

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

The action plan below details climate change actions planned during the 2025/2026 period. Where actions are expected to overlap financial years, these are indicated in the 'Target date' section.

OVERARCHING ACTIVITY				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Monitoring and Reporting	Continue to develop scope 3 emissions reporting.	Ongoing	Climate	Scope 3 emissions reporting is challenging, as many of the organisations the Council works with do not have the capacity to undertake accurate carbon accounting.
	Review progress against the Council's net zero targets.	December 2025	Climate	2025 marks five years since Cabinet approved its 2030 operational net zero target and as such presents an opportunity to review progress made considering the challenges experienced and the socioeconomic and political changes observed during this time. It is also an opportunity to reflect on a refined view of the Council's carbon footprint following work to improve this dataset and to consider how these impact upon the Council's ability to reach its target.

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	Working with finance, policy and governance teams to improve the pace at which decarbonisation can be achieved through effective governance.	March 2026	Climate	Consider the approach to enable delivery of decarbonisation at pace such as stronger delegations in place to deliver schemes at pace when required.
ENERGY				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Decarbonising Buildings	Continue to deliver the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan. Sites likely to be included in 2025 activity include: • 115 Middle Lane South • Springwell Gardens • Swinton CSC & Library	March 2027	Climate	A separate Cabinet paper will be brought forward to approve the forward plan for building decarbonisation. A bid for PSDS 4 has been submitted for these buildings, however, should this be unsuccessful other buildings within the plan may be brought forward in the programme to ensure funding can be leveraged at the right time. PSDS funding depends on the critical criteria of end-of-life boilers and therefore only a small number of remaining buildings qualify.
Decarbonising Buildings	Work alongside the private sector to encourage the installation of a heat network within the Town Centre.	March 2027	Climate	This action relates to the decarbonisation of some of the Council's more challenging properties but also supports decarbonisation of other organisations throughout Rotherham.
	Undertake a full decarbonisation modelling to fully demonstrate the process utilising current and emerging technologies. This will allow a real-life assessment of indicative impact on costs subject to market changes.	March 2026	Climate	This action is carried forward. Progress to date includes completed site surveys but lack of funding has delayed delivery. The proposed building is 115 Middle Lane South. This site is included within the Council's PSDS phase 4 application and delivery will be subject to Cabinet approval in March 2025.

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Community Energy Support Scheme	Continue to promote and support the Energy Company Obligation 4 (ECO4) scheme and support residents to reduce energy and cost.	Ongoing whilst funding lasts.	Climate	
Recycling Fund	Trial use of internal Recycling fund sites to install solar PV on two Council owned buildings.	March 2026	Climate	This is an invest to save scheme utilising existing Capital budget which is then paid back over time through savings on energy bills. This scheme will be focussed upon internal Council buildings and the funding pot will be refilled over time from energy savings to fund additional works.
Renewable Energy	Review opportunities for improving uptake of rooftop solar PV throughout the Borough, and if appropriate draw up a business case for any resulting projects that arise from this work.	March 2026	Climate	Rooftop Solar PV is becoming increasingly accessible and presents an opportunity to provide clean energy whilst reducing energy bills. Delivery is not expected in 25/26 period.
Local Area Energy Plan	Creation of a full business case for the procurement and delivery of a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) for Rotherham, including a review of potential external funding opportunities.	March 2026	Climate	A LAEP is a plan which sets out the change required to transition Rotherham's energy system to net zero and will be instrumental in providing the project pipeline to enable delivery of the Council's Net Zero by 2040 aspiration. Delivery of the plan is not expected within 25/26.

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TRANSPORT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Promote Electric Vehicle Charging	Identify and bring forward further locations for EV Charging Infrastructure in line with the Council's Public Charging Infrastructure Strategy.	March 2026	Climate	
	Completion of LEVI Drummond Street Scheme	March 2026	Climate	
Fleet Transport	If approved extend the use of HVO biodiesel to the remainder of the Council diesel fleet which are not intended to be replaced by EVs.	As per project timelines	Fleet Services	HVO has been successfully trialled in 10 corporate fleet vehicles since 2023. Since HVO has a greater unit price than conventional diesel, Cabinet approval will be sought to determine the scope of its future use alongside electrification, to decarbonise the Council's vehicle fleet.
Transport Planning and Data	Commission work to determine how best to achieve Net Zero emissions from transport in Rotherham by 2040.	March 2026	Transport Planning	The Council's target year for Net Zero carbon emissions in the Borough of Rotherham is 2040, ten years sooner than the Government's equivalent, national target for the UK's territorial emissions. This presents a significant challenge in the transport sector, not least because an estimated 43% of emissions from road transport are from trips produced outside South Yorkshire. The commissioned study will make recommendations regarding the scope of the Council's NZ40 target as it applies to emissions from transport and will recommend priority actions to cut emissions, minimising cumulative emissions while seeking to deliver other local economic, social and environmental benefits.

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Transport Planning and Data	Continued development of schemes funded by the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), including monitoring and evaluation of completed projects.	March 2026	Transport Planning	All CRSTS projects must contribute to overarching objectives, which include transport decarbonisation and promoting a modal shift from cars to public transport, walking and cycling. Continued development of CRSTS schemes in the 2025/26 municipal year is expected to include ongoing consultation.
	Embed the use of a new DfT (Department for Transport) carbon emissions appraisal tool to support future scheme design.	March 2026	Transport Planning	DfT has developed a new tool to support the design of transport schemes, to mitigate their potential 'embodied' carbon impact through options appraisal. While the tool will need to be used for schemes funded by the Department, there is an opportunity to add further value by embedding its use in other schemes' design.

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HOUSING				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Zero Carbon Housing	Deliver the EPC Band C programme of works and if successful utilise monies secured via Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3. This should include performance measures to effectively track performance against 2030 target.	2030	Housing	The Council has submitted a funding bid to the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund which may be used to fund decarbonisation works on the Council's housing stock.

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WASTE				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Waste from Households	Continue jointly to prepare a South Yorkshire Waste Plan with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield councils.	July 2025	Planning Policy & Waste	Its is likely that following its creation, further actions to implement, including presentation to Cabinet for consideration, will be required.
Business Waste	Continue to develop the Rotherham Business Waste service's paper and card, dry mixed recycling and food waste collections, ensuring compliance with Simpler Recycling regulations across the Council's corporate estate.	March 2026	Corporate Landlord & Waste	From 1 April 2026 Simpler Recycling will be extended to businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Rotherham Business Waste will support existing and prospective customers to comply with the new regulations, while learning from the deployment of separate collections to its larger customers. To ensure compliance with Recycling and its own Finance and Procurement Procedure Rules, the Council will review which of its sites are existing, internal customers of Rotherham Business Waste, with a view to ensuring all sites use the in-house service, in the first instance.
Single Use Plastics	Engage suppliers to address single use plastics in packaging materials.	March 2026	Climate	Internal action on single use plastic will continue alongside this action.

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Planning	Depending on the NPPF update, continue with the update to the core strategy with the climate change policy updates or begin the process of developing a new local plan which will give more flexibility to focus on climate change.	March 2026	Planning	The update to National Policy and increase to Rotherham's housing target will have implications for the update of the core strategy and could cause delays for the delivery of this action.
Planning	Keep existing planning SPDs related to climate change under review and revise if necessary.	March 2026	Planning	This is an ongoing action.
Green spaces	Plant 10,000 woodland trees and 500 new urban trees.	April 2026	Green spaces	
Biodiversity	Continue to collaborate with SYMCA and the four local authorities in the production and implementation of the local nature recovery strategy.	March 2026	Green spaces	
Biodiversity	Develop a pricing structure and a process for selling the credits from sites identified for biodiversity net gain.	March 2026	Green spaces	
	Report upon and publish the Council's first report on Biodiversity Duty.	January 2026	Green spaces	This is a legal requirement in relation to the Council's Biodiversity Duty which must be developed and approved by Cabinet.
	Continue to work towards the completion of the 11 actions agreed as part of the 2024 Improving Places Select Committee review of Nature Recovery.	March 2027	Various	The full actions approved as part of the IPSC review are considered separately though are complimentary to the action on climate change. Each individual action has its own deadline. A robust natural environment is likely to be more resilient to climate impact and better able to absorb any residual carbon emissions emitted.

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				Background papers are available in the main report.
INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Children's Capital of Culture	Continue to deliver a wide range of creative programming under the World Beneath Our Feet theme. To include management of the Place Partnership Fund bid to enable partners' delivery of: - A grant of £105K to address creative health outcomes, including through engagement with nature - Reduction of carbon emissions through activities that encourage physical activity and use of active transport, including a £105K grant supporting activity delivery around this.	Dec 2025	Children's Capital of Culture Team	The World Beneath our Feet is a theme chosen by young people as part of the Children's Capital of Culture programme, which is a year-long festival to be delivered throughout Rotherham for and by children and young people during 2025. This theme incorporates nature and climate at its heart and will more than likely provide opportunities for awareness raising in addition to this specific action.
Strategy	Work with the Council's partners to co-create a strategy to achieve net zero by 2040. Partners might include those already participating in the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Youth Cabinet, The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and other anchor institutions.	March 2027	Climate	The Council cannot deliver a net zero Borough alone. This action aims to put understanding, compassion and a just transition at its heart. The LAEP described above will also support this work, hence a 2 year timeline for delivery. This will also allow for public consultation.
Supporting local communities	Continue to work with Members to support local communities to develop their action against climate change,	Ongoing	Climate & Neighbourhoods	Four wards have identified priorities relating to the environment including

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	particularly where Wards have identified climate or nature as a priority.			topics such as climate, nature, and better recycling.
ADAPTATION				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Climate Adaptation	Continue delivery of the Council's programme to improve the adaptation of Council services to future climate scenarios. Delivery of the following actions: - Continuing to build on the public health pilot scheme to finalise outputs; - Delivery of training, risk assessment and climate impact review for adult services. - Delivery of training, risk assessment and climate impact review for Property & Facilities services.	March 2026	Climate	Service input will be required from Public Health and Adult Care and Property & Facilities Services.
Climate Adaptation	Further development of the 6 priority Flood Alleviation Schemes as per existing reported plan.	Various - as per project plan	Drainage & Flood Risk Teams	Work managed separately through the Drainage & Flood Risk Teams and reported annually through the Improving Places Selected Commission. Environment Agency Funding for this area is currently under review which may impact upon delivery throughout 25/26.

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ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Events	Continue developing data capture of events carbon foot printing and building this into agreements and contracts with suppliers. Develop baselines for Roots Rotherham Street Carnival and WOW events.	March 2026	Events	
	Use Roots Street Carnival and other events to promote other council initiatives including tree planting and biodiversity.	March 2026	Events	
	Ask artists and performers we work with to use sustainable practices and materials where feasible – for example reused or recycled materials and avoiding single use plastics.	March 2026	Events	
	Develop the Rotherham Show food and drink offer to promote more smaller local supplies and vendors who offer plant-based meals.	September 2025	Events	