

Climate Emergency Action Plan 22/23

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 Short-Term Actions	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Monitoring and reporting	Introduce carbon impact assessments	<p>It is now standard practice for all Cabinet reports to include a carbon impact assessment.</p> <p>A review and evaluation of carbon impact assessments is planned.</p>	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	<p>A Scope 3 Data Action Plan has been created and is in progress, setting out a guide to capturing Scope 3 emissions.</p> <p>A Staff Survey has been implemented aimed at calculating emissions arising from staff commuting and working from home.</p>	<p>Emissions from water and business travel have now been calculated and are to be added to 2018/19 baseline model.</p> <p>Borough-wide transport data is to be improved upon with the addition of data obtained from SYSTRA's Rotherham Transport Carbon Analysis Report.</p>

	Recruitment of a new Climate Delivery Team	The Climate Change Team of three officers has been recruited to with the Climate Change Officer and Data Analysis Officer staff in post; the Climate Change Manager is due to commence early November 2022.	
Awareness raising	Monitor and report CO₂ emissions publicly	<p>The Council's carbon emissions baseline has been submitted for publication on the Rotherham Data Hub.</p> <p>The Council are awaiting the finalisation of Scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2021/22.</p>	<p>There are plans to establish and develop a cross-departmental Climate Change Internal Report Server where climate change data can be easily shared and accessed by Council staff working on climate change mitigating projects. This will be shared via a live annual reporting dashboard.</p> <p>Scope 3 emissions are to be added to annual reports where possible.</p> <p>Monitoring and reporting CO₂ 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.</p>
	Implement carbon literacy training for Council workforce	<p>Briefings have been delivered, to support officers completing carbon impact assessments.</p> <p>Carbon Literacy training is currently being piloted, with a view to roll out this training to priority groups imminently.</p>	<p>Delivery of carbon literacy training will underpin decision making that is well informed of environmental impacts.</p> <p>The Council workforce do not all have access to online training measures such as e-learning. Other training methods are currently being considered to cover potential gaps in carbon literacy training.</p>

Options for wider workforce rollout, including e-learning modules and targeted training sessions, are under review.

Theme: Energy

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).

Priority area	Key Short-Term Actions	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Decarbonising buildings	Develop a site decarbonisation plan and implement energy efficiency upgrades	<p>A Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) is in now in place.</p> <p>A Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funding application is being developed in preparation for the application window, expected to open for proposals in October 2022.</p>	<p>PSDS funding will depend on a delivery partner being identified to comply with the timeframes stipulated to spend grant funding.</p> <p>The allocated capital budget focusses on 3 priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support PSDS grant bids to offset the costs / tonne of carbon. 2. Align with capital projects to upgrade fossil fuel systems to low carbon options/reducing electricity capacity (PV systems). 3. Fund energy efficiency measures to get sites ready for decarbonisation without the low carbon heating systems.

	<p>Deliver a renewable energy project by 2025.</p> <p>First stage - Find a suitable site for renewable energy generation, obtain planning permission and commence procurement.</p>	<p>Site identified and work is underway especially on connection to the grid and land ownership and rights.</p> <p>If land related issues can be overcome then next steps are planning and procurement.</p> <p>Possible start on site Summer 2023 (with 3 to 4 month construction).</p>	<p>Main challenges are site related such as 3rd Party grazing license and restrictive covenants.</p>
	<p>Continued development of Templeborough biomass heat network</p>	<p>A private company has made a bid in to Government for £25m of grant funding from the BEIS Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF). If approved this will allow the Rotherham Energy Network (REN) project to move into construction and operation.</p>	<p>If the Heat Network is implemented this provides an opportunity for the Council and other building owners to link into the network for the supply of heat.</p>

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 Short-Term Actions	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
<p>Promote electric vehicle charging</p>	<p>Further expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure and support for uptake</p>	<p>The Council are continually working to maximise the provision of rapid chargers across the borough.</p>	<p>An EV strategy is currently in the early stages of development. Looking at an internal consultation followed by public consultation, prior to taking it to Cabinet for approval.</p>

		<p>The Council are constantly reviewing, adapting and developing the EV offer.</p> <p>The Council budget has allocated £648,000 for investment into EV charging infrastructure until 2025-26. Therefore £173,000 is allocated for this financial year.</p> <p>The current focus is on the SYMCA funded project to install 6 rapid charge points at 3 locations (Drummond St, Constable Lane, Douglas St). This is intended to facilitate support for EV uptake.</p> <p>It is proposed that the remaining funds from the SYMCA scheme will be combined with the council capital budget to develop at least one residential charging hub.</p>	<p>Use of the EV charging infrastructure has reduced following pandemic and is being monitored for use and patterns to help inform future infrastructure expansion.</p>
Develop cycling strategy	Delivery of cycling and public transport infrastructure	<p>There is a continual delivery and development of schemes that are part of the Transforming Cities Programme.</p>	<p>The main challenge is the delivery of schemes especially with increasing construction costs.</p>

		The first phase of the Sheffield Road cycle route has been substantially completed.	
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 called C-Track is currently being trailed, with a fully costed plan for rollout across the Council fleet by March 2023. The telematics hardware is fitted to a fleet minibus and the trial is ongoing.</p>	<p>There is a need to link up with other services who are also developing and working on telematics to ensure a uniform approach is adopted across the Council.</p> <p>Telematics can help to improve driver behaviour and fuel efficiency. Telematics data can also support emissions monitoring and a future transition to zero emission vehicles.</p>
	Continue to develop a timeline for a low carbon fuel fleet conversion	<p>The development of a plan for a low carbon fleet conversion is predicted to be complete by the end of November 2022.</p> <p>The waste service has already had a trial of an electric refuse collection vehicle in March 2022.</p>	<p>Development of a strategy and timeline for low carbon fuel conversion will require a full review of infrastructure and EV charging capacity, to include known limitations to grid capacity at Hellaby depot.</p> <p>EV conversion may or may not be the best option currently due to considerations surrounding the pricing, supply chain, manufacturing and mining considerations.</p>

Theme: Housing

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.

Priority area	Key Short-Term Actions	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Zero Carbon Housing Plan	Delivery of schemes under SHDF funding	<p>The Council secured £1.5m funding under Wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF).</p> <p>Utilising this funding, an investment programme has been developed to undertake energy efficiency works to 141 properties in Maltby/Hellaby. Retrofit designs and assessments are currently being finalised following consultation with Northern Powergrid. The works are planned to commence in November 2022, with completion in March 2023.</p>	Wave 2 of funding and associated guidance opened on 29 th September 2022. There are many challenges associated with bidding for this funding, including reduced funding per property compared to Wave 1 and additional funding criteria. The Council is currently considering the guidance and the potential for submitting a bid.
	Establish energy efficiency specifications for new Council homes	Energy efficiency specifications are being developed as part of a development of 36 properties at two sites in Eastwood.	Higher energy efficiency specifications can affect the viability of new Council housing developments.

		<p>Two sites in Thrybergh will be developed as zero carbon prototypes, to explore implications of zero carbon delivery.</p> <p>This development is running later than anticipated. Energy specifications are going to come out of design work soon for two of the projects that are currently running.</p>	
	Establish housing stock emission baselines	<p>This action has now been completed.</p> <p>The housing stock emission baseline of Council owned homes is 57,000 tonnes of carbon.</p>	Replicating this work with non-Council housing stock in future will be more difficult.
	Developing a Community Energy Support Scheme	<p>The Council's Community Energy Support Scheme (launched March 2021) continues to support residents and is currently focussing on the Government ECO4 installation scheme to attract energy efficiency into the borough and reduce fuel poverty.</p>	<p>There are opportunities to extend this work into a joint action that is coordinated across services and with external partners.</p> <p>Following the lifting of pandemic restrictions, resident support events are being organised across the borough in addition to the current on-line and remote support provided.</p>

		The Housing service currently provide advice and support to tenants through the financial inclusion service and general advice from housing officers.	
Community energy support scheme	Developing a Community Energy Support Scheme	<p>The Council's Community Energy Support Scheme (launched March 2021) continues to support residents and is currently focussing on the Government ECO4 installation scheme to attract energy efficiency into the borough and reduce fuel poverty.</p> <p>The Housing service currently provide advice and support to tenants through the financial inclusion service and general advice from housing officers.</p>	<p>There are opportunities to extend this work into a joint action that is coordinated across services and with external partners.</p> <p>Following the lifting of pandemic restrictions, resident support events are being organised across the borough in addition to the current on-line and remote support provided.</p>
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	Review the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy	South Yorkshire Waste Partnership are continuing to review the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy (SYWS) 2017 – 2021.	Detailed work on the development of a new strategy is still on hold due to the delayed publication of responses to DEFRA's Resources and Waste Strategy Consultation.

		<p>Engagement with the public has taken place surrounding household waste recycling centres. This will form part of the overall review of the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy (SYWS).</p> <p>Additional resources have been introduced through a Graduate Scheme Placement to support this ongoing work.</p>	<p>The South Yorkshire Waste Partnership are currently in the process of lobbying government for a response to the Consultation and in August wrote a letter to DEFRA to seek a response and clarification. To date no response has been received.</p>
<p>Waste from households</p>	<p>Recycling improvement and contamination reduction</p>	<p>A 12- month Waste Communication Plan has been developed to deliver improvements across the waste hierarchy. This has improved recycling figures for this year</p> <p>The service has recruited an Engagement Officer who lives in the community the service is targeting for improvements. A multi-lingual individual has been appointed, by working with a local Community Organisation to work on waste related engagement in Eastwood. This commenced</p>	<p>There are plans to introduce an Engagement Team to tackle some of the wider issues within waste which is based on the waste hierarchy. This will link to the new Waste and Resource Strategy and will involve engagement with customers and businesses.</p> <p>Officers have been asked to provide a formal monitoring plan which relates to contracts with waste companies. This will help to gain an understanding of additional issues as well as different monitoring processes.</p>

		<p>at the end of September 2022.</p> <p>Currently working alongside Housing to engage with residents regarding the contamination of communal recycling bins in certain areas of Rotherham.</p>	
	<p>Diverting waste from landfill through BDR waste partnership</p>	<p>There has been a successful negotiation of a change to the BDR contract that incentivises the contractor to divert more from landfill. As a result, the % of residual waste sent to landfill has decreased to 0.6%, down from 1.34% previously. This means that 99.4% of waste is now diverted from landfill.</p> <p>BDR contract recycling numbers have also improved.</p>	<p>There are plans to introduce an Engagement Team to tackle some of the wider issues within waste which is based on the waste hierarchy. This will link to the new Waste and Resource Strategy and will involve engagement with customers and businesses.</p> <p>Officers have been asked to provide a formal monitoring plan which relates to contracts with waste companies. This will help to gain an understanding of additional issues as well as different monitoring processes.</p> <p>The extension of commercial waste recycling will help to gain more intelligent data. This will match the data needed following the publication of the Waste and Resource Strategy.</p>
	<p>Set out and deliver plans to introduce recycling to the Council's commercial waste offer</p>	<p>The soft launch of commercial waste recycling into Council offices commenced in July 2022, with a view to extending the service offer to all commercial sites in 2023.</p> <p>The extension of commercial waste recycling to all commercial sites is currently</p>	<p>A job description is currently being developed to recruit a new Commercial Waste Officer. This will assist with the expansion of commercial waste recycling.</p>

		the subject of a detailed business case which is in draft.	
Commercial waste	Set out and deliver plans to introduce recycling to the Council's commercial waste offer	<p>The soft launch of commercial waste recycling into Council offices commenced in July 2022, with a view to extending the service offer to all commercial sites in 2023.</p> <p>The extension of commercial waste recycling to all commercial sites is currently the subject of a detailed business case which is in draft.</p>	<p>The extension of commercial waste recycling will help to gain more intelligent data. This will match the data needed following the publication of the Waste and Resource Strategy.</p> <p>A job description is currently being developed to recruit a new Commercial Waste Officer. This will assist with the expansion of commercial waste recycling.</p>
<p>Theme: Built and Natural Environment</p> <p>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.</p>			
Priority area	Partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy	<p>A draft strategy will go to consultation in late 2022 or early 2023. The following sections related to climate change are to be updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS 25 - Dealing with Flood Risk 	Any National changes to planning legislation or the planning framework.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS 26 – Minerals <p>CS 30 - Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation</p>	
Planning	Introduction of further Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) relevant to climate change	<p>A Natural Environment SPD and Transport SPD were adopted at Cabinet in June 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three further SPD's, related to climate change, Biodiversity Net Gain, Soils, and Trees, were approved at Cabinet in 2022 for consultation. Following consultation it is expected these will be brought back to Cabinet in 2023 for consideration to be adopted. 	<p>Any changes to National legislation of the planning framework. The SPDs coming through the system provide considerable opportunities to assist in addressing climate change.</p>
	Recruitment to the vacant posts within the Tree Service	<p>Recruitment plans are in place to fill the two remaining vacant posts. The positions are predicted to be filled in October/November 2022.</p> <p>One of the vacant Tree Officer positions has now been filled.</p>	<p>Main challenge is being successful in recruitment.</p> <p>The process for tree planting for 2022/23 is underway, with Ward Member engagement due to complete by</p>

			<p>the end of October 2022 and wider community engagement by November 2022.</p> <p>£350,000 capital investment over two years was dedicated to tree planting in the Council's 2021 budget. This funding continues into the 2022/3 financial year, following over 22,000 new trees planted in 2021/22.</p>
Green spaces and trees	Delivery of Tree Planting for 2022/23	A revised process for Tree Planting has been developed for the 2022/23 planting season.	<p>Main challenge is being successful in recruitment.</p> <p>The process for tree planting for 2022/23 is underway, with Ward Member engagement due to complete by the end of October 2022 and wider community engagement by November 2022.</p> <p>£350,000 capital investment over two years was dedicated to tree planting in the Council's 2021 budget. This funding continues into the 2022/3 financial year, following over 22,000 new trees planted in 2021/22.</p>
	Delivery of Tree Planting for 2022/23	A revised process for Tree Planting has been developed for the 2022/23 planting season.	

Theme: Influence and Engagement

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.

Priority area	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	The Council continues to seek new opportunities for collaboration with partners, including the recently established South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre.
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		Climate Change Commission and the South Yorkshire MCA.	The implementation of a delivery team will allow more consistent engagement via specifically accountable officers.
Regional engagement	Develop emissions considerations as part of the procurement process	<p>There are plans to start requesting identified set of data from suppliers and contractors to develop the Council's scope 3 emissions baseline.</p> <p>Further approaches to reducing emissions through procurement are to be explored.</p>	<p>Services across the Council have a shared responsibility for emissions arising from procurement, through commissioning.</p> <p>Procurement only have oversight over contracts that are over a certain price.</p> <p>Data from suppliers will need to be obtained by officers in charge of a contract. Officers will need to ensure the data is collected before a contract comes to an end.</p> <p>There are plans to develop an approach to bring suppliers along with the Council plans to reduce carbon emissions, utilising the 'do with not do to' methodology.</p>
Procurement	Develop a climate emergency communications and engagement plan	<p>A Climate Emergency Communication and engagement Plan is currently being developed. This Communications plan will promote good climate, low emission practice within the Council and amongst, groups, businesses, residents, partners.</p> <p>Work on the plan has started and a first draft plan can be shared at the next Climate Change Workstream Project Board meeting.</p>	<p>There are future plans to send out key climate change messages across all directorates are being discussed. This would involve uniform content and branding across all areas to raise further awareness surrounding climate change.</p> <p>There could be an opportunity for the Neighbourhood Service to link in with the climate emergency engagement communications plan once this has been developed.</p>

		Communications will play a key role as the Council develops its approach to consultation and engagement on an updated Climate Emergency Action Plan, as set out in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan	
Communications			