New Developments	Undertake a district-wide risk assessment and develop planning policies to ensure climate risks are identified and avoided in new developments, including flood risk and overheating.	The impacts of climate breakdown are already being felt in the district and any new developments must be sufficiently resilient to cope with a changing climate.	Relevant policies included in new Local Plan.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits			
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing
B11: In-house Energy Assessment Staff Resources and skills	Ensure that the Council's planning department is suitably resourced and skilled to process energy assessments.	If planning requires energy standards that exceed building regulations, officers need to be sufficiently resourced and trained process energy assessments.	Additional staff resourcing where necessary. Staff training undertaken.		✓		
B12: Development Management Sustainability assessment	Build sustainability assessment into Development Management processes including ecological impacts of developments.	The sustainability of developments need to become an integral part of each stage of the development process, particularly planning and design.	Production and implementation of checklist or supplementary planning documents.	✓	✓		✓
B13: Promote Sustainable Building Materials	Promote the use of sustainable building materials via the production of planning and design guidance, and support Building Control to help regulate their appropriate usage.	The use of sustainable building materials can help improve carbon, energy, health and ecological outcomes when used appropriately.	Production of a planning and design guidance document	✓			✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Influence and Partnership	B14: Promote Community Retrofit	Work with and support a range of partners via FoD Climate Action partnership to promote the retrofit of homes and buildings to residents, businesses and other organisations.	Achieving carbon neutral across the district will depend on all residents and business owners committing to the transition.	Implementation of community-led schemes and initiatives. Wide uptake in retrofit.		✓		
	B15: Fuel-poor Retrofit Service	Work with partners such as Severn Wye Energy Agency to maintain provision of advice and technical services support for fuel poor and vulnerable household.	Current services for the fuel-poor have been successful at reducing fuel poverty and GHG emissions and so need to be maintained.	Further reductions in fuel poverty.		✓		✓
	B16: Able-to-pay Orientated Retrofit Service	Work with other Gloucestershire local authorities to identify the local need for, and set up, a county-wide service which acts as a trusted partner for the able-to-pay retrofit market, potentially providing services such as advice, referrals, and supply-demand coordination.	There is currently a lack of know-how and confidence amongst residents who are able to pay for retrofit improvements to engage with the market.	Investment and set up of county-wide service. Wide uptake in retrofit amongst able to pay sector,		✓		

Natural Environment

2030 vision

Our natural landscape is used and managed to optimise carbon sequestration and biodiversity benefits, acting as a large carbon sink to offset any remaining GHG emissions, as we as ensuring safe, connected and inviting habitats for both human and wildlife populations. Landscape and economic development is both protecting and nurturing nature, whilst mitigating and building our resilience to a changing climate.

Forest of Dean's progress so far

Grass cutting reduction trial

In June 2021 the Council commenced a trial to leave grassed areas at Newerne Street Car Park and Centurion Road in Lydney mostly untouched though the growing season, to allow wildflowers and grasses to flower and seed. Over time, this cycle of propagation is expected to improve the range of plants in the grassland as well as the insects and other animals they support. This means the district council will only be mowing the grass twice a year in some places, including a final cut at the end of the summer, although established paths through the grassed areas and edges will continue to be cut back regularly to maintain access. Grass cuttings will be left as 'habitat piles' at each of the sites to attract insects and other wildlife, such as toads and slow worms, to inhabit the areas and to reduce transport GHG emissions by not having to remove the waste, adding to the sustainable way in which the sites are managed. The piles will also release valuable nutrients back into the land as the material composts down over time, improving soil health.

Reduction of glyphosate weed killer

The Council has brought forward its timetable to substantially reduce the use of glyphosate-based herbicides, pesticides and chemical slug pellets on council managed land under its commitment to help the environment and to better protect residents' health. [A motion](#) was agreed at Full Council meeting in December 2020 to stop the use of the broad-spectrum herbicide on any council area specifically used for food, with the ban taking effect immediately. Some studies suggest that glyphosate - used widely across the UK and Europe - poses health risks for fish and other marine life and claims have linked the chemical to gut problems in insects. The council's longer-term aim is to eradicate wholly the use of glyphosate within its land management operations, except in very specific circumstances such as for tackling Japanese knotweed.

Horseshoe bat planning guidance

The council has produced guidance to set out some key principles for supporting the assessment and evaluation of development proposals in the horseshoe bat rich landscapes found in the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean. The guidance is for those involved with the planning system; principally for consultants and applicants in order that they can easily get to grips with the requirements for bat surveys in relation to horseshoe bats.

Actions for 2022-25

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Direct Control	C1: Enhance Council's Estate	Identify areas of the Council's estate to enhance ecological value, carbon sequestration and climate resilience (surface water run-off and natural flood management) through reinstating natural processes, tree planting, and the use of green infrastructure concepts, as well as rewilding opportunities. Explore opportunities for community involvement in this.	There are a range of measures that can be taken even on the smaller strips of land to improve carbon storage, resilience and biodiversity.	Sites identified and mapped. Enhancement programmes developed.	✓	✓		✓
	C2: Develop Carbon Sequestration Monitoring Valuation Approach	Identify a scientifically robust approach to identify & monitor carbon sequestration values of council owned open space	Effective monitoring valuation will enable progress to be quantified.	Method identified and implemented. Baselines measure and annual changes are being monitored.	✓	✓		

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Direct Control	C3: Ensure the use of herbicides and pesticides on Council Land is all but eliminated	<p>Produce a clear policy to ensure herbicides and pesticides are only used in exceptional cases on council land. Publish and promote the policy for others to use.</p> <p>Learn from other councils that have already enacted a ban, such as Mitcheldean Parish Council and Glastonbury Town County.</p>	A clear policy to deliver the commitments declared in the motion agreed at Full Council meeting in December 2020.	Policy produced and incorporated into land management contracts.	✓			✓
Indirect Control	C4: Community Tree Planting Guidance	Provide guidance to ensure community tree planting initiatives are ecologically robust and sensitive to the local landscape, either signposting to or building on existing guidance produced by Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership.	Although not a panacea, tree planting will play an important role in increasing the district's carbon sequestration capacity, how community knowhow will be vital for ensuring that ecological benefits are also maximised.	Surveys indicate community tree planting prioritises local species.	✓	✓		✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits			
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing
C5: Biodiversity Net Gain	Implement planning policy on biodiversity net gain.	Developments should be required to mitigate their ecological impacts and make a positive contribution to the ecological recovery of the natural environment.	Production of planning guidance document e.g. checklist/technical advice note/supplementary planning document	✓			
C6: Plan For Sustainable Drainage Systems	Work with the Lead Flood Authority and Environment Agency to develop Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and ensure that drainage solutions are of high ecological and social value.	Proven sustainable alternatives to traditional drainage solutions are available that can provide a multitude of additional environmental, economic and community benefits. Planning support is needed to ensure these systems are optimised to deliver these benefits.	Production of supplementary planning document. Surveys of SuDS indicate multifunctionality	✓	✓	✓	✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
	C7: Plan for Retrofit Sustain Drainage Systems	Develop a plan for the retrofitting of SuDS into existing built up areas at risk of flooding.	The National Planning Policy Framework requires SuDS to be incorporated into new developments, however there is no such requirement for retrofitting in existing settlements.	Reduced flood risk in existing built up areas	✓	✓	✓	✓
Influence and Partnership	C8: Promote Ecological Land Use and Land Management Practices	Use the Council's communication systems to share and signpost to ecological and carbon sequestering land management best practice. Support FoD Climate Action partnership to work with the farming sector and others to encourage this as well.	Promoting best practice will play an important role in engendering the necessary culture change, and the Council is well placed to make use of its reach within the community to do this.	Increases in carbon sequestration, habitat provision and ecological corridors.	✓	✓		

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
	C9: Promote Ecological Gardening Practices	Use the Councils communication systems to encourage gardeners to adopt climate and biodiversity friendly practices. Raising awareness around the negative impacts of removing trees, using pesticides and peat-based compost, and paving gardens. Support FoD Climate Action partnership to do this as well.	Promoting best practice will play an important role in engendering the necessary culture change, and the Council is well placed to make use of its reach within the community to do this.	Difficult to measure but resident surveys could be used.	✓	✓		
Influence and Partnership	C10: Discourage use of Herbicides and Pesticides in District and County	Encourage our partners, Gloucestershire County Council, and town and parish councils within the district to cease the spraying of herbicides and pesticides in all their council operations as soon as possible.	The Council can and should leverage its influence to promote the benefits of reducing and eliminating their use in order to engender the necessary culture change.	Amended land management policies.	✓			✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits			
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing
C11: Campaign Against Unnecessary Weed Removal	Educate and campaign for the recognition that, in some circumstances, native 'weeds' should be deemed acceptable and acknowledged as valuable wild plants that support pollinators, which could remove the need to eradicate such plants in many of our landholdings, leading to a cost saving and increased biodiversity.	Increased awareness within the community is likely a prerequisite to behaviour change and the Council is well placed to make use of its reach within the community to do this.	Difficult to measure but resident surveys could be used.	✓		✓	
C12: Countywide Partnership for Nature Recovery and Natural Capital	Via the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership, help develop a nature recovery network, and natural capital mapping and investment strategy that enhances both biodiversity and carbon storage. Also strengthen links with Forestry England.	A joined-up countywide approach is vital for nature recovery, as well as appreciating the full benefit of natural capital, both of which transcend district boundaries.	Measured by GLNP, likely in the form of increased map and network coverage.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Transport

2030 vision

Transport networks across the district will have been re-shaped to prioritise reliable low-carbon public transport and safe active travel, the latter being the preferred mode of travel for journeys of a few of miles or less. Rural communities are less reliant on travel by car and better connected to other parts of the district and beyond. A comprehensive network of public charging points will help ensure that when cars are used, owning an electric vehicle is simple and inclusive of all residents, regardless of access to off-road parking. Residents will be healthier thanks to increased active travel and reduced air pollution. Community focused placemaking and regeneration has reduced the need to travel for work and pleasure.

Forest of Dean's progress so far

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The Council have been investigating options for installing electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs) in council owned car parks in order to support the use and increase the uptake of electric vehicles by people living and travelling in the district. Following a feasibility study by Element Energy Ltd, funded by South West Energy Hub, the Council is proposing to initially deploy two dual fast (22kW) charge points in a car park in Coleford, Cinderford, Lydney and Newent, with further deployment phases to follow. A joint procurement has been undertaken with the three other Publica councils and a preferred contractor has been selected, with whom the Council are engaging with in order to deliver phase one of the project in 2022.

The Council is also been exploring installing EVCPs in the Coleford office car park. The chargers would enable the use of electric vehicles for council business and enable the street wardens to utilize a free electric van trial that the Council has secured for a 1-2 week period. The EVCPs would also be available to staff with plug-in hybrids or electric vehicles.

The Council are also looking at leasing electric vehicles for its pool cars once EVCPs are installed, in the meantime we have switched one of the diesel pool cars for a self-charging hybrid. We are also looking into options for replacing the Council's fleet of waste collection vehicles with electric ones, although there are challenges with regards to standard electric waste collection vehicles fitting down narrow streets in the district.

The Council has also introduced new planning conditions that require new dwellings or tourism accommodation with curtilage parking, residential developments with 10 or more non-curtilage parking spaces, and commercial and tourism developments to have a fully operational EVCP installed and retained for the life time of the development to encourage the use of electric vehicles.

Active travel

In 2020, the Council carried out a [survey of residents in the district on walking and cycling in the district](#). 249 people took part in the survey and the results will be used to aid targeted feasibility studies for new cycle and walkways in the district, the development of the new Local Plan and inform Government funding applications. An active travel working group has now been established with representation from community members with the intention of producing an active travel strategy for the district.

E-bikes

A quote for an e-bike trial was obtained in February 2020 with the intention of giving council staff the opportunity to try using e-bikes for commuting and personal use with the view to purchasing one once the trial ends. It is hoped that an increase in e-bike ownership in the district may help residents overcome some of the topography issues associated with cycling in the district. The trial has been put on hold due to the Coleford offices being closed because of Covid-19.

Staff travel

Publica has launched its Agile Working Strategy to encourage flexible working practices amongst its staff working across its shareholder councils. The strategy aims to create a positive, flexible working environment that supports a more efficient and effective approach to work. This will include allowing staff to choose whether to work from home or from the office and is expected to reduce the amount of time staff spend commuting to work, as well as the associated GHG emissions.

Actions for 2022-25

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Direct Control	D1: Reduce Unnecessary Staff Travel	Produce policy and guidance for staff to ensure that the use of videoconferencing technology becomes the default mode where possible for holding and attending both external and internal Publica meetings, thereby reducing unnecessary car travel.	The recent homeworking experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic provide opportunities and understanding for how we can develop as an organisation to be less reliant on car travel for attending meetings.	Production of policy. Staff business mileage and resultant emissions reflect low levels of staff travel.	✓			✓
	D2: Electric Vehicle Council Pool Cars	Continue to explore options for replacing Council pool cars with electric vehicle equivalents once the necessary charging infrastructure is in place.	The Council can lead by example in the transition to electric vehicles.	Potential trial of electric vehicle, challenges and risks reported, pathway to decarbonising fleet identified.	✓			✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits			
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing
D3: Low-carbon Waste Collection Vehicles	<p>Investigate options and identify a pathway, relevant to the district's rural context, for transitioning the Council's fleet of waste collection vehicles to low-carbon equivalents when they reach end of life in circa 2024.</p> <p>Track developments in electric and hydrogen powered collection vehicles, including the HECTOR Project trial deployment of 7 hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, in 7 pilot sites across north west Europe.</p>	<p>The Council's operational fleet is its largest emissions source, of which waste collection vehicles make up a considerable majority. There is currently no clear pathway for decarbonisation, with particular challenges for rural areas.</p>	<p>Feasibility studies, and business cases produced. Waste fleet either replaced with low carbon equivalents, or a clear route to doing so before 2030 identified.</p>	✓			✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Indirect Control	D4: Install Electric Vehicle Charging Points	Facilitate the uptake of electric vehicles by leading in the deployment of EVCP across the district, focusing on installations in council owned public car parks. Ensure that all parts of the district are serviced. Monitor market-led deployment and adjust deployment and investment strategy accordingly.	To overcome the barriers to electric vehicle uptake we need to improve infrastructure. This will also open up opportunities for potential electric car sharing schemes in the district.	Multiple EVCP installed in multiple council car parks. Further council deployments, dependent on level of market led installations.	✓		✓	✓
	D5: Active Travel Strategy	Produce and implement an active travel strategy for the district that delivers a programme of measures to facilitate safe and convenient active travel in the district, such as the construction of low-gradient cycleways and walkways to link the districts towns and villages.	A lack of infrastructure is a major barrier to active travel. In particular, we need to deliver some bespoke cycling solutions to provide a viable alternative to car travel for our hilly and rural district.	Cycleways/walkways constructed and other measures implemented. Uptake in travel by bicycle across the district. Reductions in district wide emissions from transport and localised air pollution.	✓			✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits			
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing
D6: Promote Low-carbon Travel Amongst Contractors	We will ensure low carbon transport and short travel distances are a priority in our procurement processes.	We can influence some of our major stakeholders through our procurement practices and set high standards by our own practice.	Procurement policy updated.	✓			✓
D7: Adopt a Low Car Development Planning Approach	Establish planning policy for new developments that minimises the need to travel and develops of multi-modal interchanges to facilitate public transport and active travel measures to reduce reliance on the private car. Ensure access to sustainable transport is considered in planning applications.	Concentrating and mixing development will reduce the need to travel and support the development and use of active travel and public transport networks.	Relevant policies included in Local Plan.	✓	✓		✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
	D8: Incentivised Taxi Licencing	We will review and consult on how we can use services such as licensing to encourage more low carbon taxi and mini-cab vehicles in the district and discover what other incentives maybe required.	Licensing and enforcement measures are potential levers for carbon neutrality but it is also important to consider how decisions can affect the small business owner and therefore consultation on how this can be done is important.	Review and consultation complete. Potential conditions/incentives identified ready for implementation.	✓			✓
Influence and Partnerships	D9: Active Travel Awareness campaigns	We will work with and support partners, including FoD Climate Action partnership, to develop campaigns to promote active travel and its health benefits, particularly in relation to school journeys	Targeted and informative campaigning can encourage participation in active travel.	Reduced levels of air pollution and increased rates of walking and cycling.	✓			✓

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
	DI0: Work to Expand Public Transport Provision	Work with Gloucestershire County Council and lobby national Government for increased provision and investment in rural bus and rail services and infrastructure.	A large proportion of the district's emissions are a result of people travelling in and through the district by car. Other actions focusing on active travel and EV should not substitute for provision of public transport.	Increase in public transport services in district.	✓			✓

Economy

2030 vision

Locally based employment and purchasing drives a circular economy that is ensuring we can deliver on our energy and transport challenges and to make a sustainable lifestyle affordable, attractive and accessible for us all. Economic activity in the district respects both the local environment and planetary ecological boundaries. Local assets for innovation and skills development, underpin widely recognised success as a low carbon society that is attractive to businesses operating in the green/low carbon economy.

Forest of Dean's progress so far

Procurement policy

A draft Foundational Sustainable Procurement Policy has been produced outlining seven key principles that the council intends to incorporate into its procurement evaluation process in the future. A Sustainable Procurement Foundation Matrix has also been created to assess if and how suppliers of goods and services are demonstrating these seven principles. Suppliers where contract values are over £50k are being encouraged to complete the matrix. Whilst the outcomes from this are not currently being used as part of the procurement decision making process it is envisaged that the policy and matrix will be developed further over time and then fully incorporated into processes. In the meantime it will enable FoDDC to understand how suppliers are currently performing in relation to the principles.

Actions for 2022-25

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Direct Control	E1: Divest From Fossil Fuels.	<p>As part of the Treasury Management Strategy establish an evaluation system and process for divesting the Council's investments and pensions from fossil fuels and other polluting industries, and invest in appropriate renewable energy projects, particularly in Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>Continued investment in fossil fuels is in contradiction to the Council's declaration of a climate emergency. Such investments are potentially over valued as they are dependent on continued extraction, which is inconsistent with keeping global heating to below 2°C.</p> <p>We can help support and shape the local economy through our investments and encourage ethical practice amongst the district's businesses.</p>	Evaluation system established and implemented. Divestment either ongoing or complete.	✓	✓	✓	
	E2: Environmentally Friendly Staff Pensions	Engage with the other Publica shareholder Councils and the Publica staff pension provider to offer a low carbon and environmentally	Encouraging the adoption of alternative pension plans amongst staff is a key way that the Council can influence high emitting and polluting industries outside of the district.	Environmentally friendly pension option implemented as default plan.	✓		✓	

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits			
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing
	friendly pension plan as the default plan for new employees.						
E3: Food Supply Chains	We will ensure that food purchased by the Council comes from local, low emissions sources.	We can help support and shape the local food economy through our purchasing choices.	Creation of new catering services procurement policy.	✓	✓	✓	
E4: Community Climate Action Fund Levy on Car Park tickets	As part of a Car Parks Strategy review investigate the benefits of and consult on introducing a levy on parking tickets issued for Council owned car parks with the revenue ring fenced for the creation of local Community Climate Action Grant Fund	Such a grant scheme would provide much needed funding opportunities for enabling community led projects to get off the ground. Public consultation will help ensure any negative impacts are identified and considered.	Cost benefit analysis carried out. Public consultation carried out. Decision made and implemented.		✓	✓	

Actions		Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits			
					Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing
Indirect Control	E5: Sustainable Procurement Policy and Practice	Develop the Sustainable Procurement Matrix further and incorporate it into procurement decision making in order to implement local, low carbon purchasing for the Council's own business needs.	We can help support and shape a localised circular economy and drive best practice through the criteria we apply to our purchasing decisions, even if legislation does not permit us to directly favour local companies.	Procurement matrix fully developed and in use in evaluation process		✓	✓	

Actions		Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits			
					Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing
Influence and Partnership	E6: Promote Low Carbon Skills	Explore how we can promote and facilitate the development of local skills and knowledge to service the growth in local green industries. Support FoD Climate Action partnership and Forest Economic Partnership with initiatives that do this, bringing on board local education and training providers to help match growing demand for skills with local supply.	The growth in demand for green industries provides an opportunity to drive local low carbon/net zero growth economic growth and steps should be taken to ensure local companies and tradespeople have the necessary skills and knowledge so that as much of the benefit remains within the local economy as possible.	Low carbon skills working group set up and projects developed.		✓	✓	

Waste

2030 vision

Waste from the manufacture and use of goods is minimised. Products last longer, breakdown into re-useable parts and there is a strong re-use/repair economy that is reducing the need for landfill and recycling. It is easier to recycle and re-use, making the environmentally friendly options more attractive to all sectors of the community. People are well educated about avoiding waste and make good choices driving a low carbon, localised market.

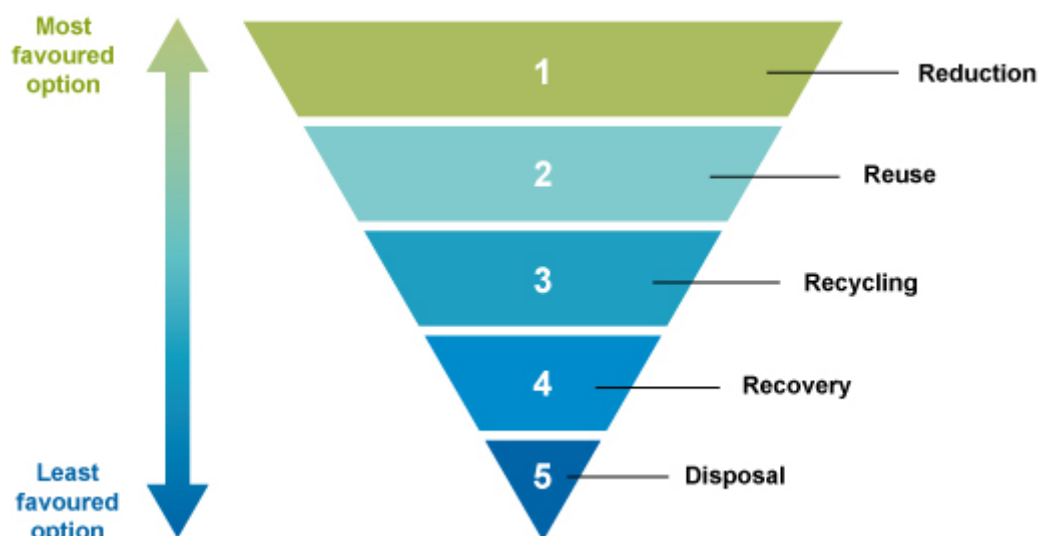


Figure 8: The waste hierarchy

Forest of Dean's progress so far

Waste Management Service Options Appraisal

The Council has engaged a consultancy to carry out an options appraisal to enable the Council to better understand the options available to them to enhance the performance of the current waste management services and generate financial and carbon savings. This includes consideration of the future policy landscape and the environmental impact of providing a waste management service (including from collection, transporting and onward transfer and processing of materials). In support of the climate emergency declared by the Council, the project will assess the carbon impacts of each option. The project also includes an appraisal of the different service delivery options for the waste and recycling service, including increased plastics recycling. The Council is hoping to have a clearer idea of what a new service may look like later in the year. This action plan will then be updated accordingly.

This project is being conducted in parallel to the waste strategy options appraisal for the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership.

Actions for 2022-25

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Direct Control	F1: Monitoring of Council's Waste	Implement waste monitoring on the Council's own estate. Introduce benchmarking and targeting of reduction formulated into a waste reduction plan. Shape service delivery to be waste free (e.g. paperless billing).	Strict monitoring and ambition targets are required to ensure that the Council is leading by example in the drive towards a circular economy.	System for monitoring waste and reduction plan established. Progress made on meeting targets.	✓			
	F2: Staff Awareness Training	Provide staff awareness training to reduce the single use waste in the Council's operations.	Education is key to engendering behaviour change.	Training records showing the majority of staff have undertaken training. Reduction in office waste.	✓			
	F3: Low-carbon Waste Management Service	Following the findings of the waste management services options appraisal, implement an option that delivers	The introduction of new services provides an ideal opportunity to ensure they are in line with our climate emergency goals.	Measurable carbon savings achieved.	✓			

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits			
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing
		considerable carbon savings					
Indirect Control	F4: Procurement Policy Reviews	Review of the Council's Procurement Policy to bring it in line with sustainable use principles and the waste hierarchy to ensure purchasing new is secondary to reuse, leased and second-hand equipment, and where necessary conducted with consideration to environmental concerns and locally sourced where possible. Staff training and awareness programmes will be provided to support this.	Our purchasing practices strongly influence the emissions and ecological damage from waste that we dispose of.	Procurement policies updated. Training records showing relevant staff have undertaken training. Reduction in office waste.	✓		

Actions	Description	Rationale	Indicators of Success by 2025	Key co-benefits				
				Improves ecological outcomes	Builds community resilience	Encourages economic sustainability	Enhances health and wellbeing	
Influence and Partnership	F5: Support Community Best Practice	Support community wide activity to reduce waste, improve reuse and recycle	The switch to a circular economy will require behaviour change across all parts of the community, and the Council has an important role in aiding this.	Difficult to measure but resident survey could be used.	✓			
	F6: Lobby National Government	Encourage national policy that reduces waste at source and reduces in-built obsolescence.	Council and community behaviour change, the switch to a circular economy is heavily dependent on changes upstream to how goods are designed, manufactured and packaged.	Changes in national policy.	✓			

Community

2030 vision

The Council and the district's communities have developed strong networks of collaboration with a strong ethos on respect for climate issues. We are minimising our environmental impacts as producers, consumers and service deliverers and climate impacts have been deeply integrated into the decision making of the district's businesses and organisations.

Forest of Dean's progress so far

Forest of Dean Climate Action Partnership

It had been hoped that a climate emergency community partnership would be launched and fully operational in 2020, however this has been delayed due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Council's resources. Despite this, two online events took place in 2020 to establish interested parties' preferred structure and model for the partnership. The first event involved hearing from three speakers about different examples of partnerships that may be suitable for the community partnership. The second event was a workshop discussing these different options, with a strong consensus for adopting some form of the HUB model, accompanied by a Climate Assembly to identify priorities for partnership and direct its work. Full details of the outcomes of these events along with descriptions of the HUB Model and Climate Assembly can be found here: <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/tlkaifix/outputs-from-climate-partnership-development-event.pdf> .

Since then an interim working group of volunteers from the community has been assembled to put in place the partnership's foundations in preparation for a more permanent team. Following research into other climate emergency partnerships elsewhere in the UK, as well as into potential governance, incorporation, and funding options, it has been decided that a steering group be established, made up of key stakeholder organisations and individuals from the district. The first steering group meeting took place in October 2021 and included representation from the voluntary sector, education, business, housing, farming and parish and town councils.

Parish and Town Council Climate Action Day

In partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, we hosted a climate action day on 7th October for Parish and Town councillors and clerks. The event aimed to provide attendees with a good grounding on the context, drivers, facts and figures for climate change from global to local levels, as well as an understanding of the role of local councils, what levers of influence they have, and actions they can take. In total, twenty-one delegates attended from across Forest of Dean district. Since the event, around 10 Parish Councils have joined together to form a Parish Climate Action Group Network aiming to share ideas and experiences.

Actions for 2022-25

The Council's Corporate Plan commits to engaging with the community to encourage and promote immediate and longer-term actions they can take to reduce their carbon footprint. This was also identified as a key action in the Rapid Action Plan.

The Council will continue supporting the Forest of Dean Climate Action partnership so that it can drive climate action outside of the means and control of the Council. The partnership will be independent from the Council and determine its own priorities for action. It will be responsible for ensuring it is representative and inclusive of all communities across the district and that the wide range of skills, knowledge, and connections present across its residents, organisations and businesses are harnessed fully to address the climate emergency. The partnership will also act as a forum for further consultation on the development and delivery of actions within the Action Plan.

Although the partnership will set its own agenda for action, some suggested activities that it could focus on include:

Action
G1: Encourage carbon foot printing
G2: Promote renewable energy supplies
G3: Cumulative purchase opportunities for energy saving / renewable energy measures
G4: Behaviour change around active travel and sustainable travel choices
G5: Environmentally friendly gardening practices, tree planting/awareness around tree removal and pesticides
G6: Community/organisational behaviour change, including around consumption and waste reduction
G7: Reduce unnecessary lighting in public spaces and switching to LEDs
G8: Behaviour change around heating and air conditioning usage
G9: Raise awareness of funding for energy efficiency/saving measures
G10: Promote green industry skills and training
G11: Promote staff lift sharing, discourage unnecessary travel, encourage online meetings
G12: Embed climate change in organisation decision making and CRS
G13: Work with local government to demonstrate public need and support for policy e.g. better public transport
G14: Maintaining and managing a website with educational material, how-to lists and tools, and project/case study report
G15: Facilitate local markets for the buying and selling of locally produced food, building materials and arts and crafts, as well as swap shops e.g. for children's clothes.
G16: Establish a Forest Climate Charter committing the district's businesses to making progress with reducing their carbon footprint and wider environmental impact.
G17 – Community treeplanting/rewilding/food growing/GI projects

G18 – Help establish further reuse, repair and recycling schemes/centres across the district similar to Upcycle Cinderford

G19 – Partner with local farmers and land owners to establish initiatives that promote ecological land management and carbon sequestration.

Making It Happen

Taking action to address the climate emergency cannot be done solely by dedicated officers working within the Council. It will need a multi-disciplinary approach, drawing on skills and resources from across the organisation, its wider partners and the district as a whole. Climate action will need to be embedded into the decision making and operations of every department and role within the council, as well as every household, organisation and business in the district if we are to collectively achieve our goal of become carbon neutral by 2030. A key initial step in this journey will be ensuring that Council staff have access to high quality Carbon Literacy Project accredited training. As well as staff time and knowledge, and financial resource from the Council, similar commitments from the district's other organisations will also be needed.

Further Resources

[Gloucestershire County Council Climate Change Strategy](#)

[Climate Action Tracker, Warming Projections Global Update May 2021](#)

[IPCC Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C - Summary for Policymakers](#)

[State of UK Climate 2019, International Journal of Climatology, Royal Meteorological Society](#)

[Planning For The Future UK Government White Paper August 2020](#)

[2020 UK Climate Assembly Report](#)

[Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Forest of Dean District 2005 to 2018](#)

[Reducing UK emissions Progress Report to Parliament June 2020](#)

[Working from home can save energy and reduce emissions. But how much?, IEA](#)