

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

Theme: Overarching Activity			
Summary: There has been strong progress in the Council's overarching activities related to climate change, with the introduction of improved governance arrangements and development of the Council's carbon emissions baseline providing the foundation for future monitoring and reporting.			
Priority Area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Monitoring and reporting	Introduce carbon impact assessments	It is now standard practice for all Cabinet reports to include a carbon impact assessment.	Carbon impact assessments can be improved by developing the Council's carbon emissions data and through training for Council officers.
	Continue to develop baseline data	A Climate Change Data Analysis Officer has been recruited to the Council. A carbon emissions baseline has been established, for the financial year 2018/19.	The Council's Scope 3 emissions baseline, including emissions from the Council's waste, staff travel and procured services, will be developed further in collaboration with partners, leveraging support from regional and national organisations as required.

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Awareness raising	Monitor and report CO₂ emissions publicly	The Council's carbon emissions baseline has been submitted for publication on the Rotherham Data Hub.	Monitoring and reporting CO ₂ emissions will support a better understanding of carbon emissions reductions, to ensure the Council is taking the right actions to meet its Net Zero targets.
	Implement energy awareness training for Council workforce	Briefings have been delivered, to support officers completing carbon impact assessments. A business plan is being developed, for climate change awareness training across the Council.	Delivery of climate change training will underpin decision making that is well informed of environmental impacts.
<p>Theme: Energy</p> <p>Summary: Carbon emissions from the Council's operational buildings have been decreasing since 2014. Further progress towards Net Zero 2030 will be delivered through the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan (Phase 1).</p>			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Decarbonising buildings	Develop a site decarbonisation plan and implement energy efficiency upgrades	Phase 1 of the Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) will cut carbon emissions across 43 of the Council's most energy intensive operational buildings, from 3,716 tCO ₂ e per annum in	A £6.4 million capital proposal was included in the Council's budget setting for 2022/23. Site-specific decarbonisation reports have been completed or arranged, to support future funding opportunities, especially

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		<p>2019, to 806 tCO₂e p.a. in 2030, a 78% reduction.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the HDP will extend decarbonisation to all operational buildings, with more than 40 smaller buildings to be included.</p>	<p>from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.</p>
	<p>Continued development of Templeborough biomass heat network</p>	<p>As noted in the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021/22, the owners of the plant have withdrawn their £8 million investment. Alternative private sector investors ended their involvement with the scheme in July 2021. Engagement has begun with another potential investor, introduced to the Council by BEIS in December 2021.</p>	

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Theme: Transport			
Summary: Significant investment has been secured for the extension of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, through the Council's own capital allocation and through regional partners. This is supported by a new Cycling Strategy, to facilitate a modal shift from car travel to active transport.			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Promote electric vehicle charging	Further expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure and support for uptake	<p>The Council's 2022/23 budget setting includes £648,000 capital investment for residential and public charging infrastructure.</p> <p>Use of Council-owned EV charging infrastructure saved carbon emissions of 5.21 tCO₂e in 2021. Excess electricity from solar powered EV charging points was used to power Council buildings, with the effect that EV charging had Net Zero carbon emissions in 2021.</p>	A further £340,000 has been allocated by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), to provide additional fast and rapid charging infrastructure in Rotherham and to facilitate support for EV uptake. South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE) will also fund £50,000 worth of EV charging improvements in Rotherham.
Develop cycling strategy	Delivery of cycling and public transport infrastructure	The Cycling Strategy was adopted by Cabinet in January 2022. If delivered in full, the strategy is expected to reduce emissions from transport by ca. 2% of 2019 levels, across the Borough.	Commitments made by national government to date fall short of the funding required, for the strategy to be delivered in full. The Council will need to engage with government and others to secure the necessary funding.

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		The first phase of the Sheffield Road cycle route has been substantially completed. Public transport improvements in the Parkgate area will commence in Spring 2022, subject to planning and SYMCA approval.	
Fleet transport	Roll out telematics across the fleet	<p>Multiple telematics systems are already in use, with different functions for different fleet users.</p> <p>A new system will be trialled in Spring/Summer 2022, with a fully costed plan for rollout across the Council fleet by March 2023.</p>	Telematics can help to improve driver behaviour and fuel efficiency. Telematics data can support emissions monitoring and a future transition to zero emission vehicles.
	Continue to develop a timeline for electric vehicle conversion	<p>A working group has been established to phase out petrol and diesel vehicles from the Council Fleet.</p> <p>Development of a timeline for electric vehicle conversion will resume, following a trial of electric refuse collection vehicles in March 2022.</p>	Development of a strategy and timeline for EV conversion will require a full review of infrastructure and charging capacity, to include known limitations to grid capacity at Hellaby depot.

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Theme: Housing			
<p>Summary: Good progress has been made in 2021/22, with successful delivery of a retrofitting project at The Lanes, East Dene. Future progress will depend on the availability of funding, as installing energy efficiency upgrades to existing housing stock is a capital-intensive process.</p>			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Green housing strategy	Delivery of schemes under LAD funding	Energy performance upgrades were delivered to 217 homes at The Lanes, East Dene, in September 2021. Of £4.2 million invested in the project, £1.14 million was from the Government's Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme, Phase 1B.	The Council submitted a further bid for funding, under a third phase of the scheme (LAD 3), but this was unsuccessful. Feedback received will support development of bids in future funding rounds.
	Develop a "road map" to zero carbon for Council housing	A road map to zero carbon for Council-owned homes is being developed, supported by Parity Projects software.	Interventions to reduce carbon emissions from Council-owned homes can conflict with other priorities, such as reducing fuel poverty. The road map will seek interventions that address both priorities.

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	<p>Establish energy efficiency specifications for new Council homes</p>	<p>Energy efficiency specifications are being developed as part of a development of 36 properties at two sites in Eastwood.</p> <p>Two sites in Thrybergh will be developed as zero carbon demonstrators, to explore implications of zero carbon delivery.</p>	<p>Higher energy efficiency specifications can affect the viability of new Council housing developments.</p>
	<p>Establish housing stock emission baselines</p>	<p>This action is now monitored as part of the Council's carbon emissions baseline. Surveys of the Borough's housing stock have contributed to the development of a road map for zero carbon Council housing.</p>	<p>Publication of 2021 Census data, from March 2022 onwards, can inform the Council's current understanding of its housing stock baseline.</p>
<p>Community energy support scheme</p>	<p>Developing a Community Energy Support Scheme</p>	<p>The Council's Community Energy Support Scheme was launched in March 2021.</p>	<p>Since the energy price crisis, savings from switching tariff have not been available to residents. Assistance has therefore focussed on energy efficiency upgrades, reducing consumption through behaviour change and identifying funding opportunities.</p>

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Theme: Waste			
Summary: Emissions from waste are the subject of collaboration, through the South Yorkshire Waste Partnership and the BDR Waste Partnership. Further progress will depend on engagement and education activity, across the Borough.			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Waste from households	Review the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy	South Yorkshire Waste Partnership is currently reviewing the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy, 2017 – 2021.	Detailed work on the development of a new strategy is on hold, awaiting the delayed publication of responses to Defra’s Resources and Waste Strategy consultation.
	Recycling improvement and contamination reduction	Recycling rates were improving year on year before the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, but there are high levels of recycling contamination. The Waste Service is developing a 12-month communications plan to drive improvements across the waste hierarchy.	Further increases in recycling rates, decreases in waste contamination and wider improvements across the waste hierarchy, will depend on an effective engagement and education campaign with residents.
	Diverting waste from landfill through BDR waste partnership	BDR contract has been varied to better incentivise diversion of waste from landfill. As a result, 98.76% of residual waste is expected to be diverted from landfill. BDR contract recycling	

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		target has also improved, with 14.89% of residual waste being recycled.	
Commercial waste	Set out and deliver plans to introduce recycling to the Council's commercial waste offer	Commercial waste recycling will be soft launched in Council offices in 2022, with a view to extending the service offer to all commercial sites, in 2023.	The soft launch will provide an opportunity to propose options for an extended commercial offer.
Theme: Built and Natural Environment Summary: Revenue and capital investment in tree planting have delivered large scale success this planting season, with more than 22,000 new trees. Future success will be directed by a new Tree Planting Strategy and supported by updates to the planning process, to offer better protections for the Borough's natural capital.			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Planning	Partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy	<p>A draft strategy will go to consultation in Summer 2022. The following sections are to be updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS 25 - Dealing with Flood Risk • CS 26 – Minerals 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS 30 - Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation 	
	Introduction of further Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) relevant to climate change	A Natural Environment SPD and Transport SPD were adopted at Cabinet in June 2021. Three further SPD's, related to Soils, Trees and Green Spaces, will go to consultation in Summer 2022.	
Green spaces and trees	Appointment of a Trees and Woodlands Engagement Officer	A Trees and Woodlands Engagement Officer has been appointed and has since led public engagement on tree planting and the administration of new woodland creation.	<p>£350,000 capital investment over two years was dedicated to tree planting in the Council's 2021 budget. This has been matched with other funding to deliver more than 22,000 newly planted trees, in the first year of investment.</p> <p>There is still limited understanding of the carbon sequestered by trees in Rotherham. The Council has applied to the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund, to enable an i-Tree Survey of the Borough.</p>
	Adoption of the Tree Management Policy	The Council's Tree Management Protocol & Guidance, adopted in 2021, sets Key Targets for tree planting.	
	Development of a Tree Planting Strategy	Work on a Tree Planting Strategy was paused during the winter planting season, October 2021 - March 2022, so that resources could be diverted to tree planting. A draft strategy is now expected in Spring 2022.	

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Theme: Influence and Engagement			
<p>Summary: The Council continues to influence its partners nationally, regionally and through its own procured services. The Council is directly responsible for less than 2% of carbon emissions across the Borough, so more engagement will be needed to achieve the Net Zero 2040 goal.</p>			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Regional engagement	The Council will continue to play an active role regionally and nationally to promote the climate agenda.	The Council is engaged with regional and national partners through the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission and the Local Government Association.	The Council continues to seek new opportunities for collaboration with partners, including the recently established South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre.
Procurement	Develop emissions considerations as part of the Council's Social Value Policy	Carbon emissions have been developed as a consideration under the Council's Social Value policy. Commitments made in the second year of the policy amount to carbon emissions savings of 2554 tCO ₂ e.	Services across the Council have a shared responsibility for emissions arising from procurement, through commissioning.
Communications	Develop a climate emergency communications plan	A separate climate emergency communications plan has not yet been developed, but communications will play a key role as the Council develops its approach to consultation and engagement on an updated	

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		Climate Emergency Action Plan, as set out in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan	
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