Bath & North East Somerset
Climate Emergency Strategy

2019-2030

Version: March 2023

TACKLING THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

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Foreword

Climate change is affecting all of us now and its consequences are projected to worsen in the future. We're experiencing rising temperatures; seven of the last ten summers have reached 34 degrees and six of the ten wettest years on record have been since 1998. The more extreme and unpredictable weather that we're seeing has impacts on homes, health, food production and supply as well as damaging impacts on the natural environment and wildlife. The Met Office currently predicts a terrifying temperature rise by 2050 of 2.7 degrees compared to pre-industrial levels, if we continue on our current trajectory.

I remain hopeful though, as we have the technology to reduce that figure substantially. We now need every level of government to come together with individuals, businesses and communities in a huge communal effort to do just that.

In 2019 we were one of the first councils to make a declaration to tackle the climate emergency. We committed to provide the leadership to enable the Bath and North East Somerset area to become carbon neutral by 2030 as well as doing the same for our own operations.

This strategy is to highlight the key areas we need to focus on to drive down carbon emissions and achieve our net zero ambition. We know that this is an ambitious target, and it will mean making changes to the way we live our lives both through technology and our mindset and I know that not all of these will be easy. The council is committed to provide the support to enable these changes and we don't want to leave anyone behind. This is why we're committed to making the transition to carbon neutrality a just one, that helps to reduce inequalities, improve health and supports the local economy.

We can't do this alone and we know that there is already lots of activity to cut carbon emissions underway across our community. Achieving our net zero ambition is a huge challenge so we invite everyone to join us.

Councillor Sarah Warren, Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel

Introduction

The council will provide leadership to enable carbon neutrality in the district by 2030.

In 2019 the council declared a Climate Emergency[1,2]. Tackling the Climate Emergency means creating a different vision for all parts of Bath and North East Somerset, including the World Heritage Site of Bath itself.

The council is committed to providing the leadership to enable this scale of ambition to be realised and recognises that this requires a significant and fundamental shift within all sectors of the community. We hope that residents, communities, organisations, and businesses join us in working towards this ambition.

The Climate Emergency Strategy sets out our priorities and approach to deliver on the commitments made in the March 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration[1,2]. It outlines the strategic priorities for action, which inform more detailed policies and delivery plans across the council, as well as influencing partners who we work alongside to deliver services.

Citizens asking for the council to declare a Climate Emergency.

Climate Strategy
Due for review in 2025

Action Plan
Updated annually

Progress Report
Annual highlight report

Understanding the challenge

To develop a plan of action, we first had to understand where the carbon emissions were coming from across the district. We commissioned Anthesis in 2019 to research and identify the action needed to achieve district-wide carbon neutrality by 2030[3].

Emissions breakdown

Figure 1: Bath & North East Somerset District Carbon footprint - Scope 1 & 2

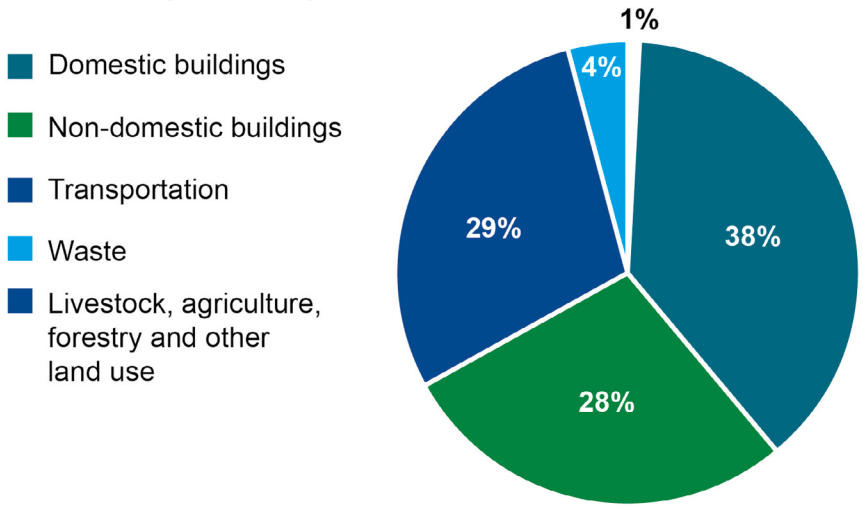

Figure 1: Bath and North East Somerset **district-wide direct emissions** (i.e. from gas, oil, petrol, diesel) and indirect emissions (i.e. electricity), also known as Scope 1 & 2, are: 766,876 tCO2e (tonnes of carbon equivalent) per year. The direct and indirect emissions (Scope 1 & 2) break down as follows: Energy use in buildings: 66%, (of which homes produce 38% and industry, commerce and institutions 28%); Transport: 29%; and Other 5%, of which waste is 4% and agriculture, forestry and other land use is 1%. The per capita emissions in Bath and North East Somerset: 3.9 (tCO2e)

The data in Figure 1 does not provide the full story as it only covers emissions produced within the UK. Across the area we consume imported goods and services, which have their own carbon footprint that is not accounted for here, these emissions are notoriously difficult to unravel and are known as Scope 3 emissions.

It is estimated that the carbon footprint of imported goods and services bought by local people in the Bath and North East Somerset area is: 1,271,578 tCO2e (tonnes of carbon equivalent) per year based on anthesis analysis[3] (Figure 2). These emissions are significantly higher than the direct/indirect emissions according to these estimates, but due to the calculation method there will be some overlap in the figures for all emissions. Consumers and businesses have some control over the products they choose, but action is needed nationally and internationally to fully understand and tackle consumption emissions.

Figure 2: Comparison of in-district and consumption emissions tCO2e/yr 2016

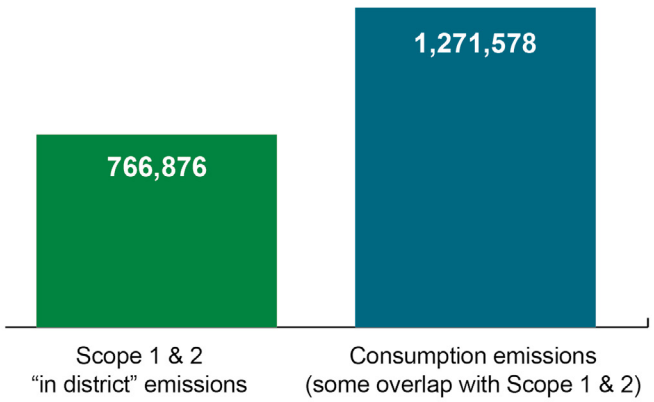

Figure 2: A bar chart comparing "in district" emissions which account for direct and indirect carbon emissions vs consumption emissions which estimate the carbon footprint of imported goods bought by businesses and residents.

Understanding the challenge

Pathways to 2030

Using national data scaled to the district, the SCATTER tool enables local authorities to sketch pathways for reducing emissions produced by the local energy system. It presents a range of measures, e.g. home insulation, and allows users to select from four levels of ambition for each, with Level 1 being "Business as Usual" and Level 4, the "Stretch" pathway, deemed the maximum achievable based on present day technology and evidence[3] (Figure 3). The "Business As Usual (BAU)" pathway broadly equates to reductions in line with Government policy introduced to meet the original Climate Change Act target of an 80% reduction CO2 by 2050, prior to the adoption of the national net zero carbon (carbon neutral) 2050 target in June 2019[3].

Figure 3 : B&NES Carbon budget and pathways for the energy system: Million tCO2e

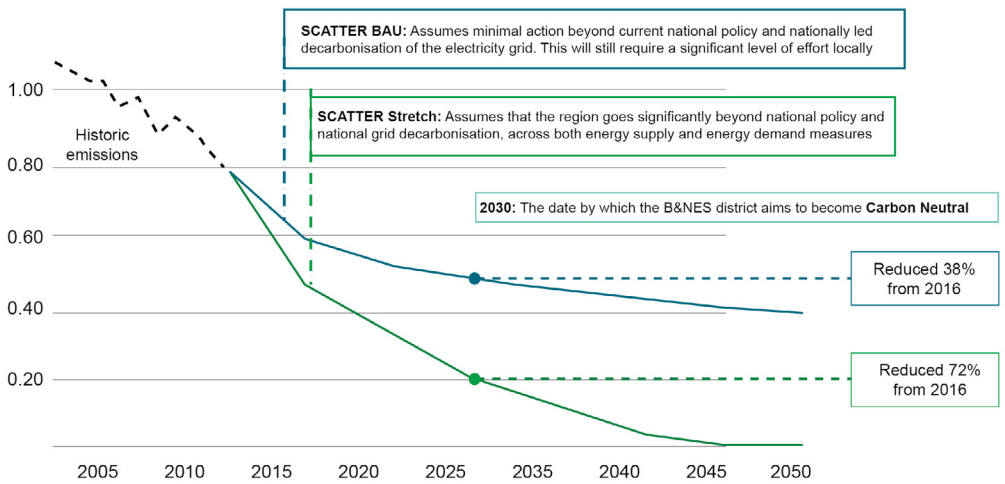

Figure 3: Line graph showing two carbon budget pathways for the energy system. Business as usual pathway is shown in blue while the more ambitious stretch pathway is shown in green[3].

These pathways and figures are not set in concrete, they are based on a range of assumptions about technology and market readiness that will change over time. Therefore, based on current knowledge it isn't possible to quantify all measures needed to achieve net zero 2030[3]. However, we have sufficient information to understand the nature and scale of action needed, meaning that we can plan and deliver action aimed resolutely at that target.

In the future more work will focus on how we can increase the amount of carbon sequestration: carbon absorbed locally by the natural environment (soil, trees, grassland), which will also play a role in achieving carbon neutrality.

The BAU pathway would achieve a 38% reduction in emissions by 2030 (Figure 3), but it would not achieve the national target of net zero carbon by 2050. The "Stretch" pathway is Level 4 of the SCATTER tool, the highest level of ambition and it achieves a reduction of 72% by 2030 and zero carbon by 2050 (Figure 3). There is still a gap between this projection and the council aim of net zero carbon by 2030 as the Stretch pathway is based on present day evidence and current national policy. It is expected that this gap will narrow as technologies develop, market conditions change, and national policies are adopted[3].

Understanding the challenge

Taking Action and Influencing

The UK Climate Change Committee estimates that local authorities can influence one third of carbon emissions in their area[4].

The ambition to become a carbon neutral area is challenging and complex as the powers to act on different sections of the district carbon footprint does not sit with one organisation[5]. For example, we have direct control of managing the energy use of council buildings, but only indirect control of emissions created from the goods and services we buy.

The council is prioritising action where we can lead and influence carbon emission reduction with the biggest impact, such as through planning policy-making that sets high energy efficiency standards for new buildings and makes it easier to install renewable energy.

As demonstrated in Figure 4 the most impactful roles councils can perform are often the most complicated. Local partnership working, regional collaboration are essential to tackling the two thirds of emissions we have little direct control of. Alongside lobbying of national government to provide greater power and resources for local action alongside accelerating the national transition.

By prioritising these areas of influence the council is maximising its overall impact to drive down areawide carbon emissions.

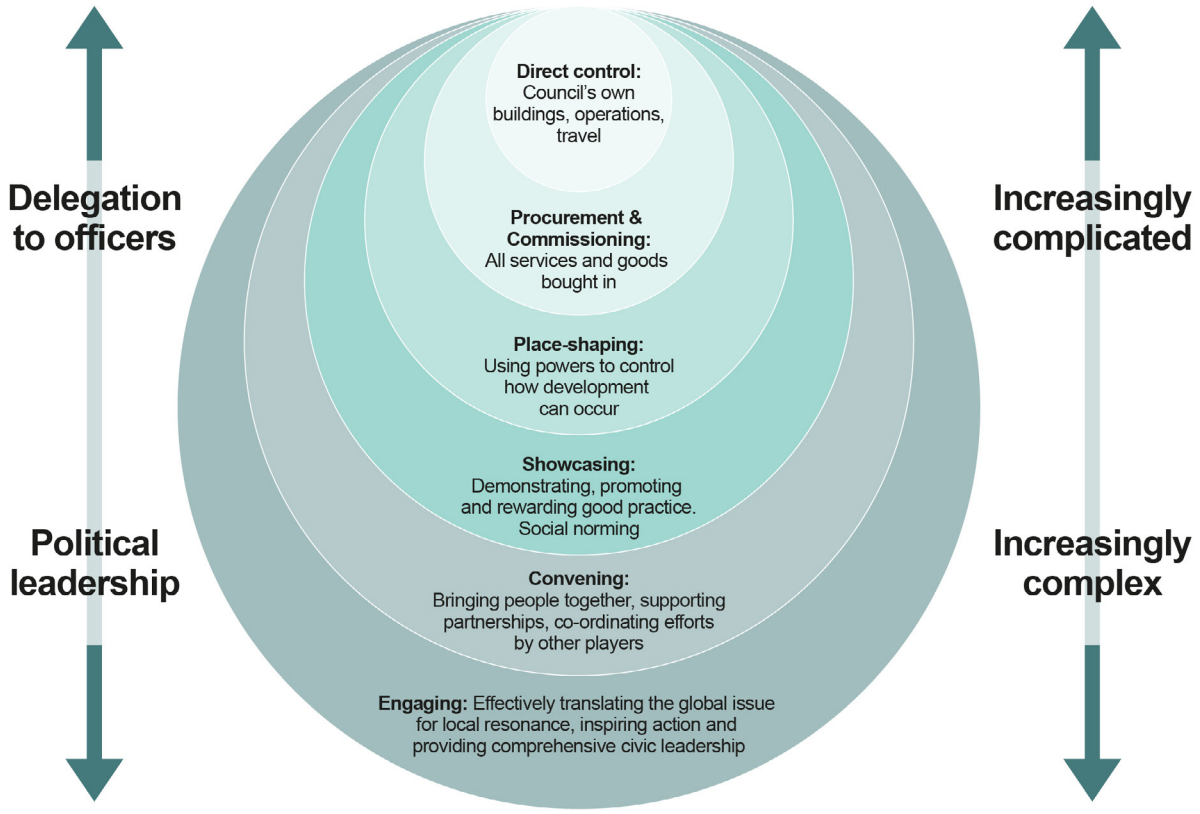

Figure 4: This diagram shows the different roles the council can play to reduce areawide carbon emissions through direct action, enabling and influencing. Bigger circles indicate a larger impact but less control, while smaller circles imply a greater level of control over the action outcomes. Image credit: Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE).

Understanding the challenge

A Just Transition

The council is committed to ensuring that the transition to a zero-carbon future is a just and fair one. We analysed household carbon footprints against income deciles, looking at: home energy use; transport (cars) and air travel[5] (Figure 5). This helps to understand where responsibility for action lies and how we can support the vulnerable or those on a low income.

There is a clear trend that those who earn more, tend to emit more, with car and aviation use rising sharply with income (Figure 5). As we develop communication campaigns, seek funding to create financial support and initiatives, and encourage residents to convert to lower carbon energy systems, this evidence will inform and target the work.

Home Energy Advice stand at the Farrington Gurney Energy Day.

Figure 5: Household CO2 emissions by income (2011)

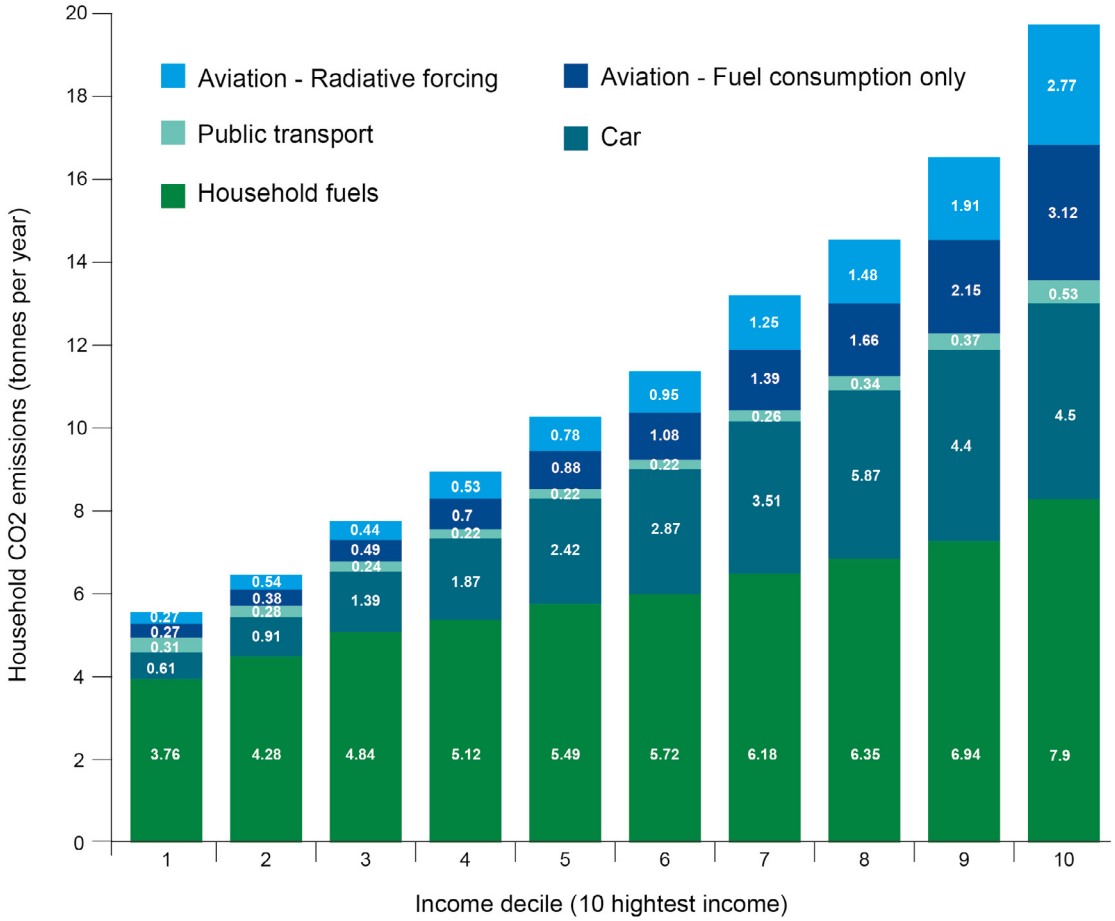

Figure 5: Stacked bar chart comparing household CO2 emissions across ten income deciles with one being the lowest income and ten being the highest. The graph indicates that households with higher incomes emit more CO2.

Approach to action planning in Bath & North East Somerset

Strategic Approach

Our approach to delivery is based on these principles:

Providing Leadership

Working in Partnership

Enabling community action

Local residents receiving advice about how to improve the energy efficiency of their home, Bath.

Co-benefits

When tackling the climate emergency to lower carbon emissions in the most environmentally sustainable way, we often realise multiple benefits which contribute to improving people's lives[6]. The energy crisis highlights this, making homes more energy efficient cuts carbon emissions and crucially, lowers energy costs making those homes warmer and healthier.

Other co-benefits of climate action include: improved public health, social equality, thriving economies, community resilience, nature protection and recovery. Recognising these co-benefits can help create support and momentum for wider changes that are needed. Below we outline co-benefits against each of the strategic priorities for action[6].

The council was invited by Ashden - a leading organisation supporting proven climate action - to sit on a national working group that developed the 'Co-Benefits Toolkit for Local Authorities'[6].

The strategic priorities for action

Three clear priorities emerged from the research and modelling data for cutting carbon emissions across Bath and North East Somerset.

These key priorities are:

- **Decarbonising buildings**
- **Decarbonising transport**
- **Increasing renewable energy generation**

A fourth priority is also identified in the commitment the council made to:

- **Cut council operational carbon emissions to net zero by 2030**

The pathways modelled by Anthesis identify the nature, scale and speed of actions needed to achieve the ambition of net zero by 2030[3]. These pathways provide the strategic framework that informs action planning by the council, our partners, and communities. They show that action needs to be taken across the three priorities in parallel to deliver the scale of carbon reduction needed.

The Anthesis modelling was based on available technology and assumptions about the policy climate and market conditions at the time the research was completed[3].

We know that technology, policy, regulation, and market developments will take place, and already are, meaning the assumptions made during the initial modelling will change. For example, as renewable energy technologies develop, cost tipping points will be reached, or changes to national policy and regulation may cause rapid market shifts in either demand management or zero carbon energy supply. Therefore, while the overall framework defined by the strategic priorities for action is unlikely to change, the nature of the actions will, as the context changes and new opportunities arise.

In 2025 the strategic priorities for action will be reviewed, when the carbon footprint and pathway modelling are revisited, while the action plan, including the high-level route-map to 2030, will be updated annually.

The strategic priorities for action

Priority 1. Decarbonising Buildings

Energy use in buildings constitutes 66% of the Bath and North East Somerset in-area carbon footprint, therefore we must look at our buildings, both existing and future, to reduce our carbon footprint[3].

New buildings need to be net zero carbon or better and Planning Policy will continue to be updated to facilitate this. Often called retrofitting, all existing buildings will need to be upgraded to improve energy efficiency and reduce their carbon footprint. Homes are a particular challenge, and we are working with partners to develop a regional approach that will address all aspects of home retrofit including jobs and skills, the supply chain, and customer experience.

Upgrades to improve energy efficiency in heritage buildings and in conservation areas must be done sensitively. Our approach to retrofit for all buildings needs to ensure they can cope with the impacts of climate change, including wetter winters and hotter summers.

Insulation being fitted to a home.

Example actions:

There are 87,500 homes in the Bath and North East Somerset area, research suggests that approx. 65,000 of these homes need some form of energy saving measures by 2030. Measures may include loft, walls, and underfloor insulation, draught-proofing, improved window glazing and more. This estimate includes all types of homes; owner occupied, social housing and privately rented.

Decarbonise heat by switching from gas to electric heating e.g. 40% of homes switched from gas by 2030, and switching 76% of gas cookers to electric.

New homes and developments need to be zero carbon or net carbon positive.

Co-benefits:

- Improved health for vulnerable residents in homes most susceptible to cold or extreme heat.
- Fuel poverty becomes a thing of the past for those on low incomes.
- Energy consumption decreases through reduction in wasted heat via inefficient buildings.
- More comfortable buildings in cold or hot weather.
- Opportunities for nature via building technologies which also provide insulation effect.
- Economic benefits including new skills and jobs.

The strategic priorities for action

Priority 2. Decarbonising Transport

Emissions from transport make up 29% of Bath and North East Somerset's carbon footprint, which depending on income and other factors, is a large component of the household footprint[3].

Action on transport can be influenced by local initiatives and can help deliver on other council priorities. We will work with the West of England Combined Authority and transport operators to decarbonise transport. To achieve this, we will provide transport infrastructure and environments that will encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport making them a genuine alternative to the car. It is also essential we maintain access for those whose needs cannot easily be met by more sustainable modes of transport.

Travel emissions will be reduced further through a range of actions. These actions include updates to planning policy to ensure that new developments allow for sustainable travel, improving efficiency of existing services reducing the need to travel, or co-locating services with partners. We will enable businesses and communities to consider actions that they can implement or influence locally to improve sustainable transport options and reduce the need to travel. Local initiatives could include things such as local delivery services, working hubs and community-led services like community libraries.

Keynsham High Street redevelopment.

Example actions:

A major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce emissions.

25% cut in car and van mileage per person per year by 2030.

76% switch to electric cars* and 14% to petrol/EV hybrid, leaving 10% petrol/diesel on the road by 2030.

*It should be noted that electric vehicles are not going solve the problem on their own as they still contribute to congestion, poor air quality and pollution from tyres and brakes. Additionally, the essential elements needed to make them are not available in sufficient quantity.

Full electrification of passenger rail by 2030.

Co-benefits:

- Better health through improved air quality.
- Enhanced health and wellbeing through increase in physical activity and contact with nature.
- More equitable transport options for those outside of the urban centres.
- In urban areas, more space for nature through infrastructure changes.

The strategic priorities for action

Priority 3. Increasing Local Renewable Energy Generation

Local renewable energy generation needs to be developed rapidly and at scale to contribute to the decarbonisation of electricity, heat, and transport.

The Anthesis 2019 report suggested that we need a minimum additional 300MW of locally generated renewable energy in Bath and North East Somerset. The research analysed the full range of renewable technologies available, most of which will need to be developed to some degree over time. Of those technologies that are ready to deploy now, the research indicated the scale of deployment needed by 2030, which is shown in the example actions below. We will keep emerging technologies such as the smart grid, demand shifting, and energy storage under review, as these are an essential part of the solution in combination with renewable energy generation.

Generating renewable energy via rooftop solar panels on a house in Bath.

In Bath and North East Somerset we have a strong track record on local community energy, with the community enterprise Bath & West Community Energy a leader in the field. Community energy will have a key role to play in helping to deliver this target through engagement with local neighbourhoods and enabling projects, with all the benefits that community ownership brings.

Example actions:

Domestic solar PV installed on 50% of existing homes by 2030.

Solar PV on commercial roof space and ground mounted sites equivalent to around 116 football pitches' worth.

Wind Turbines, around 28 large (2.5 MW) wind turbines.

Co-benefits:

- Energy is more affordable and fuel poverty becomes a thing of the past.
- A more resilient and affordable energy system for all, that is not subject to price shocks.
- Benefits to the local economy from community-owned projects that keep surplus profit within the area through local investment and community grant schemes.
- Nature protection and habitat protection through sensitively managed generation sites.

The strategic priorities for action

Priority 4. Net Zero Council

To ensure that net zero is achieved across the district, the council has committed to cut carbon emissions from its own buildings and operations where it has direct control. We will also influence emission reductions from outsourced and contracted council services.

Figure 6: The Councils own emissions
5,833 (tCO2e) Scopes 1&2

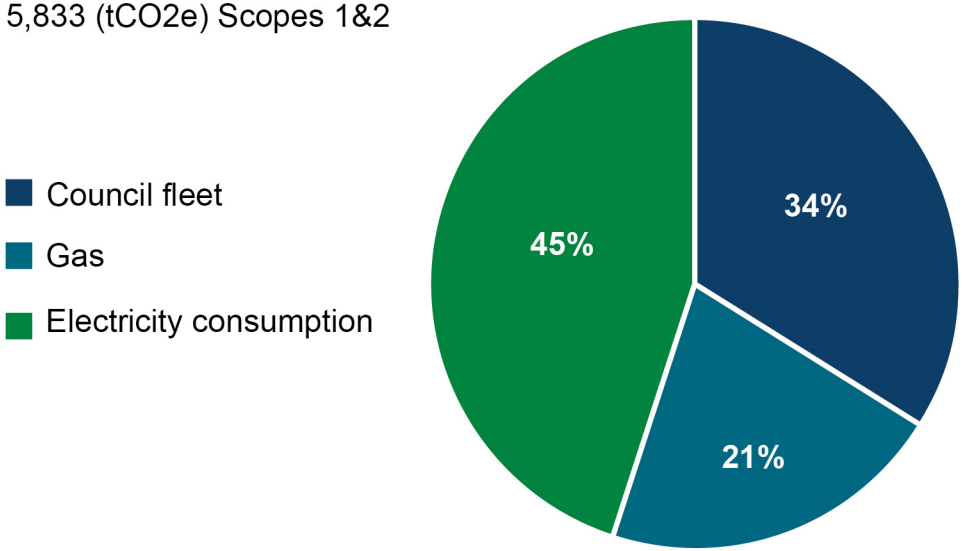

Figure 6: Pie chart displaying council operational emissions as a percentage of the council's carbon footprint in electricity, gas and vehicle fuel (scopes 1 & 2).

The council has committed to the following:

- **To review and align key strategies with climate commitments, starting with:**
  - Procurement and Commissioning Strategy
  - Housing strategy to enable delivery of large-scale and rapid home energy efficiency across all in conjunction with key partners,
  - Corporate Estate Review
  - Partial update of the Local Plan to demonstrate that Bath and North East Somerset is open for business in terms of retrofitting, zero carbon new build, sustainable transport and renewable energy in particular, prior to a full Local Plan update commencing in 2022.
  - Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 makes Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies one of two core priorities and reflects this in its Budget.
- Since April 2021 the **council's energy contracts** are 100% renewable energy.
- **Invest in retrofitting the council's own buildings,** including securing funding through future rounds of the government Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund.
- Budget allocation for the **development of renewable energy projects** within the estate and beyond.
- Run a **climate literacy training programme** to ensure that staff have a baseline awareness of; the causes, issues, and impacts of climate change; council commitments and action; and ways that staff can influence activity within their roles. Climate Literacy is part of the induction programme for all new staff with a short e-learning course and a face-to-face workshop style course available. Senior managers and Ward Councillors received a day-long climate leadership course in 2020.

Priority 4. Net Zero Council cont.

- **Citizen engagement programme,** develop a public communications campaign, including community events.
- Develop a **citizen jury** or juries on key issues related to the priorities.
- The council will lead the establishment of a **new district-wide partnership.** It will encompass work from relevant existing local and West of England partnerships, strategies, and projects.
- **Understand and address Scope 3 emissions.**

There has been some initial work looking at the council's Scope 3 emissions including schools, which are no longer in the council's control and the commercial property estate occupied by tenants. Scope 3 also includes all building and transport related emissions from a range of health and social care services run by contractors procured by the council.

The combined Scope 3 emissions are much larger than Scope 1 and 2 (ref Figure 3 pg 6). More work needs to be done to analyse this further, but in the meantime the council has recognised how important tackling the Scope 3 emissions is and has developed a Climate Emergency Commissioning and Procurement Strategy[7]. The strategy will ensure that all future contracts must deliver against the Climate Emergency Declaration. Simultaneously current contractors and service providers are being urged to commit to the 2030 target and undertake their own action planning to achieve rapid carbon reduction.

Carbon reduction work before 2019

Prior to the Climate Emergency resolution, a range of carbon reduction work has already been undertaken by the council, under the leadership of the B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership (2009 – 2019). Including:

- The first local authority to roll-out LED street-lighting to main roads.
- Ground-breaking work to enable the development of one of the UK's leading community energy enterprises, Bath & West Community Energy.
- An award-winning exemplar low carbon office building – the Keynsham Civic Centre – including the largest solar PV array in any new UK public sector building, at the time of installation.
- The Energy at Home retrofitting scheme that dispersed c £800k in grants to local people to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- Piloted an innovative procurement of the school meal service using a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS), enabling more small, independent and local food producers to be suppliers.
- Partnership working with multiple local community organisations to unlock data leading to the formation of the Energy Sparks charity. Using the school's own real-time energy consumption data in the classroom for learning and in facilities management.

Partnerships and collaborative working

The scale and speed of change necessary to achieve our ambition to become zero carbon by 2030 requires strong leadership across all priorities. This includes action across the public, private and community sectors in Bath and North East Somerset, working together to find solutions and overcome barriers.

Through membership of influential national groups such as UK100, LGA (Local Government Association), ADEPT (Association of Development, Environment, Planning and Transport directors), and APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) we can shape and inform central government of the changes needed to enable us to achieve our goals, while doing our best to find ways to deliver action in Bath and North East Somerset now. For example, we know changes in government policy and regulation can lead to rapid change in the renewable energy or retrofitting markets, but we cannot wait for that to happen. Therefore, we have helped form or attend several partnership groups including:

Climate and Nature Partnership Group, one of four themed partnerships of the Future Ambition Board. This business-led includes representatives from public, private and community sectors in Bath and North East Somerset. The group formed in May 2022 and is identifying opportunities to work together to unlock more action at scale across the district.

Background: The Economic Renewal and Recovery Board (ERRB), now known as The Future Ambition Board, was established during the COVID pandemic in 2020 and sponsored the development of One Shared Vision for Bath and North East Somerset. The board was driven by the need to tackle weaknesses in the local economy that the pandemic highlighted and build on the positive changes that took place, such as the shift to home working and reduction in commuting. It is clear we need to create a stronger, more diverse and greener local economy that encompasses the 2030 net zero goal and our climate and nature emergency commitments.

Student Community Partnership (SCP) - Green Group. Members of this group include key officers from the SCP, the two universities, students' unions and sabbatical officers, further education colleges and the council.

West of England Combined Authority - Bath & North East Somerset Council is a constituent part of this regional authority, where we work to together to accelerate action on climate, particularly on transport, energy and building energy efficiency.

Community Energy – The council has cooperation agreements with community energy organisations to support and enable new renewable energy in the area and community action. Through investing, there is re-investment back into the local community and local economy.

Partnerships and collaborative working

Enabling others

We recognise and value the contribution that local community action makes towards successfully meeting the area's climate and ecological ambitions. Grassroots action is uniquely placed to build thriving communities with social and economic co-benefits. The council has committed to working with the local community and to play an enabling and supportive role. Our experience shows that joining up and working with community members delivers great results: more voices are heard, we benefit from a wide range of local knowledge, and see effective amplification of communications about carbon reduction initiatives.

Community Forest School event in Bath's Sydney Gardens.

We do this through:

Area-based Community Forums – We provide updates on policies, plans and actions to the six forum areas and act on feedback or input returned. We support Climate and Nature Working Groups that have formed within the Community Forum areas.

Parish and Town Councils - Of the 51 parishes within Bath and North East Someset over half have either declared climate emergencies or have already acted to benefit the climate and natural environment. The council has provided action planning training alongside a Parish Council Toolkit to provide support and signposting to relevant opportunities.

Community Groups – There is a varied and active network of eco community groups across Bath and North East Somerset that run projects on community engagement, energy, home energy retrofit, sharing and repairing, food production, wildlife, tree nurseries, litter reduction, and school climate education.

Engagement with other community networks and organisations: Interagency Forum and Funding Bulletin, 3SG, Volunteer Service, Student Community Partnership, Fair Food Alliance, Journey to Net Zero Forum, Bath and West Community Energy.

Governance and reporting

The council has the following governance framework in place.

Elected members:

- Council
- Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel (new position created in 2019)
- Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (established in 2019)

Officers:
- Senior Leadership Team
- Responsible Officer: Director of Sustainable Communities
- Green Transformation Senior Officer Group

Council performance is monitored through indicators embedded in the Integrated Reporting Framework. The Council's Strategic Evidence Base also includes data on delivery of the climate and ecological emergencies. Finally, an annual report is also submitted to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) a global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states, and regions to manage their environmental impact.

The council receives an Annual Report on the Climate Emergency commitments and progress against the priority actions. The Action Plan is updated annually to show the development of the pipeline of actions. This Strategy and the Action Plan are published on the council website, along with the supporting evidence, research reports and Annual Reports to council[8].

Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies is embedded in the Council's Corporate Strategy (2020-2024) as one of two Core Priorities, the other being Giving People a Bigger Say. There is also a Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development Scrutiny Panel's whose role is to monitor and review the activity of the Cabinet and assist them in developing policy.

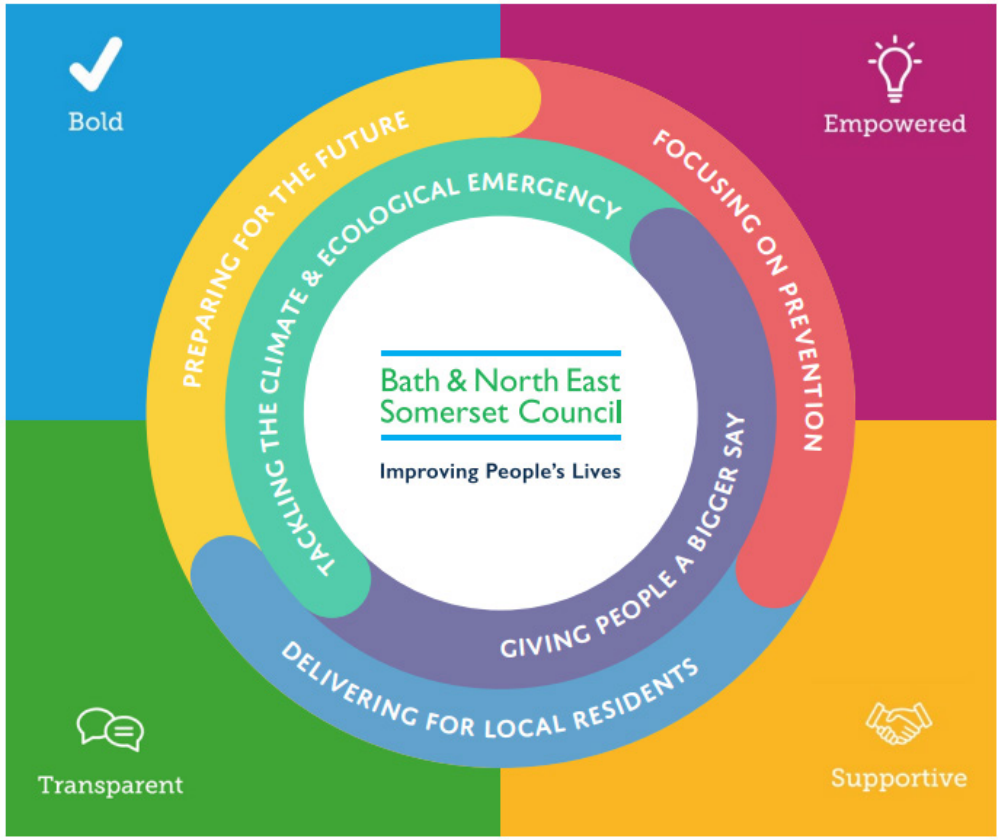

Diagram: Council Corporate Strategy framework

Finance

Council services are embedding climate action into their service delivery, and budget allocations are agreed through the council's short and medium-term budget setting process. The council seeks funding wherever possible to support and enhance delivery as well as enabling businesses and community organisations to take action. These efforts include bidding for government grants and other external funding as and when it becomes available.

Examples of external funding that we access:

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund
- Government affordable warmth funds – Green Homes Grant LAD, HUGS.
- Government transport grants
- West of England funding streams for business and skills, transport, planning and green recovery.
- The council is also developing the Planning Developer Carbon Off-Set Fund.

Blooming Whiteway at Barrow Mead Community Tree Nursery on Rush Hill, managed by More Trees BANES.

International, national, and regional context supporting our strategy

The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change[9]. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced and that climate change risks are planned for. The Act supports the UK's commitment to urgent international action to tackle climate change.

Through the Climate Change Act, the UK government has set a target to significantly reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 from the baseline of 1990 emissions.

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008 to advise the government on setting and meeting emissions targets and preparing for climate change. The Sixth Carbon Budget Report, (December 2020) provided specific scenarios and recommendations for transition to net zero for each sector[10].

UK Government strategy and plans that set out their approach include: Resources and waste strategy (2018), 10 Point plan for a green industrial revolution (2020), Heat and buildings strategy (2021), Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021), Industrial decarbonisation strategy (2021) and the Transport decarbonisation strategy (2021). Finally, the Environment Act (2021) is the government's framework of environmental protection legislation covering nature, water quality, clean air and other environmental protections.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific body established by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization. It reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical, and socio-economic work relevant to climate change, but does not carry out its own research. In 2007 the IPCC was honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Paris Agreements (2015) central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. 193 countries have signed, agreeing to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties – The UK will host COP26 in Glasgow, November 2021. It is suggested that the Glasgow Climate Pact resulting from the COP26 conference to reduce fossil fuel use and subsidies, eliminate deforestation, and cut methane emissions is likely to lead to 2.4°C warming if all countries follow through on their commitments.

The West of England Climate and Ecological Strategy and action plan also sets out five priorities and associated actions that can deliver tangible progress to tackle the climate emergency across the wider West of England region (which includes working with member local authorities).

Next Steps

As we work towards our ambitious district-wide goal of net zero by 2030 we will continue to monitor progress on the council's emissions and across the whole area.

Ultimately our success will be measured through a reduction in emissions both for the council itself and across the entire district.

We will track progress on our strategic priorities and report these to council and on our website. Planned activity will be set out in our action plan and updated in our annual report. Our approaches will develop and be refined over time as the national, and local context changes and technology evolves. This overarching strategy will be reviewed in 2025.

The council's award winning low carbon office and library redevelopment in Keynsham.

Cllrs Kevin Guy and Sarah Warren with one of the council's fleet of electric vehicles.

References

1. Read our Climate Action Plan which was created in 2019.

2. Read the minutes from the council meeting where a climate emergency was declared.

3. Read the Anthesis research report 2019.

4. Read the Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget, Climate Change Committee report 2020.

5. Read the Carbon emissions from households and citizens, Centre for Sustainable Energy report 2019.

6. Read the Ashden Co-benefits Toolkit.

7. Read the Climate Emergency Commissioning and Procurement Strategy.

8. Read the council webpage with list of published documents.

9. Read The Climate Change Act 2008.

10. Read The Sixth Carbon Budget Report 2020.

Glossary of terms

Adaptation	Climate change adaptation is the process of adjusting to current or expected effects of climate change.
B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset.
Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.
Carbon	Carbon is not harmful in itself, but is used as shorthand for carbon dioxide (CO2).
Carbon baseline	The year against which target decreases in emissions are measured.
Climate Change	A pattern of change affecting global or regional climate, for example average temperature and rainfall, or an alteration in frequency of extreme weather conditions. This variation may be caused by both natural processes and human activity. Global warming is one aspect of climate change.
Carbon dioxide (CO2)	Carbon dioxide is a gas in the Earth's atmosphere. It occurs naturally and is also a by-product of human activities such as burning fossil fuels. It is the principal greenhouse gas produced by human activity.
Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e)	Seven greenhouse gases are limited by the Kyoto Protocol and each has a different global warming potential. The overall warming effect of this cocktail of gases is often expressed in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent -the amount of CO2 that would cause the same amount of warming.
Carbon footprint	The amount of carbon emitted by an individual, organisation, geographical area or during the manufacture of a product in a given period of time.
Carbon neutral	Carbon neutrality is a state of net-zero carbon dioxide emissions. This can be achieved by balancing emissions of carbon dioxide with its removal (often through carbon offsetting).
Carbon offsetting	A way of compensating for emissions of CO2 by participating in, or funding, efforts to take CO2 out of the atmosphere. Offsetting often involves paying another party, somewhere else, to save emissions equivalent to those produced by your activity.
Carbon sequestration	The process of storing carbon dioxide. This can happen naturally, as growing trees and plants turn CO2 into biomass (wood, leaves, and so on). It can also refer to the capture and storage of CO2 produced by industry.

Glossary of terms

Climate Emergency	A situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.
Decarbonise	To reduce the amount of CO2 released.
Fossil fuels	Natural resources, such as coal, oil and natural gas, containing hydrocarbons. These fuels are formed in the Earth over millions of years and produce carbon dioxide when burnt (often in power stations to generate electricity).
Greenhouse gases (GHGs)	A greenhouse gas (GHG) is a gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range, causing the greenhouse effect.
Just transition	A 'just transition' means moving to a carbon-neutral society that's fair to everyone, leaving no one behind. Developing an environmentally sustainable economy that supports good quality jobs and decent livelihoods.
Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF)	Land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF), also referred to as Forestry and other land use (FOLU), is defined by the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat as a "greenhouse gas inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from direct human-induced land use such as settlements and commercial uses, land-use change, and forestry activities."
Net zero	The term net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it. Unlike carbon neutrality, this cannot be achieved using offsetting.
Per-capita emissions	The total amount of greenhouse gas emitted by a country per unit of population.
Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions	From the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, which is the world's most widely-used greenhouse gas accounting standard. Scopes 1 & 2 refer to the emissions that are owned or controlled by an organisation. Scope 3 emissions are from the activities of the company but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation. Sometimes called outsourced emissions. One organisations' Scope 3 emissions will be another's Scopes 1&2.

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TACKLING THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives