

Net Zero Emissions Action Plan

Introduction

This is the first iteration of the Net Zero Emissions Action Plan which was peer reviewed by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Energy to inform refinements and future work. It builds on previous Council-led work to address climate change including the Chapel Farm Solar Park; the first solar farm funded by a Council-backed community solar bond which won the 2017 APSE award for 'Best Renewable Energy Initiative'.

The Council will regularly review, reprioritise and add actions to this plan to take into account emerging best practice, sector innovation and new funding opportunities. For example, in March this year, the Council successfully secured £750k of capital grant funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to install a 1.2MW battery at Waterside Park to store energy from Barnfield Solar Farm and supply the household waste recycling centre.

What do we mean by 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions?

- Net zero means achieving a position where total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are equal to or less than the emissions the UK removed from the environment. This can be achieved by a combination of emission reduction and emission removal. When the amount of GHG emissions produced by a country, organisation or place are cancelled out by the amount removed, it will be a net zero emitter. GHG emissions can be removed by the natural environment (e.g. stored in soils, trees and the ocean) or by using technologies like carbon capture, usage and storage. The lower the emissions, the easier this becomes.
- The target of achieving net zero emissions has been set at a global, country¹ and also increasingly at a local area and organisational level.
- In discussions on climate change, the focus is often on carbon dioxide (CO₂) – the most dominant anthropogenic greenhouse gas² in terms of the quantity released and total impact. This is produced by burning fossil fuels, industrial production and land use change.
- A number of other GHGs are also driving global climate change: methane, nitrous oxide, and trace gases such as the group of 'F-gases'. These have contributed a significant amount of warming to date.
- The term "carbon" can be confusing as it is often used as shorthand to refer interchangeably to either CO₂ or GHGs in general (although not all GHGs contain carbon). For clarity, this Action Plan refers to "GHG emissions", covering all greenhouse gases.
- Further on in this document, the baseline starting point to get to net zero is set out in "carbon dioxide equivalent" or "CO₂e" - a term for describing different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any quantity and type of greenhouse gas, CO₂e signifies the amount of CO₂ which would have the equivalent global warming impact³.

International context

- Global annual greenhouse gas emissions have grown 41% since 1990 and are still climbing. While emissions dipped notably in 2016, recent data suggests that carbon dioxide emissions increased each year since then⁴.

¹ As of March 2021, 59 countries have communicated a net-zero target, representing 54% of global GHG emissions, although they vary as to whether the target is a political pledge, incorporated into a policy document, or enshrined into law (e.g. France, Germany, and the UK have legally binding 2050 net-zero GHG emissions goals): <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/IF11821.html>

² Greenhouse gas generated by human activity

³ ecometrica: Greenhouse Gases, CO₂, CO₂e, and Carbon: What Do All These Terms Mean? (August 2012) <https://ecometrica.com/assets/GHGs-CO2-CO2e-and-Carbon-What-Do-These-Mean-v2.1.pdf>

⁴ World Resources Institute Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Countries and Sectors (February 2020) <https://www.wri.org/insights/4-charts-explain-greenhouse-gas-emissions-countries-and-sectors>

- The Paris Agreement was the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate change agreement, adopted at the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015.
- It sets out a global framework to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. It also aims to strengthen countries' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change and support them in their efforts.
- In November 2021, the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow. Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 GHG emission reduction targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century.

UK context

- Carbon budgets were introduced in the UK under the 2008 Climate Change Act. Each carbon budget provides a five-year, statutory cap on total GHG emissions, which should not be exceeded, in order to meet the UK's emission reduction commitments.
- In June 2019, the UK Parliament passed legislation (2019 Climate Change Act) requiring the UK Government to reduce the UK's net emissions of GHGs by 100% relative to 1990 levels by 2050. Doing so would make the UK a net zero emitter. Prior to this, the UK was committed to reducing net GHG emissions by at least 80% of their 1990 levels, also by 2050.
- In June 2021, the UK Government enshrined in law a new climate change target to reduce GHG emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. This takes the UK more than three-quarters of the way to reaching net zero by 2050⁵.
- The UK Government published a Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution⁶ (November 2020) and an Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy⁷ (March 2021) that sets out its vision for building a competitive, greener future for the manufacturing and construction sector. It is set to publish a Net Zero Strategy ahead of COP26, as well as a Heating and Building Strategy and Transport Decarbonisation Plan.
- The Future Homes Standard⁸, due to be introduced by 2025, will require new build homes to be future-proofed with low carbon heating and leading levels of energy efficiency. This is expected to include a ban on installing gas or oil boilers in new homes.
- HM Treasury is also expected to publish this year its Net Zero Review setting out how plans to maximise economic growth opportunities from the net zero transition while ensuring contributions are fair between consumers, businesses and the British taxpayer.

Local government context

- The 2019 Climate Change Act did not include a statutory duty for local authorities to develop plans and deliver cuts in line with the UK carbon budgets (statutory cap on total GHG emissions). Nor did it set local authorities their own carbon budgets.
- But alongside its work on the Sixth Carbon Budget, the Climate Change Committee (CCC)⁹ published an accompanying report in 2020 on the role of local authorities in delivering the

⁵ The estimates of the UK's GHG emissions used as the baseline for monitoring the Climate Change Act net zero target include and exclude specific activity. For more information:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/netzeroandthedifferentofficialmeasuresoftheuksgreenhousegasemissions/2019-07-24>

⁶ UK Government Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (November 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution/title#look-ahead-the-race-to-zero>

⁷ UK Government Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (March 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-blueprint-to-create-green-jobs-and-slash-emissions-from-industry-schools-and-hospitals>

⁸ The Future Homes Standard was subject to public consultation in the first half of 2021:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-buildings-standard>

⁹ The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Its purpose is to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

UK's net zero ambition¹⁰. The report comments that: *“Local authorities are directly responsible for between 2- 5% of their local area’s emissions. However, local authorities have many levers that can be used to deliver wider local action to reduce emissions and prepare local areas for a changing climate.”*

- Local authorities are well placed to drive and influence action on climate change through the services they deliver, their regulatory and strategic functions, and their roles as community leaders, major employers, large-scale procurers and social landlords. They also provide an important leadership role, setting an example for others to follow.
- At the same time, local authorities have to be realistic and pragmatic on what they can achieve. The CCC report commented that: *“Local authorities are developing their plans and making policy and contract decisions now, which will remain in place during the 2020s and beyond, but they only have limited guidance as to how these decisions fit into a national strategy for meeting the UK’s Net Zero objectives. They cannot deliver effectively and efficiently without longer term policy and funding certainty to underpin investment decisions. Without some level of coordination from Government, the UK risks pursuing a fragmented strategy towards Net Zero.”*

Swindon Borough Council context

- In Swindon, over 80% of the Council’s total annual budget in 2021/22 will be spent on statutory services to support vulnerable residents including the elderly, the disabled and at-risk children. The Council has a statutory duty to deliver a balanced budget and will need to achieve £7.8m in savings in 2021/22 (5% of the Council’s net budget).
- Nevertheless, significant existing Council expenditure on upgrading services will have a direct benefit in reducing GHG emissions. This includes the ongoing £7.2m programme to convert around 28,000 of the Borough’s street lights to more energy efficient LED units.
- The Council has a track record of seizing opportunities and taking action to reduce GHG emissions generated through its operations. For example, in 2016 working with ethical investment company Abundance, the Council raised more than £4.2 million from the public to build solar energy with two public investment offers.
- The first offer, to build the 4.8 MW Common Farm solar park, was the first council solar bond to be launched in the UK. The second, to build the 5 MW Chapel Farm solar park, coincided with the launch of the Abundance ISA, making it the UK’s first ever ISA-eligible solar bond.

Context for this first Net Zero Emissions Action Plan

- In January 2020, the Council passed a motion¹¹ that: *“Commits the Council to an 80 per cent reduction in the council’s corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving towards 100 per cent with carbon offsetting by the same date, with the aim of making the council’s estate and activities net-zero carbon by 2030.”*
- The Council has also taken the additional commitment to support the wider borough to transition to net zero GHG emissions by 2050. This was set out in the Carbon Reduction Strategy¹² approved by the Council’s Cabinet in February 2021, following public consultation on the draft strategy held between November 2020 and January 2021.

¹⁰ An independent report for the Climate Change Committee: Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget (December 2020) <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Local-Authorities-and-the-Sixth-Carbon-Budget.pdf>

¹¹ Council Agenda and Minutes - 23rd January 2020:

<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=284&Mid=9909>

¹² Cabinet Agenda and Minutes - 3rd February 2021:

<https://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&Mid=10130>

- For clarity and consistency in our terminology, we are moving away from using “carbon reduction” and “carbon emissions”, to talk more precisely about reducing all GHG emissions (measured in carbon dioxide equivalent, CO₂e).
- This first iteration of the Net Zero Emissions Plan has been developed as climate change and net zero emissions rise up the international and UK political and policy agenda, in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow.
- This is a rapidly evolving field where, almost in real-time, local authorities are learning and assimilating new tools, approaches, knowledge and understanding to inform their role and response. Being ready to tap into new external funding opportunities as they arise to unlock implementing further actions to reduce emissions. Accordingly, the Council will need to regularly review, reprioritise and add actions to this plan.
- Supported by the Local Government Association, the Association for Public Service Excellence and other bodies and initiatives, local authorities are at an early stage in developing the in-house capability and experience to baseline and measure the impact of individual actions to reduce GHG emissions. Making progress in this area will clearly be integral to demonstrating the quantifiable impact that the Council’s efforts are having. However, it is yet to feature in the climate change actions plans of even those councils regarded as leaders in the field such as Nottingham City Council¹³.

Key elements of this *Net Zero Emissions Action Plan*

- This Action Plan makes a distinction between:
 1. Actions that will make a direct causal link in reducing GHG emissions; and
 2. Enabling actions which once completed, should identify further opportunities to reduce GHG emissions which can either be implemented within existing operations or may be subject to securing new sources of funding.

Progressing the Council’s organisational target to reach net zero emissions by 2030

This involves addressing three types of GHG emissions:

- **Scope 1** are direct GHG emissions from sources that we own or control as a Council, for example emissions from fuel combustion (gas/oil boilers) and council vehicles.
- **Scope 2** are indirect emissions from purchased electricity that we consume (e.g. streetlight, libraries, and offices).
- **Scope 3** are indirect emissions that we do not directly control, but we have some responsibility and influence over. Examples include: emissions generated from the energy usage of tenants living in our circa 10,000 social housing properties; business travel, commuting, grey fleet (employee-owned cars claiming mileage back); waste disposal for contracted out waste processing; from wider supply chains (often reaching international jurisdictions); emissions from the use of our services; contracted out services; leased assets; investments; and purchased goods and services. We have a strong influence over some of these emissions and less over others.

Our starting point: baseline Scope 1 emissions

- The baseline figure for the Council’s directly managed and controlled emissions have been calculated using the most recent data available from the 2018/19 financial year, converting all outputs into a carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) figure using UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting 2018.

¹³ Nottingham City Council: Carbon Neutral Nottingham 2020–2028 Action Plan (June 2020)
<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/2619917/2028-carbon-neutral-action-plan-v2-160620.pdf>

Scope 1 Emissions (2018/19 baseline)		
Fuels	Comments	Tonnes of CO ₂ e
Gas	All direct council usage	3,033
<i>Including:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Waterside Park</i> 	<i>645</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Social Care Buildings</i> 	<i>504</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Offices</i> 	<i>399</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Museums and Libraries</i> 	<i>383</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Crematorium</i> 	<i>226</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Misc/other</i> 	<i>876</i>
Heating Oil	Lydiard House	101
Petrol	Fleet Operations	48
Diesel	Fleet Operations	2,044
Gas Oil	Fleet Operations	608
	Scope 1 Emissions total	5,834

Scope 2 Emissions (2018/19 baseline)		
UK Electricity		Tonnes of CO ₂ e
Electricity	All direct council usage	2,720
<i>Including:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Offices</i> 	<i>449</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Car parks</i> 	<i>423</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Museums and Libraries</i> 	<i>372</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Landlord Supplies</i> 	<i>295</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Misc/other</i> 	<i>1,181</i>
	Street lighting including Traffic signals etc.	<i>3,269</i>
	Scope 2 Emissions total	5,989

Supporting Swindon Borough to reach net zero emissions by 2050

- All Swindon Borough Council's Scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions are a subset of the total Borough figures.
- Whilst the Council does not directly control the wider emissions of the Borough, it can influence and support residents and organisations to contribute to the local effort.
- The Council is able to monitor and measure the total emissions of the Borough.

	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	
Sub-sector	Total tCO2e	Total tCO2e	Total tCO2e	Total tCO2e
	DIRECT	INDIRECT	OTHER	TOTAL
Residential buildings	195,547.82	121,848.80	52,439.24	369,835.86
Commercial buildings & facilities	32,230.95	27,911.35	10,245.09	70,387.40
Institutional buildings & facilities	55,464.31	141,041.91	31,981.54	228,487.76
Industrial buildings & facilities	43,729.11	81,759.39	21,314.28	146,802.79
Agriculture	4,337.80	1.20	1,035.39	5,374.39
On-road	406,681.73	IE	105,111.98	511,793.71
Rail	2,617.76	IE	624.16	3,241.91
Aviation	NO	IE	116,328.81	116,328.81
Off-road	4,066.82	-	NE	4,066.82
Solid waste disposal	40,079.09	-	IE	40,079.09
Wastewater	13,723.81	-	NO	13,723.81
Industrial process	19,132.19	-	-	19,132.19
Livestock	18,022.39	-	-	18,022.39
Land use	- 15,005.98	-	-	- 15,005.98
CHP generation	137.38	-	25.37	162.75
Local renewable generation	5.84	NO	-	5.84
			TOTAL	1,532,439.54

IE - Integrated Elsewhere

NE - Not Estimated

NO- Not Occurring

*The emissions in this table cover the entire Borough of Swindon

Our organisation – progressing target to achieve net zero organisational emissions by 2030

Scope 1 and 2 emissions: actions to reduce GHG emissions

This section focuses on actions to reduce the Council’s GHG emissions falling under Scope 1 and Scope 2. Our Scope 1 direct emissions arise from sources that we own or control as a Council, from directly burning fossil fuel, such as gas boilers used in our buildings and our vehicle fleet (combustion engines). Our Scope 2 emissions are generated from purchased electricity that we consume through Council-owned assets and services such as street lighting, traffic signals and buildings operated across the Borough.

Actions on progress to reduce Scope 1 & 2 emissions that contribute directly to our target of becoming a net zero organisation by 2030

No.	Action	Anticipated completion date	Estimated impact on Scope 1 emissions	Estimated impact on Scope 2 emissions	Officer sponsor	Commentary (including any impact on Scope 3 emissions)
A1	Complete LED street lighting replacement programme (as of mid-June 2021: over 14,200 of a total 28,000 lights have been replaced)	Spring 2022	N/A	High	Tim Price	Ongoing roll out subject to prioritisation of Highway Maintenance grant. The approach is to replace the most at risk lamps and columns each year.
A2	Complete roll-out of LED traffic signals and signs replacements	December 2021	N/A	Low/Med	Mike Best	There are currently 206 traffic light sites in Swindon and 84 already operate with LEDs. Following this ongoing replacement programme, the remaining 55 halogen bulb sites will be replaced, refurbished, altered or removed within the payback period or through other council programmes.
A3	As part of the housing repair and maintenance works programme, continue LED replacement programme to install energy efficient lighting in communal areas	Ongoing	N/A	Low	Mike Ash	Target neighbourhood areas across the borough, will be identified on an annual basis. In 2021/22, improvements will take place in Walcot East.
A4	Continue LED lighting replacement across our corporate estate	Ongoing	N/A	Low/Med	Rob Richards	Where existing lighting needs replacing LED will be the chosen technology.
A5	Installation of a 1.2MW battery at our operations depot (Waterside Park) to	End of 2021	N/A	Low/Med	Mick Bowden (Giles Davis)	Funded through a successful SBC bid to UK Government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation

	compliment the direct wired solar farm						Scheme. The battery will store c.402,000 kWh of the excess generation each year from Barnfield Solar Farm that is currently sold to the grid. This will be used instead to supply Waterside.
A6	Purchase of 15 ultra-low emissions vehicles (ULEVs) as part of the wider Council fleet replacement strategy	End of 2021	Low	N/A	Brian Pinchbeck (Ian McKinnon)		The purchase of 15 ULEV vehicles in 2021 is part of a phased approach to increase the number of ULEVs within the Council's fleet. The rate replacement of petrol and diesel vehicles over time will increase year on year.
A7	Conduct an annual review of the waste collection routes to increase the efficiency of Council waste fleet journeys	Annually	Low	N/A	Brian Pinchbeck		Use waste vehicle (diesel consumption) as the primary monitoring metric. This primarily mitigates emissions growth and informs reduction.
A8	Continue the process of downsizing the corporate building estate	Ongoing	High	Medium/High	Sonia Grewal (Jim Catton)		By reducing the size of our estate and using our buildings more efficiently this will reduce Scope 1 & 2 emissions. However we need to be mindful that greater levels of homeworking will lead to a rise in Scope 3 emissions.
A9	Implement new post-pandemic Council working arrangements (e.g. agile working with more homeworking opportunities offered to employees)	Ongoing	High	High	Sonia Grewal		Reduction in number of journeys from home to work location. Reduction in energy consumption of Council owned buildings and assets.
A10	Complete energy surveys to inform Heat Decarbonisation Plans for our corporate building estate (March-Sept 2021), focussing on those that don't require access to additional funding in the first instance	Dec 2021	Low	Low	Rob Richards (Giles Davis)		Funded through successful £70k SBC bid to UK Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

Enabling actions to support future delivery of solutions to reduce Scope 1 & 2 emissions

No.	Action	Anticipated completion date	Estimated impact on Scope 1 emissions	Estimated impact on Scope 2 emissions	Officer sponsor	Commentary (including any impact on Scope 3 emissions)
B1	Roll-out utilities monitoring software to site and budget managers across the Council	March 2022	Low/Med	Low/Med	Sam Mowbray (Giles Davis)	This will aid visibility of energy performance, potentially leading to further reduction of emissions. This will also encourage greater ownership of consumption areas and increase awareness going forward.
B2	Conduct an annual analysis to determine how the Council can purchase greater amounts of "green energy"	Annually	N/A	Low/Med	Sam Mowbray (Giles Davis)	The primary focus of this is to focus on the amount of Borough generated renewable energy that can be "sleeved" against our consumption.
B3	Investigate opportunities to make further energy and emissions savings from the LED programme through trialling the use of Traffic Adapted Lighting	Ongoing	N/A	Low/Med	Phil Murkin (Sarah Talbot)	Awaiting estimated savings from supplier in order to be able to assess viability of running a proof of concept project.
B4	Implementation of the fleet strategy to contribute to the achievement of the net zero emission target. For the 2021 period, leasing options will be explored to facilitate the acquisition of low emission vehicles in light of existing capital replacement budgets	Ongoing	Low/Med	N/A	Brian Pinchbeck	Fleet replacement needs to be in line with the financial plan signed off by Cabinet with any additional fleet requiring sign off as per the normal process. The cost of electric vehicles for some larger types of the fleet (i.e. waste vehicles) could make the option to move to a 100% electric fleet cost prohibitive alternatives routes to acquisition such as leasing are being considered.
B5	When purchasing new fleet vehicles, we will work towards the eventual transition of solely considering net zero market options	2025	Low/Med	N/A	Brian Pinchbeck (Ian McKinnon)	We will work to eventually phase out the purchase of petrol/diesel fleet vehicles. The rate at which we do this will be dependent on ULEV infrastructure and how ULEV technology develops to make the use of ULEV fleet practical.

B6	Install six dual rapid charge points across the Borough to support Council ultra-low emissions fleet vehicles	By the end of 2021	Low	N/A	Brian Pinchbeck (Ian McKinnon)	
B6	Conduct a review of our local data centres, their size and their energy efficiency with a view to reconciling, consider use of cloud provision.	December 2022	Low	Low	Sam Mowbray (Peter Eagle)	The intention is to move from two Swindon based data centres into one in Swindon and one in the cloud. This will reduce our local emissions and adopt state of the art cloud technology with a greener footprint.

Scope 3 emissions: actions to reduce GHG emissions

This section focuses indirect emissions that the Council does not directly control, but has some responsibility and influence over. Examples of Scope 3 emissions includes those generated from the energy use of our tenants living in around 10,000 social housing properties, from wider supply chains, emissions from the use of our services, contracted out services and investments.

Actions in progress to reduce Scope 3 emissions that contribute directly to our target of becoming a net zero organisation by 2030

No.	Action	Anticipated completion date	Estimated impact on Scope 3 emissions	Officer sponsor	Commentary
C1	Explore how the Council can integrate energy efficiency methodologies into the capital works/ maintenance programme within housing and sheltered housing stock	2026	High	Mike Ash	The Council manages c.10,000 properties across the Swindon Borough.
C2	Through the Local Plan review, the Council will ensure that it adopts the most stringent practicable sustainable construction policies in line with our net zero emissions target	2021	Medium	Richard Bell (Kimberly Corps / Phil Smith)	Ensure that Local Plan policies are as stringent as they are permitted to be in moving as closely as we are able to net zero emissions in building design and construction. Local Plan scheduled for next round of public consultation in summer 2021.
C3	Through the Local Plan review, the Council will	2021	Medium	Richard Bell	Being implemented through the planning process. This

	require new developments to provide high biodiversity quality areas within the Borough as part of their proposals/ developments			(Kimberly Corps Phil Smith)	may include on site or off site mitigation or a financial contribution to biodiversity compensation elsewhere. This occurs under current policy and will continue to do so under strengthened Local Plan policies once adopted. Local Plan policy also requires mitigation for open space and Community Forest purposes.
C4	Build nine eco-friendly houses as part of a new development in Highworth built by the Council's housing development company	2022	Low	Mike Ash/Adam Gatier	Delivered as part of a wider commitment to deliver a series of eco-friendly homes as part of new and existing housing developments delivered by the Council's housing development company.
C5	Provide infrastructure for 130 electric vehicle charging points and an initial 20 active charging sockets in shared and visitor parking bays to serve new housing developments in Wichelstowe	2021	Low - Medium	Rob Richards	The joint venture between Swindon Borough Council and Barratt Developments, which is delivering more than 3,000 new homes at Wichelstowe, collaborated with Connected Kerb - a UK-based smart cities and EV charging specialist to install the electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
C6	Install 11 double-headed on-street electric vehicle charging points (making a total of 22 bays) across eight locations in the Central and Eastcott wards following resident input	2021	Low	Claire Fleming	As of June 2021, 9 of the 11 charging points have been installed. The majority of the funding for the 22 charging bays came from central government while the rest will come from the Council.
C7	Update procurement process to ensure suppliers minimise the use of single-use plastics across all Council operations	Ongoing	Low	Mick Bowden (James Short)	All SBC standard tender templates to include a contract obligation to minimise the use of single use plastics and encourage elimination of these within the supply chain. The use of existing frameworks' contracts and collaboration may restrict a full deployment in the first instance. This will need to form part of each service area's contract management activities going forward.

Enabling actions to support future delivery of actions to reduce Scope 3 emissions

No.	Action	Anticipated completion date	Estimated impact on Scope 3 emissions	Officer sponsor	Commentary
D1	The Council's Housing Company will work	By 2025	Low (with	Mike Ash	All new SHC Housing construction will aim for EPC rating A

	towards all suitable market housing construction projects being designed to provide an Energy Rating of A by 2025		medium potential)	/Adam Gatier	where possible and B at a minimum and look to move towards a Net Zero Carbon Housing Model and supported through the SHC business plan.
D2	Investigate establishing a community interest company to perform residential home energy audits and support initiatives around retrofitting to improve energy efficiency	2021	Low	Mick Bowden (Giles Davis)	
D3	Identify opportunities for using renewable technologies to replace conventional options across our existing housing stock	Ongoing	Low	Mike Ash	This will include pilot schemes to test renewable technologies such as heat pumps and triple glazing in new areas across the Borough.
D4	Conduct a pilot study involving Council owned housing stock within the Swindon's Railway Village to determine feasibility of energy solutions in the area	2023	Low	Mike Ash	
D5	Present and have a preference for the low emissions option in consideration of new Swindon Borough Council building projects	2025	Medium	Nick Kemmett/ Julian Sadler	Stage one present costing for zero emissions in operation. Stage two to present net zero emissions option including mitigation costs.
D6	Work with developers before new sites across the Borough are approved to ensure that opportunities for energy efficiency and emission reduction are maximised	Ongoing	Medium	Dave Dewart/ Kimberly Corps	This is being implemented through the planning process. Developers will need to ensure that their schemes meet appropriate criteria including the use of renewable energy as a priority and minimising journeys by private car. Secured by condition of contribution through legal agreement.
D7	Review the Council's current housing stock to determine baseline efficiency (SAP and EPC)	2021-2022	Low direct impact but will inform future focus areas and decision making	Mike Ash	The Council manages c.10,000 properties. The review will highlight focus areas for raising efficiency levels. A member of staff has been employed to help with this task. Current stock EPC data is available but will require continual validation. Initial data review complete April 21, working group to be established to formulate business plan.

D8	Use new external guidance to measure emissions from services run on behalf of the council (e.g. social care provision, leisure centres) to identify potential opportunities for reduction	Ongoing	Low/Medium	Sam Mowbray	As example, guidance is being made available in 2021 for councils on measuring and monitoring Scope 3 GHG emissions from social care provision.
D9	Produce pilot projects, business cases and identify funding sources to implement identified energy opportunities across the Council's estate	2021-26	Low (impact dependant on scale and funding)	Mike Ash	Blend funding and grant opportunities where available to undertake Green Homes Grant work and to fund pilot surveys.
D10	Introduce staff climate change training, particularly equipping those staff with the knowledge to identify and implement actions to reduce organisational emissions within their role	January 2022	Low	Sonia Grewal (Becky Clinton)	This will include equipping staff with the knowledge and tools to measure and monitor the emissions footprint of their work areas, as well as to identify opportunities to measurably reduce this.
D11	Introduce climate change training for borough councillors, also made available to parish councillors	January 2022	Low	Sonia Grewal (Becky Clinton)	In the interim, there are external resources Local Government Association's 'A councillor's workbook on the local pathway to net zero' (April 2021). ¹⁴
D12	Educate staff on workplace volunteering opportunities and encourage staff take up volunteering projects that reduce GHG emissions (e.g. tree planting)	By the end of 2021	Low	Sonia Grewal (Becky Clinton & Helena Robinson)	All SBC staff are able to use up to two paid days a year on volunteering support in the Borough. The uptake and engagement with this initiative will be monitored.

Swindon Borough – supporting residents and organisations to transition to net zero by 2050

¹⁴ Local Government Association 'A councillor's workbook on the local pathway to net zero' (April 2021)

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/councillor-workbook-acting-climate-change#:~:text=This%20workbook%20is%20a%20learning,build%20resilience%20to%20extreme%20weather.>

Our role is to help increase and accelerate the existing efforts of Swindon residents and organisations to take action to reduce their emissions. Our effort and finite resources working locally will be targeted, complementing the evolving UK policy and regulatory landscape that will realistically do much of the heavy lifting in moving society to more sustainable lifestyles, behaviour and choices. For example, the UK Government has committed to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the UK by 2030, with all vehicles being required to have a significant zero emissions capability (for example plug-in and full hybrids) from 2030 and be 100% zero emissions from 2035¹⁵.

This section firstly looks at current actions being led by the Council to support the whole of Swindon Borough to move towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050, before looking at enabling actions to support residents and organisations in their efforts to reduce emissions.

Actions in progress to support the reduction of wider Borough emissions

No.	Action	Anticipated completion date	Officer sponsor	Commentary
E1	350 hectares of woodland being planted across the Great Western Community Forest over the five-year period of the programme – approx. 500,000 trees in total	2025	Dave Dewart / Carol Bristow	With the town of Swindon at its heart, the Forest covers over 168 square miles, stretching from the North Wessex Downs to the River Thames. An initial £12m of grant funding for the first planting session in 2020/21 was secured from the UK Government’s Nature for Climate fund. Just over 18 hectares of new woodland and trees planted by the end of March 2021 – equating to around 20,000 trees.
E2	Work in partnership to develop proposals for large scale habitat creation projects and secure funding to deliver schemes that can sequester carbon	Ongoing	Kimberly Corps / Phil Smith	Implemented through the planning process and also through enactment of Cabinet decision on the identification and future management of the District Level Licensing Project for Great Crested Newts. Ecological mitigation and net gain is required of all applicable development proposals.
E3	Provide free energy/ heating advice to Borough residents through the Warm & Safe Wiltshire Advice Service	March 2022	Mike Ash	Funding is currently committed (via SBC Public Health) to end of March 2022 when the current contract for Warm & Safe Wiltshire Advice Service will end. Swindon Public Health and Wiltshire Council Public Health to discuss future plans to follow this (as a joint initiative).

¹⁵ UK Government Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (November 2020)
[UK Government Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution \(November 2020\)](#)

E4	Provide free energy efficiency training to eligible residents provided by Adult Community Learning service	Late 2021	Rachel Loxston	Adult Community Learning colleagues will expand delivery of this throughout 2021.
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Enabling actions to support future reduction of wider Borough emissions

No.	Action	Anticipated completion date	Officer sponsor	Commentary
F1	Deliver 'Be the change' climate change communications campaign in Swindon to raise the profile of the net zero agenda, engaging residents and organisations	December 2021 (first phase)	Sam Mowbray (Phil Avery)	Campaign will focus on the action residents and organisations can take – signposting information, tools and resources to help them reduce their emissions footprint. For example, signposting the Government's Target 2030 ¹⁶ initiative which provides free energy-saving support and grant funding for Swindon. SMEs. A new climate change section will be created on the SBC website.
F2	Host a Swindon community event as part of the Government's UK-wide COP26 Zero Carbon Tour	September 2021	Sam Mowbray (Phil Avery)	This event forms part of a national UK Government initiative to sign up 100,000+ businesses to the UN Race to Zero Campaign in the build up to COP26. This will include a workshop to give local organisations, particularly micro businesses (between 1 and 9 employees) tools and resources to help them on the journey to achieve net zero emissions.
F3	Identify opportunities to support the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership's (SWLEP) work to progress the Government's Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy and Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution	August 2021	Dave Dewart (Rob Fulford)	The SWLEP has identified emissions reduction as a strategic priority of the Local Industrial Strategy, particularly the development of a Low Carbon Tourism Zone across wider Wiltshire.
F4	Continued delivery of projects in the Local Cycling And Walking Infrastructure Plan	Ongoing from July 2021	Syed Shah	LCWIP infrastructure to be delivered subject to funding. In addition Moredon Sports Hub is being developed with its focus

¹⁶ UK Government 'Target 2030':
<https://target2030.co.uk/>

	(LCWIP) to improve walking and cycling across the Borough			as a regional cycling facility.
F5	Develop and implement an Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy to encourage borough wide use of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs)	July 2021 onwards	Syed Shah	This will provide the foundations for reducing Scope 3 emissions from Borough-wide traffic and inform the planning policy review through the Local Plan to secure additional EV charging points at domestic and commercial locations. Supplementary Planning Policy already approved.
F6	Develop and implement a new taxi licence policy to encourage and incentivise existing Hackney and Private Hire Taxi Vehicles to purchase Low Emissions alternatives.	April 2022	Kate Bishop (Kathryn Ashton)	This will assist with the reduction of taxi fleet emissions across the Swindon borough, reducing the number of petrol and diesel taxis in operation.
F7	Work in partnership with Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) and SBC's other leisure partners to provide access to funding efficiency improvements to leisure facilities	Ongoing	Rob Richards / David Dewart	The Council has £6.5m of funding to refurbish the Hydro and is working with Seven Capital to upgrade the Oasis. SBC is also progressing the creation of Moredon Sports Hub, regional sports provision in partnership with Sport England.
F8	Work in partnership with our tenant farmers to increase the biodiversity potential of their farmland through land use diversification and alternative planting regimes	Ongoing	Rob Richards / David Dewart	Work is ongoing to identify areas of tenanted farmland and other SBC own land available for tree planting using the funding it has secured for the Great Western Community and as part of the UK Government's <i>Trees for Climate</i> project.
F9	Work in collaboration with local colleges to identify current and future skills gaps within the climate change / emissions reduction field	March 2022 and ongoing thereafter	Sally Burnett	Identifying skills gaps to support GHG emissions reductions is part of the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) - wide Skills Plan. We will identify skills gaps through the Skills and Talent Sub Group.
F10	Conduct an audit of the current carbon reduction activities that are taking place in Swindon Schools via Healthy Schools leads	2021	Su Rai / Claire Fleming	We will audit the current position of work around this subject and understand the next steps and provisions required to develop this work further in schools.

Quantifying and monitoring progress in delivering this Action Plan

- As part of delivering the actions in this plan, we will develop a monitoring and performance framework to assess progress against our 2030 organisational net zero ambition.
- This will involve quantifying as far as possible the impact of existing, planned and potential future actions on reducing the baseline of our scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. We will also monitor the delivery of the enabling actions in this plan and how these lead to identifying further opportunities to reduce GHG emissions which can either be implemented within existing operations or may be subject to securing new funding.
- Developing such a framework is a new territory for the whole of local government, particularly linked to the ambition to support Swindon as borough to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. We will tap into emerging methodologies and approaches to understand how we can robust baseline whole borough emissions and quantify progress along the reduction journey.

Governance

- The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Finance and Commercialisation will also attend a monthly senior officer meeting where progress against the delivery of this Action Plan will be discussed and monitored. Here the Action will be regularly reviewed, actions added and/or reprioritised to take into account evolving best practice, sector innovation and new funding opportunities (e.g. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme).
- It is proposed that an updated Action Plan will be tabled at Cabinet annually, also reporting on progress on reducing our emissions against the baselines for Scope 1, 2 and 3 set out earlier in this plan.

Resource

- The Council is in the process of recruiting a Climate Change Manager to provide full time, dedicated resource to coordinating the delivery of this plan working with the officers identified against each action.

July 2021