

Bath & North East Somerset Climate Emergency Action Plan

Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019 and pledged to provide the leadership to enable carbon neutrality in the district by 2030. Tackling the Climate Emergency means creating a different vision for all parts of Bath and North East Somerset, including the World Heritage Site of Bath itself. The Council is committed to providing the leadership to enable this scale of ambition to be realised and recognises that this requires a significant and fundamental shift within all sectors of the community.

Our [first phase of research](#) completed in October 2019 incorporated a district carbon footprinting exercise, indicating that the main sources of greenhouse-gas emissions across the district are energy use in buildings (66%), and transport (29%), and modelled a pathway to 2030 to cut emissions from these segments. This enabled a clear definition of three immediate priorities for action and the scale and speed of ambition needed to achieve the 2030 target.

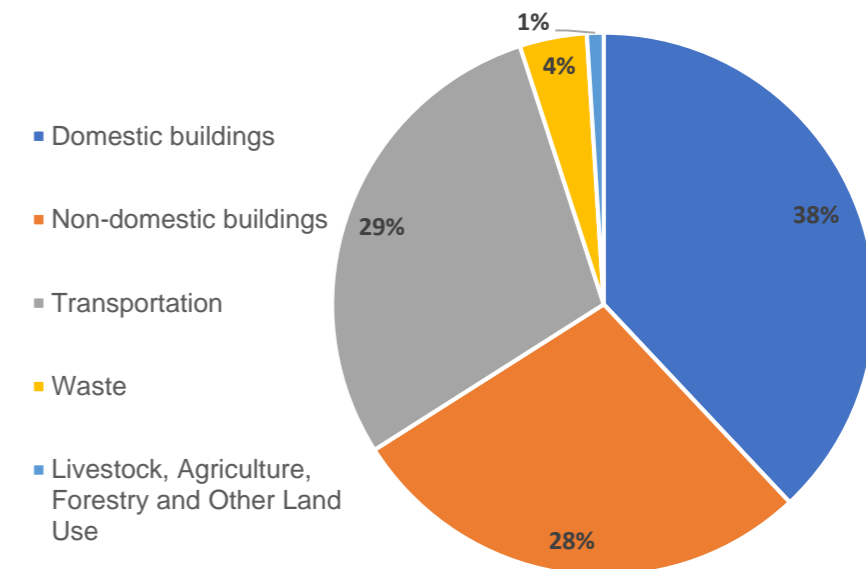
Priority areas for action:

- **Energy efficiency improvement** of the majority of existing buildings (domestic and non-domestic) and zero carbon new build;
- **Transport:** a major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce transport emissions;
- A rapid and large-scale increase in **local renewable energy generation**.

As identified in the [Council report](#) (October 2019), further research is needed on the complex range of land use issues, including biodiversity, soil health, food production and carbon sequestration issues. The second phase of research and development includes road-mapping action against the three priority areas, to identify key next steps that need to be taken to get us on the right trajectory. The next annual Climate Emergency report to Council in September 2020 will be informed by this work and will provide the next stage of the action plan.

Alongside this, a comprehensive community engagement programme will:

- Utilise and build on current work with the Community Forums, the Parish Liaison Committee and parish councils;
- Develop a public communications campaign to ensure that we're enabling well-informed community dialogue and using input to inform ongoing action planning;
- Include the development of a citizen jury/juries on key issues to enable engagement and consensus building.



Examples of past climate action in Bath and North East Somerset that we are building on:

- **We were the first local authority** to roll out LED street-lighting to our main roads across B&NES. The Council has been upgrading street lighting to energy saving LEDs since 2010. This delivers an annual energy saving (kWh) of 64%.
- Constructed our **award-winning exemplar low carbon office building in 2016**, the Keynsham Civic Centre, with the largest solar PV array in any new public sector building at the time, and one of the lowest energy consuming public buildings in the UK.
- Supported the development of three **community energy companies**: Bath & West Community Energy; Keynsham Community Energy and Chelwood Community Energy
 - Enabled the creation of the award-winning schools' [Energy Sparks](#) project, which is now being rolled out nationally with government support
- Set up ground-breaking '**dynamic purchasing scheme**' to enable local food producers to access public sector catering, now being rolled out by national government
 - We continue to provide home energy efficiency advice and some grant funding via our [Energy at Home](#) advice line
 - Drafted a rigorous zero carbon planning policy for new buildings



Our Energy At Home Advice Service provides residents with expert advice on heating, insulation and renewable energy



Cllr Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Neighbourhood Services launches our toolkit to support parish councils to respond to the Climate Emergency



Food waste in Bath and North East Somerset is transformed into renewable energy to power thousands of homes

Actions taken since declaring a Climate Emergency

- Created a **new dedicated** Climate Emergency cabinet role and a Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel
- **Tackling the Climate and Nature Emergency is one of our two core policies** (alongside giving people a bigger say), which will shape everything we do. The three priorities for action have been built into our Corporate Strategy and are reflected in our key principles and commitments
- **Updated the Council decision-making report template** to ensure that every new proposal is aligned with our Climate Emergency commitments
- **Established an internal governance structure**, including a Climate Emergency Senior Officer Group to drive and coordinate cross-departmental action across the council.
 - We have **embedded the Climate Emergency into our budget planning**.
- Established a new Public Services Climate Emergency workgroup (includes both universities, the RUH, Avon Fire & Rescue, Wessex Water), that will become part of a new district-wide partnership structure
- Created a **toolkit to help parish councils respond to the Climate Emergency** (seven of whom have now also declared a climate emergency; Freshford parish council, Keynsham town council, Timsbury parish council, Compton Martin parish council, Chew Magna parish council, East Harptree parish council and Radstock town Council). We will be supporting parishes to define and implement community initiatives.
- Launched a **survey to map community-led climate action** taking place within B&NES to encourage and enable local organisations to collaborate, support each other and share skills.
- Supported the development of the **B&NES Schools' Climate Emergency Network**, launched in December 2019 and attended by representatives from more than half B&NES schools
- Begun what will become a **comprehensive programme of citizen engagement** across the district, starting with our Community Forums and Parish Councils to stimulate local conversations and partnership working to enable local action within communities
 - Received 'pro bono' analysis from **the University of Bath** on how to use citizens' assemblies or juries to inform action planning
- **Signed up to CDP**, a global platform for cities to measure, manage and disclose environmental data annually.

Planned actions 2020-21

- **Reviewing Council strategies and plans** to re-align to the Climate Emergency
- **Launch a district-wide Partnership** to drive delivery of climate action at the scale and speed needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030
 - Developing a new **Climate Emergency Commissioning and Procurement Strategy** to ensure all future contracts deliver against the declaration
- **Reviewing the Council's planning policy framework** to enable delivery of priorities, including development of the Local Plan
 - Launching a **new online platform** to 'crowdsource' ideas for action from the community
- Creating a new **Climate Emergency website** to improve advice and support across the community
 - Roll-out an **in-house carbon literacy programme** targeting key services and councillors to enable zero carbon future service planning and business case analysis
- **Establish citizen's juries** on specific issues from each of the three priorities (one per year)
- Develop a **robust performance reporting framework** to track and monitor progress.

Priorities areas for action:

Energy Efficient Buildings	
Action	Timeframe
Enforcement of the Sustainable Construction Checklist which requires a 19% reduction in carbon emissions beyond the national Building Regulations. Responded to the Government's Future Homes Standard consultation on energy conservation to push for higher standards nationally and in B&NES	2020-21
Enabling and inspiring local home energy efficiency improvements by providing expert advice and information and signposting to grants and loans to help cover costs through the Energy at Home advice service, in parallel with investigation into the most suitable council delivery model for significant home energy improvements in the medium- to long-term	2020-21
Review the carbon emissions from all future council capital projects and programmes	2020-21
Development of standard specifications and a policy for the whole life carbon footprint of future council housing developments	2020-21
Review the energy efficiency of our corporate estate and implement energy efficiency measures	2020-21
Work with schools, particularly through the new Climate Emergency Schools Network to improve energy efficiency of their buildings	2020-21
Develop, through Our Shared Future, a new joint task force, led by the University of Bath, to find the answers to replacing fossil fuel heating in our homes in Bath with zero carbon alternatives	2020-21
Continue to work with Bath BID to support the 'shut the door' campaign to get shops, restaurants and cafés, to keep their doors closed during the working day to save energy and help cut fuel bills	2020-21
Exploring and promoting community options for home energy efficiency, such as the Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts (C.H.E.E.S.E) Project, which uses thermal imaging to highlight areas of heat loss in people's homes and recommend remedial action	2020-21
Transport and active travel	
Expand the public electric vehicle charging network across B&NES with funding from the Go Ultra Low West Project, including rapid charging points in public car parks	2020-21
Continue to expand the walking and cycling networks across the district and promote active travel, investing an additional £150k in 2020/21 to deliver cycling and walking infrastructure across B&NES	2020-21
Develop the business case for The Bath River Line Project and East of Bath cycle route	2020-21
Commence the delivery of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists in residential areas	2020-21
Clean Air Zone (CAZ) project implemented in accordance with agreed programme	2020-21
Continue to promote sustainable travel in schools through the school journeys app and awarding schools for excellence in promoting sustainable travel choices through ModeShift stars	2020-21
Pilot a last mile delivery service to reduce supplier journeys into Bath	2020-21
Ensure the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding helps to improve sustainable transport infrastructure	2020-21
Review of the use of the council's passenger transport fleet to maximise utilisation	2020-21
Ongoing reductions in council grey fleet mileage and grow pool car uptake	2020-21
Continue to promote flexible staff working and homeworking to reduce travel and promote sustainable transport options, as well as our salary sacrifice schemes for electric vehicles and bicycles	2020-21

Renewable Energy	
Investigate financial delivery mechanisms to enable renewable energy development at scale and at speed and stimulate action by all sectors on local renewable energy development	2020-21
Continue to support the three community energy organisations working in the district; Bath and West Community Energy, Keynsham Community Energy and Chelwood Community Energy and encourage parishes, town councils, residents' and community groups to get involved	2020-21
Support the development of planning policies to enable delivery of renewable energy	2020-21
Promote access to grant funding for renewable energy for residents	2020-21
Procure 100% renewable electricity for the council's corporate estate	2020-21
Encourage our contractors, service partners, and other stakeholders to procure renewable energy	2020-21
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	
Launch our new Journey Towards Zero Waste Strategy 2020-2030 which proposes to adopt and exceed the national statutory target of 65% recycling 5 years earlier by 2030	2020-21
A push to encourage 100% of households within the district to actively recycle everything they can, with a priority on increasing the amount of households that recycle their food waste	2020-21
A focus on eliminating non-essential packaging of all types, but particularly single use plastic	2020-21
A reduction in the emissions from our operational fleet, including increased training in fuel efficient driving and replacing smaller vehicles with EV's	2020-21
Communications campaign to tackle litter and promote litter picking and increase volunteer engagement	2020-21
Continue to work with the Student Community Partnership on the Pack for Good, Moving Out and litter picking campaigns to generate increases in reuse and recycling through encouraging students to recycle more	2020-21
Continue to support community litter picking groups, such as Wombles Groups and the No Place For Litter equipment hubs	2020-21
Continue the Plastic Free BathNES campaign and Refill scheme and support community and business across B&NES to take action on single-use plastic	2020-21
Ongoing action to reduce the use of single-use plastic in service areas across the council	2020-21
Green infrastructure and biodiversity	
Review the B&NES Green Infrastructure Strategy	2020-21
Develop a Tree and Woodland Plan	2020-21
Continue to work with the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) to deliver a Nature Recovery Network through landscape-scale projects such as Bathscape, WaterSpace and the Somer Valley	2020-21
Enforce legal provisions brought in by the new Environment Bill which will enshrine in law environmental principles and legally binding targets, including mandating Biodiversity Net Gain	2020-21
Continue to promote grassland habitat diversity and support the connectivity of pollinator habitats through the 'Get Bath Buzzing' campaign, by reducing the frequency of mowing on our roadside verges and encouraging gardeners to let their lawns grow	2020-21

Timeline 2020

