

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

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

Legend - Status

	Complete
	On Track
	Delayed
	Will not be completed
	On hold

OVERARCHING ACTIVITY					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	Status	COMMENTS
Monitoring and Reporting	Continue to develop scope 3 emissions reporting.	Ongoing	Climate		Scope 3 emissions have been enhanced to include emissions from the procurement of goods and services. See appendix 4 for further information.
	Review progress against the Council's net zero targets.	December 2025	Climate		This work has been completed. A report has been produced which identifies that although reaching net zero operations is possible within the next 5 years, the current uncertainty around government funding means that delivery is uncertain, particularly for the Council's corporate estate. Further detail about the Council's current emissions is also available in Appendix 4.
	Working with finance, policy and governance	March 2026	Climate		Stronger delegations have been discussed with finance, and governance and as such have been

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

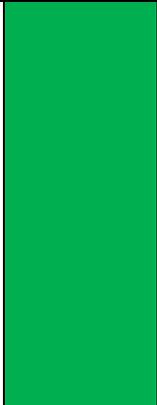
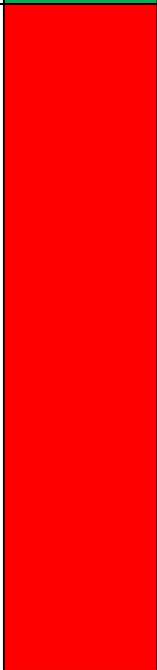
	<p>teams to improve the pace at which decarbonisation can be achieved through effective governance.</p>				<p>included within this report for Cabinet’s consideration. The delegations included within this report will enable the climate change team to set in place an overarching procurement for delivery of the full scheme and enable action as soon as funding becomes available.</p>
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ENERGY					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	Status	COMMENTS
<p>Decarbonising Buildings</p>	<p>Continue to deliver the Council’s Heat Decarbonisation Plan. Sites likely to be included in 2025 activity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115 Middle Lane South • Springwell Gardens • Swinton CSC & Library 	<p>March 2027</p>	<p>Climate</p>	<p style="background-color: #00b050; color: white; text-align: center;">On Track</p>	<p>The Council was successfully awarded PSDS Phase 4 funding to undertake these works. A contractor has been appointed, and the project is now in design phase in readiness for construction to begin in March/April 2026.</p> <p>In addition, a further site, Peacock Lodge Children’s Home is also planned to be delivered during this time period following the successful completion of the first 3 sites. Full works are expected to be completed by June 2026.</p>
	<p>Work alongside the private sector to encourage the installation of a heat network within the Town Centre.</p>	<p>March 2027</p>	<p>Climate</p>	<p style="background-color: #ffc107; color: white; text-align: center;">On Track</p>	<p>This action relates to the decarbonisation of some of the Council’s more challenging properties but also supports decarbonisation of other organisations throughout Rotherham. Following the closure of the Rotherham Town Centre Heat Network Project, the Council has since submitted a funding request to commission a feasibility study to confirm whether, given the challenges the previous project experienced, a town centre heat network remains a viable option for this location. Unfortunately, this bid</p>

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

					was not successful, so other funding opportunities are being considered for this piece of work.
	Create a Decarbonisation Standard for the Council's corporate estate.	March 2024	Climate		This action was originally delayed due to staff turnover, however this is now complete. The Standard covers larger refurbishment and new builds which are intended to form a future part of the Council's corporate property portfolio. It does not cover Housing stock for which other standards are available.
	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 linked with the 2025/27 decarbonisation programme. It is likely that the initial modelling will be complete shortly after the above project is finalised, so a three-to-four-month delay is anticipated. Monitoring of the property will then continue thereafter to assess the longer-term implications of the decarbonisation project. To date, initial site surveys have been undertaken for 115 Middle Lane South and design is underway.
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		As at the end of February 2026, the Council has signed off 1610 ECO applications, which on average save residents £6,500 per installation covering insulation, upgraded boilers and other energy efficiency works. 206 applications were approved between April 2025 and February 2026.
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 has been subject to delays due to confirmation of site selection. Commissioning of this project is now expected to be in Quarter 3 2026/27.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

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		<p>Rooftop Solar PV is becoming increasingly accessible and presents an opportunity to provide clean energy whilst reducing energy bills. Several options have been reviewed including a Solar Together type bulk buying model for those who are able to pay and increasing support for schools or community groups. A report has been created, and this work is being fed directly into the Net Zero 40 Strategy work to assess feasibility with likely partners. A business case will be drawn up thereafter.</p>
	Renewable Energy Pilot Project	March 2026	Climate		<p>In 2021 Cabinet approved a scheme to develop and deliver a 1MW pilot solar farm project within the Borough on Council land. Unfortunately, the planned project site fell through due to legal complications relating to restrictive covenants held by the Coal Authority. Since then, the Council has undertaken a comprehensive site search and basic feasibility assessments Borough wide. There are currently no suitable sites available and given the recent increase in solar developments locally, and the recent Council motion to focus on car parks and rooftops, it has been identified that this project will not be possible to deliver in its current form. It is therefore proposed in Recommendation 5 that a similar scheme, focussed on solar rooftop and canopy projects, is approved for delivery instead. More information regarding the proposed amendments to this project are available in section 2.20 of the report and Appendix 4.</p>
Local Area Energy Plan	Creation of a full business case for the procurement and delivery of a Local	March 2026	Climate		<p>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</p>

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

	Area Energy Plan (LAEP) for Rotherham, including a review of potential external funding opportunities.				pipeline to enable delivery of the Council's Net Zero by 2040 aspiration. This work is on track for completion by March 2026. A market engagement exercise has been undertaken to assess costs, and a business case is currently being drafted for approval.
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Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

TRANSPORT					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	Status	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		A number of sites have been identified for feasibility across several wards. These sites are included within the proposed forward plan in Appendix 2 and more detail on these and future sites is presented in Appendix 3B.
	Completion of LEVI Drummond Street Scheme	March 2026	Climate		Procurement of this project has now completed. It is likely that this project will be on site by March 2026, however it is not expected that the full scheme will be complete until July 2027. This will therefore be rolled over into 2026/27 action plan.
Fleet Transport	Implement the fleet replacement plan including the procurement of 64 electric vehicles.	March 2026	Fleet		The fleet replacement programme has been subject to delays due to challenges relating to unreliable electrical infrastructure at Hellaby Depot, a need to install further infrastructure at other sites and in house training for maintenance of this type of vehicle. There is also a requirement to develop a policy for home charging in relation to Fleet vehicles which is not yet in place. The Council is working to resolve these issues and a report will be brought to Cabinet with an update in due course.
	If approved extend the use of HVO biodiesel to the remainder	As per project timelines	Fleet Services		HVO has been successfully trialled in 10 corporate fleet vehicles since 2023 and

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

	of the Council diesel fleet which are not intended to be replaced by EVs.				those vehicles continue to operate successfully with reduced maintenance required in winter periods due to the enhanced properties of the HVO versus petrol and diesel. Whilst this fuel offers up to 90% carbon emissions reduction, project timelines have not yet been set since HVO has a greater unit price than conventional diesel, and as such needs to be carefully considered prior to further action. Therefore a comprehensive review of options is planned for the 2026-27 financial year which will confirm whether HVO is a feasible alternative fuel for those vehicles which cannot yet be transitioned to Electric.
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		This project is currently delayed due to resource issues. A specification has been drafted but this has not yet been procured. It is estimated that following contract award, the project will take 6-12 months to deliver. This action will therefore be rolled over to 2026/27.
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 2026/27 municipal year is expected to include ongoing consultation. Schemes are currently being drafted to business

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

				<p>case, after which the relevant approvals will be sought.</p> <p>The work to monitor existing schemes is ongoing. Current data suggests schemes are underperforming relative to forecasts in respect of cycling - but note -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance appears good in respect of walking • Changes in background demand and growth of e-scooters thought to be confounding factors. • Full benefit not necessarily expected to be realised in year one.
	<p>Embed the use of a new DfT (Department for Transport) carbon emissions appraisal tool to support future scheme design.</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>Transport Planning</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>This is now considered business as usual as this is required for all relevant business cases but is delayed due to other issues with current schemes having not progressed to this stage yet.</p>

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

HOUSING					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	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 been awarded £8.8m from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund. This will be match funded with Council capital to deliver a £18.4m project to decarbonise 996 social homes, to improve energy efficiency, and reach EPC band C.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

WASTE					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Waste from Households	Continue jointly to prepare a South Yorkshire Waste Plan with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield councils.	July 2025	Planning Policy & Waste		The Council is working with the other South Yorkshire authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield to prepare a new Joint Waste Plan, to replace the Plan adopted in 2012. A Joint Waste Needs Assessment was completed in 2022, to provide supporting evidence for a Joint Waste Plan. Work is ongoing to consider the scope and content of a Joint Waste Plan and its relationship with the emerging Spatial Development Strategy to be prepared by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). It is not possible to confirm the timetable to prepare a Joint Waste Plan at present.
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		This is ongoing, with new bins ordered to improve existing facilities at Riverside with a view to roll out similar bins to its satellite sites after this. In addition, from 1 April 2027 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

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

					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		Work is underway to engage suppliers and consider future options for replacements of the Council's remaining plastic products. This might include reducing packing or utilising products which come packaged in cardboard as an alternative to minimise impact.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	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 Council is now progressing with the delivery of a new Local Plan and as such this action to update the Core Strategy cannot be completed. A timetable for preparation of a complete new Local Plan was approved at Cabinet on 15 th September 2025. The new Local Plan presents opportunities for climate change inclusion and an action to ensure this is considered will be put forward for inclusion in the 26/27 climate action plan.
Planning	Keep existing planning SPDs related to climate change under review and revise if necessary.	March 2026	Planning		This is an ongoing action, but considered completed for this year given the actions undertaken. Best practice from other Councils is periodically reviewed to consider how this might apply to the Council. The Council has also been involved with work undertaken by the South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre to review the planning implications for embodied carbon and recommendations have been shared which may be considered in line with the new Local Plan update above. It is recommended that this action is considered business as usual for future action plans.
Green spaces	Plant 10,000 woodland trees and 500 new urban trees.	April 2026	Green spaces		At the time of writing this report, tree planting season is underway and is therefore not complete.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

					<p>The Council has delivered 53,119 trees since the start of the tree planting programme in 2021.</p> <p>10,120 trees and hedgerows have been planted since April 2025 up to end February 2026, with tree planting having commenced in October. 672 of these have been planted in urban areas.</p>
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		<p>The Council continues to collaborate with SYMCA on the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. At present, SYMCA estimate a delay until March 2027 for its delivery. Consultation is expected from Spring 2026 onwards.</p>
	Develop a pricing structure and a process for selling the units from sites identified for biodiversity net gain.	March 2026	Green spaces/Planning		<p>This is subject to delays due to resource issues. It is estimated that this will be delayed by 3 months. This project will require legal support to develop the agreements associated with the sale of the biodiversity units.</p>
	Report upon and publish the Council's first report on Biodiversity Duty.	January 2026	Green spaces		<p>This corporate report is currently being drafted and is expected to be published in March 2026. This is still in line with Statutory requirements. The next report will be due in 5 years' time, in 2031 though monitoring and measurement should be undertaken throughout this time.</p>
	Continue to work towards the completion of the 11	March 2027	Various		<p>The full actions approved as part of the IPSC review are considered separately though are complimentary to the action on</p>

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

	actions agreed as part of the 2024 Improving Places Select Committee review of Nature Recovery.				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. Background papers are available in the main report. There are some actions which are delayed due to resource issues across services. A detailed report of each action will be published in March 2026.
INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Children's Capital of Culture	<p>Continue to deliver a wide range of creative programming under the World Beneath Our Feet theme.</p> <p>To include management of the Place Partnership Fund bid to enable partners' delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A grant of £105K to address creative health outcomes, including through engagement with nature 	Dec 2025	Children's Capital of Culture Team		<p>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 has provided opportunities for young people to engage in nature and climate activities and to learn more about the world we live in through arts and culture.</p> <p>The Place Partnership Fund grant schemes are currently being administered by Wentworth Woodhouse and are expected to continue until the end of 2025.</p>

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of carbon emissions through activities that encourage physical activity and use of active transport, including a £105K grant supporting activity delivery around this. 				Section 2.57 provides more information about the activities undertaken throughout the Children's Capital of Culture festival and how this links with climate change engagement and health.
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. This work is on track for completion by March 2027. Three workshops have taken place with partners involved in the Rotherham Together Partnership to co-create this strategy including visioning, prioritisation and action planning activities. Key priorities have been drafted, and the Rotherham Together Climate and Nature Steering Group will continue to refine these ideas whilst the technical work to understand the requirements for a low carbon energy and transport system are considered.
Supporting local communities	Continue to work with Members to support local communities to develop their action against climate	Ongoing	Climate & Neighbourhoods		Work to support Members and Parish councillors is ongoing. The online training course is available for all staff and Members to raise awareness of climate activities. A Members session is planned

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

	change, particularly where Wards have identified climate or nature as a priority.				for March/April 2026 to share information on how Members can champion nature and climate action in their wards.
ADAPTATION					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Climate Adaptation	<p>Continue delivery of the Council's programme to improve the adaptation of Council services to future climate scenarios.</p> <p>Delivery of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	March 2026	Climate		<p>Training for Property and Facilities Services Senior management Team and operational managers is scheduled for March 2026. This will include information relating to the Council building resilience and how adaptation activity can be embedded into corporate programmes of work.</p> <p>Work to produce a report on the outcome of the pilot, including challenges, gaps and opportunities is currently underway and is on track for completion prior to March 2026.</p>

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

	review for 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		<p>All six priority Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) are now designed to a shovel ready stage. The majority of planning pre-application submissions have been completed, including the most recent for a permanent pumping station at Catcliffe. This facility will enable the discharge of surface water into the River Rother during high water levels, eliminating the need for the Council's current temporary pumping operations. More advanced schemes are expected to progress to full planning prior to construction, with construction on Whiston Brook anticipated to commence within the 2025/26 financial year.</p> <p>A new scheme has also been included in the priority flood alleviation schemes list following devastating flooding of Storm Babet. The scheme will reduce impedance on the River Rother by making alterations to the existing bridge over Treeton Lane.</p>

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	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		The Events Team has signed up to Greening Event Code of Practice (GeCOP) which aims to develop and utilise a new tool for this. Gathering insight from suppliers has proved challenging to enable this piece of work. As such this action is delayed. It is expected that Roots Carnival, planned for March 2026 will utilise the new process for monitoring of this type of data.
	Use Roots Street Carnival and other events to promote other council initiatives including tree planting and biodiversity.	March 2026	Events		This action is complete.
	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		This action is complete. This is embedded within programmes, however it is difficult to manage and confirm how this has been carried out from the third party. Actions have been included within the 2026/27 Action plan to expand upon this.
	Develop the Rotherham Show food and drink offer to promote more smaller local supplies and vendors who offer plant-based meals.	September 2025	Events		Additional vendors were invited to the Rotherham Show, and plant-based food were encouraged across non-vegan food vendors. Demand management was challenging for food vendors however and were often quickly out of stock.