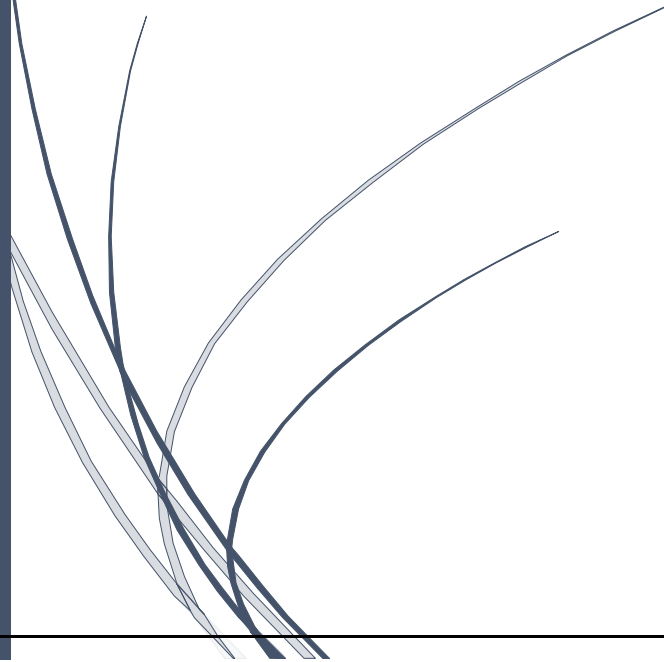


Updated November 2024

Bromsgrove District Council Carbon Reduction Strategy & Action Plan V6.1



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Background & Introduction

Globally, governments have committed to keep within a 1.5°C increase in temperature to avoid catastrophic impacts from climate change. UK Government has committed to Net Zero by 2050. Local authorities (LA) are key in taking and influencing action on climate change due to the services they deliver, their regulatory functions, strategic functions, procurement powers and responsibilities as major employers. Evidence supports that Bromsgrove District Council should make carbon reduction key to what it does as a Council to support national, regional & local targets. Currently the carbon emissions associated with Worcestershire are approximately 2.5 million tonnes, the district of Bromsgrove is responsible for 669,200 tonnes of this and the Council, with emissions of 818 tonnes, seeks to play its part in the reduction of these figures.

Bromsgrove District Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. On declaration of a climate emergency, an LA is affirming that it will place the Climate Emergency at the centre of its decision-making process. LAs are then expected to develop carbon reduction targets and action plans to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions, from their own council functions and using their sphere of influence.

Our thanks go to Alex Pearson from Nottingham City Council and the Midlands Net Zero Hub for his support and work authoring this document.



Sue Hanley Chief Executive



Councillor Bernard McEldowney Portfolio Holder for Climate Change

This plan will be refreshed every 3 years and reviewed annually.

Progress against targets will be reviewed twice a year.

50% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030

Net Zero by 2040

Our Key Successes and Top Five Future Actions

Key successes:

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area
Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) funded electric taxi and public charging infrastructure scheme - Carbon savings for the wider area, beyond council operations.	126	All service areas
Bromsgrove Zero Carbon District Heat Network feasibility study - no emission savings from this stage, these will come when the project is built out.	n/a	Community & Housing Services
Low carbon heating & Solar PV project at the Artrix Centre.	100	Legal, Democratic & Property Services
Purchase of 100% Green Electricity for the Council.	98	Finance and Customer Services
First delivery of HVO low carbon fuel for Council diesel fleet.	50	Environmental Services
Total Estimated annual CO₂ savings (These are already included in the current net zero target)	374	

Top five future actions:

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date
Assess further low carbon fleet fuel options.	349	Environmental Services	Review Spring 2023, completion of fuel switch 2040
Seek commercial partners to build out the Bromsgrove District Heat Network.	100	Community & Housing Services	Initial meeting to be held with Green Heat Networks Fund by Dec 2022
Support Bromsgrove District Housing Trust to apply for funding to improve efficiency of housing stock.	n/a (however, 50 saving for the District of Bromsgrove)	Community & Housing Services	01/06/2023 for completion of some funded schemes
Set up a rolling programme of works to improve energy efficiency/ renewable generation in the buildings with the highest consumption.	48	Legal, Democratic & Property Services	Ongoing - October 2022 for the next applications to the Salix funding scheme
Implement Recommendations of the 2020 Energy Saving Trust report into decarbonising the Council's transport fleet including staff mileage and travel plans across all service areas.	36	Transformation & Organisational Development Service /All service areas.	2025 to review progress.
Total estimated annual CO₂ savings (these will count towards the net zero target)	533		

Commitment & Integration

Background: The Council is committed to carbon reduction through its declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. Our commitment to reducing our carbon emissions and influencing the reduction of local carbon emissions goes hand in hand with the 'net zero by 2050' target set by the UK Government. As a Council we feel that net zero by 2040 is achievable - a goal that requires us and all sectors to pull together to achieve.

What are we currently doing? We have embarked on a journey of delivering Carbon Literacy Training to our staff and councillors and this will put climate action into the hands of everyone and can deliver between 5-15% real carbon savings per individual. Each of the Council's service areas has contributed to this plan in order to produce 'carbon reduction pathways'. Through this approach carbon reduction will become 'business as usual' and truly embedded throughout the organisation. Each service area in Bromsgrove District Council has been involved in the formulation of this plan and are committed to delivering the actions in the implementation plan.

What further actions are we going to take? This plan will be our route map to 'net zero' for our internal activities. It will also highlight where we are trying to influence the reduction of carbon emissions from other places outside the Council's activities.

The views of residents and partners are reflected in this plan, and they have helped to shape the actions that we are going to take. We are committed to considering the environmental impact of our decisions as a Council at every stage.

Our implementation plan (forming part of this strategy) will deliver real and quantifiable carbon reductions. This strategy will be monitored twice yearly by the Cabinet Advisory Group within the Council with annual progress being sent to the Cabinet. Key to the delivery of this strategy is the integration of plan objectives and targets with every aspect of Council service delivery. To this end a collaborative approach involving all heads of service and their teams has been taken. We will link this strategy to corporate performance indicators and provide a specific 'project based' focus for the Council.

Partnership Working

Background: In order to deliver the action plan, it is vital that we work closely with partners, in order to reduce the carbon emissions of the district as a whole. The Council's own emissions are a small part of the overall figure, and it is important that we use our sphere of influence to encourage others to address their own emissions. Shared learning is a powerful tool to enable carbon reduction and the Council can both learn from and influence a wide range of stakeholders across the district including Parish Council's. The Council can also benefit from partnership working with the county, bordering local authorities, neighbouring District Council's, regional and national organisations by seeking out and engaging the support that may be available.

What are we currently doing? We currently work closely on a district level with partners such as:

- 'Everyone Active' who run our sports and leisure facilities.
- Worcestershire County Council to ensure that homes and businesses can benefit from the advice and grants that are made available through the Sustainability Team.
- Joint Worcestershire and Herefordshire Waste Partnership group working towards waste reduction and better waste management across the county.
- Worcestershire Regulatory Services to promote Electric Taxis through the licensing system.
- Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and some of the targets set in this strategy reflect the LEP Energy Strategy of 2019.
- Midlands Net Zero Hub on several carbon reduction projects (some of which form part of the action plan),
- The West Midlands Combined Authority, and Sustainability West Midlands.
- The Energy Saving Trust to look at carbon reduction options across our vehicle fleet.

What further actions are we going to take?

Action	Estimated annual CO ₂ saving where applicable	By when
Attend monthly sustainability officers group meetings, organised through the County Council in order to share learning.	n/a	Ongoing
Investigate opportunities for carbon reduction with our suppliers and delivery partners.	n/a	Ongoing
Ensure that our Carbon Reduction Strategy is in line with the other Worcestershire district Councils by reviewing plans annually	n/a	Ongoing - annually
Work with Worcestershire Regulatory Services to investigate how we might develop a Street Trading Policy to encourage low carbon and sustainable trades to operate in the local area.	n/a	2024
We will also continue to explore options with Worcestershire County Council and local businesses to encourage walking and cycling to work.	n/a	Ongoing

Community Engagement & Communication

Background: The residents of Bromsgrove have expressed a wish for their Council to address the climate emergency and lead the way through carbon reduction. A recent survey indicated that 92% of residents are concerned about climate change and the impact it is having and 87% told us that dealing with climate change should be a key priority for the Council.

What are we currently doing?

- Carbon reduction has a dedicated webpage on the Council's website and there is consistent messaging around waste and recycling.
- Community engagement events are held regularly on a diverse range of subjects relating to energy, waste and environment.
- The Green Fair and 'fun-day' is a key event to communicate the message of a low carbon future to the wider community and 2022 sees the return of this popular event in Sanders Park.
- Within the Council an electronic internal staff newsletter has regular features relating to carbon saving projects that staff should be aware of.

What further actions are we going to take?

Action	Estimated annual CO ₂ saving where applicable	By when
All service areas to have email footers promoting carbon saving and resource reduction.	n/a	April 2023
Update our website more regularly with news on carbon reduction in addition to regular e-mail newsletters and a refreshed social media policy.	n/a	Quarterly updates - ongoing
Develop a Communications Plan to promote biodiversity and land management actions within the authority.	n/a	Ongoing
Work with Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT) to apply for funding to ensure that their housing stock is as efficient as possible – taking carbon saving to the heart of the community.	n/a	Ongoing – continuation of applications to various government funding streams
Include energy efficiency advice in 'tenant packs' for householders in addition to information on waste and recycling.	n/a	Ongoing – development of leaflet for pack
Examine opportunities to make the best use of the Green Fair to communicate the carbon & waste reduction message	n/a	Ongoing

Co – benefits

Background: Co-benefits can be described as an additional outcome linked to a carbon reduction action. An example could be cleaner air in a town centre as a benefit of the adoption of zero emission vehicles, or financial benefits accruing to the Council as a result of energy efficiency measures. Co-benefits can also be related to habitat creation and improved access to existing green spaces, development of the low carbon economy, skills and training or job creation and retention.

What are we currently doing? We are making use of our open spaces to promote health and well-being through ‘social prescribing’ in order to lift levels of physical activity. We are also part of a ‘Cultural Compact’ with Heart of England Forest to ensure that woodland activities such as tree planting leverage the maximum benefit. The Council has recently completed a Government funded programme to install chargers for electric taxis, an important co-benefit of this will be cleaner air in the Town Centre as a result of zero emission vehicles.

What further actions are we going to take?

Action	Estimated annual CO ₂ saving where applicable	By when
We will continue to evaluate the most appropriate size and location of electric vehicle charge points, in order to enhance air quality in the district.	n/a	Ongoing
The Council will examine the type of fuel used in its fleet vehicles in order to build on work commissioned from the Energy Savings Trust to assess the current fleet and provide guidance.	349	Ongoing – long term options to be considered when current trial of vegetable oil based fuel is concluded in 2023
The Council will also look to use a standardised method of assessing co-benefits to help inform investment decisions in the future.	n/a	Ongoing
Work with the Growth Hub to signpost businesses to available funding in order to stimulate and grow the green economy within the district of Bromsgrove.	n/a	Meeting between economic development team and Growth Hub to be arranged by April 2023
Cross reference Leisure and Culture Strategy with this document to assess scope for further decarbonisation projects.	n/a	Ongoing

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Background: Carbon reduction and social justice have historically gone hand in hand in support of the United Nations sustainable development goals. Green spaces are open to all residents and facilities will continue to be improved. Through joint working with BDHT, it will be ensured that low carbon technologies and energy saving will not be the privilege of a select few.

What are we currently doing? As an employer and deliverer of services, Bromsgrove District Council has stated in its Equality Strategy 2022-2026 that it is committed to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promoting equal opportunities and fostering good relations between people from all communities.

What further actions are we going to take? Bromsgrove District Council will ensure that where funding is available to support green entrepreneurs from all backgrounds, it will be effectively applied.

Action	Estimated annual CO ₂ saving where applicable	By when
Align our Equality Strategy with the United Nations sustainable development goals when the review occurs in 2026.	n/a	2026
We will work with local training providers to ensure that opportunities in the green economy are available to all.	n/a	Ongoing
Bromsgrove District Council will ensure that where funding is available to support green entrepreneurs from all backgrounds, it will be effectively applied.	n/a	Ongoing

Ecological Emergency

Background: The natural environment is vital to the health and wellbeing of society and provides ‘eco system services’ to regulate our environment, produce clean air and pollinate our crops. An ecological emergency is when the natural environment has been damaged and the ability to provide ‘eco system services is reduced’. The ecological and climate emergencies are linked. Significant carbon dioxide emissions are caused by land use change, which is also a key driver for ecological loss. The interdependencies between the species in the natural world are not all fully understood and it is vital that we act to protect biodiversity on a local, national, and global level. The Council perceive the Climate and Ecological Emergencies are intrinsically linked and therefore in the adoption of this strategy and action plan, the Council is addressing the ecological emergency through the same route maps in this document.

The district of Bromsgrove contains several areas of land ranked moderate to high value for conservation and wildlife for e.g Lickey, Waseley and Clent Hills which are important safeguarded heathlands. Corridors of land linking these areas are also important for the ecology of the area. In areas where the public has access, co-benefits such as improved health and well-being should be considered, and opportunities explored.

What are we currently doing? Bromsgrove District Council works closely with Worcestershire County Council to manage sites for wildlife where possible. Currently we are implementing new management techniques for road verges in certain agreed areas, this allows native species to flourish and set seed, whilst providing a useful wildlife corridor and habitat for pollinators. The Council has been communicating this policy through a dedicated webpage, in order to keep the public informed.

What further actions are we going to take?

Action	Estimated annual CO ₂ saving where applicable	By when
The Council will develop a Communications Plan to promote biodiversity and land management actions within the authority.	n/a	Ongoing
In partnership with Worcestershire County Council, a survey of suitable sites is ongoing to identify sites that are suitable for wildlife. This includes the possible expansion of the wild verges policy and ensure that new developments include biodiversity net gain, including for example pollinators in parks and Council owned open spaces.	n/a	Ongoing
Investigate the use of urban space for living walls and investigate opportunities for local carbon offsetting through tree planting and habitat creation.	n/a	Ongoing
Where landscapes and habitat areas are managed by the Council, we will look to eliminate petrol powered hand tools such as strimmers and chainsaws as soon as is practicable.	n/a	Ongoing

Education skills and training

Background: High quality jobs in the growing ‘clean tech’ sector will ensure that the district of Bromsgrove remains an attractive place for people to live and work. It is vital that we support our further education establishments to deliver high quality vocational training to our young people and those who wish to retrain for roles in the ‘Low carbon economy’. The Heart of Worcestershire College has a campus in Bromsgrove and there are opportunities for local companies to provide apprenticeship places through national, regional, and county wide schemes.

What are we currently doing?

- We are working with the Midlands Net Zero Hub to understand the findings of their ‘Low Carbon Goods and Services’ study of Worcestershire.
- Potential skills gaps have been identified that our local further education providers could help resolve.
- We work with the colleges through the Bromsgrove Partnership Executive Group, Bromsgrove Towns Deal Board and both the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership on the skills agenda.

What further actions are we going to take?

Action	Estimated annual CO ₂ saving where applicable	By when
We will work closely with further education training providers and both Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure that any new suitable funding streams can be sign posted.	n/a	Ongoing – to be reviewed quarterly
We will also continue to work with the Midlands Net Zero Hub to make use of the findings in the Low Carbon Goods and Services report.	n/a	Ongoing – meet monthly with Net Zero Hub Officer
Carbon Literacy short courses will be promoted to Bromsgrove residents wanting to know how to reduce their carbon footprint.	n/a	Ongoing.

Governance, Development & Funding

Background: The climate emergency declaration means that the current governance structure of the Council is used to provide direction and oversee delivery of low and zero carbon initiatives. Carbon reduction projects are currently developed within the Council and resourced through existing service areas. To make the best use of Council resources, other funds are sought in order to maximise carbon savings, Government funding for decarbonising buildings becomes available periodically in funding ‘rounds. In addition to these funds from Central Government there are regional, and county administered schemes that the Council can make use of. There are also investment opportunities in areas such as renewable heat and power generation through joint ventures and direct investment.

What are we currently doing? The Council has also been successful in securing funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for the Artrix Centre making a carbon reduction of 126 tonnes saving £16,000 per annum through the installation of heat pumps and solar panels. The Council has also applied for ‘Public Sector Energy Efficiency Programme’ funding for the Parkside Building. There are over 150 tonnes of carbon savings per year associated with both of these projects.

What further actions are we going to take? The governance required to deliver this plan will be provided by the existing Bromsgrove Cabinet Advisory Group.

Action	Estimated annual CO ₂ saving where applicable	By when
Bromsgrove Cabinet Advisory Group to monitor progress against targets and evaluate potential new projects, before submission to the Cabinet.	n/a	Bi annual meetings to commence in 2023
The Council will ensure that it is in a position to take advantage of future funding opportunities by maintaining a pipeline of suitable projects.	n/a	Pipeline to be monitored bi-annually.
Where projects are funded directly through Council resources, a measure of best value for carbon reduction will be applied in conjunction with affordability to ensure the most efficient and effective use of Council resources.	n/a	Ongoing

Low Carbon Economy

Background: The district of Bromsgrove has 21% of the overall Worcestershire sales figure for the low carbon economy. Bromsgrove also has 16% of the companies engaged in this sector, and 26% of the total number of this sectors employees. The low carbon economy in Bromsgrove grew by 4.6% in 2019/20 and employs 2,946 people across the district. A breakdown of the local low carbon economy is shown below:

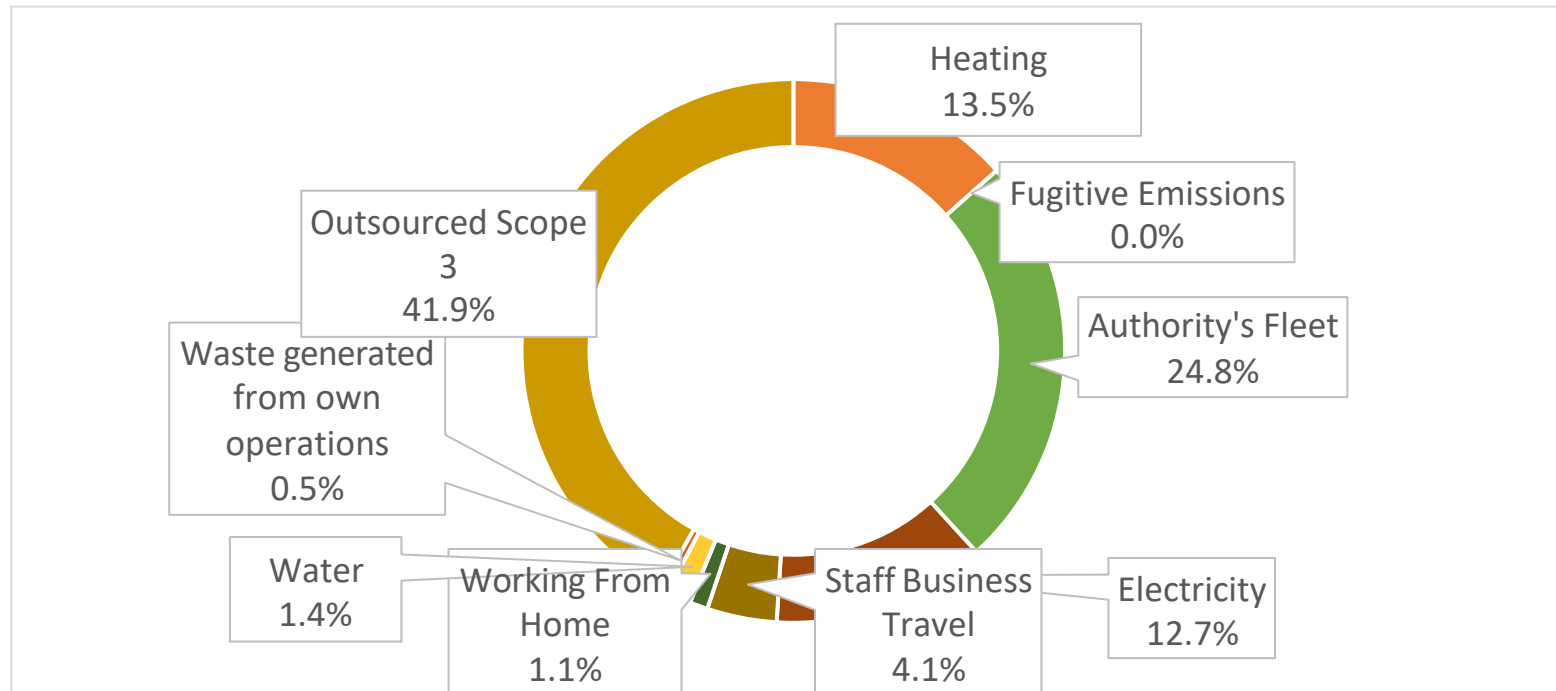


What are we currently doing? The Economic Strategy for Bromsgrove is delivered by North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWeDR). Appropriate grants administered by the County Council and others are signposted to local businesses. Both Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnerships have growth hubs that cover the area. We have delivered support for business looking to transition to EVs in conjunction with the Energy Savings Trust, delivering a webinar that we are going to host on our website to signpost businesses to for information. We have delivered the taxi EV rapid network to support local taxi businesses in transitioning to EV – they benefit from reduced charging tariff and monthly EV news and updates on benefits of EV and how to guides.

What further actions are we going to take?

Action	Estimated annual CO ₂ saving where applicable	By when
Include the findings of the Midlands Net Zero Hub 'low Carbon Economy Goods and Services report' in the next iteration of the North Worcestershire Economic Growth Strategy.	n/a	Nest review of North Worcestershire Economic Growth Strategy
Continue to sign post support available to this sector through both County and National Schemes.	n/a	Ongoing

Measuring and setting emissions targets



A breakdown of the Council's carbon emissions is shown above

Background: Official carbon emission figures for the district of Bromsgrove are currently available from the department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). These figures are for the activities that take place within the district, the totals represent both the direct emissions from the activities of the Council and the emissions that the Council has influence over. All Councils must be 'net zero' by 2050, this means that direct emissions from services must be as low as possible, and the remaining emissions are likely to require 'offsetting'.

What are we currently doing? Bromsgrove District Council are working hard to quantify and understand the emissions associated with our activities. By using the latest data resulting from this exercise we can set meaningful targets that inform our implementation plan and lead to effective carbon reduction projects and measures. Projects such as the Bromsgrove District Heating Network, and the further decarbonisation

of Council buildings are key to reducing our emissions and playing our part in achieving the nationwide target of net zero by 2050. Further the Councils fleet will be fuelled by HVO until alternative vehicles are sourced.

What further actions are we going to take? The Council will re commence carbon reporting, and these figures will be used to monitor performance against this plan. Carbon reduction targets in line with the other Worcestershire districts are adopted through this plan in addition to the Local Enterprise targets of 50% by 2030 and net zero by 2040. Currently the carbon emission figure for the district of Bromsgrove is 669,200 tonnes per year (2019). The latest carbon emission figure for Bromsgrove District Council is 818 tonnes (2019). In order to reach an interim target of 50% by 2030 we will need to reduce our emissions by approximately 41 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. To achieve net zero in the remaining 10 years to 2040 we will need a target of approximately 51 tonnes of savings per year.

Action	Estimated annual CO ₂ saving where applicable	By when
Achieve 41 tonnes of savings annually	41	Ongoing from 2022 to 2030

The Action Plan has been designed to deliver these savings and will be reviewed bi-annually by the Cabinet Advisory Group and annually by the Cabinet.

Mitigation & Adaptation

Background: The actions that the Council can take to reduce carbon emissions and address the ecological emergency fall into two categories, measures that influence others and direct measures with an associated figure for carbon reduction. The first actions are to address the emissions associated directly with Council activities such as service delivery. Mitigation is where we adapt our services to try and prevent the severity of climate change, adaptation is where we must change what we do as a consequence of the impacts of climate change, we cannot affect. Like selecting water resistant species in parks etc or emptying bins in the cooler part of the day as temperatures increase.

What are we currently doing? All heads of service and managers have provided input to help formulate this plan. Most of the mitigation and adaptation measures have grown from projects and practices that are already in place. Examples of mitigation projects underway include chargers for electric taxis and a heat pump and solar panels at the Artrix Centre. As an organisation we appreciate that we can always do more, whilst recognising the resources that we have available within the Council. Key to this has been the carbon literacy training that managers and Councillors in the Council have recently undertaken.

What further actions are we going to take? The Implementation Plan included in this document details what we are going to do over the coming years and how much carbon we expect to save (for direct measures). The Implementation Plan has been produced from discussions with the heads of service covering all areas of Council operations. We are continually improving the level of data that we have on the energy consumption of our buildings from the offices and buildings that we use for the delivery of our services. In terms of adaptation, we must ensure that these buildings are able to maintain a comfortable internal temperature in winter but also to cope with hotter summers and extreme weather events. We have considered our transport fleet, our sports and leisure facilities (managed by Sport and Leisure Management - Everyone Active), our infrastructure and our natural environment and we are looking for carbon saving opportunities. We are also keen that the messages of carbon reduction, resource efficiency and nature conservation are communicated to our residents concisely through a variety of channels.

Waste & Recycling

Background: The 'Environment Act 2021' is a piece of legislation that affects all local authorities in England. The act will require us to deliver collections consistent with the rest of the UK in terms of material range.

The Act also requires us to operate weekly separate food waste collections, preventing food waste from going to landfill or being incinerated. Waste collection and disposal has significant carbon emissions associated with it. These emissions are from the vehicles that transport the waste, and the processing or disposal of the waste once collected.

What are we currently doing? Bromsgrove District Council is a 'collection authority' and the disposal of the waste collected is the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council. Currently the County Council has a Waste Core Strategy that covers the period to 2027, the Council is signed up to the Worcestershire & Herefordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). The JMWMS sets out our targets for the reduction and recovery of household waste and runs until 2034.

Our Council website provides information to help residents find their local recycling centre, in addition to guidance on what can and cannot be recycled. We also provide links to inform residents about waste reduction (The Let's Waste Less programme). Teachers can find learning resources for schools on our web page, and we are keen to encourage children to take the message of waste reduction and recycling home to their parents.

What further actions are we going to take? According to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) the recycling rates in the district of Bromsgrove are at 41% (2019 / 2020 figures). There is clearly more that we can do to promote waste reduction and recycling through existing channels, and we will do this as part of a wider net zero communications strategy. New legislation will require changes to our waste collection service including the requirement for us separate and collect food waste in the near future and we will investigate the potential to turn this waste into a resource through conversion to gas for energy (Anaerobic Digestion). We are working with the 5 other district Councils and the County Council through the Worcestershire Waste Partnership on how all the changes required by the Environment Act can be implemented.

Action Plan – measures with quantified savings.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Assess low carbon fleet fuel options	349	Environmental Services	Review Spring 2023, completion of fuel switch 2040	Contribution to net zero target. Less reliance on imported fuel.	Vegetable oil as a replacement for diesel will be a transitional measure providing a pathway to other fuels such as hydrogen / biomethane or electricity. Use of the EST fleet review data / Midlands Net Zero Hub electrification of council depots guide will assist with this measure. All options assessed will require a report to Cabinet regarding options and costs.
Support Bromsgrove District Housing Trust to apply for funding to improve Efficiency of housing stock	50 n/a as accrues to wider area	Community & Housing Services	Ongoing as new funded schemes come online	Important positive health outcomes for residents, enhanced health and well-being, reduction in fuel poverty	Successful grant applications required to maximise carbon savings for this project. The carbon saving figure is estimated at 0.5 tonnes per property for 100 properties.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Set up a rolling programme of works to improve energy efficiency / renewable generation in the buildings with the highest consumption	48	Legal, Democratic & Property Services	Ongoing	Reduction in running costs and contribution to net zero target.	Successful grant applications required to maximise carbon savings. Estimate based on 5 buildings saving a minimum of 20%
Seek commercial partners to build out the Bromsgrove District Heat Network	100	Community & Housing Services	Meetings to be held with prospective investors by Aug 2024	Reduction in running costs and contribution to net zero target - Approximately 80% carbon savings for the buildings connected.	The carbon savings (over 1,000 tonnes) would accrue to the geographical area of Bromsgrove but not to the total for Council operations - Unless Council owned / delivery partner owned buildings are connected hence the low carbon saving figure. Midlands Net Zero Hub to assist with the Green Heat Network Fund meeting.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Apply for funding for Parkside Building energy efficiency / generation measures	15	Legal, Democratic & Property Services	Ongoing	Reduction in running costs and contribution to net zero target	Options could include solar panels and connection to a heat network.
Support 'Everyone Active' to reduce energy consumption at the leisure centre & include in funding bids	15	Legal, Democratic & Property Services	Ongoing	Reduction in running costs and contribution to net zero target helps ensure the continued operation of the facility	The next window for Salix funding opens in September, walk around energy assessment already conducted by Midlands Net Zero Hub
Energy audit of server rooms to enable energy saving practices	2	Legal, Democratic & Property Services	To be completed by Dec 2024	Reduced running costs for the Council in relation to IT	Assistance available through Midlands Net Zero Hub.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Reduce staff travel and make further use of video conferencing.	0.5	All service areas	Ongoing	Reduce payments for staff travel and unproductive travelling time	This measure fits in with the Council's desire to further adopt agile working
Cut the Council's paper waste by offering papers electronically	2.5	All service areas	Review by Spring 2024	Will save more money than it costs. Should be relatively easy to implement.	This is a measure that many other councils have implemented successfully
Implement Recommendations of the 2020 EST report for the 'grey fleet' and include Travel plans across all service areas	36	Transformation & Organisational Development Service /All Service areas.	2025 to review progress.	Improvements in local air quality & savings of £34k quoted in the EST report.	Travel plans are a low cost way of reducing emissions associated with staff travel. This measure will pre-empt the Government's ban on the sale of petrol & diesel vehicles. Ultimately one or more 'electric pool cars' could be the aim for staff
Grid decarb	179	* Grid electricity to be net zero by 2035 - electricity use from our service delivery partners			
total savings from plan	568				
Target	818				
Remainder	71				

Action Plan – measures without quantified savings

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Assess the viability of Council Car Parks and other sites for EV chargers & Solar Canopies. Continue to work with Worcestershire County Council on a standardised approach to EV charger facilities.	0	EV Project Working Group	Projects to be aligned with funding deadlines where possible	Air Quality & Health and Well-being benefits accrue to the wider area	It is useful to focus on smaller capacity chargers working on the principle that you can replace the power that was used to travel to a venue during the time of your stay. Savings can be calculated when sizes of chargers and locations are known. Use of solar canopies will depend on a business case being made for each site
Work in partnership with Worcestershire County Council to manage verges and other Council owned parks and open spaces for nature	0	Environmental Services / Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ongoing	Benefits for nature, insects, and pollinators, can act as wildlife corridors	Pilot scheme in progress. Can be one of a suite of schemes to help address the ecological emergency. Will require a report to Cabinet regarding areas and costs.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Eliminate petrol powered tools (chainsaws, etc)	0	Environmental Services	Reviewed annually	Better working environment, less noise.	Legislation may bring the deadline forwards as petrol and diesel is banned in other areas.
Continue to evaluate green tariffs and local energy purchase agreements	0	Finance and Customer Services / All services	ongoing	Green tariffs can assist when all other measures have been explored	Green tariffs can assist when all other measures have been explored. Normally green tariffs are higher than standard ones to there is a trade-off between capital and revenue costs.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Use of carbon saving metrics as well as cost benefit ratios on a project by project basis, use of treasury green book to calculate co-benefits	0	Finance and Customer Services	ongoing	Helps the Council to put a value on carbon saving, and assists with the monitoring of this implementation plan	Good practice examples from other local authorities to be shared.
Create measures in the performance dashboard for carbon saving as a result of streamlining operations.	0	Transformation and Organisational Development	To be completed by April 2024	Helps the Council to put a value on carbon saving, and assists with the monitoring of this implementation plan	Accurate data assists in the delivery and monitoring of this plan.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Moving more IT capacity to cloud based servers	0	Transformation and Organisational Development Service	Review annually.	Reduced running costs for the Council in relation to IT	It should be ensured that cloud servers are using low carbon power sources in order for the carbon saving to be claimed.
Reduce staff travel by making further use of video conferencing.	0	Transformation and Organisational Development Service	Ongoing	Reduce the need for customers to travel to speak to Council specialists about services.	Ultimately one or more electric 'pool cars' could be the aim for staff use if travel is necessary.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Include questions on Carbon to evaluate tenders for services during the procurement process	0	Legal, Democratic and Property Services	To be completed by Dec 2024.	Helps the Council to better understand emissions that are not directly in its control.	This is the start of the Council's journey to understand 'scope three' emissions (emissions other than those directly from fuel and power).
Mapping exercise to link forthcoming Leisure and Cultural Strategy with this Strategy	0	Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	To be confirmed when the Open Spaces Strategy is complete.	Better health and well-being outcomes for residents through improved access to open spaces / opportunities to engage with the natural environment.	This measure will highlight areas where the ecological emergency can be addressed too. Opportunities for funding should be explored with Worcestershire County Council, such as the 'Natural Networks' scheme.
Review Local Plan where there is particular reference to renewables / provision for renewables in the future or heat networks	0	Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	To coincide with Local Plan review dates.	Ensures that Local Plan is in line with the other districts to avoid inconsistency in requirements for low and zero carbon technologies.	Good opportunities for learning and sharing best practice with the other districts of Worcestershire and beyond.