

Climate Action Plan and Project Pipeline 2020

The following table is a selection of actions drawn from multiple sources including the public event in February 2020. The full list has been summarised to include only those that Shropshire Council are able to take on. It focusses on those actions that are likely to reduce the Council’s own emissions – including indirect (Scope 3) emissions – rather than Council led actions that help reduce the emissions of Shropshire businesses or residents. Actions that help sequester carbon are included. This list is a work in progress. Formal approval under the Council’s Capital Programme will be pursued where projects will be appraised on an individual basis following the process detailed in the Council’s Capital Strategy. Each potential action would need to be evaluated on its own merits prior to inclusion in the Capital Programme. Some projects delivered in partnership with others may lead to commercial income being generated. Updates will be made at monthly internal Climate Officers Group meetings.

The first table lists active projects that are already underway as part of a ‘Project Pipeline’ and the second table identifies a range of potential actions that could be undertaken subject to satisfactory feasibility assessment.

1. Project Pipeline

Title	Lead org / Dept	Notes / work underway	More info needed?
POWER DOWN 			
Current projects that reduce demand for energy and resources			
Shropshire Council is working to expand the range of staff incentives for low carbon behaviour and living, including via salary sacrifice schemes and staff rewards schemes.	Human Resources	Cycle to Work scheme is an existing example	Y
Continue and further promote Warp-it Re-use scheme	Assets and Estates	Warp-it is a way to "find, give away, or loan office furniture, equipment and other resources". It currently saves about 50 tCO2e pa. The next step is to roll the scheme out more widely to other public sector bodies in the County.	N

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Title	Lead org / Dept	Notes / work underway	More info needed?
Assess the feasibility of manufacturing Hydrogen Vehicle Fuel at Battlefield, using power from the Waste to Energy plant	Climate Change Task Force	Government is now clearly backing hydrogen as a low carbon vehicle fuel. Our transport fleet and that of our key contractors (including buses) could make use of hydrogen, therefore we will undertake a feasibility study as a joint commission with Highways and Transport colleagues. Battlefield was recently identified as one of only two preferred locations identified in the Marches as part of a recent regional study commissioned by the Midlands Energy Hub for low carbon transport hubs.	Y
Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme	Housing Services	Shropshire Council and Herefordshire Council are working together on allocating the Governments 'Green Home Grant', the Warm Homes Fund 'Rural homes and communities Category', and other funding to households in greatest need. Total budget is £1.8m across both areas. Air Source Heat Pump's will feature highly in the measures introduced where the buildings are suitable. A larger bid for LAD2 funding across the Marches area is being prepared for Spring 2021.	N
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator	Housing Services	Shropshire Council has led the submission of a bid for up to 50% grant funding (up to £30k per house) for energy and carbon performance improvements to social housing in Shropshire.	N
Install EV Charging Points in market towns across Shropshire	Highways	Shropshire Council is part of a successful 100% Government-funded project called 'Agile Streets' which is seeking suitable test locations for 25 funded EV chargers to help vehicle owners who are reliant on on-street or public parking. Application for additional Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) funding, would cover 75% of the cost of an additional 20-25 charging points.	N
Shropshire Council Buildings – Energy Efficiency Improvements (Sustainable Energy in Public Buildings)	Property Services Group	The Climate Change Task Force and Property Services Group are working to extend the current programme of ERDF-funded improvements to building efficiency through SePuBu: https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-change-and-sustainability/sepubu-sustainable-energy-in-public-buildings/	Y
Shropshire Council Buildings – Energy Efficiency Improvements (Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund)	Climate Change Task Force	Shropshire Council and APSE Energy have submitted a bid to the BEIS-funded Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund which would pay for them to identify and develop a programme of energy efficiency and low carbon heat upgrade	Y

Title	Lead org / Dept	Notes / work underway	More info needed?
		projects for our buildings, before preparing an application for capital funding, on our behalf, to the Salix-funded £1 billion Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	
Replace all street lights with LED lighting by 2024	Highways	£6.8 million is being spent to replace all sodium street lamps with more efficient and longer lasting LED lighting. This will save 794.5 tCO ₂ e - currently equivalent to about £900,000 - every year. All replacement due by March 2024.	N
Assess the potential to develop an 'Electric Forecourt' as part of the proposed Oswestry Innovation Park at Mile End, near Oswestry	Climate Change Task Force	Mile End near Oswestry is being considered as one of 100 national Electric Forecourts which can charge 24 electric vehicles at once with superchargers that can deliver up to 350kW of charging power. This enables people to charge vehicles within 20-30 minutes initially, and much faster in the future as battery technologies mature.	Y
Promote business energy efficiency in Shropshire	Economic Growth	The Business Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP) is working across the Marches area. It's led by Worcestershire Council and utilises existing ERDF programme funds.	Y
<h2>POWER UP </h2>			
<h3>Current projects that increase generation of renewable energy</h3>			
Assess the feasibility of installing 2MWp of solar PV on the former tip in Maesbury Industrial Estate	Climate Change Task Force	Potential for a return on investment starting at 6% in 2021 and increasing to 9% by 2030. 5400 tCO ₂ e saving by 2030. 25-year lifetime net gain of £3.1m. Ecological and Historic Environment surveys completed. Site survey work has started by Nottingham City Council Energy Services. Feasibility study to be completed by Jan 2021.	Y
Assess the potential for Renewable Energy Opportunities on Council Land	Climate Change Task Force	A report on the potential for renewable energy generation on 10 areas of council owned land is being produced by Public Power Solutions (Swindon BC). It will be available by April 2021 and will assist in the aspiration to be energy self-sufficient by 2030. This will require an estimated 60MWp per annum. Currently the figure is 1.2MWp with Maesbury projected to add another 2MWp.	Y

Title	Lead org / Dept	Notes / work underway	More info needed?
Assess the potential to establish a Virtual Power Plant (VPP)	Climate Change Task Force	Proposals have been prepared for new build and retrofit of solar and battery systems for new build housing schemes, which would operate as part of a Virtual Power Plant (VPP), together with a variation which could provide a VPP installation 'offer' for SC employees as part of an Employee Benefits Salary Sacrifice Scheme.	Y
Assess the feasibility of constructing a hydro-electric generator at Shrewsbury Weir	Climate Change Task Force	Discussion between Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council (as landowner) are on-going.	Y
Assess the feasibility of establishing a Heat Network in north Shrewsbury	Climate Change Task Force	Shropshire Council is working with the Midlands Energy Hub and the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership to prepare a bid for feasibility funding for a heat network study for Shrewsbury.	Y
Renewable Energy grants for non-domestic buildings	Economic Growth	European and Government 50% grant for the installation of eligible renewable technologies on non-domestic buildings in the Marches. MarRE is underway in SC with a dedicated project officer	Y
<h2>SEQUESTER CARBON </h2>			
<h3>Current projects that help store carbon in vegetation and soils</h3>			
By 2050 plant 345,000 trees. This is a minimum of 11,500 per year.	Planning Services	Tree scheme re-launched in October 2020 with 12,500 trees allocated in just 9 hours. An additional 20,000 trees were allocated for 2020/21 planting season with funding from a Defra funded project. These have also been allocated without advertising. Trees not funded by the council or Defra will not be included in our overall carbon budgets to avoid double counting.	Y
Defra Trees Outside Woodland (TOW) project	Planning Services	Defra project will provide £500,000 over 2 years to help investigate methods of increasing the planting of Trees Outside Woodland. Shropshire Council is one of 5 Local Authorities piloting different approaches. Shropshire is leading on the agroforestry and orchards theme. A project officer will be recruited.	Y

Title	Lead org / Dept	Notes / work underway	More info needed?
Work with others to establish, a carbon credit scheme that invests in projects that sequester carbon locally (known as 'carbon in-setting')	Climate Change Task Force	A pilot is underway with a Council highways contractor to partly offset (in-set) their carbon emissions via provision of additional trees to the Community Tree Scheme.	Y
<h2>COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION </h2>			
<p>Current initiatives that increase understanding of the issues and the solutions</p>			
Report annually on progress with the action plan, emission reduction, and carbon sequestration. Publish as much data (including live data) as possible online.	Climate Change Task Force	Provisional data is provided within the Climate Change Strategy. Annual energy generation from existing PV sites are presented the Shropshire Council website.	N

2. Corporate Climate Action Plan

Actions are highlighted based on their approximate period for action		
Now	Soon	Later

Title	Lead org / Dept	Notes / work underway	More info needed?
<p>POWER DOWN </p>			
Actions that reduce demand for energy and resources			
Create a strategy for staff related transport that follows the hierarchy of transportation modes	Human Resources	Initial estimate for carbon emissions due to staff commute is 2853 tCO2e per year	N
Support staff to work from home and attend meetings virtually	Human Resources	Significant work underway in response to the Covid19 crisis.	Y
Further promote national car-sharing schemes for staff and wider community	Human Resources	Initial estimate for carbon emissions due to staff commute is 2853 tCO2e per year	N
Complete an assessment of the energy efficiency of staff homes using EPC data and ideally energy use data obtained from staff surveys	Human Resources	Work is underway linking staff addresses to national Energy Performance Certificate data	Y

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Title	Lead org / Dept	Notes / work underway	More info needed?
Review Transport Policy and contracts to favour low carbon options	Highways	Does this impact Council emissions? Lessons to be learned from Cornwall total transport model. Existing work on Park and Ride developments; links with Health sector around school transport; shared vehicle assets; school runs and patient transfer, DfT work, etc	Y
Prepare a pipeline of bids in advance for active travel funding	Highways	Seek support from Sustrans	Y
Buy 5 electric cargo bikes for Council use or loan by 2025	Highways	A bid was submitted in early summer 2020 but was unsuccessful. Additional funding sources will be sought	Y
Revise Council procurement strategy to reflect carbon performance of those we purchase from	Finance, Governance & Assurance		N
Divest funding for fossil fuels from Shropshire Council pension fund by 2023	Finance, Governance & Assurance		N
Continue role out of superfast and ultra-fast broadband and rural hubs to reduce dependency on car journeys, etc, for business and access to services	Economic Growth	Estimates of carbon savings could be determined using staff distances to work. These calculations are being worked on.	Y
Seek energy bills from staff for the last 12 months to help assess the Council's Scope 3 emissions.	Climate Change Task Force	Consider linking to the mandatory training on sustainability.	N
Seek funding to retrofit energy efficiency measures into all homes that need it	Climate Change Task Force		Y

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Working with industry, facilitate workshops and collate online resources to assist skills development of building retrofit workforce	Property Services Group		N
Use SEPuBu framework to add an assessment of energy efficiency measures to existing property condition assessment	Property Services Group		Y
By 2021 adopt good design standards for development control that incorporate natural features like shade trees, green walls and roofs, and water features that help with natural cooling and creating a healthy environment	Planning Services		Y
Provide informed advice and publish links to guidance, best practice case-studies, and appropriate technologies for energy efficiency measures in historically sensitive buildings	Planning Services	A cross departmental working group has been established to consider appropriate investment and maintenance of the Council's 'historic estate'.	Y
Include annual mandatory training on climate change issues for staff via the 'Leap Into Learning' platform	Human Resources	An existing learning programme on sustainability issues is available for staff. This requires updating and consideration of it being a mandatory requirement or not.	Y
Replace all fleet vehicles with electric or hydrogen vehicles by 2030	Highways		Y
Replace all pool vehicles with electric or hydrogen vehicles by 2030	Highways	Pool vehicles currently add approximately 24 tCO2e per annum. 8 pool cars are hybrid vehicles.	N
Consider a Workplace Parking Levy	Highways	Consider a Workplace Parking Levy to encourage sustainable travel options.	Y

Title	Lead org / Dept	Notes / work underway	More info needed?
Revise procurement guidelines to be clear that low and zero emission transport modes of suppliers is inherent to our social value scoring process	Finance, Governance & Assurance		N
Consider increasing social value weightings within procurement processes with specific reference to low carbon and with a minimum percentage scoring introduced	Finance, Governance & Assurance		N
Seek funding to retrofit Council housing stock to Passivhaus standard or equivalent with an ambition for all housing stock to reach this standard.	Property Services Group		Y
POWER UP 			
Actions that increase generation of renewable energy			
Ensure any roof-top maintenance works to council buildings considers installation of solar PV to help reduce costs of installation.	Property Services Group		Y
Commission a study by the end of 2021 into the viability of water-source heat pumps in the development of the Riverside area of Shrewsbury and potentially elsewhere.	Climate Change Task Force		Y

Title	Lead org / Dept	Notes / work underway	More info needed?
Produce guidance for Neighbourhood plans to ensure they are aware of their ability to promote on-shore wind	Planning Services		Y
Commission research into the potential for Shropshire Council to become energy self-sufficient by 2030	Climate Change Task Force	Electricity used is already from entirely renewable sources. We currently generate over 900 MWh every year which, since 2012, has saved the authority over £700,000.	Y
<h2>SEQUESTER CARBON </h2>			
<p>Actions that help store carbon in vegetation and soils</p>			
Establish a network of Tree Wardens in association with the Tree Council	Planning Services	This may fall under the remit of the new project officer associated with the Trees Outside Woodland Project.	N
By 2021 adopt good design standards for development control that incorporate carbon rich materials like hempcrete, glulam, and timber, in the construction that act as a carbon store and reduce use of carbon intensive materials like steel and concrete.	Planning Services		Y
Of the SC owned land not already tree covered or built-up, plant 5% with native local provenance trees.	Planning Services	Need a better estimate of the potential for tree planting on SC land. This is a provisional guess until more accurate figures can be generated.	Y

Title	Lead org / Dept	Notes / work underway	More info needed?
<h2>COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION</h2>			
<p>Actions that increase understanding of the issues and the solutions</p>			
<p>By March 2021 publish a new Climate Crisis area of the web site that provides lists of resources and funding sources to encourage home energy saving</p>	<p>Communications</p>	<p>Keep Shropshire Warm Scheme already in place via MEA and Energy Savings Trust. New £5k funding from gov. Existing web site does have links to resources and a Climate Resources Pack.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>By 2021 develop a climate communications strategy to make the most of both internal and external communication channels</p>	<p>Communications</p>		<p>Y</p>
<p>Provide free or subsidised venues for community activities that promote resilience and adaptation to the climate crisis or results in lower carbon lifestyles.</p>	<p>Commercial Services</p>		<p>Y</p>