



Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Bath & North East Somerset
Annual Climate and Nature Progress Report 2024-2025
Annex A: Progress on Actions



TACKLING THE CLIMATE &
ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

Progress on Actions – Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plans

The following pages provide an update on our key actions contained within both our Climate Action Plan and Ecological Emergency Action Plan. Alongside each action, progress update and next steps, there is a numbered progress rating. The ratings correspond to the below:

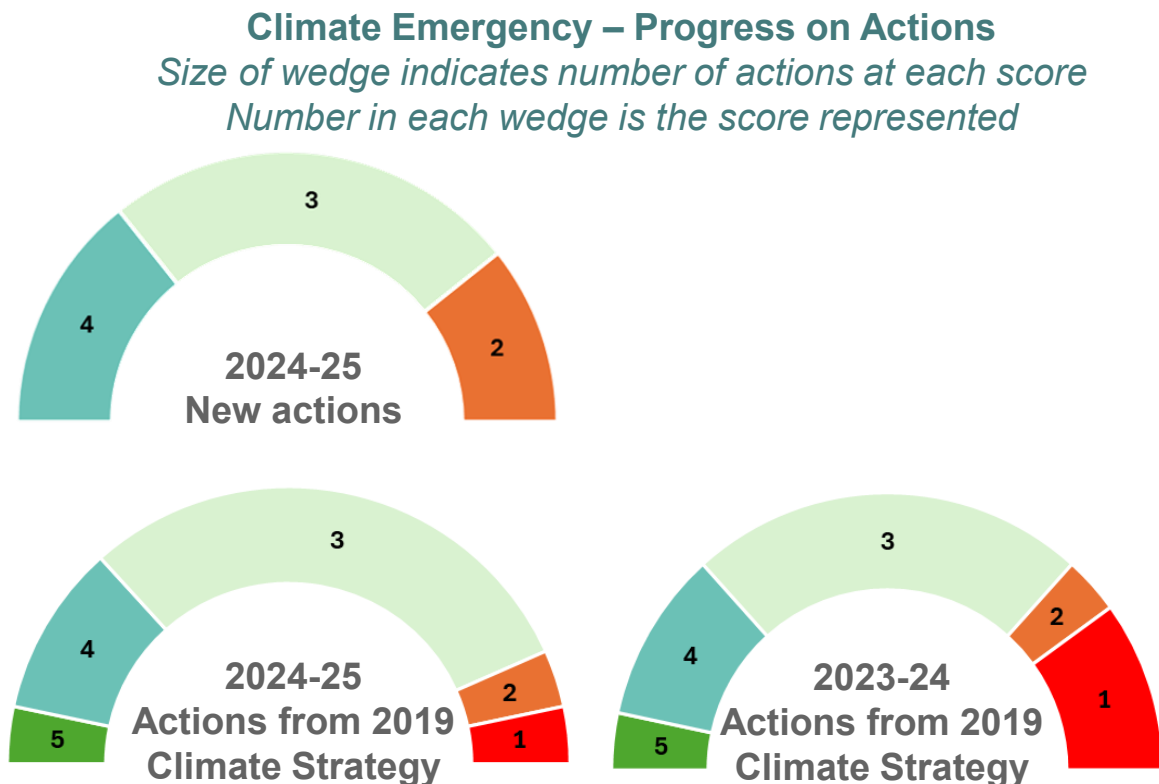
- 1 = Action/strategy still in formation
- 2 = Action/strategy in place, but with no current outputs
- 3 = Action/strategy well underway with current outputs
- 4 = Action/strategy mature, with plans for redevelopment or additions
- 5 = Bespoke action/strategy now complete and considered finished

The Ecological Emergency Action Plan will remain the same for the 2024-25 year, but an updated Climate Action Plan has been included because new actions were added last year to those in the 2019 Climate Strategy.

Progress on Actions – Summary of Progress – Climate Emergency

Summary:

- 29 actions are tracked, split between the 2019 Strategy (15 actions) and new actions set in 2023-24 (14 actions). The 14 new actions set in 2023-24, are reported on for first time in 2024-25.
- 26 actions have either progressed their score or remained as ongoing work since 2023-24.
- Of the original 2019 Strategy actions, 10 actions score 3 and 4 and are ongoing works this year where progression to the next score is not yet expected.



Key to scores

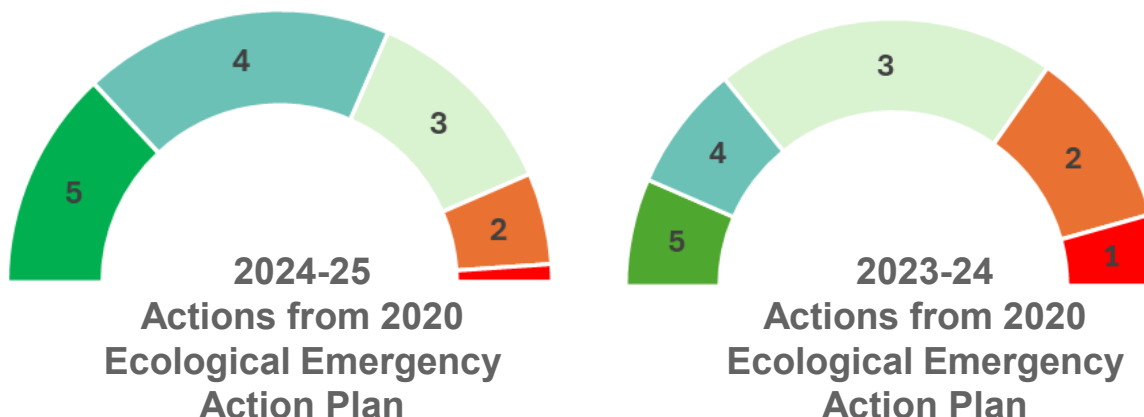
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Progress on Actions – Summary of Progress – Ecological Emergency

Summary

- 46 actions tracked
- Progress made on 26 actions since 2023-24
- 6 actions completed since 2023-24 update
- 87% of total actions in 2024-25 are well underway ('3') or more

Ecological Emergency – Progress on Actions
Size of wedge indicates number of actions at each score
Number in each wedge is the score represented



Key to scores

- 1** = Action/strategy still in formation
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Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Buildings

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A1.1	Development of strategic approach to home energy efficiency retrofit and decarbonisation of heat.	<p>A cross organisation retrofit working group has been established which brings together partners and providers across Bath and North East Somerset to understand, promote and support local advice and delivery services.</p> <p>Preliminary outputs which identify above and below ground opportunities for using waste heat from the abandoned coal mines are being explored with a working group from WECA.</p> <p>Working group convened to discuss wider heat network opportunities with Future Ambition Board Anchor Institutions to understand how B&NES can support wide development.</p>	<p>Finalising Council's Retrofit Enabling Plan for domestic properties, to supplement the new Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. This will be an ongoing group which will help us to understand where there may be local gaps in knowledge, understanding and delivery and identify ways in which we can offer further support.</p> <p>Pin-point single location for drilling exploratory boreholes to compare real world results with desktop studies. Final selection of site to take forward to this stage will be made from 5 sites identified across Bristol, South Glos, and BANES, with 2 of those five sites being in BANES.</p> <p>Work is due to start on a shortlist of homes from August 2025 onwards, based on those who had signed up for HUGS funding.</p>	3
A1.2	Energy profiling of the housing stock in BANES and analyse cost effective interventions.	Completed		5

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Buildings 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A1.3	Promote government grant schemes including for low-income households, to maximise uptake locally. Explore options to increase direct support for low-income households.	As part of a consortium with Bristol and North Somerset, BANES will be benefitting from a share of £11m in Warm Homes: Local Grant.	<p>Work is due to start on a shortlist of homes from August 2025 onwards, based on those who had signed up for HUGS funding.</p> <p>Continue to raise awareness and use of current support offers, for example, through the Energy at Home website.</p>	3
A1.4	Develop communication strategies to drive public interest and access to information about retrofit and domestic renewables.	<p>Funding received for specialist communications skills to help tailor messages, amplify the work of partner organisations and improve customer journeys to encourage uptake of retrofit advice.</p> <p>Communications are ongoing across the Combined Authority area to raise the profile of the Retrofit West Programme.</p>	<p>Promote uptake of retrofit and domestic renewables with trained volunteers working as part of the Community Energy Network.</p> <p>Further develop communications approach to amplify support available for retrofit and renewables, e.g. via Green Heritage Homes, Green Open Homes and Solar Together projects.</p> <p>Take part in activities with local community energy groups, including with civic partners to understand retrofit needs.</p>	3

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Buildings 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A1.5	Develop planning policies and guidance to enable energy efficiency improvement of buildings.	<p>B&NES has the following policies in place which support the energy efficiency improvement of buildings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy SCR6: New Build Residential Development• Policy SCR7: New Build Non-residential Development• Policy SCR8: Embodied Carbon• Policy SCR5: Water Efficiency <p>As a result of changes to National Planning Policy and the government's proposed revised housing figure, the Local Plan is being reset. This doesn't mean starting again – the work done already to consult on these policies is still very relevant, as are the responses we received to our consultation in 2024, which we have been considering carefully.</p>	<p>A second options document will be going to public consultation in the autumn, consulting only on new policy areas or policy options where required as a result of changes in circumstances, including a climate adaptation and resilience policy and a retrofit-first policy.</p>	3

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Buildings 4

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A1.6	Maximise benefits to BANES residents from WECA Retrofit Accelerator Hub.	<p>Continue to identify opportunities to maximise benefits to BANES residents from Accelerator as a whole, including ongoing engagement with the Combined Authority retrofit steering group.</p> <p>Funding received from WECA for 2 days/week of comms professional to help tailor messaging and promote the Retrofit West service to more BANES residents.</p> <p>Work with partners including Bath College to provide business support and skills training to grow the retrofit supply chain locally.</p>	<p>Continue to attend regular activity and events with Retrofit West to ensure all messaging, updates offers etc are reflected to homeowners and businesses across the region.</p> <p>Carry out audit of existing comms channels and Energy @ Home website to make sure the customer journey is simplified and rewarding.</p> <p>Continue collaborations with retrofit projects and business and skills to share knowledge and collaborate effectively..</p> <p>Look for opportunities to collaborate with community groups to work with sectors which require encouragement to carry out more retrofit work (e.g. Private Sector landlords)</p>	3

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Transport

No.	Action	Progress Update (2023-4 activity)	Next Steps (planned 2024-5 activity to Autumn 2025)	Progress Rating
A2.1	Development of a suite of capital programmes to contribute to a reduction in car use by 25% in BANES.	<p>Progression of design development and delivery of the following CRSTS projects that enable a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport and lower transport emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol to Bath Strategic Corridor • Somer Valley Links • Bath City Centre • Liveable Neighbourhoods • Bath Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Links • Bath Quays Links • Scholars Way 	<p>Bath Quays Links and Scholars Way - commence construction</p> <p>Bristol to Bath Strategic Corridor – undertake the final stage of public consultation</p> <p>Remainder of projects – continue to develop the business cases</p>	3
A2.2	Increasing ability to estimate whole-life carbon emissions of transport impact from development projects.	We produced Carbon Management Plans (CMPs) and carried out Greenhouse Gas assessments as part of the economic appraisal for CRSTS projects.	Continue to produce CMPs and quantify carbon reduction as part of business case development of CRSTS projects.	3

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Transport 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A2.3	Work with NGED as DNO/DSO to increase grid capacity in BANES to allow for faster rollout of EV fast chargers.	Delivery of EVI is being discussed frequently with NGED at a high level and in more detail with local Network Planners. Required connections for OZEV LEVI EV chargers are likely to have a small capacity requirement and NGED do not envisage any issues with providing connections.	Continue DNO operational meetings, focusing on supporting significant EVI work packages of WECA Green Recovery Fund (GRF) and OZEV Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund. Once the operator for the LEVI fund has been appointed, they will be introduced to NGED as they will be responsible for connections.	3

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Increasing Local Renewable Energy Generation

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A3.1	Develop an evidence base to inform new Local Plan and future workstreams regarding potential deployment of renewable energy in BANES.	<p>The evidence base, the Renewable Energy Resource Assessment (RERAS, technical resource assessment) was published in 2022.</p> <p>A project funded via Bristol City Council, Mission Net Zero, has given the Council access to a new Local Area Energy Planning tool that can inform spatial planning and identification of new projects.</p> <p>The Options consultation for the new Local Plan includes potential safeguarding of renewables sites identified in the RERAS</p>	Complete new Local Plan, reviewing consultation response and updating policies accordingly	4
A3.2	Develop communication and engagement strategies to drive public interest / access to information and expertise about renewable energy.	[Action combined with #1.4]		n/a

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Increasing Local Renewable Energy Generation

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A3.3	Development of Energy Strategy to provide strategic framework and outline of short and longer-term actions.	Energy actions for the Council will be captured in Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy due 2026, rather than publishing a standalone Energy Strategy. More detail will be set out in a Net Zero Council action plan (for Council's own estate and assets); a Retrofit Enabling Plan; and the outputs of the Mission Net Zero Regional Climate Investment Plan	Working with external stakeholders to translate the outputs from the Mission Net Zero Regional Climate Investment Plan into an action plan for the district	1

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Council Operations

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A4.1	Develop pipeline of Council renewables projects in line with 2030 target for 12MW installed capacity.	[Replaced with action 4.3 in new actions for 2025]		3
A4.2	Put in place the framework and policies for measuring and reducing the council's Scope 3 emissions.	Limited progress on Scope 3 emissions. Analysis is available on where our Scope 3 emissions are coming from and we have continued to learn from partners about best practice in this area. We seek understanding of other neighbouring authority and regional approaches. Specific work continues for our heritage estate scope 3.	Support the implementation of the Council's November 2024 Procurement Strategy. Develop and pilot approaches to measurement with key teams and suppliers. Set out approach as part of updated Climate Emergency Strategy.	2
A4.3	Waste Services action to reduce operational carbon emissions.	The Keynsham Recycling Hub site is completed and opened to the public. The site includes a 780 KWP solar array, EV charging, waste-water recycling for vehicle washing and >10% biodiversity net gain. The Council is progressing its plans to relocate its Bath Recycling Centre. This places the Climate and Ecological Emergency policy at the fore. It aims to reuse existing infrastructure wherever possible so that the overall carbon footprint of the development is minimised.	Continue planning and testing for the electrification of waste fleet, more detail under action 4.5. The Bath Recycling Centre is due to open in 2026.	4
A4.4	Property Services projects to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's corporate estate.	[Action combined with #4.1]		n/a

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Council Operations 2

No.	Action	Progress Update 2024/25	Next Steps 2025/26	Progress Rating
A4.5	<p>Decarbonising Council fleet programme.</p> <p>With most of the fleet due for renewal in the short term, B&NES has the opportunity to decarbonise a significant proportion of it, ahead of the 2030 net zero target.</p> <p>Based on assessment of the fleet, and available zero-emission technologies, battery electric (BE) will be the most suitable alternative in most cases to replace current internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs).</p> <p>Of those ICEVs which will be replaced, 65% (112) of the fleet are directly suited for replacement with BEVs. 33% (57) would need more clarification.</p>	<p>Budget provision has been secured to replace recycling and refuse trucks as they become due for replacement.</p> <p>Identification, feasibility and trialling of both kerbside recycling vehicles (KRVs) (April 2025) and refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) (June 2025).</p> <p>RCV trials concluded that Mercedes eEconic demonstrated and was technically suitable but questions about size as they do not build a narrow chassis. Proposed to purchase 6 eEconic's of the 12 vehicles required to ensure they are suitable for all routes. Consideration will then be made at a later date between the new Dennis eCollect (when available) and the eEconic for the remaining 6 vehicles.</p> <p>Romaquip (KRV) trials were positive and proved it was fit for purpose for replacing the 30 end of life vehicles. Further trials are arranged for December 2025 to test the vehicle in colder weather.</p>	<p>Progressing mid size replacements with EV for vehicles in Community Equipment, Waste, refuse collection, at Haycombe Crematorium and Parks. 2024/25 Purchases include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3x Electric Motorcycles (Parking Services) 6x Electric Vans (Various Council Teams) 3x Electric Carts (City Centre Cleaning) 2x Electric Ride on mowers (Haycombe Crematorium) 1x Electric utility vehicle (Cleansing) <p>Work through costings where trials and assessments are demonstrating EVs are suitable. Confirm purchase of 6 RCV eEconic's for 2025/26.</p> <p>Carry out December 2025 testing of Romaquip KRVs. KRV purchase would be in 2027/28.</p> <p>Fleet Transition Plan is being developed for review by Council, alongside buildings decarbonisation plans.</p>	3

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Council Operations 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A4.6	Aligning council policies and plans.	<p>Climate and Nature Strategy update work started to bring together Climate and Ecological strategy and plans at the mid-point to 2030, to evidence how the Council will deliver the Corporate Strategy Core Priority of Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies</p> <p>Local Plan development continues to support strong environmental policies. Please see action 1.5</p> <p>Work started to define and build the business case for managing more of our land for nature</p>	<p>Work with the BANES community through a variety of ways to test and develop strategy areas. This will include working with civic partners through the Future Ambition Board to start transition planning respective contributions.</p> <p>Continued consultation for Local Plan reset. Please see action 1.5</p> <p>Gain agreement for the principles that underpin being a Nature Positive Council</p>	4

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 - Buildings

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Buildings				
B1.1	<p>a) Deliver 30x Level 0 pre-apps and sign up 50x Listed Building Energy Champions</p> <p>b) Progress 10x retrofit planning applications/full pre-apps</p> <p>c) Develop online guidance pages for Green Heritage Homes project</p> <p>d) Delivery of homeowner engagement via webinars, surgeries, and wider promotion of services</p> <p>e) Engage planners in GHH training modules to enable more planning approvals for retrofit of listed buildings</p>	<p>a) Total 26x Level 0 pre-apps and 43x Listed Building Energy Champions completed</p> <p>b) 83x planning applications/pre-apps completed and monitoring process set up for retrofit apps/pre-apps issued</p> <p>c) Creation of resources including listed building factsheets and bitesize retrofit videos, made available on B&NES website</p> <p>d) Hosting 4x listed building surgeries, 2x online webinar modules on heritage significance and the consent process and presentation of project at external meetings, webinars, and seminars</p> <p>e) Funding of ABBE Level 3 qualification for project officers and CPD sessions for officers, including Green Register training and vacuum glazing CPD session (also attended by Historic England)</p>	<p>Progress and deliver Green Heritage Homes Phase II from April 2025 for a three-year fixed term period.</p> <p>Key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue delivery of Level 0 pre-app and retrofit casework - Progress LLBCO for solar panels in the conservation area - Ongoing enablement of retrofit – working with social housing provider - Addressing the supply chain 	4

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 – Buildings 2 and Transport

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Buildings				
B1.2	Support the programme of Green Open Homes events with Bath and West Community Energy	Held a Green Open Homes weekend in Autumn 2024, delivered in partnership with BWCE, Bath Preservation Trust, Buro Happold and Transition Bath.	Work with partners to agree next steps for the Open Homes Programme, including Green Heritage Homes Champions.	4
B1.3	Work with West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and local delivery partners to promote Retrofit West advice and support to B&NES residents ensuring uptake is proportional to other Unitary Authority areas	Regular working with Retrofit West and WECA. All comms officers involved to evaluate progress and agree next steps.	Carry out audit of retrofit comms and update digital and print materials in order to maximise impact.	3
B1.4	Support town and parish Councils and community groups to access funding and expertise to retrofit Community Buildings	Convened a retrofit working group	Understand whole picture of community retrofit activity in the area and identify any gaps	2

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 – Buildings 2 and Transport

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Buildings				
B1.5	Promote WECA Green Business Grants to support rollout of rooftop solar and heat pumps to commercial buildings	<p>This year to date the council has helped the following with carbon-reduction installations: clothing (Westfield Industrial Estate), food and drink (High Street, Keynsham), food and drink (The Maltings, Bath), tourism (High Street, Bath).</p> <p>Monthly outreach is undertaken by the council's Business Engagement Officer, with team colleagues from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority. Both B2B and B2C are approached. All major B&NES industrial estates have been visited.</p> <p>The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is running a LinkedIn Lead generation campaign from July – September 2025</p>	There are ongoing expressions of interest (EOI) raised at businesses such as: environmental (Brassmill Enterprise Centre, Bath), precision engineering (The Maltings, Bath), precision engineering (Midsomer Norton), food and drink (High Street, Midsomer Norton) and hospitality (High Street, Bath).	3
2. Transport - Detailed plans for transport are set out in the Journey to Net Zero plans for Bath and for North East Somerset				

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 - Renewables

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Renewables				
B3.1	Ensure the Local Plan provides a supportive policy environment to reach the target of 300MW of in-district generation by 2030 with updated policy re enabling wind development in line with new central government policy.	Local Plan policy on wind generation is being reviewed as part of Local Plan Update, in line with revised NPPF	Complete Local plan options consultation and policy review	3
B3.2	Develop a Local Area Energy Plan for Bath & North East Somerset through the regional Mission Net Zero project (completion date November 2025).	The Mission Net Zero project was funded by Bristol City Council via an Innovate UK grant. One project within the programme was creation of a Regional Climate Investment Plan and Pipeline. The project has given all councils in the region access to the LAEP+ tool, an energy planning tool that supports spatial planning. The project is at a regional level and therefore the outputs do not include a detailed Local Area Energy Plan for BANES. The LAEP+ tool can be used to inform local energy planning within the Council, with stakeholders, and to feed data into Regional Energy System Plans (transitional plans due 2026, full RESP due 2027) that will inform the next period of network investment in 2028-2033.	Secure additional resource beyond November 2025 to enable the use of the LAEP+ tool to be embedded in Council processes, and to engage local stakeholders in energy planning. Continue to support the development of Regional Energy System Plans via the new RESP South West office.	3

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 – Renewables 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
B3.3	Develop a business case for Council to co-invest in renewables sites for local Community Energy projects via a Joint Venture	Council is reviewing options for investment in local projects based on updated modelling provided by consultants. This includes a variety of options including loans, power purchase agreements, and a Joint Venture. The government's Local Power Plan is intended to provide support for Local Authority and Community Energy partnerships and could unlock opportunities to co-develop projects; detail of the support available is due to be published by the end of 2025.	Finalise options for investment once details of Local Power Plan published (2025) and take a strategic decision on options to pursue	3
B3.4	Support development of local Community Energy groups through Cooperation Agreements, exploring opportunities for joint projects to accelerate delivery (including solar project with Keynsham Community Energy on Keynsham Leisure Centre)	<p>The Council has continued throughout 2025 to pursue the rooftop solar project with Keynsham Community Energy for Keynsham Leisure Centre. Significant officer time has been contributed to the project in-kind and it is hoped installation can take place in 2025.</p> <p>A grant of £71k capital funding was awarded by Bath and West Community Energy to the Fairy Hill solar farm in Compton Dando, via the UKSPF Rural fund.</p>	<p>Complete Keynsham solar project</p> <p>Continue to support development of new Community Energy projects via Cooperation Agreements</p>	4

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 – Renewables 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
B3.5	Work with Distribution Systems Operator and new Regional Energy System Planner to understand grid opportunities and constraints locally, and unlock new investment to meet future demand	The Council responded to information requests from NGED and the newly formed Regional Energy System Planner (RESP) to inform network planning for the new price control period 2028-2033. Quarterly strategic meetings take place with NGED stakeholder manager and local grid engineers	<p>Continue to engage in RESP process as new regional governance is implemented</p> <p>Secure additional resource to implement use of the LAEP+ tool within the Council to inform spatial energy planning in collaboration with the WECA.</p>	4

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 – Council Operations

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Council Operations				
B4.1	Develop an implementation plan for decarbonisation of the council's own vehicle fleet	[See 4.5 above for update]		
B4.2	Develop a full plan for heat decarbonisation of Corporate Estate by 2030 including costed Heat Decarbonisation Plans for each significant building	Following a budget allocation of £4m over 5 years, a £250k decarbonisation programme has been approved for 25/26 that includes feasibility studies, technical support, Pulteney Hydro Scheme feasibility and building intelligence data project.	Completion of Stage 2 of Hydro feasibility work; commencement of 2 heat decarbonisation projects using PSDS award; further Energy Assessments and Heat Decarbonisation Plans for the corporate estate.	3
B4.3	Develop pipeline and costing for 12MW Council owned renewable generation by 2030 (including a minimum 2MW of wind), and deliver an additional 230KW installed capacity in 2024-25	Completion of the Bath Sports and Leisure Centre rooftop solar project (90kWp) and approval for rooftop solar projects including Carrswood Day Centre; Pump Room; and Odd Down Sports Ground. Business case and PIDs in progress for other sites.	Completion of Carrswood; Odd Down Sports Ground and Pump Room rooftop solar PV. Completion of business cases for solar canopies at car parks. PID approval for Parkside solar and St Keyna grant funded rooftop solar.	3
B4.4	Develop and pilot approaches to measure and reduce Council Scope 3 emissions. Set out approach as part of updated Climate & Nature Strategy.	Used LGA tools to set Scope 3 boundary Reviewed sustainable procurement models at West of England local authorities and at West of England Mayoral Combined Authority to seek common approach Heritage Services pilot work with Roman Baths shop suppliers	Review spend based analysis Scope 3 work from 2021 vs LGA boundary to report more fully in 2026 Agree resource to manage development of approach to Sustainable Procurement to support implementation of the 2024 Procurement Strategy Set Scope 3 target	2

Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Other				
B5.1	As part of the development of the new Climate & Nature Strategy, set out our approach to climate change adaptation and resilience, including identifying priority actions.	Our new Strategy for Climate & Nature adds climate resilience to the overarching outcomes we are working towards: Net Zero, Nature Positive and Climate Resilient. As a result, climate adaptation and resilience is being embedded as a cross-cutting theme in the Strategy, with new priority actions being identified alongside recognising existing actions that deliver for nature recovery and net zero and help our communities and places prepare and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.	Development of a programme of work to mitigate risk to delivery of council Services. More specific place-based climate risk assessments and adaptation action planning with partners, to be planned and delivered and feed into the Climate and Nature Strategy	2

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Leadership and Evidence

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C1.1	Integrate the ecological emergency into the strategic framework that will be set out in the next Corporate Strategy (2024-)	Corporate Strategy published in 2023, including references to the Ecological Emergency. Action Completed.		5
C1.2	Roll-out and embed a Council-wide decision support tool to ensure potential impacts on nature inform all major decisions and projects across the Council, mitigating impacts where necessary.	The decision support wheel has been used to evaluate the impact of projects on biodiversity, land, water, soil (among other things).	Use learnings from the initial rollout of the wheel to ensure it is being used in a way that properly captures the impact of projects on the environment and, where necessary, balances these against social impacts.	4
C1.3	Ensure the Council's Commercial Strategy supports the vision of being Nature Positive by 2030 and helps tackle the ecological emergency. This should include a framework for using the West of England Nature Recovery Network and, when published, the West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy, to inform land acquisition, management and disposal.	We have informed decisions on potential asset disposal and management this year and will continue to be involved in these decisions.	Identify options for improved management for nature for sites that we have requested are retained for their value to nature, and how this can be funded.	4

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Leadership and Evidence 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C1.4	Produce and deliver an ecological emergency literacy training programme for Council employees and members.	<p>The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is working on a nature literacy package, which we will support and utilise.</p> <p>We updated our internal online training on climate and nature in 2024.</p>	Support the Combined Authority in the development of a nature literacy package.	3
C1.5	Produce a guidance note for renewable energy projects, including solar and wind developments, to embed management for nature into their schemes.	We have identified an existing guidance note that has been included in the pre-application process for solar developments.	Monitor how the guidance note is being used in the pre-application process	5
C1.6	Ensure policies and guidance in the new Local Plan address the ecological emergency and improve access to nature, and consider adopting Building with Nature standards.	<p>The previous Local Plan Options Document included a number of options that would help address the ecological emergency.</p> <p>We are in the process of revising the Options Document as part of the Local Plan Reset, and it will be published later this year.</p>	We will finalise the revised Local Plan Options Document, which will again include options for a number of policies that will help tackle the ecological emergency and improve people's access to nature.	4

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Leadership and Evidence 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C1.7	Evaluate the feasibility of setting a higher requirement for biodiversity net gain, above the mandatory figure of 10%.	<p>Mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) has been in force since January 2023, over a year ahead of the national deadline.</p> <p>The previous Local Plan Options Document included options to require 20% biodiversity net gain, which will be included in the revised Options document.</p> <p>We have drafted a paper setting out the need for 20% Net Gain to support this Option.</p>	<p>Evaluate responses to the Options Document to inform next steps regarding a 20% BNG Policy.</p> <p>Ascertain the BNG requirements for the site allocations in the Local Plan and consider how these will be delivered.</p>	3
C1.8	Review and update the Council's approach to food to integrate opportunities to reduce the impact of food production on nature.	<p>The Food Strategy is currently in development, with drafting expected to be completed by the end of 2025.</p>	<p>Continue work to develop the Food Strategy in partnership.</p>	4
C1.9	Incorporate standards related to nature recovery in the council's minimum standards for procurement.	<p>The B&NES Procurement Strategy was published in 2024, with an ambition to 'embed sustainability and climate action in to all procurement activity'.</p>	<p>Seek resource to implement a model for sustainable procurement with suppliers (for both climate and nature).</p>	3

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Land and Water Management

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C2.1	Identify and deliver opportunities for nature recovery and biodiversity net gain on the following sites as a priority: Entry Hill, Odd Down Sports Ground, The Approach Golf Course and Lansdown, and then on B&NES Council's wider estate.	<p>We have completed a biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment for Entry Hill, identifying the potential to generate 62 Biodiversity Units from improvements to the Site. The possibility of an Ecology Centre is being explored through the Landscape City project.</p> <p>Two options for landscape improvements at Odd Down are being consulted on as part of plans to refurbish facilities there; both will improve the site's value to nature, although one is more focused on biodiversity. A planning application will be submitted later this year.</p> <p>A BNG assessment has been completed for Approach Golf Course to identify potential future opportunities for habitat creation.</p> <p>We have also produced plans for habitat creation at Primrose Hill as part of our BNG Pathfinder project, following the success of this approach at Charlcombe Way.</p>	<p>Develop a collaborative masterplan for Entry Hill with partners and identify funding to deliver the Masterplan, including potential sale of BNG units. Explore the possibility of partners managing Entry Hill to deliver agreed aspirations.</p> <p>Complete consultation on Odd Down and submit planning application.</p> <p>Continue to identify opportunities to sell biodiversity units generated through BNG Pathfinder Project.</p> <p>Continue to generate opportunities for nature recovery on other Council sites across our estate.</p>	4

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Land and Water Management 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C2.2	Package together and fund already-identified opportunities for improving the management of our parks and green spaces for nature.	<p>We are working on an application for Countryside Stewardship funding for managing areas of grassland within our parks and green spaces for nature, which will provide a regular income source and enable us to do more for nature.</p> <p>We are also exploring options to secure internal or external funding for equipment needed to manage more of our grassland as species-rich meadows.</p>	<p>We will finalise our plans for grassland management and submit an application when the window for applications opens later this year.</p> <p>Through Landscape City we are developing management plans for woodlands in Bath, which we plan to progress to stewardship applications.</p>	4
C2.3	Design, fund and deliver a training programme for operational staff on how to better manage parks and green spaces for nature.	Parks and Green Spaces staff have completed training on managing grassland for nature. The CPRE Hedgerow Heroes project has also provided training on hedgerow laying and management	Continue to monitor potential funding sources that could enable us to deliver any additional training.	5
C2.4	Adjust cutting regimes of highways verges where there is scope for improved management for nature.	Initial discussions on equipment needed to enable more urban verges to be better managed for nature.	<p>Progress funding applications for equipment that would enable more urban verges to be managed for nature.</p> <p>Explore innovative solutions to manage more rural verges for nature.</p>	2

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Land and Water Management 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C2.5	Produce a B&NES Tree and Woodland Strategy for 2023-30, including plans for increasing tree and woodland cover, and improving woodland management on our own estate.	A first draft of an Action Plan for council-owned woodlands was produced in early 2024, which we are working to. We have recruited a Tree and Woodland Manager to produce a district-wide Strategy	Produce Tree and Woodland Strategy for the district, and formally publish our Action Plan for Council-owned woodlands	4
C2.6	Create an improved 45-hectare nature park at Somerdale, Keynsham as part of WaterSpace Connected and in partnership with Taylor Wimpey.	We've continued to explore options to deliver the nature park, but a lack of funding has slowed progress.	Continue to explore options for funding for the nature park.	3
C2.7	Extend the Bathscape Partnership Scheme to 2025 and develop the project through to 2030.	The project was successfully extended through to 2026, and funding was secured for the Landscape City Project, which focuses on improving management of Council-owned sites within the Bathscape.	Identify a source of funding and develop a proposal for the next phase of Bathscape.	3

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Land and Water Management 4

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C2.8	Deliver 34 hectares of improved, nature-rich green space in and around Midsomer Norton, Westfield and Radstock as part of Somer Valley Rediscovered.	This is being delivered through Somer Valley Rediscovered. See the Somer Valley Rediscovered website for further detail.	Continued delivery through Somer Valley Rediscovered; completion planned for early 2026.	4
C2.9	Establish the Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership (CVRP) to coordinate activity among stakeholders and communities to enhance the natural environment of the Chew Valley.	Partnership established in 2023, and is ongoing through the Chew Valley Reconnected project. The Partnership is looking to develop joint project and funding proposals to deliver coordinated nature recovery across the catchment.	Continue to support and coordinate the Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership (CVRP).	5

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Nature-Based Solutions

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C3.1	Identify priority areas for nature-based solutions to localised flooding and runoff of pollutants from the road network and developments; and facilitate partners, including Bristol Avon Rivers Trust and FWAG SW, delivering targeted solutions with landowners.	Further progress has not yet been possible.	Evaluate learnings from the South Gloucestershire Council and BART Green Recovery Fund-funded project on this subject and ascertain how they can be applied to BANES.	1
C3.2	As part of the development of the Local Plan 2025, require developments to deliver Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) that meet adoptable standards and benefit wildlife.	Included as an Option in the previous Local Plan Consultation; planned to be included as an Option in the revised Options document.	<p>Consult on this Option and review responses. This will inform the policy approach taken forward in the Draft Plan, which is due to be completed by Summer 2026.</p> <p>Ensure any policy reflects best practice and opportunities, and links with Green Infrastructure policy and standards.</p>	4

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Nature-Based Solutions 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C3.3	Work with Bristol Avon Rivers Trust to restore the River Chew. This will involve identifying, costing and evaluating options for removal or retrofitting of weirs and other barriers to fish passage within the Chew catchment, river habitat restoration, and accessing funding for priority projects.	<p>We have continued our work with BART and other partners to explore options for the future of Keynsham Memorial Park weir to improve the river for wildlife in line with national and regional nature recovery strategies.</p> <p>The Chew, Cam and Wellow farmer cluster is providing funding for projects that restore the health of the catchment and improve biodiversity.</p>	<p>Secure funding to enable the Council to lead a partnership project focussing on River and Weir Improvements in the Park, starting with feasibility and development work.</p> <p>Continue to engage with BART and farm cluster on delivery of the Action Plan.</p>	3
C3.4	Pilot bat-friendly lighting to reduce the impact on light pollution on wildlife along the Avon River corridor (as part of WaterSpace) and use this to inform our approach to street lighting.	No progress made this year.	Review the suggested partnership approach with the University to developing bat-friendly lighting solutions on the Bristol Bath Railway Path, along the River Avon corridor, and other active travel routes.	2

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Nature-Based Solutions 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C3.5	Produce a toolkit of ecological interventions for highways, infrastructure and regeneration projects that are easy to deliver at low cost and that can contribute to delivery of biodiversity net gain.	<p>We have produced a guidance note for integrating nature positive design into transport infrastructure and are producing a guidance note for wildlife-friendly building design.</p> <p>The GI Strategy also includes standards for Green Infrastructure in development.</p>	<p>Finalise guidance note for wildlife-friendly building design.</p> <p>Finalise and publish GI Strategy.</p>	4
C3.6	Scope out opportunities for the use of nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation (carbon sequestration) and adaptation across the district, and options for funding/financing these.	B&NES is part of a West of England Climate Resilience Working Group set up to progress work to adapt to climate change at the regional level, including the potential for nature-based solutions.	<p>Continue to work with the West of England Working Group, including to co-develop a regional adaptation strategy, identifying opportunities for nature-based solutions and how these might be funded.</p> <p>Work with / support carbon off-setting policy requirements.</p>	3
C3.7	Use the Invest in B&NES website, as well as other established channels of communication, to better communicate the opportunities to invest in nature for businesses.	We have continued to support regional nature business engagement through the Combined Authority, including the launch of a nature business toolkit in 2024.	Update of regional toolkit planned for November 2025. Additional engagement and resources planned to coincide with Wild Summit (September) and Social Value Regional Plan (January).	4

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Access and Engagement

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C4.1	Seek funding for a dedicated post (or posts) for the Neighbourhood Nature Areas scheme, supporting communities in active management of their local green and blue spaces for nature.	<p>The UK SPF for a 'Nextdoor Nature' project in the Somer Valley has now been completed, which delivered these objectives in that area and was run by Avon Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>We have continued to run the Neighbourhood Nature Areas scheme.</p>	<p>Explore opportunities to fund an extension of the 'Nextdoor Nature' project in the Somer Valley.</p> <p>Monitor opportunities for funding posts in other areas or across the whole of BANES.</p>	3
C4.2	Create a dedicated Council webpage on the ecological emergency, and use this as a hub to communicate the work we are doing to address the ecological emergency and how residents can contribute towards nature recovery.	<p>Action completed.</p> <p>A number of webpages were published in 2023, providing residents with more accessible information on the ecological emergency.</p>	<p>Maintain and add to webpages as required to ensure information on how we are tackling the ecological emergency is kept up-to-date.</p>	5
C4.3	Embed tackling the ecological emergency within the Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan, explore opportunities for celebrating our natural environment as heritage, and better integrate the ecological emergency within communications related to heritage.	<p>The Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan was published in June 2025, with nature recovery recognised as a key priority and having accompanying actions.</p>	<p>Progress actions for nature recovery included in the Management Plan.</p>	5

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Access and Engagement 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C4.4	Work with partners to establish a social prescribing network within B&NES and make available grants for providers of nature-based activities to build their capacity.	<p>A BANES Social Prescribing Framework is being drafted, which will inform an Action Plan and investment case to support delivery of the shared vision and approach.</p> <p>The Somer Valley Rediscovered (SVR) wellbeing offer has provided a programme of green social prescribing activities in the Somer Valley.</p>	<p>Publish BANES Social Prescribing Framework, and progress identified actions.</p> <p>Identify funding to continue and expand the green social prescribing offer in the Somer Valley.</p>	4
C4.5	Incorporate actions to improve people's access to nature within the developing Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset.	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy published in 2023.	Explore opportunities resulting from the Strategy to improve people's access to nature.	5
C4.6	Create apprenticeships, work placements and/or other opportunities for work within the GI & Nature Recovery team, land management and/or ecologists within B&NES.	We explored a number of opportunities to create apprenticeships this year, but a lack of resources has meant this has not been possible.	Explore opportunities with universities for student placements or projects, which would be less resource intensive.	2

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Evidence and Monitoring

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C5.1	Produce a ‘State of Nature’ framework for B&NES, including an ‘ecological baseline’ and wildlife index for B&NES to measure progress against, and targets for nature recovery.	<p>We have baselined land managed for nature both across the district and on our Estate.</p> <p>We are working in partnership through the West of England Environmental Data Group to develop a regional wildlife index, which could be refined for B&NES, and to develop a regional monitoring framework for nature recovery.</p>	<p>Continue to update our monitoring with new data as it becomes available.</p> <p>Continue to work with the West of England Environmental Data Group to create a Wildlife Index by the end of this year.</p>	4
C5.2	Trial repeatable techniques for monitoring wildlife populations (such as insect traps or standardised bird counts) on sites owned or managed by B&NES Council, to help evaluate of the effectiveness of interventions for nature.	No progress in this year.	Explore opportunities for trialling novel monitoring solution such as acoustic monitors, perhaps through the council's pathfinder sites in conjunction with community groups.	2

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Evidence and Monitoring 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C5.3	Continue to monitor change in tree canopy cover across BANES, updating the figure at least every three years based on a baseline of 16.5% in 2020.	Baseline for BANES district established and published.	Continue to use agreed West of England approach to monitor tree cover in BANES.	5
C5.4	Survey the condition of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) within BANES to identify those that lack management plans or are in unfavourable condition and use this evidence to prioritise improvements in management, with an initial focus on SNCIs under B&NES Council ownership.	<p>Woodland and grassland surveys are being done through Landscape City project. Further surveys of Council-owned SNCIs managed by tenants are being done by Land Management Advisor.</p> <p>Funding being secured at the West of England level for surveys of priority SNCIs (i.e. not just council-owned).</p>	<p>Complete remaining surveys of B&NES Council-owned SNCIs and bring them into good management.</p> <p>Work with Combined Authority to survey priority SNCIs within BANES</p>	4
C5.5	Combine access to green space mapping with data on multiple deprivation to identify priority areas for improving access to green space.	The developing Greener Places Strategy has mapped access to green space across the district and using this information alongside data on multiple deprivation to identify priority areas.	Publication of Greener Places Strategy, which is expected later this year.	5

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Evidence and Monitoring 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C5.6	Include questions in the Council's Voicebox survey from 2023 onwards that monitor people's interest in and engagement with nature.	Questions regarding people's engagement with nature and green spaces include (Question 5) and concerns about the ecological emergency (Question 33) included in Voicebox 2024. The findings from this report can be found online.	Voicebox being discontinued in 2025. Planned to use a dedicated climate and nature survey in its place.	5
C5.7	Develop and implement a single corporate reporting approach that aligns reporting to government on the implementation of the enhanced NERC duty on Local Authorities with internal reporting on delivery of the Ecological Emergency Action Plan.	Working with neighbouring local authorities to develop templates for reporting and ensure comprehensive reports.	Complete report for the first reporting period by April 2026.	3

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Working in Partnership

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C6.1	Produce guidance and a template to support parish and town councils in producing Local Nature Action Plans, and ensure these are linked with Avon Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Champion Network.	<p>A number of Parish and Town Councils are working on Nature Action Plans (NAPs).</p> <p>Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership has secured funding to extend a model for Community Climate and Nature action into BANES, which we are supporting.</p>	<p>Continue to support Parish and Town Councils in producing NAPs as required.</p> <p>Support identification of communities and development of approach for Community Climate and Nature action.</p>	5
C6.2	Support the Forest of Avon Trust and Avon Needs Trees in delivering the 'Great Avon Wood' within BANES, providing a new woodland for nature and people, and in their work to establish more trees and woodlands across BANES.	<p>Planting at Great Avon Wood completed.</p> <p>Work on the nearby, larger 'Lower Chew Forest' at Wick Farm is ongoing, led by Avon Needs Trees.</p>	Provide support to Forest of Avon Trust and Avon Needs Trees as required.	5
C6.3	Engage with the Beaver Management Group to identify opportunities for restoring biodiversity, re-naturalising waterways and delivering nature-based solutions to flooding, as well as potential challenges, related to the beaver population in BANES.	Avon Wildlife Trust has now secured funding to reestablish the Beaver Management and Advisory Group, which we will be represented on, and to offer on-the-ground advice to farmers, landowners & communities. We have also joined the National Beaver Infrastructure Group to share best practice and learning etc in terms of risks and opportunities for infrastructure.	Relevant members of staff to Receive training from Avon Wildlife Trust on beaver-related subjects.	3

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Working in Partnership 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C6.4	With partners, agree and implement robust measures to sustain and enhance the bat populations of our European-designated sites, including securing a long-term plan for Combe Down Stone Mine and finalising the bat SAC guidance for B&NES.	No progress made this year.	Secure funding to update and publish guidance as part of the emerging Local Plan	2
C6.5	Work with National Trust and local residents to establish a nature-rich, accessible wildlife corridor from Bath to Bathampton Meadows.	National Trust has conducted community engagement to develop plans for the site, including creating wildflower meadows and wetland habitats. Some habitat improvements have begun, including hedge laying.	Continue to support and engage with National Trust in improving management for nature and improving access to Bathampton Meadows for residents.	4
C6.6	With partners, ascertain the need and capacity for a sustainable strategy for long-term restoration and management of key grassland sites across BANES or the wider West of England region.	<p>The West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has identified priority areas for grassland restoration.</p> <p>We are now working with other Local Authorities to develop sustainable approaches for managing grasslands for nature.</p>	<p>Continue work with Local Authorities and trial new/improved approaches, potentially including grazing and cut and collect.</p> <p>Work with WENP to develop the Grassland Connections Priority Programme and secure investment.</p>	3

Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Working in Partnership 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C6.7	Enable and support partners in engaging farmers and landholders on managing land for nature in strategic locations and directing them to funding to do so, focusing initially on the Somer Valley and the River Avon corridor.	<p>The West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has now been published, which provides farmers and landholders with a tool to ascertain how they can best help nature in strategic locations, and links to funding and guidance.</p> <p>Avon Wildlife Trust's pollinator pathway projects is engaging farmers in the Somer Valley (and elsewhere) on grassland creation and management.</p>	<p>Continue to develop and improve LNRS resources for farmers and landowners.</p> <p>Scope out engagement in Avon Corridor with BART and Natural England through Waterspace Connected.</p> <p>Develop funding case for next phase of Somer Valley Rediscovered, which could include working with farmers and landowners.</p>	4
C6.8	Support farmers in creating farmer clusters within BANES, enabling us to engage with farmers and landholders at a landscape scale; and work with the Duchy of Cornwall, FWAG SW and other partners to spread good practice from exemplar farms.	<p>The Chew, Cam and Wellow Farmer Cluster has been set up, with 56 farmers already signed up. Grants are being awarded for projects to improve the water environment and biodiversity.</p> <p>We have recruited a land management advisor, which will provide us with internal capacity to engage with farmers and landowners on land management for nature.</p>	<p>Continue engagement with Chew, Cam and Wellow Farmer Cluster; and support creation of any other clusters in the district.</p> <p>Secure longer-term funding for land management advisor.</p>	4

Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Build local energy generation capacity and demand for energy saving measures.				
D1.1	Promote the Energy@Home service to residents on low incomes to increase take up of grant support and advice.	Carried out an audit of existing website with a view to simplify and improve the user journey and co-ordinate with the Community Energy Network project	Go live with new Community Energy Network offer and materials	2
D1.2	Work with Bath and West Community Energy to increase awareness of their renewable energy projects and support.	The new Community Energy Network is a grant funded partnership between the Council and Bath and West Community Energy alongside other partners, and is exploring opportunities for new generation projects working with communities in BANES who would like to host and receive benefits from renewables.	Identify 3-6 sites to take forward as part of Community Energy Network project with a target total capacity of 5MW by 2030.	3
D1.3	Scope community green bonds to help local residents to invest in local projects across our city, town and rural centres.	<p>Scoping exercise undertaken to confirm other Local Authority use of community green bonds and its suitability in BANES.</p> <p>Good examples of engaging with communities to raise funds for renewable energy projects, however in BANES, we have well-established community energy organisations and a commitment to support these via co-operation agreements.</p>	Via Climate and Nature Strategy development, identify different opportunities to develop a community green bond scheme.	4

Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Build local energy generation capacity and demand for energy saving measures.				
D1.4	Explore the development of a Local Area Energy Plan, working with sector and regional partners, to ensure our electricity grid supports electrification and decarbonisation	As a partner to the Mission Net Zero project led by Bristol City Council, we have participated in the creation of a Regional Climate Investment Plan and Pipeline which fulfils some elements of Local Area Energy Planning at a regional level. Have collated and submitted information to the DFES process and the newly formed Regional Energy System Planner to inform strategic investment in networks.	Translate the outputs for the Regional Climate Investment Plan and pipeline into an actionable plan for BANES to accelerate the clean energy transition. Secure additional resource to embed LAEP+ tool into Council processes and engage stakeholders to inform local energy planning	3

Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Support businesses to deliver net zero and nature positive in Bath and North East Somerset.				
D2.1	Promote WECA's free carbon surveys for SMEs and Green Business grants to help businesses invest in improving the energy efficiency of their premises.	In 2025 council officers have supported 5 additional local SMEs to access Green Business Grants, with a further 7 outstanding enquiries prior to the grant programme closing in October. Over £2m has been funded since the programme commenced in 2019.	While Green Business Grants are set to finish in October 2025, Low Carbon Surveys will continue. B&NES Council's Carbon Reduction Accelerator scheme remains live, and officers will work with WECA on new green grant schemes for businesses.	4
D2.2	Develop and promote BANES as a location for leading sustainable businesses (e.g. with B Corp status).	<p>Two funded bootcamps supported B&NES SME's on their journey to achieve BCorp accreditation, with 5 in a position to apply following the programme.</p> <p>A separate series of workshops were funded to support pre-start and early stage social enterprises in B&NES.</p>	<p>Continuation of social enterprise support programme.</p> <p>Re-evaluation of BCorp bootcamps to identify demand for further cohorts in 2026.</p>	3

Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Create opportunities for residents to train and upskill for future green economy jobs.				
D3.1	Work with WECA's Retrofit Academy to help local people access training for careers in retrofit.	<p>WECA hold trainer days locally that we have helped to promote for local tradespeople.</p> <p>Business and Skills Engage and Support form an employability point, connecting through our We Work for Everyone team as part of our Skills Connect Project</p>	<p>Continue to promote quality training for installers.</p> <p>Wider and more consistent engagement with WECA Green Skills Lead, looking at pathways from existing and upcoming construction/green skills projects into retrofit, promoting and supporting the academy</p>	2
D3.2	Develop an apprenticeship programme for routes into nature and environment jobs	<p>Action intention is to develop an internal B&NES Council pathway into Green Jobs within the Council.</p> <p>Working group established and options developed. Review included broader options than apprenticeships.</p>	Identify budget and preferred pathways for delivery.	2

Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Create opportunities for residents to train and upskill for future green economy jobs cont.				
D3.3	Work with our education providers – including schools, Bath College, independent training Providers and universities’ - to promote awareness of green jobs and green skills to the current and future workforce (such as through the FWD project).	<p>FWD delivered activities focused on planned development and delivery of modules where sustainability and net zero are fundamentally integrated into teaching, short course/skills offerings, innovation schemes and business/employer-led projects.</p> <p>FWD delivered sustainability short course modules and integrated sustainability themes into Innovation and Research business support programmes.</p> <p>As well as this a Makespace Lab was created at the University of Bath Innovation Centre, providing access to 3D printing and prototyping for sustainable product development.</p>	<p>Utilising learnings from FWD to continue to develop Green Skills Provision over 25/26 including:</p> <p>Utilise Hubs and Community Outreach, as well as partnerships to build awareness of Green Skills in B&NES including employment pathways</p> <p>Identify opportunities for entry level green skills training to support residents to access the higher technical qualifications/modules offered by HE/FE (a barrier identified from FWD)</p> <p>Build opportunities to get Innovation and Talent into the same space, with a focus on green skills, sustainability and innovative green technologies</p> <p>Greater engagement with WECA Green Skills Lead</p>	2

Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Develop Bath and North East Somerset to be a broad green economy.				
D4.1	Continue the role out of the council's climate literacy training, and develop ecological literacy modules, to increase understanding of climate and nature issues.	<p>All new employees continue to undertake a climate literacy module as a part of their initial induction training.</p> <p>A half day climate and nature training course is available for all teams to access.</p> <p>Development of ecological literacy modules being taken forward at regional level</p>	Support the Combined Authority in the development of a nature literacy package and roll this out within the Council.	2
D4.2	Work with WECA and regional partners to capitalise on the opportunities of the regional green economy.	B&NES Council is working in partnership with the WECA to develop a Local Growth Plan. This plan will develop sectoral and geographical areas of focus. One of the sectors of focus for this strategy will be Clean Energy Industries.	Development of the Strategy with the WECA. One published promote internally and externally. Work with the WECA on the detailed implementation plan.	2
D4.3	Support the work of Retrofit West in developing the business supply chain for retrofit within the district.	Retrofit West are being promoted through Invest in B&NES team via website and engagement.	Support the market for retrofit by encouraging uptake of retrofit and access of retrofit west support as is available.	2