

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

The action plan below details climate change actions planned during the 2026/2027 period. Where actions are expected to overlap financial years, these are indicated in the 'Target date' section.

OVERARCHING ACTIVITY				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Monitoring and Reporting	Continue to develop scope 3 emissions reporting. Trial carbon reporting with a willing contractor to understand better the challenges faced.	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. This action will enable the Council to identify what can feasibly be asked of contractors and how this requirement can be incorporated into carbon related KPIs in future contracts.

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ENERGY				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Decarbonising Buildings	<p>Continue to deliver the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan.</p> <p>16 sites are proposed to be delivered during the 26/27 period and are identified in Appendix 3.</p>	2030	Climate	<p>Proposed heat decarbonisation plan is available in Appendix 3.</p> <p>A budget of £2.5m is proposed to deliver these works, utilising the Council's allocated decarbonisation budget.</p>
	<p>Work alongside the private sector to encourage the installation of a heat network within the Town Centre.</p> <p>Identify a funding source for a heat network feasibility study.</p>	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. At present, following the closure of the Rotherham Heat network project, it is not currently clear whether a heat network is now feasible within the Borough.
	<p>Continue delivery of Markets and Library solar project.</p>	September 2026	FM	Utilising funding from the Mayoral Renewables Fund and Council match funding to deliver 297kwp solar. This project is dependent on the delivery of the Markets and Library Project.
Community Energy Support Scheme	<p>Continue to support residents to reduce energy and costs and promote any funding opportunities as they are made available.</p>	Ongoing whilst funding lasts.	Climate	The latest Budget announcements indicate that ECO4 will not continue past December 2026. Though it is indicated that further funding may be available through the Warm Homes Plan it is not yet confirmed how this will be administered and how Local Authorities can contribute.

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Schools Solar	Trial a school's solar project with one Local Authority maintained school to understand the challenges and scope of future projects.	March 2027	Climate	The scheme will be subject to school agreements and payback through reduced energy bills. This will require support from Legal and Procurement for delivery and will utilise the Council's existing Invest to Save Budget for delivery.
Local Area Energy Plan	Commission a Local Area Energy Plan	December 2027	Climate	This project will be delivered in a phased way so that data will become available throughout the process. Delivery is expected to take 6-12 months post procurement.
Renewables Invest to Save	Set up Renewables Invest to Save Project including Year 1 deliverables of	March 2027	Climate	Subject to approval as part of this Cabinet report, this scheme plans to deliver the key administrative outputs alongside project selection and at least 1 solar installation in year 1. See Appendix 4 for further information.

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TRANSPORT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Promote Electric Vehicle Charging	Work with regional partners to complete procurement of the LEVI concession arrangement.	March 2027	Climate	This programme, approved by Cabinet on 15 December 2025 will replace the Council's EV Infrastructure delivery programme and will see installations Borough-wide through a mixture of LEVI grant funding and private sector investment.
	Install the following sites utilising existing EVI Council Capital to a budget value of £70K including any security measures such as CCTV and contingency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herringthorpe Stadium Car Park, S65 2HR • Rosehill Victoria Park, S62 7HJ • Parking on Highway, Wickersley, S66 3ZL 	March 2027	Climate	These are expected to be ruggedised Fast chargers of approximately 22kW with contactless payment inbuilt. Affects the following wards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Castle/Rotherham East • Rawmarsh West • Wickersley North
	Investigate the identified Highways, Housing and Non-Council Land locations as presented in Appendix 3B for EV Infrastructure feasibility and if appropriate, install utilising the remaining allocated EVI capital funds.	March 2027	Climate	Will require consultation with and support from Housing and Highways to complete and in some cases is dependent on landowner approval via lease agreement. At the time of writing this report it is not confirmed whether the sites proposed are identified for other priorities and further work is required to progress these schemes. However, spatial mapping indicates that the inclusion of these and the above sites will allow the Council to achieve 94% properties within 1.5m of a Council EV charger.

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	Completion of LEVI Drummond Street Solar PV and EVI Scheme.	September 2027	Climate	This is a rolled over action due to procurement delays. A new expected completion date has been provided.
Fleet Transport	To 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, the decision to invest further needs to be carefully considered and is therefore likely to be made during the 2026-27 financial year.
	Assess the infrastructure requirements associated with a fleet transition to electric vehicles.	March 2027	Fleet Services & Facilities Management.	In future, the Council may not be able to procure vehicles with Internal Combustion Engines. A programme of infrastructure upgrades will be required to accommodate future changes and it should therefore be a priority to better understand the financial and delivery implications.
Transport Planning and Data	Commission work to determine how best to achieve Net Zero emissions from transport in Rotherham by 2040.	March 2027	Transport Planning	This is a rolled over action due to resource challenges. Transport emissions pose a challenge for decarbonisation due to the mismatch between UK and local targets and 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. A new deadline of March 2027 is therefore proposed.

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HOUSING				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Zero Carbon Housing	Deliver the EPC Band C programme of works to 9308 properties that fall below Band C.	2030	Housing	This will be tracked by percentage EPC Band C delivery.
	Install Warm Homes measures to 996 homes.	2029	Housing	This project is funded by Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3. Progress will be tracked via project delivery metrics against the plan.
	Undertake optimisation studies on the Council's remaining 12 domestic heat networks.	March 2027	Housing	The study will result in a work package for all systems and ensure efficiency and compliance.
	South Yorkshire Energy Wellbeing Network. Work with regional partners to develop a retrofit one stop shop for access by residents as part of the SY Energy Wellbeing Network project.	TBC	Climate	The delivery of this scheme will depend on a successful regional funding bid to the Climate Action Fund. Rotherham Council's role will be to integrate existing fuel poverty and low carbon schemes into the wider project as well as to provide local input. Other partners include SYMCA, NEA, Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley Councils and South Yorkshire Climate Alliance.

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WASTE				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Waste from Households	Continue jointly to prepare a South Yorkshire Waste Plan with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Councils.	Timetable to be agreed with SY authorities and SYMCA	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. 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	Engage smaller businesses now subject to the Simpler Recycling legislation to ensure understanding and provide support. Also ensure compliance within the Council's own estate.	March 2027	Corporate Landlord & Waste	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 Waste, with a view to ensuring all sites use the in-house service, in the first instance.
Sustainable Food	Continue to further expand the Food Works, 'Just Meals' hub model to	March 2027	Public Health,	It is expected that by March 2026, there will be ten sites across Rotherham where

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	increase the availability of low cost, healthy meals and sustainable meals.		Neighbourhoods	Community Fridges are available for use by the local community to access good quality, sustainable, locally produced, healthy meals. This action builds on this work and expands to other sites and may include further place based local action including cookery classes, community growing and meals for children during the school holidays.
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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Planning	Consider how more robust climate and adaptation policy could be included within the new Local Plan.	March 2027	Planning	The Council is now proceeding with the preparation of a complete new Local Plan, and a timetable was approved at Cabinet on 15 th September 2025. The new Local Plan presents opportunities for climate change inclusion.
Green spaces	Plant 10,000 woodland trees and hedgerows and 500 new urban trees.	March 2027	Green spaces	This is an annual target. Challenges with land availability may have implications for the delivery of this target. Planting season extends to March.
Biodiversity	Continue to collaborate with SYMCA and the four local authorities in the production and implementation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	March 2027	Green spaces, Planning	This is a delayed action from 2025/26. RMBC has continued to work with SYMCA throughout this period and delays are as a result of consultant timelines.
Biodiversity	Develop a pricing structure and a process for selling the credits from sites identified for biodiversity net gain.	August 2026	Green spaces	This is a rolled over action.
	Creation of a biodiversity focussed webpage on the Council's website to raise public awareness of the actions being undertaken.	March 2027	Green Spaces, Climate	This can also be utilised as a platform for publishing the Council's biodiversity duty report.
	Commission and deliver an updated Tree Strategy considering the latest information regarding the Council's tree cover and longer-term maintenance.	March 2027	Green Spaces	It is important to consider the longer-term climate implications as well as delivery and maintenance factors.
	Provide an annual summary of biodiversity related actions. This includes working towards the completion of the 11 actions agreed as	March 2027	Green Spaces and Planning.	A full review and update on these actions is expected to be published in March 2026 as part of the Council's statutory biodiversity duty report, after which the next report will

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	part of the 2024 Improving Places Select Committee review of Nature Recovery.			be due in five years afterwards. This action proposes an annual review to encourage continued momentum.
INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
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. Initial work has been undertaken during 2025 to engage stakeholders in this work. The LAEP and Transport studies described above will now support this work, with a view to a proposed Strategy completion date by March 2027.
Supporting local communities	Supporting Members to develop their Ward priorities with the climate and nature in mind.	Annual	Climate & Neighbourhoods	This might take various forms dependent on local need.
Children and Young People	Engage young people in discussions and activities around climate and nature topics.	March 2027	CYPS	This action utilises local groups already in establishment to ensure that young people have a voice in the climate and nature action undertaken throughout the borough.
Supporting education establishments	Support education establishments to continue making progress with climate and nature action plans.	March 2027	Climate	By the end of 2025, it is expected that all education establishments will have appointed a sustainability lead and have created a Climate Action Plan. It is important that this work is not merely a one-off exercise and progress continues to be made into the future.

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ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Events	Continue to commission events with environmental themes in mind.	Ongoing	CST, Events	
	Create an artist agreement pack to include sustainable practice and information capture.	March 2027	Events	This pack will provide an opportunity to engage up front with artists, set expectations and share best practice. It will also enable an awareness of the data required to better capture the carbon emissions of events.
	Take part in the Green Events Code of Practice and pilot proposed process. Seeking alternative advice and sharing best practice to develop the events programme moving forwards.	March 2027	Events	Involvement in this project provides opportunities for shared learning and collaboration on environmental projects.

ADAPTATION				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	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 training, risk assessment and climate impact review for Housing service.	March 2027	Climate, Housing	Service input will be required from Housing. This is likely to require a multifaceted exploration of the climate impacts on the councils housing stock and community impacts.
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.

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Climate Adaptation	Review opportunities for a Borough level Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CCRVA).	March 2027	Climate	It is not expected that the CCRVA will be delivered during this period, but costs, funding opportunities and content coverage will be explored.
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