








Climate Emergency Plan


Priority Actions Update

CAG: 18 January 2021



 Actions highlighted in yellow are those that have been updated since the previous iteration.

Action Status					
	Completed		On Hold		Actions complete and ongoing
	In Progress		Overdue		Action date not yet reached




General actions

Ref	Action	Description	Status	Initiate by	Commentary
G1	Disseminate the results, conclusions and recommendations of the study within the Council	Send out copies of the report and promote the Climate Emergency Plan to build capacity and support within the Council to take the recommendations and actions forward		31-Jan-20	Study disseminated to: - Members (via Cabinet and CAG) - Staff (via Staff Briefings and Wealdnet) Outcomes of the study will be assimilated into internal campaigns going forward.

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G2	Develop an external engagement plan and disseminate the results, conclusions and recommendations of this study to key stakeholders within the District more broadly	Send out copies of the report and promote the Climate Emergency Plan to build capacity and support within the District for taking the recommendations and actions forward		29-Feb-20	<p>Study disseminated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E. Sussex Local authority Directors and Sussex local authority officers (via Sussex-wide Climate Emergency Officer group) - Wealden Strategic Partnership (presentation given) - Press releases issued and published in local media - Lodged on public Climate Emergency websites - currently has a high profile on South East Climate Alliance website. - As the first in East Sussex, the WDC plan has been used as reference in the drafting of other local authority plans. - Engagement and communication strategy drafted to encompass all activity. Covid-safe alternatives are incorporated. - A second presentation and discussion was delivered to Wealden Strategic Partnership on 09.09.20 <p>- Dedicated Climate Emergency webpages have been created with a prominent button on the Council's homepage. Contains high-level results, conclusions and recommendations from the Wealden Climate Emergency Plan as well as a copy of this Actions Tracker. See also R11.</p>
G3	Identify senior officers and members to champion the programme and key projects	Senior officers and members will be vital in taking forward the recommendations and actions proposed in this report		29-Feb-20	<p>Relevant officers identified. Set up of Climate Emergency Group initially postponed due to covid.</p>



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G4	Establish a means of monitoring and reporting progress against the recommendations and action plan	Set up a monitoring and reporting mechanism to enable progress towards the decarbonisation target to be assessed over time as well as re-appraising actions and priorities		30-Jun-20	<p>- Progress on prioritised actions are reported to each Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) meeting using this Actions tracker table.</p> <p>- An Annual Update Report was presented to Cabinet in December 2020. The report includes progress against the Council's agreed priority actions and presentation of the annual emissions data for the Council's own operations (2019-20) and the emissions data for Wealden District (2018).</p> <p>We are continuing work to improve the quality and quantity of data monitoring and reporting of the Council's own emissions.</p>
G5	Establish roles of individuals within WDC for delivering the actions and recommendations	The agreed set of actions following on from this study should be allocated to specific officers to ensure responsibility for delivery		31-Mar-20	Rolls established and allocated accordingly as new actions arise.
G6	Work with the Government, ESCC and other East Sussex Local Authorities to identify existing and forthcoming funding sources to support further studies and specific projects	Many measures identified within this report will have significant capital cost implications and therefore funding may be required to support their implementation. Any further work to define specific project opportunities should include an analysis of funding options		29-Feb-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have provided input into S.E Energy Hub on key funding needs (to be fed back to BEIS). - We are liaising with Heat Network Delivery Unit on potential 'feasibility' funding for Hailsham Aspires project. - We are working with the E. Sussex officer group to identify potential joint funding opportunities across multiple topic areas. - Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme: A Joint bid through the East Sussex Energy Partnership (ESEP) to the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Scheme (phase 1) has been successful. The project targets low-income, private


				<p>sector households with low EPC ratings (E, F or G) and will include a range of energy efficiency and non-fossil fuel heating measures. The scheme is being delivered through the existing Warm Home Check service in East Sussex.</p> <p>To date, 18 referrals have been made to the Warm Home Check service (and LAD funding) for properties within the Wealden District area. Officers are currently awaiting the outcome of a second bid to LAD (phase 2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have developed a bid to the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) to fund a WDC Industrial Estates project: <i>to accelerate adoption of renewable energy</i>. LoCASE funding has been identified as additional funding stream to support the project. An EOI was submitted in Sept and we were subsequently invited to submit a full application in Oct 2020. WDC's application to MCS has now been successfully shortlisted for interview in January 2021. The interview will be with MCS' CEO and a Trustee. See also R5. - Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS): We have investigated the PSDS and associated Low Carbon Skills Fund and will consider applications to subsequent rounds. - Energy Savings Trust (EST): We are working with the Local Authority Support Programme team (funded by Dft) at EST to identify car parks that may be eligible for OZEV EV chargepoint funding. We have also utilised this support programme to provide EV awareness sessions for Staff
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					and to develop a procurement workshop (pending) See also T6
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Grid decarbonisation




Ref	Action	Description	Status	Initiate by	Commentary
D1	Continue to speak to UKPN about future energy infrastructure plans	Arrange further meetings with UKPN to discuss the plans for future electricity infrastructure in the District and how WDC can support and facilitate this through planning policy and other mechanisms	 	30-Sep-20	Two meetings held with UKPN to understand grid capabilities and options for demand response services in the District. Further meetings to be scheduled pending development of projects with grid opportunities and/or implications.

Demand reduction

Ref	Action	Description	Status	Initiate by	Commentary
R1	Develop a WDC estate carbon management plan	Where appropriate, commission further audits of Council assets to understand the potential for delivering CO ₂ e emissions reductions and demonstrate leadership in this area		30-Sep-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of WDC estate carbon management plan has commenced. Activity was delayed slightly due to reallocation of resources for Covid response. Potential for continued Covid impact on undertaking additional site audits. - Plan in development. To be reported in December 2020 alongside the Annual Climate Emergency Monitoring Report. <p>- WDCs Estate Carbon Management Plan will include both the Council's Housing and Commercial assets. The fully developed plan is to be finalised in June 2021 as part</p>

					<p>of the review of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial aims to address emissions have been developed for the Council's housing stock. This takes a fabric first approach to boost energy efficiency. - A new energy database has been procured to improve the availability and quality of data and ensure the resulting Estates Carbon Management Plan is based on quality data that enables targeted interventions.
R3	Develop and instigate a behavioural change programme across all Council properties to reduce energy consumption	Senior level involvement will be crucial. This should be linked to the climate emergency declaration		30-Sep-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Emergency messaging was initially on hold due to Covid. - Internal behaviour change measures identified in the draft engagement strategy. Methods will be developed in association with specific campaigns as part of overall behaviour change programme. - Publicised World Car Free Day to staff - Climate Emergency and individual action promoted at Staff Briefings - Solar Together promoted to staff and some have confirmed sign up. See also R11 - Two Electric Vehicle information sessions have been provided to staff, along with free vehicle comparison reports. See also T5. - A Staff questionnaire/survey was issued before Christmas to assess the impact of Covid-19 on climate related behaviours. The survey received 63 responses prior to the Christmas break. It will be advertised again to boost numbers. Results will be fed back to staff in due course.

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R4	Undertake a further, detailed, assessment of the existing building stock within the District	Commission a study to understand the typology and age of buildings. This can be used to inform more targeted interventions for projects, guidance and funding		31-Dec-20	Whilst not yet commenced, a number of datasets that will help inform this study have been collected.
R5	Develop and implement a programme of business engagement and support, particularly for SMEs, related to energy efficiency	Provide guidance to SMEs, for instance in the form of forums, presentations, events, training or funding, to deliver energy efficiency improvements		31-Dec-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Emergency messaging initially on hold due to Covid. - A Programme of business engagement and support is being developed as part of an MCS funding bid. This focuses on SMEs in industrial estates and aims to engage with businesses and property owners to improve energy efficiency and encourage the uptake of renewables. Alternative engagement methods investigated in light of Covid restrictions. - Undertaken review of all 'Environment and Pollution' webpages, including production of business support pages to incorporate key messages and provide links to further information and financial support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCS charitable fund project: focused on businesses within a Wealden industrial estate: <i>Accelerating the uptake of renewable energy and low carbon technology in a multi-tenure industrial estate</i>. The project has been shortlisted for interview in January 2021. If successful, learning from this project will also be applicable to businesses elsewhere in the District. See also G6. - Solar Together PV group-buying scheme promoted to MSEs. See also R11.
R11	Community engagement to support behaviour change - Buildings	Develop a community engagement programme that promotes energy demand reduction through behaviour change measures. This must be coordinated with any other		30-Sep-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Emergency comms were suspended during peak Covid time. Now recommenced. - Review of 'Environment and Pollution' web pages and incorporation of Home Energy,

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		<p>initiatives relevant to reducing fuel poverty and /or provision of domestic energy advice.</p>		<p>Climate Emergency, and Business support pages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Engagement included in overall engagement strategy - Calendar of awareness events mapped for the year - to schedule activity. - Carbon Neutral Wealden logo and imagery developed for use across campaign material. - Town and Parish Local Action Day delivered in, conjunction with Centre for Sustainable Energy, as an interactive online event. Aim: to encourage councils to declare their own emergencies and help to lead communities. Outcome report and resource packs disseminated to delegates and CAG members. - A new (prominent) Climate Emergency 'button' has been created on the Council's website homepage, linking directly to the climate emergency pages. This includes an update of current activities. Further links to other (related) pages will be included within these pages in due course. <p>Solar Together PV group-buying scheme. Launched to help residents & businesses install solar PV & battery storage at competitive prices. Delivered in conjunction with iChoosr and 11 other local authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensive promotional campaign delivered including: direct mail + leaflet to 20254 residents, social media campaign (FB & Twitter), email notifications to Town & Parish Councils, internal staff and member Wealdnet articles, MyAlerts articles, 2 press releases, members bulletin article and creation of WDC webpage. - As at 29.10.20, Wealden has 968 registrations of interest, second only to
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					<p>Brighton and Hove (1145). Auction took place on 6.10.20. Personal recommendations now being sent to registered participants who have until 11.12.20 to decide whether to proceed to roof survey stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates will be provided on number of surveys and ultimate number of installations delivered. - Solar Together scheme also delivers non-prioritised action E2 from Climate Emergency Plan. <p>- As at 31 October 2020, Wealden had 1003 registrations of interest in the scheme, 76 of which had accepted their offer for Solar PV, and 7 had accepted their offer for battery storage. We are awaiting further updates to these figures from iChoosr.</p> <p>- We have undertaken specific promotion of the Government's Green Homes Grant to encourage take up of the funding. This has included a press release, a variety of social media posts and an article in the T&P newsletter.</p> <p>- We have provided social media comms to promote and support Forest Row's Renewable Heat project, which provides support for householders to come off oil-fired heating systems.</p>
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Low carbon heating systems

Ref	Action	Description	Status	Initiate by	Commentary
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H1	Investigate the potential for a low carbon heat network at Vicarage Field (Hailsham Aspires)	Undertake a feasibility study to assess the technical and financial viability of delivering a heat-pump led heat network as part of the Vicarage Field redevelopment (Hailsham Aspires)		31-Dec-20	<p>Ongoing liaison with Design team (via online meetings and email) to provide input into Hailsham Aspires project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Input into development of the high-level energy strategy for outline planning permission. - Provision of high-level list of broad sustainability requirements for consideration - Specific discussions regarding heat network opportunity including type, governance options, and funding mechanisms (HNDU). - Links have been made with S.E Energy Hub, which may offer potential support for project development.
H3	Develop heating system replacement programme for Council properties to replace all gas boilers	Review heating system asset plan for Council owned buildings and identify opportunities for switching to heat pumps.		30-Sep-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be developed as part of R1 (WDC estate carbon management plan). - As per R1, to be reported in December alongside the Annual Climate Emergency Monitoring Report. - External expertise required to evaluate heating options in certain buildings, particularly RLS properties - Alternative options to gas boiler replacements, such as hydrogen ready boilers, are being investigated, as are alternative options for those properties not on the gas network. Note: WDC has already installed 187 air-source heat pumps in off-gas properties. Solutions for RLS are also being explored. This will be incorporated into the Estate Carbon Management plan (see R1).



Building integrated renewable energy generation and storage

Ref	Action	Description	Status	Initiate by	Commentary
E1	Assess the suitability of remaining Council assets for further PV installations	Assess remaining Council assets and, where appropriate, plan and deliver a programme of PV installations across WDC estate, including buildings, car parks and other suitable locations.		31-Dec-20	To be developed as part of R1(WDC estate carbon management plan) May require external expertise.

Low carbon transport


Ref	Action	Description	Status	Initiate by	Commentary
T1	Work with Government and other relevant stakeholders to identify methods to drive private transport decarbonisation within the District	Arrange a meeting with relevant stakeholders to discuss the implications of this study and the practical measures that WDC can take to facilitate the uptake of ULEVs		30-Sep-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participated in E. Sussex workshop (led by Energy Savings Trust). - Report previously submitted to SPACES programme and E. Sussex Chief Executive group. - WDC convened E. Sussex working group (pre-Covid). Group now restarted.
T3	Review WDC fleet and replacement plans	Conduct an audit of the Council's vehicle fleet to assess opportunities for renewal with zero emission alternatives		30-Sep-20	Replacement times identified.
T4	Replace WDC fleet with zero emission alternatives	Based on the audit carried out as part of Action T3, replace WDC vehicles with zero emission alternatives where feasible		When due for renewal	The Council has procured its first all-electric pool car vehicle.


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T5	Work with Stakeholders to assess options for increasing uptake of ULEVs	Identify stakeholders in the District with large fleets and / or car parks and work with them to support investment in charging points and ULEVs		Aug 20- Dec 21	<p>Various activities undertaken, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaged with residents and businesses via public EV infrastructure consultation. - Report on EV infrastructure presented to SPACES board and to E. Sussex Chief Executives. - Substantial collaboration with E. Sussex local authorities to establish joined-up approach to off-street and on-street charge points. - WDC now to move forward with off-street (car park) infrastructure. <p style="background-color: yellow;">- Go Electric EV information sessions for WDC staff and members delivered by EST. Two online sessions publicised to all staff via Wealdnet and email. To provide info, dispel myths and answer queries about EVs. Staff also offered free individual vehicle comparison report.</p>
T6	Install public charging infrastructure in the Council's own estate	Plan and install EV charging points at Council owned buildings, car parks and other locations.		31-Dec-20	<p>As above, WDC has taken the decision to move forward with delivery of off-street charging within its own car parks. The decision regarding on-street charging is yet to be finalised within ESCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Report - <i>EV Infrastructure Delivery Models</i>: A report, outlining potential deliver models was presented to Cabinet in October. This sought Cabinet's steer on their preferred procurement approach to delivering EV infrastructure within Council car parks. Cabinet approved all recommendations and directed officers to deliver a 'partnership' model that maximises the potential for funding from OLEV (or similar) and secures private sector investment to


					<p>enable the transfer of some, or all, risk liabilities. Press release pending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officers have commenced work with EST to analyse the spatial distribution of properties in the District without access to off-street parking and their proximity to Council-owned public car parks. Where sites meet the required criteria, grants of up to £7,500 (capped at 75%) per unit may be available through OLEV to install chargepoints. This work is still ongoing (it has been delayed slightly by staffing changes at EST). - An EV Infrastructure Procurement Workshop has been scheduled for delivery in Jan 2021. This is for relevant WDC officers from: Assets, Housing, Legal and Procurement. It is being provided to help bring officers up-to-speed and begin the process of planning our delivery.
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Offsetting

Ref	Action	Description	Status	Initiate by	Commentary
O1	Identify existing sources of LULUCF emissions and further opportunities for woodland creation	Undertake a study to understand the existing LULUCF emissions within the District and potential opportunities for increasing sequestration		31-Dec-20	In response to increased interest in the use of the natural environment to sequester carbon, and to ensure appropriate scheme location and design, Sussex Local Nature Partnership (SLNP) are considering the development of local guidance. This is to be led by SLNP with input from local authorities and other relevant bodies.

					<p>Further opportunities for LULUCF in Wealden will need to take account of any local guidance produced.</p> <p>The SLNP have rescheduled a (previously postponed) workshop for the end of January. This will help to inform future WDC activity.</p>
O2	Undertake an assessment of opportunities for offsetting residual CO ₂ e emissions through investment in renewable energy technologies	Commission a study to review specific project opportunities for delivering CO ₂ e savings through investment in renewables, such as solar farms and wind turbines, both within and outside of the District.		31-Dec-20	<p>Some individual project opportunities have been identified e.g. Hailsham Aspires. Will require commission of study to review opportunities.</p> <p>Initial conversations have begun to assessing the options available.</p>

Scope 3 emissions

Ref	Action	Description	Status	Initiate by	Commentary
S1	Work with suppliers to provide better emissions data	In order for WDC to better understand its Scope 3 emissions, further information will be required from its suppliers in relation to the CO ₂ e emissions associated with any services procured		30-Sep-20	<p>We are working to understand and improve our scope 3 data quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2019/20 scope 3 emissions data have been sourced for the Waste and Leisure contracts. - Other scope 3 emissions, such as water consumption in WDC buildings (RLS, office and FL), have also been collected. - Issues with metering of electricity from the Office to Freedom Leisure (FL) have been investigated and the meter reset, although retrospective data corrections cannot be made. - We will continue to build our scope 3 emissions and improve data quality over time.

