

# Hinckley & Bosworth

## Climate Change Achievements 2019 to 2023

Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

We have taken the following action, with our partners, to reduce our carbon emissions and reach our target to be net zero by 2030, and to reach the boroughwide target of net zero by 2050.

### Working together:

Declared a climate emergency in July 2019
A cross party member working group established
A climate change officer group established
Task and finish groups established for strategy and action plan delivery
Green Living Leicestershire Partnership established
Signed the Leicestershire Net Zero Pledge



### Biodiversity:

Through our planning service we secured a new Jubilee Country Park opened in September 2023, Nailstone "Jubilee" Country Park, including 30,000 new trees planted, and the protection of a large Great Crested Newt colony at former derelict land at Nailstone colliery
Planted 6 'tiny forests' in 2021, and planted 9,318 trees in 2021-2022
Launched our first residents free tree scheme in 2022 resulting in 23,000 trees being planted by residents and community groups in gardens and open spaces
Introduced wildflowers on our car parks, and on 4 of our Hinckley parks and green spaces
Secured high level stewardship and Forestry Commission grants for Burbage Common, Billa Barra Hill, Hillhole Quarry and Manor Farm Bagworth to manage these sites for biodiversity
Managed the 3512 mature / semi mature trees in our ownership, the woodlands on our countryside sites, and all of the new trees and hedges planted in recent years
Established our green space volunteer group who continue to help increase the biodiversity on our land. 18 sessions ran in its first year. Support for community groups to increase their biodiversity, eg friends of Hollycroft park who run monthly plant events
Updated Local Plan consultation including proposed policies on protecting biodiversity and enhancing biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity and commitment to Leicestershire County Council for provision of ecology advice for all relevant planning applications
Biodiversity emergency was declared in 2023
Supported the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Signed the Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact
Supported Habitat Boxes for schools in Charnwood Forrest
Supported the Charnwood Forrest Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark Application
Member and officer involvement in the Charnwood Forest Regional Park
Supported the National Forest 'Connected Forest' ambitious scheme
Member involvement in the ProGEO SYMPOSIUM held at Loughborough Town Hall
The National Forrest purchased additional land in Groby as an extension to the National Forrest. 'School children involved in the establishment of the additional trees to the forest in planting and education'

## Buildings and Land use:

Confirmed the Borough Council's baseline emissions for 2020-2022 to show carbon reduction achievements compared to baseline

Completion of a solar panel study across council sites

Consulted on the local plan to include climate policies on mitigation and adaptation

Worked on the local plan to include policies for building standards

Delivery of sustainable warmth schemes with 67 households having been accessed or delivered

Granted permission for 3 large scale solar farms

Continued enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards- MEES

Green Living Partnership established to work together on retrofitting homes

Completed a review of council housing to achieve EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) Grade C or above

Appointed a consultant surveyor to assess all buildings to identify ways to improve energy efficiency of council buildings



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Implemented a new building management software for key sites: Jubilee building /Atkins building /Hub

Secured funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for green technology

Solar together phase 1 and 2

## Community:

Rolled out a staff training programme

Established contacts for school leads across the borough

Delivered school's carbon footprint workshops to over 160 students

The eco group from one of our secondary schools attended our rural conference to showcase the climate change work they had been working on

Discussed climate change with the young people who attend our HBBC Voice Forum and completed a climate change project

Established the council's Business Climate Forum- meets regularly and held a joint litter pick event with businesses and a local school to raise awareness

Green Living Leicestershire community's subgroups- work together on initiatives

Created a Parish and Town council net zero toolkit as part of the Green Living Leicestershire Partnership

Delivered social media campaigns including Great Big Green Week, Recycling Week, Walk May, COP 26/27, Christmas and Halloween climate messaging and Earth Day

We have supported 41 litter picks and established a network of 455 litter volunteers

Created and distributed Schools climate change posters

Continued to share key messages and updates through the BID (Business Improvement District)

Introduced a Green Award at our annual Making a Difference Awards

Established carbon reduction plans for specific council services

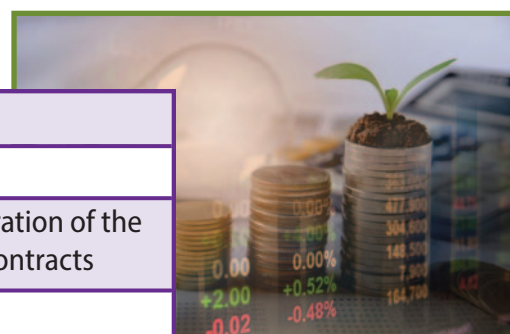


## Community continued:

Promotion of the BID loyalty card, over 10,000 people have signed up
Reduced air quality complaints regarding smoke emissions since 2022
Submitted the annual air quality report to DEFRA, no exceedances of the air quality objective values were found
Promoted the renewable energy Collective Switching scheme
Refocused our Parish and Community and Hinckley Community funds to prioritise climate change projects from 2024. Increased maximum funding level to £20,000 to support parishes and community groups to decarbonise

## Economy:

Transitioned the council's energy supply to a green tariff
Increased the number of online transactions
Worked towards revising the Constitution to include reference to consideration of the climate impact of CO2 being part of the quality assessment of awarding contracts
Secured an estimated £4,500,000 of external funding for climate funding
Delivered over £4 million of green investments
Revised the Medium Term Financial Strategy to include carbon reduction



## Travel:

Transitioned the majority of fleet and grounds maintenance machinery to run on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) during 2023, lowering emissions by up to 90%, reducing the council's total emissions by 35.8%.
Reduced staff travel mileage by 45% since introduction of flexible working (2019/2020 compared to 2022/2023)
Developed Green Fleet route map and associated costs
First 5 Electric Vehicles (EV) in operation for housing repairs and street cleansing since December 2023, and EV charging points provided for staff and the council's fleet at Jubilee depot from July 23
Installed 23 twin 7kwh EV charge points at Hinckley, Market Bosworth, Earl Shilton and Barwell (46 sockets), further charge points planned through a countywide project
Secured Active Travel funding for 3-year project, and recruited graduate Active Travel post until June 2025
Supported schools with active travel work and wider active travel work e.g. Mallory Mile, e bike demonstrations, and bike maintenance events etc.
Introduced new taxi licensing policy from November 2022, requiring all taxis to be low emission by December 2030
Facilitated EV webinar and demonstration vehicle event hosted by the Energy Saving Trust for local businesses in 2022
Countywide car club and EV charge point projects through the Green Living Partnership
Ran free bike repair sessions



## Waste and Pollution:

Developed and adopted the Leicestershire Waste and Resource Strategy 2022-2050. This includes working towards introducing a separate food waste collection, other recycling services to contribute towards national recycling target of 65% by 2035, to reduce litter and fly tipping, reduce and reuse waste and to reduce waste to landfill to less than 5% by 2025

New HBBC events recycling bins introduced with clear labelling in summer 2023 and all HBBC parks recycling bins upgraded the same way during 2022

Increased our environmental and climate change focus at Burbage Common Open Day and Snap Dragon Festival and continue our school holiday environmental education activities at Burbage Common

Introduced a carbon/green accreditation scheme for event organisers (sustainable events commitment)

Sent out a letter to all event vendors regarding the UK single use plastic ban

All event vendors are now local

Sent out a food waste survey to all event vendors to understand how much waste there is and how it is disposed etc

Introduced sustainable/public transport information for all events

Introduced juice/water refill stations at Snap Dragon 2022 and free water bottle refills now provided at Hollycroft park, to reduce single use plastic bottles. Further roll out to businesses commenced

Supported new upcycling and repair groups e.g. Hinckley Fixers

Reduced single use plastic across the council and encouraged the use of alternatives



In July 2019, the Borough Council declared a climate emergency followed by a biodiversity emergency in July 2023. Key achievements so far reflect this commitment, aiming to assess and reduce its carbon footprint through individual and collective action, working towards its carbon neutral and net zero ambitions. The Council recognises the significant contribution of individuals and businesses who live and work within the Borough together with its partner organisations in tackling the Climate Emergency. For more details, please see the email and website link below.

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