

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

The action plan below details climate change actions planned during the 2024/2025 period. Where actions are expected to overlap financial years, these are indicated in the 'Target date' section.

OVERARCHING ACTIVITY				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/2025	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Monitoring and Reporting	Further develop accounting for scope 3 emissions arising from procurement activities.	Ongoing	Climate Change Team	Complex data analysis required to reach the most accurate estimations and bridge gaps in existing activity data.
	Continue to roll out a programme of climate change and single use plastics training and monitor completion.	Ongoing	Climate Change Team	Training is not currently mandatory which may pose barriers for uptake.
	Improve carbon impact assessments to include climate change impacts.	March 2025	Climate Change Team	
ENERGY				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Decarbonising Buildings	Continued delivery of schemes covering 5 buildings associated with the PSDS 3b funding	March 2025	Energy Team	
	If successful, progress year 1 plans for decarbonisation activity related to the recent PSDS 3c application.	October 2026	Energy Team	Requires successful PSDS funding bids for Council property enabling works to support the business case.
Net Zero Modelling	Undertake a full decarbonisation modelling on a selected building to fully demonstrate the process utilising current and emerging technologies. This will allow assessment of indicative impact on costs subject to market changes. This action is carried forward.	TBC	Energy Team	Timescales to be identified as part of the modelling.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

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.	Energy Team	Annual targets currently set at 600 ECO4 sign offs and 300 CESS household support projects completed.
Renewable Energy	Continued delivery of the proof-of-concept self-generated green electricity scheme to the Rotherham portfolio to enable a reduction in grid supply reliance; installation and operation to be completed in the coming years.	March 2025	Energy Team.	This action is carried over from 23/24.
TRANSPORT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Promote Electric Vehicle Charging	Continue delivery of LEVI Solar PV canopy and EV project at Drummond Street.	March 2026	Energy & Transport Teams	
	Continue roll out of EV charging infrastructure in line with the Rotherham Council Electric vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy. Sites will be selected, assessed for initial feasibility and presented for approval as and when funding allows.	Ongoing	Energy / Transport Teams	Funding secured for further public and residential charging infrastructure. Informed by EV charging strategy.
Fleet Transport	Evaluate the success of the HVO vehicle trials and develop the business case for roll out if successful.	March 2025	Fleet Transport	
	Continue to implement the fleet replacement programme as per timeline agreed in March 2023 Cabinet report.	March 2026	Fleet Transport	
Transport Planning and Data	Funding options to be explored to facilitate a review of baseline model and allow further analysis and bridging of gaps in data. This action is carried over.	March 2025	Transport planning	
	Delivery of Sheffield Road cycleways (phases 2 & 3) July 2024.	August 2024	Transport Planning	

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

	Completion of the Rotherham to Maltby bus priority scheme.	August 2024	Transport Planning	
HOUSING				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Zero carbon housing	Delivery of 3 zero carbon new build properties in Thrybergh (2x 2 bed houses 1x 1 bed bungalow). This project will help establish an energy efficiency specification for new Council homes to be carbon neutral. (This action is carried forward)	March 2026	Housing	This is a carried forward action, with plans for completion by March 26. However, the scheme is currently on hold due to financial viability concerns.
	Delivery of 10 net zero ready properties in East Herringthorpe.	March 2025	Housing	
	Develop delivery plan for achieving Band C for all Council houses by 2030. (This action is carried forward).	March 2025	Housing	
	Undertake Review of District Heating Network using funding from HNES.	March 2025	Housing	
WASTE				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Waste from Households	Contamination policies to be reviewed to assist in the reduction of contamination. This is a carried over action from 2023/24.	March 2025	Waste	
	Delivery of a communication campaign to reduce contamination and encourage the reduction of waste including single use plastics. Encourage residents to reduce, repurpose and reuse before recycling in the first instance.	March 2025	Waste & Climate Team	
Commercial waste	Commercial delivery of dry mixed recycling through the Council's Business Waste Service and	March 2025	Waste	

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

	increasing paper and card recycling through the new service offer.			
Single Use Plastics	Continue to reduce or replace use of single use plastics as identified in the 2023 full Council single use plastic audits.	March 2025	Council-wide	
	Launch external campaign to encourage businesses to go single use plastic free	March 2025	Climate Team	
BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Planning	<p>Partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy including policies related to climate change. To be informed by the Council's October 2019 climate emergency declaration and May 2022 nature crisis declaration, and taking account of the critical friend review recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh of the 2019 Core Strategy Review • Consultation on a draft revised Core Strategy <p>This action is carried forward from 2023 to 2024</p>	2025 consultation March 2026 adoption	Planning	Uncertainty around government reform of the planning system presents a lack of clarity over the strategic direction of national policy, risking abortive work.
	<p>Keep existing planning SPDs related to climate change under review and revise if necessary.</p>	March 2025	Planning	
Green spaces	Planting 10,000 new woodland trees and 500 new urban trees.	April 2025	Green spaces	Date extended to April to account for pushed back planting season.
Biodiversity	Develop and report upon the Council's response to the Biodiversity Duty	January 2026 then five yearly	TBC	
	Identify suitable sites for biodiversity net gain	March 2025	Green Spaces	

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

	Work regionally with SYMCA and the region's local authorities to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	March 2025	Green Spaces	
INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Local & Regional engagement	Continue to engage with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission , exploring ways in which the Council can contribute to the regional approach to climate change action.	Ongoing	Climate Change Team	
	Work with the Rotherham Together Partnership to engage locally with voluntary, business and health anchor organisations throughout Rotherham to share knowledge and resources relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.	Ongoing	Climate Change Team	
Children and Young People's Participation	Continue to engage the Youth Cabinet to hear their thoughts on the Council's plan and works in to 2024/2025. Involvement of Youth Cabinet in reviewing the climate change action plan. Feedback from cabinet on wider recommendations to be incorporated into workstream plan where feasible.	Ongoing	Climate Leads	
	Consider climate change and single use plastic issues in the Young Inspectors forward plan, with a specific audit and/or as part of every Inspection.	March 2025	Children & Young People's Service	
Schools Carbon Assessments	Support schools to utilise Keep Britain Tidy's carbon calculator when launched.	Ongoing	Climate Change Team	No launch date available at this time but interest from local schools on pilot.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

Communication	Develop a set of key messages for sharing externally including both climate, single use plastics and nature recovery.	March 2025	Climate Change Team/ Communication Team	
	Involvement in the Rotherham Show to showcase progress made and increase climate and nature awareness.	October 2024	Climate Change Team/ Events	
ADAPTATION				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Flood risk	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 via the Improving Places Selected Committee.
Climate adaptation	Continue to develop the Council's response to climate change impact alongside other local authorities participating in the YHCC's Adaptation Work programme. Include a plan for monitoring and evaluating effectiveness.	As per project milestones	Climate Change Manager & Service Leads	Input from Service managers will be required when incorporating service level risks, challenges and opportunities into the Strategy to ensure effectiveness.
ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Circular Economy	Encourage circular skills development through Makers spaces and other events e.g., sewing and DIY.	Ongoing	Libraries Service	

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

Culture, Sport & Tourism	<p>Include environmental themes in programming linking to Rotherham’s natural heritage and landscape, environmental change and its people and artefacts.</p> <p>Consider climate change, single use plastic reduction and nature recovery as themes when developing future exhibitions, shows, engagement programmes and events.</p>	Ongoing	Culture, Sport & Tourism	
Children’s Capital of Culture	<p>Develop options for events, performances and activities for climate change as part of Childrens Capital of Culture.</p>	Dec 2025	Children’s Capital of Culture Team	
Events	<p>Increase awareness of Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Emergency at Events including Rotherham Show</p>	March 2025	Events Team	
	<p>Capture the carbon footprint of events through tailored evaluation platforms and work towards off-setting once a baseline has been achieved.</p>	March 2025	Events Team	
	<p>Include sustainable transport information as standard when advertising events.</p>	March 2025	Events Team	