

Purpose – To Reduce our Carbon Footprint

The **purpose** of the Climate Change Action Plan is to achieve a carbon neutral position for the Council by 2040, or earlier, by reducing our carbon footprint.

The Action Plan will also be used to encourage others to adopt a similar approach. Whilst this is primarily an EDDC plan it recognises the influence we have on partners, contractors and stakeholders who share our ambitions. We have an ambition to reduce our carbon use at every opportunity and work towards the **Think Globally – Act Locally** aspiration that is still relevant today.

The **themes** in this plan where the Council can make meaningful climate change interventions include: (1) **energy supply and consumption;** (2) **permitting and encouraging low carbon development;** (3) **improving the carbon footprint of existing buildings (public and private sector);** (4) **protecting and enhancing the natural environment;** (5) **water supply and flood protection;** (6) **transport and travel;** (7) **purchasing and consumption;** (8) **community resilience;** (9) **education, communication and influencing behaviour.**

We need to be brave and bold if we are genuinely committed to reducing our carbon footprint, and ensuring residents and business adopt similar aspirations. We propose undertaking five yearly reviews to update and refresh the plan.

This Action Plan is about social and organisational responsibility, lifestyle change and consideration for future generations.

A Summary of Mitigation & Adaptation Actions from the Climate Change Action Plan:

1. Identify realistic and deliverable plans to reduce GHG emissions to become a carbon neutral Council.
2. Reduce GHG emissions from buildings by planning low carbon development and retrofit energy efficiency and low-carbon heating measures.
3. Reduce GHG emissions associated with transport and travel by supporting low-carbon vehicles and promoting sustainable transport.
4. Reduce GHG emissions from waste encouraging reduction, reuse and recycling (circular economy).
5. Support low carbon energy investment and reducing consumption and enabling lifestyle change.
6. Remain aware of climate change projections and the implications for the district.
7. Advise communities to improve resilience and preparations for climate change and protection against extreme weather.
8. Continue to respond to weather and climate change affecting the district.
9. Continue to manage the risk of coastal and fluvial flooding and improve flood resilience.
10. Consider the effects of climate change on policy, decisions, projects and infrastructure.