

Climate Emergency

Highlight Report

32%

of residential properties with **EPC*** rating **A-C** in B&NES

1.5K

Homeowners interested in joining Solar Together group buy offer

£82.5K

Energy efficiency grant awarded to 10 SMEs

22.5MW

Total installed renewable energy capacity

£421,544

Green Homes Grant (LAD*) spent on home energy retrofit

66%

Cut in carbon emissions from Council estate since 2010.

Area wide carbon emissions

37%

1,063 ktCO₂

2005



671 ktCO₂

2019

33

Business Carbon Surveys



29



Parish & Town Councils actively working on climate and nature issues

831

cyclists on average used the Bristol to Bath cycle path daily in 2021

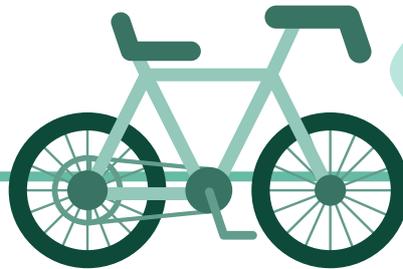
35.2K

Trees planted on Council and private land since 2020

League tables for recycling

4th out of 92 unitary local authorities

15th out of all 338 local authorities



69

Public EV Charging Devices

90%

of HGVs, coaches, buses and taxis entering the **CAZ** are now compliant



59.2%

Waste reused, recycled and composted in 2021



15%

Reducing waste sent to landfill

3%

2020
2021

*Energy Performance Certificate
* Local Authority Delivery scheme

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

TACKLING THE CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

Key Outcomes Delivered

2021 - 2022

Leadership and Strategy

The first Local Authority to enact a Local Plan Partial Update to respond to the climate emergency – due for adoption 2022



First Local Authority outside of London to introduce a charging Clean Air Zone



Strategy and Plan alignment continued, including:

Economic Strategy - realignment in progress due for adoption Summer 2022



Procurement & Commissioning Strategy 2021-2024 - "Think Climate, Think Local, Think Innovation" adopted

Woodland and Tree planting Delivery Plan developed



Journey to Net Zero – Transport Plan with a revised timetable, due for adoption Spring 2022

Development of performance monitoring on climate and nature activity across key service areas, as part of the Council's Integrated Performance Reporting and Joint Spatial Needs Assessment



Low carbon new build: Sladebrook Road & Bath Quays



Retrofit & renewable energy: Charlton House Care Home & Grosvenor Place



Tranche two active travel schemes on Upper Bristol Rd and Beckford Rd constructed by summer.

In 2021 the library joined a digital news and magazine subscription service reducing waste and increasing accessibility

Engagement

The Climate Emergency webpages have been updated with phase 2 revision scheduled for Spring 2022

The Zero Carbon Nature Positive Network microsite developed to enable more detailed sharing and conversation between community groups

An E-learning climate literacy course. Staff climate literacy programme being rolled out and adapted for virtual delivery.

Inaugural Climate & Biodiversity Festival, 35+ events over two weeks, covering broad range topics. Majority of events were community led. Over 500 people took part.

A day-long Leadership and elected members Climate Literacy course was held in March 2021

The Community Engagement Programme is ongoing

Liveable Neighbourhoods scheme is now under consultation



TACKLING THE CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

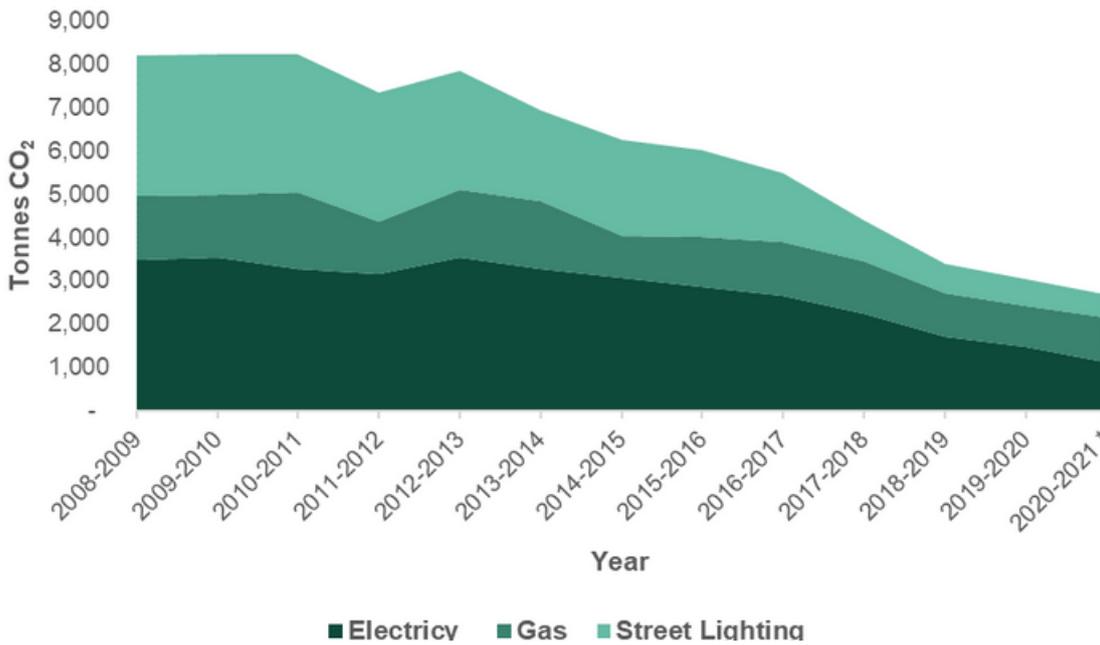
Bath & North East Somerset Council

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Carbon Emissions

Progress Update

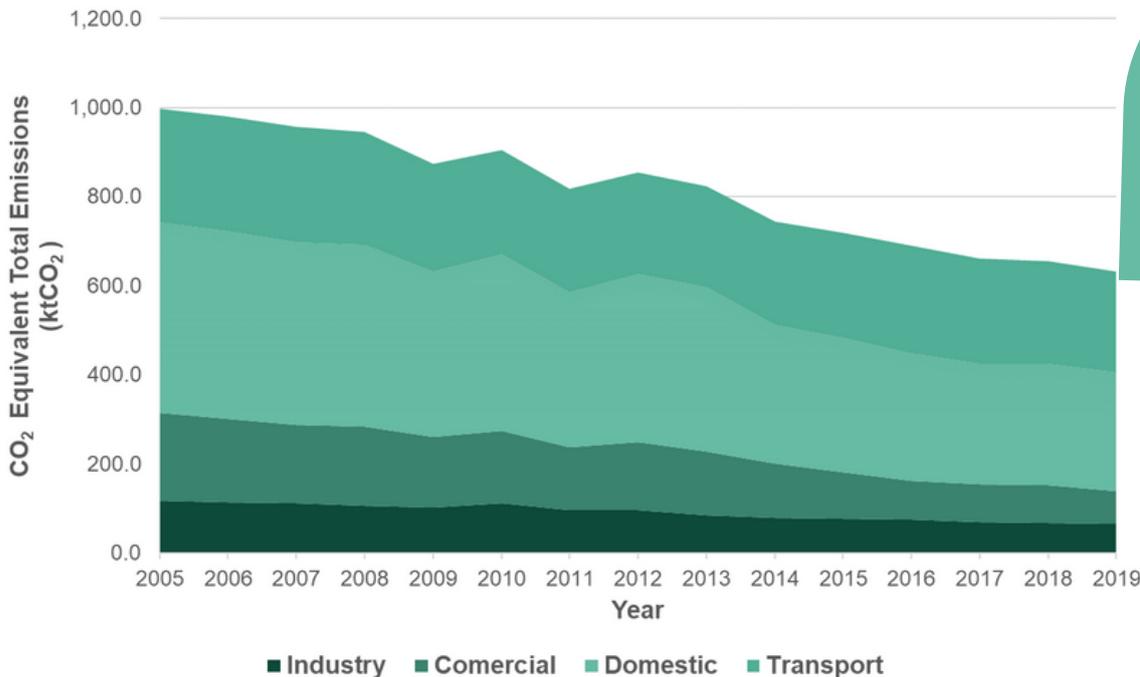
Council Managed Carbon Emissions



In 2021/22 our total emissions have dropped to 2,699 Tonnes CO₂*

Since 2010 Council carbon emissions have decreased by 67%

Area Wide Carbon Emissions by Sector



In 2019 our total emissions dropped to 671.3 ktCO₂

Since 2005 emissions have reduced by 37%

*Provisional data



TACKLING THE CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Community Engagement

Progress Update

Council Communication Channels

Regular news and opportunities are added to the Climate and Ecological Emergency newsroom. Opportunities are shared via Community mailing lists.

Social media

Maintained regular climate and carbon reduction content on main Council and dedicated GreenBathnes social media channels. Video content is also available on Council Youtube Climate playlist.

Website

Climate Emergency webpages have been refreshed, including specific pages on 'what you can do' for residents and businesses.

Zero Carbon, Nature Positive Community Network

Virtual network microsite launched for citizens, community groups and parish/town councils. The site will support sharing resources, Promoting events and providing a platform for local climate action.

Participation Events

Inaugural Climate and Biodiversity Festival held in the run up to COP26. Other events incorporating climate and nature included: Kurk Jackson VAG exhibition, Summer Reading Challenge, Festival of Nature & Communicate, Tree Planting, Tree Weekender, Somer Valley and Bathscape Walking Festivals.

Parish and Town Council partnership working

Comprehensive mapping of Parish climate declarations and actions and summary published. Parish Council Toolkit updated. One-to-one and Forum-level support provided to Parishes. Annual Climate and Nature Parish network meet up held in September.



A Focus on Achievements

2021 - 2022

The Highlight Report outlines the key achievements in 2021-22. This section includes more detail about some of that work.

Action to reduce carbon emissions provides a host of other opportunities and benefits. Achieving the district-wide zero carbon 2030 target will also create improved health, social equality, and economic and community resilience. At the end of each project summary below, we've noted the predominant co-benefits.

Co-benefits

In 2019, the Council was invited by Ashden to join a working group to develop the Ashden Toolkit for Councils. Alongside a directory of action, four co-benefits associated with action to cut carbon emissions were identified:

Health, Economy, Equity, and Resilience.



Transport – Liveable Neighbourhoods



Changes to transport and how we travel are crucial in the journey to reach net zero by 2030. Over reliance on privately-owned vehicles and a lack of reliable public transport are some of the challenges the Council must address to create positive climate action.

£2.2m has been allocated to develop and deliver fifteen priority Liveable Neighbourhood schemes as part of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. Through a range of measures including vehicle restrictions, traffic calming, one-way streets, and resident parking zones, the schemes aim to reduce the dominance of privately owned vehicles in residential areas while enabling and encouraging active travel. A Citizens Panel on active travel has been arranged for Spring 2022.

Co-benefits:



Economy



Health

Low-carbon building at Bath Quays



224 photo voltaic panels have been installed, which cover an area half the size of a five-a-side football pitch, on the new office development at Bath Quays South. The development now hosts the largest solar array in Bath and will provide the building with a reliable source of renewable energy.

The building is also fitted with a range of other energy efficient measures, such as LED lighting and a coating on windows to reduce heat loss and gain. The future-facing design will increase the buildings' energy efficiency and reduce the long-term carbon footprint of the development.

Energy efficiency improvement and local renewable energy generation are priority areas of action in Bath and North East Somerset. This project forms part of the council's direct impact on carbon emissions and leads the charge on energy-efficient buildings in our district.

Co-benefits:



Economy



Resilience

Planning – Local Plan Partial Update



Engaging with the community as individuals, community groups, or through Parish and Town Councils, is essential if the Council wants to be successful in achieving its goal of net zero by 2030. In September 2021 the council ran its first Climate and Biodiversity festival which saw over 500 people take part in 35+ events relating to climate and nature over two weeks. Most events were community led and supported already active climate groups in promoting local projects.

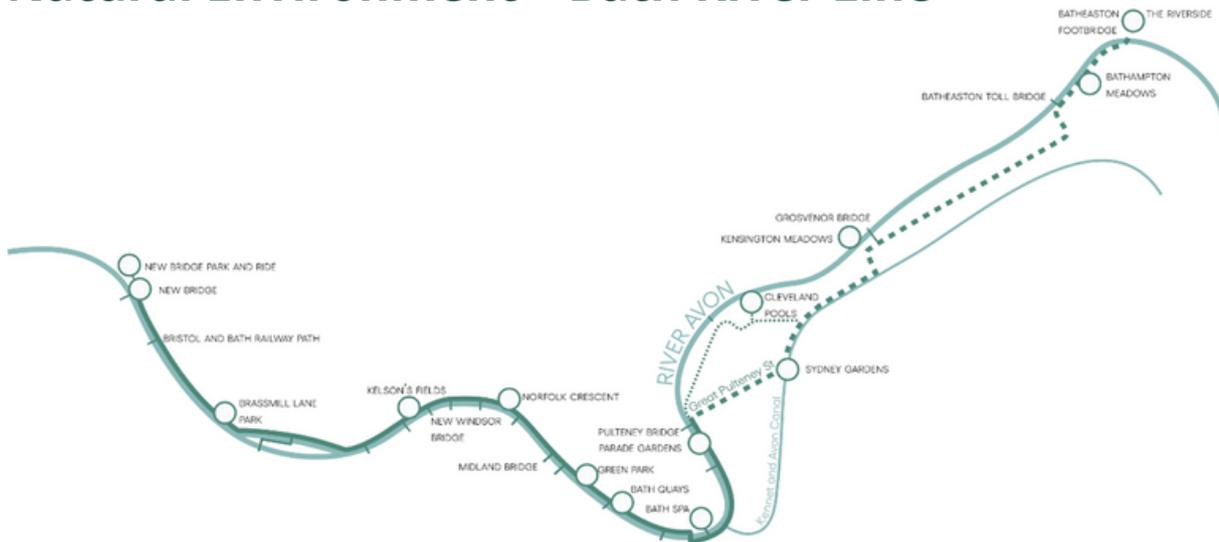
The festival provided a platform to discuss what a changing climate means for Bath and North East Somerset. It showcased the work taking place across the council to support residents and to meet the actions outlined in the Climate Action Plan. To support ongoing networking following the festival, the Zero Carbon Nature Positive online network was launched, and membership is increasing.

Co-benefits:



Resilience

Natural Environment – Bath River Line



Bath and North East Somerset Council is delivering a series of projects to maintain and improve the natural environment, while also reducing carbon emissions. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment can mitigate the effects of climate change through creating carbon sinks and providing flood protection. Green spaces are also key for active travel schemes as demonstrated by the Bath River Line project.

The project will create a linear park following the River Avon from Bathampton to Newbridge. Covering 10km, it will connect beautiful green spaces and city landmarks, creating a high-quality route for walking and cycling. Central to the River Line project is biodiversity recovery through the restoration of lost habitat which will in turn provide climate benefits.

Co-benefits:  **Health**  **Equity**

Council service delivery – Climate Literacy



Postponed by the pandemic, the rollout of a bespoke e-learning course and day-long climate literacy training for council staff began in the autumn of 2021 and runs monthly. The successful rollout represents a commitment to integrate the climate emergency into everything the council does. By raising staff understanding of the emergency, and their role in combatting the issue, the training embeds the need for climate to be considered at all levels of decision making.

Co-benefits:  **Resilience**

Waste and Recycling – Pixash Lane



Residents in Bath and North East Somerset have reached an impressive Reuse, Recycling and Composting rate of 59.2%; the highest since records began. In support of this high rate, and with a view to reducing and recycling even more in the future, a new state-of-the-art recycling hub in Keynsham is due to open in 2023.

The hub is designed to meet the waste and recycling needs of the area for the next 40 years. The facility will expand public recycling provision, making it easier for people to recycle, and will help in reducing general waste and operating costs. The hub has been designed with sustainability measures built in, ensuring high thermal performance and low energy need buildings. All buildings onsite will include the installation of solar PVs on the roof, with a total solar array of more than 1700m², generating an estimated 650MWh of electricity per year.

Co-benefits:



Economy



Resilience

Increasing renewable energy generation on homes



Two schemes have been running in tandem in 2021-22. The LAD2 grant programme has been helping improve the comfort, conditions, and energy performance for households on joint income under £30k per year, living in homes that have an energy performance rating (EPC) of E, F or G. As well as energy efficiency measures such as insulation, rooftop solar panels are also being installed with £421,544 having been invested to date.

Alongside that, the council has promoted the pilot renewable energy and battery storage group buying scheme West of England Solar Together. Solar Together offers residents a way to access a pre-selected, qualified installer and competitive pricing for installations in homes. The scheme received 1533 registrations of interest, with 80% of registrants saying that they heard about the scheme through council communications. Installations are underway and due to complete in the first half of 2022-23.

Co-benefits:



Equity



Health



Resilience

Planning – Local Plan Partial Update



A consultation on the partial update to Bath & North East Somerset's Local Plan and changes to Supplementary Planning Documents was completed in 2021. The changes ensure that planning policies better reflect the of Climate and Ecological Emergencies and to help meet the net zero by 2030 target.

The proposed changes include new guidance on energy efficiency for existing buildings, a net zero carbon policy for new builds, a revised renewable energy policy, and much more.

Planning policies impact on a wide range of issues related to tackling the Climate Emergency, such as enabling a shift to mass and active transport, supporting local renewable energy generation, and adaptation to problems like extreme heat or flooding. Results from the consultation are due for examination by the planning inspector in Spring 2022 and will feed into the development of the local plan partial update.

Co-benefits:



Economy



Resilience

Reducing Supply Chain Emissions



The Climate Emergency Procurement and Commissioning Strategy will become operational in 2022-23. It ensures that the £200 million spent by the Council each year on commissioning goods, works, and services aligns to and helps deliver the council's climate commitments. Lifecycle assessments will be undertaken and a consideration of a supplier's capacity to address these impacts when awarding contracts.

Co-benefits:



Resilience

Libraries – The sharing economy



The Council's three main Libraries and 10 community-managed libraries are built on the foundation of resource efficiency through sharing, borrowing and reuse. Libraries provide residents with free access to books, DVDs, maps, music, computers, and a range of other services. Investment has been made in environmentally-focused titles for children and adults, and outside of Covid restrictions volunteers run a regular home energy information session.

In the year 2020/2021 libraries lent approximately 93,000 items, including books and audiobooks for 12,752 active members of the library. Over 133,000 titles were also borrowed through the digital library service. In 2021 the library joined a digital news and magazine subscription service called Libby increasing the number of publication titles readers can access from approximately 50 to 4000. This move has dramatically reduced the waste generated from providing physical copies and increased access with around 68,000 titles being borrowed from this digital service in 2021.

When a hardcopy of a book needs to be replaced, either due to wear or because it contains out of date information, the library sells them to Bookbarn. A business local to Bath and North East Somerset, Bookbarn rehomes used library books at highly discounted rates, while books which are severely damaged are recycled into house insulation giving them a second life. The revenue generated through this process is then fed into buying new books to expand the library's collection, directly benefitting resident readers, and continuing the cycle of share, reuse, and borrow.

Co-benefits:



Equity

Want to know more?

- View our dedicated [climate and ecological emergency web pages](#)
- Find out the latest on how we are tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency through [our newsroom](#)
- Stay up-to-date by signing-up to the [council's weekly e-connect newsletter](#)

Key Actions

2022 - 2023

This is a summary of actions the council is taking on the three priorities set in 2019, based on a well-researched evidence base into where the biggest emissions are coming from i.e. reducing emissions from transport and buildings, and rapidly increasing local renewable energy.

More detailed actions are contained in the relevant plans of each Council service area.

Leadership

Develop and **refresh Climate Emergency strategy** and longer term action plan, including clearer timeline and milestones to 2025 and 2030. Audit West will provide support and benchmarking against other local authorities.

Area-wide **Climate and Nature Partnership** development ensuring that climate is a cross-cutting theme in all One Shared Vision partnerships.

Working with **WECA** and West of England councils on a collaborative and regional Climate Emergency action plan and **Green Recovery Fund** to ensure action against the key B&NES climate priorities: home energy efficiency retrofit and local renewable energy development (alongside existing funding for transport and green infrastructure initiatives).

Working with **WECA** and partners to support businesses to decarbonise and transition to a low carbon economy.

Continue to lobby and influence **regional and national policy development**.

Leading by Example: Continue the work **aligning council plans and policy** with the council's climate commitments.

Including: Economic Strategy (and from it the Employment and Skills Plan) and Events Policy

Priority: Leading carbon reduction in buildings

Develop area-wide **retrofit approach** to address skills, supply chain and delivery aspects.

Implementation of project on **Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards** for private landlords.

Begin full **Local Plan** update.

Local Plan Partial Update adoption and implementation.

Leading by Example:

Construction of **Keynsham Recycling Hub**.
Deliver pipeline of **refurbishments to improve energy efficiency** in council-owned residential building and corporate estate properties.

Priority: Leading carbon reduction in transport

Implementation of **Journey to Net Zero** transport plan.

Implementation of first co-designed **Liveable Neighbourhoods** schemes.

Completion of final phase of **Go Ultra Low West** funded electric vehicle charging projects.

Begin delivery of infrastructure projects funded through **City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement** 2022–2027.

Leading by Example:

- Continue expansion of the **council green fleet** used for service delivery.
- Modernising waste services for increased recycling rates and **route efficiency**.

Priority: Increasing renewable energy generation

Developing leadership role in **partnership**, including with the **community energy sector**, to accelerate renewable energy delivery across the district in line with the 2030 net zero target.

Leading by Example:

Allocation of capital for **solar installations** on further two council care homes and development of project pipeline for further investment.

Business case development for commissioning further **renewable energy installations** on council assets.

Community engagement

Facilitate a second, community-led, Climate festival.

Increase membership and participation in the Zero Carbon, Nature Positive Network community.

Social media campaign programme.

Enabling Community Forum Working Groups to deliver carbon-reduction initiatives and tackle climate change within their communities.

Route Map

2019
Declare Climate
Emergency

Council Action

2022

**Context
Government
Targets:**

2023

Ofgem to invest 300m in grid strengthening, including supporting 3500 EV charge points

2023

Environment Bill 2020 expected to come into force

£216k investment in renewables on Council assets

Improved partnership working through One Shared Vision to deliver climate action

Construction start of low carbon Keynsham Recycling Hub

First Liveable Neighbourhood areas implemented

2025

Expected decision on long term decarbonisation of heat*

2025

Future Homes Standard: No fossil fuel heating in new builds *

New fast (22kw) and rapid (50kw) public EV charge points installed in 7 council car parks, plus two taxi EV rapid chargers

Delivery of 5 year city region sustainable transport fund projects

2023

Waste and Recycling Strategy adopted

Develop an approach to enable domestic retrofitting

Local Plan Partial Update adopted

Full Local Plan policy update

2030

End sales of new petrol and diesel cars and vans*

2035

78% reduction in UK emissions*

Aim for 25% reduction in car use

Major new cycle and pedestrian paths in Bath, followed by schemes in Keynsham and the Somer Valley

New Reuse shop and public Recycling Centre open at Keynsham Recycling Hub

300MW of new installed renewable energy capacity

2030

2050