

Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update 5

This document summarises progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) since March 2021, as reported to the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) in June 2021.

Background information about the CEAP can be found [here](#).

Theme / Priority Action	Progress to June 2021
<p>Council assets</p> <p>Adopt an emissions baseline for the Council's estate and operations.</p>	<p>As part of its climate and ecological declaration, the Council agreed 2018/19 as its baseline year for emissions monitoring.</p> <p>As previously reported, the Council's 2018/19 Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) submission shows that the total energy consumption for corporate buildings owned and used by the Council was 18,638,896 kilowatt hours (kWh) equating to 5,006 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂). New Vision Homes (NVH) residential properties recorded a footprint of 2,555 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO₂e) in 2018/19.</p> <p>The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions report for 2019/20 shows a reduction of almost 11% in emissions compared to 2018/19 (the baseline year). The report has been published to the website here: www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/sustainability-data.</p> <p>The Council's climate emergency declaration uses a definition that also includes all properties that are owned and leased out to other organisations. The Council owns over 550 such leased properties. As reported previously, due to the scale of the portfolio, determining the energy consumption and carbon footprint of these buildings needs to be conducted in a phased approach. The energy consumption and EPC ratings for the top three largest leased buildings owned by the Council - Dukes Court (C), Export House (E) and Orion Gate (C) have been determined. A PV installation with a generation capacity of 36,500 kWh has been completed at Dukes Court which will assist in improving the building's carbon footprint. Statistics showing the electricity generated and CO₂ saved can be viewed via this link:</p>

	<p>https://monitoringpublic.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/p/kiosk?guid=36e22d31-d3c0-42ab-bc26-14457b50bd72</p> <p>Export House will benefit from connection to the Poole Road energy centre and remedial energy efficiency improvements as part of ThamesWey’s successful bid to the Government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (see below). Officers in Estates Management feel that there is little that could be done to improve the rating of Orion Gate at the current time. Midas House and Albion House will be reviewed next.</p> <p>The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires all local authorities (LAs) in England to submit reports to the Secretary of State demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation within that LA area. This covers measures to improve properties in the owner-occupier, private rented sector, and social rented sector. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) uses data submitted through these returns to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency, and to build an ongoing picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery. A copy of this year’s report has been published to the Council’s website here: www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/sustainability-data</p>
<p>Collaborative work with ThamesWey to deliver on carbon reduction goals e.g. decarbonising the energy supply for all Council buildings and operations and eliminate emissions directly through the supply of renewable / sustainable power sources.</p>	<p>Action Surrey – part of the ThamesWey Group – was successful in its consortium bid on behalf of the majority of Surrey districts and boroughs under the BEIS Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme. It was awarded £6.2 million under Phase 1B of the funding, and a further £3 million under Phase 1B. The project – named Green Jump Surrey - seeks to upgrade the energy efficiency of low income, fuel poor households across the county. As at the end of April 2021, 801 eligible households have been identified, of which 566 are proceeding to survey and installation; 91 pre-installation EPCs completed to confirm eligibility; 54 residents received 56 measures - 33 park home installations, 3 Q-Bot underfloor insulations, 2 cavity wall insulations, 8 loft insulations, 9 external solid wall insulations and 1 solar thermal system completed. The project has been promoted at a recent meeting with WBC</p>

	<p>Community Managers who are in touch with residents who may be eligible for the funding. Promotional leaflets have been made available for distribution at community centres.</p> <p>Works continue on the Poole Road Energy Centre. Drone footage of the thermal stores being installed is available to view on ThamesWey’s website here.</p> <p>ThamesWey was successful in its bid to the Government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. £3 million was awarded in grant funding for the connection of Export House and Midas House to the new district heating and cooling networks, together with some internal retrofit works.</p>
<p>Improve the energy performance of Council owned and leased properties – initially through an appraisal of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs).</p>	<p>Due to the scale of the property portfolio, Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) are being reviewed in a phased approach. As reported in November 2020, EPC ratings for the first phase of the three largest buildings have been identified. Dukes Court and Orion Gate are C rated. Export House however has an EPC rating of E. Albion House and Midas House will be reviewed next.</p> <p>Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for publicly accessible Council buildings are also being reviewed in a phased approach. A DEC considers a building’s energy performance operational rating based on its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions for the last year. A score and operational rating on a scale from A (lowest emissions) to G (highest emissions) is assigned to the building. The typical score for a public building is 100. The reports show how efficiently energy is used in the building. The numbers do not represent actual units of energy consumed, they represent comparative energy efficiency. In November 2020, DECs for the Civic Offices (F) and Monument Way (D) were renewed. Officers in Building Services are reviewing the accompanying advisory reports. The Leisure Centre, Pool in the Park and Sportsbox are due to be assessed by Freedom Leisure next.</p> <p>Officers are in the process of carrying out a procurement exercise for water supplies at WBC’s corporate properties. A Framework Agreement is currently</p>

	<p>being finalised in order to procure a single water supplier. This will help improve monitoring of water consumption across the corporate estate. It is hoped the Framework Agreement will be finalised in June 2021.</p>
<p>Large scale renewable energy plan to be drafted, detailing how wind energy could be funded across the borough and how it could be complemented with solar energy.</p>	<p>This was agreed by the CCWG as a new priority action at its meeting on 12 March 2020. A Renewable Energy Plan was considered by the Climate Change Working Group at its meeting on 18 March 2021. The Plan considers the role of renewable energy technologies in decarbonising the Council and borough’s energy supply and suggests a range of actions in order to move towards greater proportions of locally generated renewable energy. The Working Group made a recommendation to the Executive that it be approved for adoption. The Plan is due to be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 17 June 2021.</p> <p>In April 2021, the Government announced that in line with a recommendation by the Climate Change Committee, it will reduce emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. This will be set out in the UK’s Sixth Carbon Budget and is set to be enshrined in law by the end of June 2021.</p> <p>SCC is working with Solar Together to enable a group-buying solar PV project across the county. Letters are due to go out to 200,000 households from the week commencing 7 June 2021. Residents that express an interest in the scheme would receive a survey to ensure feasibility and following their agreement would enter into a group auction to purchase the solar PV at discounted rates. Solar Together has worked with various local authorities to enable bulk solar PV installation. Examples include Essex and Hampshire County Councils. More information is available at https://solartogether.co.uk/. The scheme is being directly managed by SCC although Marketing Communications and Customer Service colleagues at WBC are aware in order to vouch for the legitimacy of the scheme and signpost any queries direct to Solar Together. Information is also available on the Planet Woking website.</p>

Transport	
<p>Avoid unnecessary travel to meetings where possible and develop a mandatory transport hierarchy as part of the Council's Staff Transport Plan.</p>	<p>Due to Covid restrictions, levels of staff travel (to and for work) and flexible working have largely remained unchanged during the reporting period with social distancing requirements continuing to see the majority of staff working from home and the use of Zoom for meetings. However as the Government eases restrictions, these working patterns are due to shift over the coming weeks incorporating a hybrid approach between office based and home based working.</p> <p>At its last meeting, the Climate Change Working Group supported the use of web conferencing / online meetings as a preferred meeting method as standard in order to reduce business travel and associated carbon emissions.</p>
<p>Identify locations for the installation of electric bike charging points to further enable staff (and public) to select sustainable modes of transport and alternatives to the car, particularly for short journeys.</p>	<p>This was agreed by the CCWG as a new priority action at its meeting on 12 March 2020.</p> <p>Officers have liaised with the Town Centre Engineering team on the viability of installing charging facilities at the newly installed cycle parking in Adison Road and in Church Street East in the Town Centre. However, there are concerns that charging lockers could be susceptible to vandalism or misuse in these locations so alternatives are being considered.</p>
<p>Work with the Council's car club provider to replace the existing petrol cars with electric vehicles.</p>	<p>Existing car club arrangements for business mileage are being reviewed to secure improved environmental criteria and availability / efficiency.</p> <p>Officers from Green Infrastructure (GI) have been in discussion with SCC about the feasibility of joining the countywide car club scheme. This could bring benefits including: a greater number of cars available for business and public use; improved environmental criteria including targets for EVs on the fleet; flexibility in pick up and drop off locations. SCC is in the process of finalising its contract after which GI officers can review contract terms and better assess cost and service implications for the Council. This will be considered further as national lockdown restrictions ease and officers return to the office environment.</p>

	<p>In the meantime, one of WBC’s petrol car club vehicles has been replaced with an electric vehicle.</p> <p>WBC has joined the newly convened EV Strategy Forum being led by Surrey County Council. The aim of this forum is to work together to deliver a consistent strategy across the county to provide the necessary EV infrastructure for Surrey residents to help meet common climate targets and facilitate a shift to zero emission transport in line with the Government’s Road to Zero Strategy which bans the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030.</p> <p>Officers attended a webinar hosted by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) in May 2021 which sought to explore the obstacles to expanding EV infrastructure provision at the local authority level. A survey to gather feedback has subsequently been sent out to all local authorities to inform the development of the Government’s EV Infrastructure Strategy which is due to be published in the autumn 2021.</p> <p>Seven electric vehicle chargers have been installed at Dukes Court including a 50kW DC charger for use by the tenants.</p> <p>Woking Community Transport (WCT) is purchasing a second electric vehicle which is due to be delivered in June 2021. The first became operational in October 2020. WCT is also hoping to secure match funding through SCC’s Low Emission Community Transport Fund for a further ten electric vehicles with expected delivery by the end of March 2022.</p>
<p>Policy, leadership and behaviour changes</p>	
<p>Review Woking 2050 to incorporate the Council's pledge for carbon neutrality and climate emergency action plan.</p>	<p>This has in part been addressed with the identification of priority actions as per this plan and the subsequent updates on these. Climate Emergency Action Plan updates are available on the Council’s website under the climate change pages here. To be further progressed by officers in the coming months to reflect the adopted pledge and continued focus on accelerating action and timeframes.</p>

<p>Develop an engaging staff communication programme to promote and raise awareness of what the Council is doing to address climate change across its estate and operations (and more broadly across the Borough).</p>	<p>Officers have been continuing to promote what the Council is doing to address climate change.</p> <p>Work continues on the Planet Woking programme. The purpose of the programme is to raise the profile of what the Council has been doing to date to address climate change and sustainability locally; its climate and ecological emergency declaration; and current /future projects.</p> <p>At the heart of the programme is the involvement of the local community to inspire local residents to make, or continue to make, changes to live a greener, more sustainable home and work life.</p> <p>On 26 May 2021, Planet Woking held its third virtual event, focusing on the theme “Urban Life: Adapting to a changing climate”. The talk explored how we can adapt our buildings, infrastructure and services to better equip our communities for now and the future. We were joined by guest speakers Ian Christie from the University of Surrey’s Centre for the Environment and Sustainability; Sean Rendall from ThamesWey; Rachel Basham and Rupert Devereux from WEAct; Steve McIntyre from ANS Global and Katherine Waters, WBC’s Drainage and Flood Risk Engineer. The evening was chaired by Peter Gordon. A recording of the online talk is available at www.planetwoking.co.uk/events.</p> <p>The latest edition (April 2021) of the Planet Woking newsletter can be downloaded from www.planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/newsletters. It carries all the latest climate change, sustainability and biodiversity project updates. If you’re not already receiving these newsletters direct to your email inbox and would like to, you can subscribe at the bottom of any page of the Planet Woking website (www.planetwoking.co.uk).</p>
<p>Develop a staff and councillor communications campaign to promote and encourage positive behaviour changes that focus on messages around switching off equipment, avoiding single use plastics, etc.</p>	<p>Communications to staff and councillors to promote and raise awareness of the pledge to become carbon neutral will continue over the coming weeks and months. This has in part been addressed with messages arising through projects as noted above.</p>

On 22 March 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an update on the Council's climate change activities, highlighting in particular work undertaken since it declared a climate and ecological emergency in July 2019. Officers from Green Infrastructure followed the presentation with an email to all councillors to share ways in which they can raise awareness in their wards to help the Council achieve its climate and ecological emergency declaration pledges. This included links to information on the Council's CEAP and declaration; Planet Woking and Action Surrey.

A paper outlining options for the continuation of Planet Woking beyond the end of its initial funded in July 2021 was supported by the Climate Change Working Group at its last meeting. A proposal for further financial support over the next two years is to be discussed at a meeting of the Executive on 17 June 2021. Although Planet Woking will remain an established brand and framework through which the Council can continue to promote and share its climate change and sustainability projects, continued financial support will help maintain its lasting profile and growth.

The number of case studies and articles available on the Planet Woking website continues to grow, raising awareness of local climate change and ecological initiatives. Working Group members are encouraged to forward ideas for future features to the Green Infrastructure team (green@woking.gov.uk).

Officers from the Green Infrastructure team continue to attend meetings of the Woking Chamber of Commerce's Environment Committee. These meetings are a good opportunity to raise the profile of the climate and ecological emergency declaration and how the business community can assist and also continue to improve their own sustainability practices.

With regards the business community, Surrey County Council is launching a programme called Low Carbon in the South East (LoCASE) that aims to help businesses become more competitive and profitable while protecting the environment and encouraging low carbon solutions. The LoCASE programme is supported by the European Regional Development Fund to provide a free business support programme. It offers focused, individual support to small

and medium sized enterprises (including social enterprises) improving competitiveness and creating jobs through increased energy efficiency and new low carbon business. Grants will be available for businesses of up to £20,000 as well as an environmental training scheme and events. Targeted business support is on offer for companies who offer 'green' or low carbon goods and services. All eligible small or medium sized businesses in Surrey will be given equal opportunity to apply for a grant or support. More information about the scheme is available at www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/climate-change/businesses.

Woking Environment Action (WEAct) volunteers have developed a tool to help small and medium sized businesses better understand their carbon footprint and how they might be able to reduce their emissions. The calculator is free to use and can be tailored to specific business needs. By inputting business emissions data, the tool can highlight where reductions can be made and make suggestions for sustainable improvements. More information about the tool is available on WEAct's website at www.wokingla21.wordpress.com

Surrey's first sustainable business awards took place on 20 May 2021. The Corporate Responsibility for the Environment and a Sustainable Tomorrow 2021 - CREST21 - awards were run jointly by the Woking News & Mail and the University of Surrey's Centre for Environment and Sustainability. Planet Woking was proud to sponsor the Transforming Food category. The awards showcased the positive work by local businesses to protect the environment and promote more sustainable working and lifestyle habits. More information about the awards and winners is available at www.crestawardssurrey.co.uk

Surrey County Council has launched 'Your Fund' and is calling for exciting, inspiring and 'place-changing' projects from local communities across the county. The fund is available for capital one-off costs and initiatives must fit with Surrey's Community Vision and have the support of the local community. More information about the Your Fund project criteria and how to apply is available at www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/funding/community-projects-fund.

	<p>The Surrey Youth Cabinet received a presentation on Planet Woking and the Council's climate and ecological emergency declaration on 9 June 2021.</p>
<p>Sustainable development</p>	
<p>Further develop planning guidance to reflect the Council's climate and ecological emergency declaration.</p>	<p>A draft scoping exercise of the Council's current planning policies, how they align with its climate emergency declaration, what they cover and what gaps might exist, is being undertaken by officers in Planning Policy. This piece of work will help identify opportunities for further developing planning policy or guidance to help deliver the Council's declaration and how best they could be achieved, particularly for the next iteration of the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>Work with Planning Policy service to update local guidance to reflect how development can be adapted to encourage the adoption of low or zero carbon technologies. Develop planning guidance for developers and homeowners regarding the installation of technologies such as ground and air source heat pumps etc.</p>	<p>Currently, developers applying for planning permission for new homes need to demonstrate that schemes go beyond the Building Regulations minimum requirements (a minimum of a 19% improvement), and incorporate climate adaptation measures. Planning guidance in the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) encourages developers to go even further towards zero carbon housing if viable and technically feasible.</p> <p>Once complete, the Working Group will be consulted on the findings of the scoping exercise referenced above.</p> <p>The Action Surrey website already provides advice to homeowners on a wide range of technologies / steps they can take – see www.actionsurrey.org/improve/house. The Planet Woking website also features articles on what local residents can do to improve the sustainability of their homes including a case study by local resident Morgan who attended the first Planet Woking webinar and shared his advice on home energy efficiency – see https://planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/home-energy-efficiency/.</p>