

Climate Change Strategy Action Plan - 2021-2026

Objective 1 – Reducing emissions from City Council buildings, land, vehicles and services

Action	Service	Date
1.1	Deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy projects identified in the Council's Carbon Management Plan for 2021-2026 to reduce carbon emissions from corporate buildings (including swimming pools, sheltered and temporary housing, administrative buildings, car parks, community centres, the Corn Exchange and the crematorium).	Estates and Facilities, Corporate Strategy, with input from asset managers in other services
1.2	Bid for future central government funding and other green energy funding available for investments in energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures in the Council's corporate buildings	Various Council Services
1.3	Review the Council's Office Accommodation Strategy, including an assessment of whether existing office buildings should be retained or rationalised	Property Services and Estates and Facilities
1.4	Purchase Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) when replacing vans and trucks in the Council's fleet (where there is a suitable ULEV alternative and the infrastructure allows)	Commercial Services
1.5	Purchase ultra-low emission vehicles (electric or hydrogen) when replacing refuse lorries	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service
1.6	Identify and assess the required improvements possible to remaining existing commercial properties (that will not be redeveloped as part of the	Property Services and Estates and Facilities

	Action	Service	Date
	commercial property redevelopment programme) to achieve net zero carbon, and obtain costs estimates for the improvement works		
1.7	Identify and assess the performance standards to achieve net zero carbon for any new commercial buildings or redevelopment of existing buildings	Property Services	
1.8	Identify a percentage of the Council's reserves to invest in innovative "green investments" to facilitate measures to offset climate change.	Finance Service	March 2022
1.9	Review standard tender packs to include the Council's expectations around climate change.	Commercial Services, Corporate Strategy	September 2021 and then reviewed annually
1.10	Provide written guidance for contract managers on climate change measures that could be included in contracts and include this information in procurement and contract management training for staff.	Commercial Services, Corporate Strategy	November 2021 and then reviewed annually
1.11	Explore the potential for a review of climate change and sustainability commitments by the Council's existing suppliers, and work with these suppliers to improve their performance.	Commercial Services, Corporate Strategy	Starting July and working through a programme
1.12	Revise and update the existing Climate Change Assessment tool to include net zero carbon considerations and use this to assess the climate change impacts of budget bids, business cases for capital projects and committee reports	Corporate Strategy	March 2022

Objective 2. Reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions from homes and buildings in Cambridge

Action	Service	Date
2.1 Investing £2.5 million in energy efficiency improvements to Council homes with poor energy efficiency ratings (predominantly Energy Performance Certificate D to G rated stock) from 2020/21 to 2022/23.	Estates and Facilities	March 2023
2.2 Building 1000 new homes to Passivhaus standards (where technically feasible and subject to funding) and targeting net zero carbon standards for Council homes built from 2030 onwards.	Housing Development Agency	2021 onwards
2.3 Promoting group-buying schemes, including working with Cambridgeshire County Council to promote the Solar Together collective scheme to homeowners, which provides residents with solar PV and battery storage installations at a significantly reduced cost	Environmental Services	Ongoing to March 2026
2.4 Commissioning a study to identify measures needed to retrofit different archetypes of homes in Cambridge to Local Plan Plus, Passivhaus and net zero carbon standards and producing detailed guidance for homeowners and landlords	Environmental Services, Corporate Strategy	December 2021
2.5 Bidding for central government funding available for retrofitting energy efficiency measures to private homes, including future rounds of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme	Environmental Services	Annually as opportunities arise
2.6 Taking enforcement action against private landlords if their properties do not meet the national Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (EPC F and G rated stock)	Environmental Services	Ongoing to March 2026
2.7 Developing new policies requiring high standards on carbon emissions reduction and environmental sustainability for new homes and non-	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Submission of Local Plan for

Action	Service	Date
residential developments as part of the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan, taking into account the outcomes of the net zero evidence base study and other evidence informing the plan, as well as the national planning policy framework		examination in Autumn 2023/Spring 2024

Objective 3 - Reducing emissions from transport by promoting active travel and public transport, and encouraging a shift to electric vehicles and other alternative fuel sources

Action	Service	Date
<p>3.1 Supporting the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) to deliver a range of walking, cycling and bus improvements on key routes into and across Cambridge, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chisolm Trail cycling route connecting Cambridge and Cambridge North Stations • 12 Greenways, providing radial cycling and walking routes connecting Cambridge and surrounding settlements and employment sites. • Bus, cycling and waling priority schemes on Histon Road and Milton Road • Public transport corridor schemes to connect growing communities to employment hubs 	All services	Ongoing to March 2026
3.2 Implementing the Local Lettings Plan framework for new Council housing developments, which will give priority to people working within an agreed geographical radius of the development. This measure is	Housing Services	

Action	Service	Date	
intended to help reduce commuting by car from tenants of new Council housing developments			
3.4	Building new Council housing developments in Cambridge with a target of less than one car parking space per home to encourage travel by walking, cycling or public transport, subject to individual development requirements	Housing Development Agency	Ongoing
3.5	<p>Promote sustainable modes of transport through the planning system by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying policies in the current Local Plan to support housing and non-residential development which prioritises access by walking, cycling and public transport. • Develop new policies related to promoting sustainable transport and ensure that the accessibility of new development sites to sustainable transport infrastructure is a key aspect in decision making in preparing the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. 	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Ongoing with submission of new Local Plan for examination in Autumn 2023/Spring 2024
3.6	Developing and undertaking a programme of activities in the city to promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport across a range of settings including schools, colleges, workplaces, open spaces and communities (through the Active Travel Officer and Active Lifestyles Team)	Environmental Services and Community Services	From 2021 onwards
3.7	Encouraging attendees and contractors at Council run events, including the Cambridge Folk Festival and Corn Exchange, to consider more sustainable transport options when travelling to events, and working with the County Council transport team to ensure the city evening economy is	Community Service	Ongoing to March 2026

Action	Service	Date	
served by sufficient bus transport taking people back out to outlying towns and villages.			
3.8	Completing installation of 18 rapid and 3 fast electric charge points for taxis in Cambridge by 2021	Environmental Services	December 2021
3.9	Requiring all new taxis registered in Cambridge to be Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) or zero emissions vehicles from 2020, and all taxis to be ULEVs or zero emissions vehicles by 2028	Environmental Services	2028
3.10	Using policies in the Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document to require provision of electric vehicle charging points in future new housing and non-residential developments and consider the need for new policies in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to support the electrification of transport.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Ongoing
3.11	Procuring a commercial partner by 2022 to deliver electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Council car parks and other Council-owned land and sites.	Commercial Services	December 2022
3.12	Working with Cambridgeshire County Council and UK Power Networks to facilitate on-street residential electric charge points where there is no scope for off-street charging. 3 initial pilot schemes for 'charging collectives' will be procured during 2021.	Environmental Services	April 2022
3.13	Working with Cambridgeshire County Council and the CPCA on a wider electric vehicle charging strategy.	Environmental Services	Ongoing
3.14	Working with GCP and bus operators to explore opportunities for further investment in electric buses.	Environmental Services	Ongoing

Objective 4 - Reducing consumption of resources and waste, and increasing repair, re-use and recycling of goods and materials

Action	Service	Date
4.1 Funding activities through the Council's Sustainable City Grants by voluntary and community groups to reduce consumption and increase repair, re-use and recycling	Corporate Strategy	Annually
4.2 Supporting the national Refill campaign by promoting over 100 free drinking water taps in Cambridge, including a number of drinking taps and fountains provided by the Council.	Corporate Strategy, Environmental Services	Ongoing
4.3 Reducing plastics usage at Council-run events such as Cambridge Folk Festival and the Big Weekend	Community Services	Ongoing
4.4 Extending trials of separate collections of food waste to more households (evidence to date suggests this increases recycling of food waste and ultimately reduces the amount of household food waste).	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service	May 2021
4.5 Continue communications campaigns to raise awareness and encourage residents to recycle more, using communications channels such as events, social media, leaflets and residents' magazines	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service	Ongoing
4.6 Encouraging businesses to take-up recycling and food-waste collections provided by the Council on a commercial basis	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service	Ongoing
4.7 Working with leading businesses and manufacturers to reduce packaging and make products more re-useable and recyclable	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service	Ongoing

Objective 5 – Promoting sustainable and local food sources

Action	Service	Date	
5.1	Incorporating sustainable food principles in council catering and at Council-run events where possible	All services	Ongoing
5.2	Work in partnership with local voluntary and community groups to address food poverty, including working with Cambridge Food Poverty Alliance and Cambridge Sustainable Food to develop a food re-distribution hub	Community Services	Ongoing
5.3	Supporting the work of local Community Food Hubs to provide free, sustainable food to residents affected by the Covid-19 pandemic	Community Services	2021
5.4	Continuing to work with the Cambridge Sustainable Food network towards achieving the Sustainable Food Cities Network Silver Award for Cambridge, and exploring opportunities to apply for the Gold Award	Corporate Strategy	2021 (for Silver Award submission)
5.5	Encouraging residents to choose sustainable, local food and to reduce meat consumption through corporate communications messages	Corporate Strategy	Ongoing
5.6	Maintaining the current level of occupancy rates at existing allotments and supporting take-up of new community gardens and allotments in growth sites to encourage residents to grow their own food	Environmental Services	Ongoing
5.7	Using guidance in the Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to encourage developers to incorporate food growing in new housing and non-residential development (e.g. providing fruit trees, roof top gardens and growing space as part of landscape design)	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Ongoing

Action	Service	Date
5.8 Working with local voluntary and community groups and other partners to promote sustainable food practices to local businesses	Corporate Strategy	Ongoing (annually through Sustainable City Grants)

Objective 6 - Supporting Council services, residents and businesses to adapt to the impacts of climate change

Action	Service	Date
6.1 Developing an Environmental Management System (EMS) for Environmental Services activity and seek ISO40001 accreditation. This will include a focus on reducing water consumption, potentially through reduce plant watering and sourcing water through rainwater harvesting systems for plant watering and public toilets.	Environmental Services	
6.2 Working with Cambridge Water to promote water saving messages to residents and businesses	Corporate Strategy, Environmental Services	Ongoing
6.3 Promoting the use of council pools/ paddling pools/ splash pads in the event of hosepipe bans in conjunction with the local water company, to encourage residents to utilise council facilities instead of using water to fill up garden paddling pools etc.	Community Services	Ongoing
6.4 Requiring new housing to meet the water efficiency standards in the current Local Plan (maximum of 110 litres/person/day) and explore where higher standards may be needed in the new Local Plan.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Ongoing
6.5 Exploring opportunities to manage climate risks through policies in the new Local Plan, subject to the outcomes of the current national	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Submission of Local Plan for

Action	Service	Date
consultation on planning reforms. This could include: water efficiency policies to help reduce water consumption and manage water resources; designing buildings that are simple to keep cool; and Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) measures to help reduce flood risk.		examination in Autumn 2023/Spring 2024
6.6 Increasing the tree canopy cover through tree planting and protection on public and private land, and using parks, open spaces and other green infrastructure in the city to help regulate temperatures.	Environmental Services	Ongoing
6.7 Providing advice to residents on how to reduce health risks during heatwaves	Corporate Strategy	Ongoing
6.8 Working with Cambridgeshire County Council and other partners in the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership to manage climate change-related flood risks.	Environmental Services	Ongoing
6.9 Delivering a measurable biodiversity net gain on the City Council's estate through enhanced management of existing Local Nature Reserves and making parks and housing open spaces more hospitable to wildlife through creation of meadows, scrub and woodland.	Environmental Services	Ongoing
6.10 Engaging and influencing individuals, institutions and businesses to take steps to make their land more hospitable and permeable to wildlife and help create a citywide network of sites.	Environmental Services	Ongoing
6.11 Implementing projects to manage water courses and improve biodiversity, including a project to improve rare chalk stream habitats in	Environmental Services	Ongoing

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Cambridge. Initial work will focus on Cherry Hinton Brook, Vicars Brook at Coe Fen, and Coldhams Brook on Stourbridge Common.			
6.12	Move to cease the use of herbicide on grass road verges and trial using a new grass cutting and collecting machine, which will reduce cuttings left on verges, improve the fertility of the soil for wildlife and support biodiversity.	Environmental Services	March 2022