

Climate Change Strategy - Appendix 1

Since declaring a Climate Emergency Officer work has been taking place across the council to work towards our 2030 net zero target. This work has been taking place since our initial Climate Change Strategy 2020-2021 was implemented and helped create our 2022-2024 strategy.

Emissions Baseline Report Established

We have completed our baseline emissions report which highlights areas where we emit the most. This baseline established for 2019/2020 with work currently underway to complete a follow up report for 2020/2021. From this initial report, we have identified that our fleet is our biggest emitter with 42% of our total emissions.

Trial of Electric Refuse Vehicle

As the baseline established that our fleet is where we use the most carbon, we trialled a fully electric refuse collection truck in November 2021. This trial is important as we will eventually have to switch from petrol/diesel to a fuel such as electric or biofuel. In addition to the electric vehicle, we have also been trialling electric/battery hand tools for ground maintenance as we currently use petrol to power our blowers, hedge cutters etc.

The green fleet review has been completed and identifies the cost and feasibility of switching our fleet to electric.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

We installed 24 electric vehicle charging points across two locations in Hinckley- Lower Bond Street and Castle (Hill Street). We are working on installing charging points in more locations and keep with demand- 22 further charging points in Market Bosworth, Earl Shilton, and Barwell.

Engagement with Schools

We have been working with schools to reduce their carbon emissions and establish their climate change leads. We have started to map activity within schools and identify the projects they are getting involved with to see where we can support and help out. We have created a poster for primary and secondary schools with ways in which they can reduce their carbon emissions which was sent out in September 2021. Schools within the borough have made climate change pledges; these are things they plan to do which will reduce their emissions.

During our Hinckley and Bosworth Voice Forum meetings our young people can share their views on climate change and become involved in climate change projects. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in partnership with the young people from our Hinckley and Bosworth Voice Forum have produced resources for our primary and secondary schools with suggestions to enable schools to become more eco-friendly

Website and Social Media

Climate change webpages were launched at the rural conference in 2021. These webpages will be relaunched when the new climate change strategy goes live. The aim of these webpages is to keep the borough updated with progress and any initiatives they can get involved in. The page will be more accessible and ensure everything is linked together.

In November 2021 we developed a social media campaign for COP26 which included climate change pledges being made by staff at the council, councillors and our chief executive. From this, we encouraged members of the public and schools to join us in making pledges. These pledges will form part of our website.

Climate Friendly Events

Our events are a major part of the community within Hinckley and Bosworth so being able to implement initiatives around climate change is important. At the feast festival, we encouraged all vendors to go plastic free (single use plastic) which meant less non-recyclable or non-reusable waste was produced. Additionally, our firework display in 2021 was shortened by 4 minutes which went unnoticed by many.

Network Established

We have created a network of contacts with the county and district councils. This enables us to share best practice and advice as well as work collaboratively on projects and initiatives. We are currently working on community engagement together and have regular meetings.

Atkins Building

90% of the lighting in the Atkins building have been changed to LED bulbs. We are currently looking into changing the bulbs in other buildings to LED.

Hybrid Operating Model

The hybrid operating model is a big step in reducing the Council's carbon emissions. Staff working from home, and continuing to have the option to, reducing the carbon associated with staff travel. This will help reduce direct Council emissions.

Tree Planting

We have been working on planting tiny forests in green spaces around the borough. We have one confirmed for planting in January 2022 in Queens Park, Hinckley and are waiting on the confirmation for five other tiny forests.

We are planting trees on Earl Shilton Green week commencing January 17th. A door to door consultation took place in July 2021 to establish interest and since then Green Spaces have secured the trees for planting.

Local Plan

Climate change has been integrated throughout the local plan as well as its own dedicated section.

Carbon Literacy

Carbon literacy training took place in October 2021 for staff to take part in. This was open to any staff member involved in climate change work or with an interest. Everyone who took part passed the course and have been given their certificates.

Businesses

Green BELLE Phase 1 has approved business grants for the HBBC area totalling £54,552.53 from 13 grants agreed, covering 18 different energy efficiency measures. Phase 2 promotion is underway. The Sharing of best practise and signposting to funding/Business Climate toolkits is done through our business contact database. We have also created a webpage for climate change advice and funding for businesses. We are also in the process of developing a climate change forum for businesses.

Decarbonisation of Homes

We are working on energy efficiency in homes and are in the process of hiring a consultant to help identify how we can make our buildings more energy efficient, especially our sheltered schemes.

A funding allocation of £770,000 has been awarded January 2022 to allow decarbonisation projects to begin in private homes through LAD3 (Local Authority phase 3) and HUG1 (Home upgrade Grant phase 1) schemes, to allow decarbonisation projects to begin.