

---

# Bath & North East Somerset Council

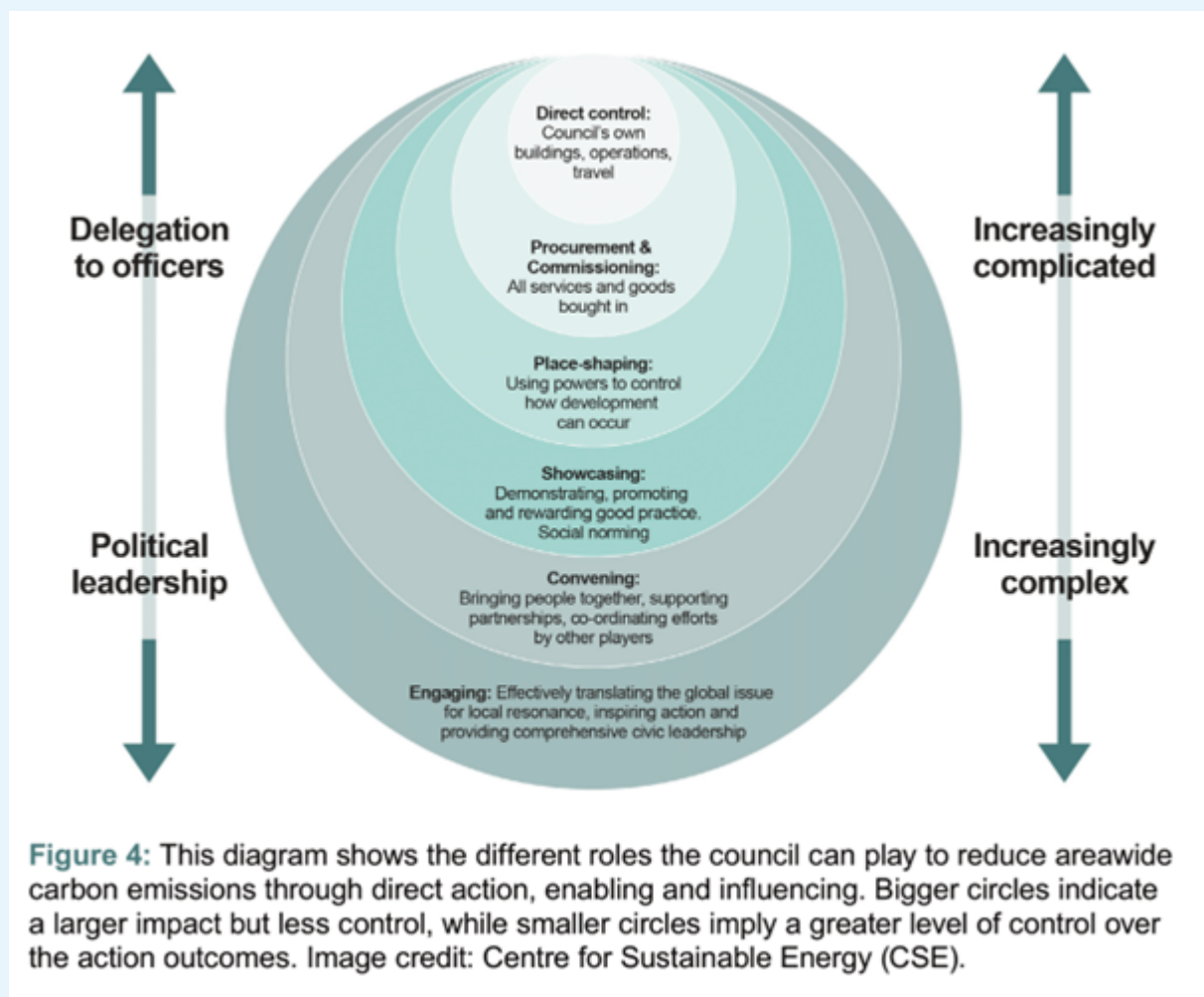
---

**Improving People's Lives**

## Climate & Ecological Emergency Engagement Strategy

CES PDS Panel  
14 September 2023

# Engagement is key to our work in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies



The Council can take action directly (on our own operations) and through our regulatory 'place-shaping' role – but our greatest impact comes through providing leadership for others:

**Showcasing** – promoting good practice locally (eg Green Open Homes) and nationally (eg our nationally-leading Net Zero Energy planning policies)

**Convening others** – to co-ordinate action through ongoing partnerships (eg FAB), workshops and events (eg Large Business Forum)

**Engaging** – with local residents and stakeholders through parish groups, festivals and media channels

# We undertake a wide range of engagement activity – some highlights from 2022/23 included...

- Council **Newsroom channel** on climate and ecological emergency – providing regular media communications on the Council's work
- **Social media** campaigns eg the A-Z of Sustainability and Energy Saving Advice
- **New Energy Efficiency, Retrofitting & Sustainable Construction guidance** (SPD) published online
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Climate & Bio-diversity Festival**: 56 events; 38 organisations
- Renewable Energy **Community Conversations** – facilitated by CSE in three rural parishes across B&NES, looking at community priorities and perspectives on renewable energy
- **Parish Liaison Climate & Nature Workshop** – focused on renewable energy, sustainable transport, retrofit and local nature plans
- Re-formed Climate Emergency **Public Services Working Group**
- New **Climate & Nature partnership group** – bringing together business, community and public sector representatives on shared action
- Engagement with **local business** through the Bath BID conference, B&NES Economic Strategy business workshop, the Large Business Forum and the first B&NES Business Show
- **Bristol and Bath Festival of Nature** activity programme included three Bathscape wildlife walks and an outdoor exhibition of artwork on beetles, pollinators and the value of 'weeds'
- Bathscape-led '**bioblitz**' at **Bath City Farm** with around 100 people joining activities as part of the City Nature Challenge UK weekend



# Our engagement priorities for 2023/24 are focused around three key themes

- **Home Energy**

- **Solar Together** (encouraging take up of solar PV offer via WECA)
- **Retrofit West** (promoting supplier and homeowner engagement with West of England retrofit 'accelerator')
- **Bright Green Homes** (maximise take up of homeowner retrofit grants for eligible residents)
- Local Energy Advice Demonstrator Project – a new project lead by BWCE in partnership with B&NES, focusing on retrofit of heritage properties, starting later this year
- Green Open Homes (4-5 November – promoting action on home retrofit, in partnership with BWCE)

- **Supporting individual and community action for climate and nature**

- Support for Climate Hub/Climate Emergency Centre
- Engagement with parishes (eg Chew Valley C&N Emergency Working Group)
- Community Conversations
- Festivals (eg Festival of Nature; Bathscape Walking Festival, Somer Valley Walking Festival)

- **A sustainable local economy**

- B&NES Economic Strategy and new Local Plan
- Doughnut Economics workshops
- Business engagement

# We are developing our ongoing programme of events.

## Upcoming events for autumn 2023 include...

Event	Date	Info
<b>Bathscape Walking Festival</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> September	An expanded programme of walks will showcase Bath as a walkable landscape city during this year's Bathscape Walking Festival. Fa <a href="https://www.bathscape.co.uk/event/bathscape-walking-festival-5/">https://www.bathscape.co.uk/event/bathscape-walking-festival-5/</a>
<b>Somer Valley Walking Festival</b>	9-10 September	Somer Valley Walking Festival aims to encourage local people and visitors to explore the beauty of the local countryside and also to discover its rich heritage. <a href="https://www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk/somer-valley-walking-festival.html">https://www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk/somer-valley-walking-festival.html</a>
<b>Green Infrastructure Strategy – Stakeholder Workshop</b>	25 September	A half day workshop plus local visits to review the impact of the current GI Strategy over the past 10 years, multi-functional benefits of GI and priorities for the new strategy for the next 10 years.
<b>Community Resilience Day</b>	28 September	A free event run by the council and the Environment Agency and will include talks, workshops and free emergency planning resources for Community groups, businesses and parish and town councils wanting to plan for climate resilience. <a href="#">register for the event online</a> .
<b>Bath Abbey - Extraordinary Earth Day</b>	30 September	Visit Bath Abbey to see Luke Jerram's Gaia and meet local people taking action to protect our shared planet.
<b>Doughnut Economics – stakeholder workshop</b>	3 October	An inspiring workshop led by Kate Raworth, bringing together invited representatives of the four key sectors identified by Kate in her work on Doughnut Economics (State, Market, Households and Commons) for a workshop to explore sustainable economic approaches in BANES.
<b>Economic Strategy – Business Workshop</b>	19 October	A follow up to our initial workshop with 40+ BANES businesses, to discuss the emerging priorities in the draft Economic Strategy, including a 'Greener Economy'
<b>Green Open Homes</b>	4-5 November	A weekend celebration of homes in and around Bath that have incorporated energy efficient features <a href="https://www.bwce.coop/green-open-homes-bnes/">https://www.bwce.coop/green-open-homes-bnes/</a>
<b>Community Energy Conference</b>	8 November	We are hosting the Wessex Community Energy Network conference, providing a regional forum to share information and build capacity for local energy supply in

# Next Steps

- We are currently reviewing and developing our engagement strategy and plans for 2024 onwards
- This includes our approach to community consultation and engagement, building on recent experience of community conversations and other innovative engagement methods
- We will be looking to pilot new 'conversations' in the new year.
- Our engagement over the next 18 months will support the refresh of our overall climate strategy for 2025 – helping to achieve our 2030 goals
- Feedback and thoughts from the Panel to inform this work are welcomed!