

Wiltshire Climate Strategy Delivery Plan 2025

Introduction

Wiltshire Council acknowledged a climate emergency in February 2019 and committed to becoming carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030. The council also committed to seeking to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral in the same timeframe.

The council adopted its Climate Strategy in February 2022, which sets out objectives and 'areas of focus' to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience to climate change for the county of Wiltshire for the period 2022 - 2027.

Delivery plans were put in place in 2022 to set out the steps towards implementation of the strategy. The [Carbon Neutral Council Plan 2022-24](#) and the [Climate Strategy Delivery Plan 2022-24](#) have been reviewed during 2024, both in terms of progress towards carbon reduction and climate adaptation outcomes and performance against the actions that the council committed to.

This plan now sets out the focus for the council's action on climate change for 2025.

Whilst this plan sets out priorities for one year, it also includes medium and longer-term implementation steps that will be necessary and puts this into context of where we are in relation to the long term goals (pathways to carbon neutral).

Summary of Key Areas of Opportunity in 2025

Key areas of opportunity for the coming year will be:

- To support residents in improving energy efficiency of their homes, which can also help with comfort and bills through retrofit programmes and support
- Supporting and encouraging developers to build to net zero standards, while progressing the Wiltshire Local Plan with its new policies on net zero development, embodied carbon and renewable energy
- Adopt and implement the Local Transport Plan 4 which has decarbonisation of transport at its centre
- Produce an Adaptation Plan and develop projects to contribute to ensuring the county is prepared for the impacts of climate change
- Develop an Offsetting Strategy and projects to help the council offset its residual emissions, and encourage others in Wiltshire to do the same
- Embedding climate considerations as business as usual for the council, including carbon literacy training
- Develop a Local Area Energy Plan, including supporting community-led energy projects
- Continue the council property carbon reduction programme, and implement a roadmap to scope 3 emissions reduction
- Continue to embed climate awareness and objectives into the council's business as usual delivery

We will seek to deliver tangible results through specific projects, working in collaboration with relevant partners to develop projects and bids for funding that help to deliver the following:

- Council property decarbonisation
- Support council suppliers to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change
- Land or nature-based projects that aim to achieve climate objectives such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity net gain and flood mitigation
- Retrofit projects for community buildings and homes
- Community energy projects
- Business support and grants for energy efficiency
- Community climate action and awareness
- Sustainable transport infrastructure and encourage take up of available options

The Wiltshire Climate Strategy principles mean that we will follow the greenhouse gas hierarchy, aim to achieve a just transition and maximise co-benefits of climate measures.

Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy principles

- Be inclusive – ensuring the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient future is accessible to all sectors of society, including our rural communities and businesses.
- Be evidence led – using the best available science and analysis, while working to increase knowledge in areas where there are gaps. Our evidence base has been informed by feedback from a wide range of stakeholders.
- Follow the Greenhouse Gas Hierarchy, making sure that low carbon technologies and offsetting do not take the focus away from reducing energy use in the first place.
- Deliver co-benefits – where action to tackle carbon emissions also yields health or financial benefits, such as air quality and physical exercise benefits from walking and cycling.
- Further embedding climate considerations in decision-making.

Measuring success

Progress will be tracked against Key Performance Indicators, reporting annually to Cabinet and Full Council and published on the council's website. In addition, the governance and internal monitoring processes that support implementation of the Climate Delivery Plan have been updated and strengthened to enable the council and all services involved in delivery, to monitor progress and adjust actions as necessary, using quarterly reviews.

The county-wide emissions reduction will ultimately be shown by the Key Performance Indicators for 'Wiltshire-wide emissions' which draws on national government data (DESNZ).

Overview of the plan

The following sections set out what the council will focus on in 2025 and how this contributes to our long-term goals. The plan is structured according to the Delivery Themes of the Climate Strategy¹

For each deliverable, carbon impacts are shown where this is measurable and attributable, and indicators are specified to track how each deliverable will contribute to achieving the outcomes of carbon reduction and climate resilience. Impacts and co-benefits are shown whereby co-benefits align with Business Plan and other strategic objectives.

Summary of ‘areas of focus’ and ‘deliverables’

Area of Focus	Deliverable
Carbon Neutral Council.	
C1. Council Building Decarbonisation	Develop and implement a retrofit and renewable Energy Programme on the council’s operational estate.
C2. Fleet Decarbonisation	Achieve a carbon-neutral council fleet by 2030.
C3. Staff Travel	Encourage staff to travel to work by sustainable travel options
C4. Supply Chain and Scope 3	Achieve carbon reduction and resilience in supply chain.
C5. Household Waste Management	Develop the council’s waste management service to help achieve climate objectives
Transport	
T1. Electric Vehicles	Increase availability of Electric Vehicle (EV) chargepoints to promote the transition from fossil fuel to EVs.
T2. Active Travel	Increase options for active travel across Wiltshire.
T3. Sustainable Travel	Improve sustainable transport in Wiltshire.
Homes and the Built Environment	
B1. Domestic Retrofit	Develop and implement a comprehensive Retrofit Strategy that is available to all housing centred on enabling more homeowners to take up energy assessments and home energy improvements.
B2. Commercial and community Retrofit	Develop programmes to support decarbonisation of commercial and community buildings
B3. New Builds and Land Use	Promote low-carbon, climate-resilient development and sustainable land use planning

¹ The original ‘Resources and Waste’ theme has been merged with ‘Green and Circular Economy’ and into ‘Carbon Neutral Council’ for the activities that relate to council’s operational emissions.

Natural Environment, Food and Farming	
N1. Nature recovery, carbon and resilience	Implement a Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy to protect biodiversity, absorb carbon and increase resilience.
N2. Tree Planting	Increase tree planting in Wiltshire, to sequester carbon and enhance outcomes for biodiversity/nature recovery and resilience.
N3. Sustainable agriculture	Work with farmers and landowners on nature recovery, carbon reduction and climate resilience projects
Energy	
E1. Community-led Energy	Support the development of community energy groups and empower communities to develop energy projects.
E2. Local Area Energy Plan	Develop and begin implementation of LAEP framework, to identify strategic priorities for grid upgrades, and create an energy system to support the net zero transition.
Green and circular economy	
G1. Upskilling and Green Skills	Increase green skills and training opportunities to support delivery of climate objectives.
G2. Commercial decarbonisation and Circular Economy	Work with Wiltshire organisations, contractors, and businesses to reduce carbon emissions from their operations, including commercial waste and supporting circular economy initiatives.
Climate Adaptation	
A1. Climate Adaptation	Implement a Climate Adaptation Plan that enhances the resilience of Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire communities to climate change.
Cross-cutting, enabling and empowering	
X1. Staff Engagement and Training	Develop and roll-out Carbon Literacy Training across council staff, and support staff to integrate climate objectives into business-as-usual.
X2. Decision-Making and processes	Embed Climate Objectives into Council Processes and Decision-Making
X3. Green finance and carbon offsetting	Develop green finance, carbon accounting and offsetting, to enable projects that sequester carbon, avoid carbon emissions, and adapt to climate change.
X4. Engagement with stakeholders	Provide information and actively engage with stakeholders to maximise the impact on climate change in Wiltshire
X5. Community Climate Action	Empower Wiltshire communities to contribute towards climate action

1. Carbon Neutral Council

The Climate Strategy Objectives for a ‘Carbon Neutral Council’ are:

- To become carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030
- Provide leadership locally and nationally, sharing learning

Wiltshire Council, has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, focusing on cutting direct emissions from our own operations (Scope 1 and 2). We are also tackling Scope 3 emissions from our outsourced services and purchases.²

The [Carbon Neutral Council Plan 2022-24](#) focussed on reducing emissions from council buildings and fleet, embedding climate considerations into council processes, understanding and reducing Scope emissions by working with council suppliers, and reviewing the councils Climate Adaptation Plan. The ‘Pathways report’³ informs interim targets and actions.

Due to the actions undertaken, council emissions continue to decrease, and the same ‘areas of focus’ remain important for 2025.

For the full breakdown of council emissions, see our annual [Greenhouse Gas Report 2024](#).

The ongoing activities and new priorities for 2025 are set out in the following tables.

C 1	Area of Focus:	Council building decarbonisation
Deliverable:	Develop and implement a Retrofit and Renewable Energy Programme on the council's operational estate	
Outcome:	Council carbon reduction	
Governance:	Responsible directorate / service: Director of Assets; Head of Strategic Asset & FM. Service lead: Energy Team; HEEP programme. Stakeholders: Climate Team; All services using buildings, particularly leisure managers.	
Overview:		
<u>Emissions directly controlled by the council (Scope 1 and 2)</u>		
The largest source of the council's Scope 1 and 2 emissions is buildings. The council has identified 2 main pathways to reducing carbon emissions from its buildings. These are:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce direct Scope 1 emissions from burning fossil fuels such as gas and oil at our sites by switching heating fuels to electricity or biomass. • To eliminate all scope 2 carbon emissions from electricity use by generating on site renewable energy and by purchasing the remaining demand through a green electricity tariff. 		
These are underpinned by an overarching drive to increase efficiency and reduce overall energy demand.		

² The Carbon Neutral Council Plan, page 4-5, explains the council's operational emissions and scopes

³ [Wiltshire Council Carbon Emissions Baseline and Reduction Pathways](#), Anthesis 2022a

A pipeline of projects has been developed within the Property Carbon Reduction Programme. The programme covers projects that are reducing both scope 1 (emissions from combustion) and scope 2 emissions (emissions from electricity).

The programme was allocated £10.4m budget in 2019, and the council has also allocated an additional £3.5m to a Carpark Solar Canopy budget.

The programme covers:

- energy efficiency projects to reduce energy use and costs,
- renewable energy projects to improve resilience and reduce costs,
- carbon reduction projects to reduce building related carbon emissions by replacing heating from fossil fuel sources with low carbon fuel sources such as electricity and biomass
- financial contribution to improved energy efficiency or low carbon measures in newly built assets.

The council will fully investigate mechanisms for achieving carbon neutrality on electricity use, in addition to the green tariff, such as entering into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) directly with a renewable energy generator. That may be a Community Energy generator or via a commercial scheme.

The council will also use the Environmental Mitigation Framework, to review council sites for potential renewables projects and carbon offsetting through nature-based solutions.

Sections B3, C4, and X2 also include measure that contribute to the carbon neutral council, and overseen by assets directorate.

Scope 3

The Assets Directorate will explore how it can monitor, measure and reduce scope 3 emissions from property in the future.

The council has a stock of 5,300 council houses, the emissions from which are scope 3. The Housing Energy Efficiency Programme (HEEP) designed to improve the energy performance of the housing stock, reducing energy consumption, carbon emissions, and the cost of household bills, with the aim of all council homes to be EPC B. The programme will continue to be delivered over the next 8 years (overall reduction of between 15,000 and 20,000 tonnes of carbon emissions).

The Council House Build Programme (CHBP) will continue to deliver new builds to net zero carbon in operation, on council-led schemes.

Council house acquisitions aim for new builds to have a minimum EPC rating of C, and for non new builds the aim is for minimum EPC E and be capable of improving.

All commercial lettings are now subject to Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) regulations and works are undertaken prior to letting.

Property decarbonisation - What's next for 2025

- Our asset management strategy will clarify the future roles and functions of our assets, which will enhance planning for net zero and resilient properties.
- Continue to use energy usage data for better carbon reduction.
- Rolling out further upgrades at high-energy sites.
- Exploring smaller scale opportunities to generate electricity, that can be fed back to the grid rather than used within buildings, providing a carbon offset opportunity.
- Decarbonising heating at five additional sites.
- Developing an offsetting strategy for council emissions.
- Installing a second solar car park canopy at Springfield Community Campus

- 'Leisure, Culture and Communities' teams will continue to focus on understanding energy management and reducing buildings usage.

Longer term activity

- Consider opportunities for council to develop its own large scale renewable energy development, which could provide a supplement or alternative to the green tariff.
- Review energy procurement and consider purchasing from additional renewable energy sources
- Install energy efficiency measures at all 5,300 of our properties, where feasible, over the next eight to nine years through the HEEP programme.
- Explore how to measure and monitor scope 3 emissions from council buildings

Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: High Overall impact: High Priority: High Rationale: Decarbonisation programme is critical to carbon reduction of the council operational estate. Reducing carbon emissions from approx. 4,500 tonnes CO₂e in 2020, to 250 tonnes CO₂e in 2030. Impacts of green tariff = approx. 3670 tonnes in 2023/24. Council Home Energy Efficiency Programme has an impact on tenant cost of living as well as reducing carbon emissions.</p>	
Co-benefits:	Capacity building and efficiency; Leading by example	
KPI:	Target:	
C1 Wiltshire Council's Carbon Footprint	Carbon neutral by 2030 (Emissions reduced to 250t CO ₂ e by 2030, and this is offset). Interim annual targets, as per Anthesis pathway.	
C5 Renewable energy generated on the council estate (kWh)	To generate a minimum of 20% of the total operational estate electricity use from renewable site-based assets.	
C7 Tonnes CO ₂ e saved through energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on the council estate (reduction compared to annual baseline emissions)	3,446 t CO ₂ e by 2030 (Anthesis) To be reviewed in October 2025	
C9a Energy consumption (kWh) of gas used in corporate buildings	292,560 kWh by 2030 (Anthesis) To be reviewed in October 2025	
C9b Energy consumption (kWh) of electricity used in corporate buildings	24,524,018 kWh by 2030 (Anthesis) To be reviewed in October 2025	
B2 number of council homes retrofitted for energy efficiency/renewable energy(cumulative total) – Review: change to 'number of measures implemented'. Review in 2026: consider adding a KPI to show carbon savings from the HEEP programme, using data from carbon credits sold to HACT.	Retrofit all council homes to EPC B by 2030/31	

C 2	Area of Focus:	Council fleet decarbonisation
Deliverable:	Achieve a carbon-neutral council fleet by 2030	
Outcome:	Council carbon reduction	
Governance:	Responsible directorate / service: Director of Highways and Transport; Head of Highway Operations. Service lead: Fleet Services Stakeholders: Climate Team; Passenger Transport; Housing Team; Waste services; Any services using Wiltshire Council fleet. FM (for electric) Fleet Governance Board	
<p>Overview:</p> <p>The Fleet Strategy 2023-2030 sets out how the council will use, run, manage and optimise fleet that is owned or leased by the council. The approach is for a transition to electric lighter vehicles – cars and vans and e-bikes – and also for larger vehicles where possible, with alternative fuels such as HVO where required. Measures also include using telematics data to inform driver training, and vehicle and EV charging needs. The council’s baseline fleet transition to carbon neutral travel has capital and revenue funding allocated through to 2029, with cost savings / avoidance taken into account.</p> <p>The existing Fleet Strategy actions and baseline includes the council’s core fleet, however there are several additional areas (Passenger Transport and Housing) that were not part of the original baseline and need to be fully incorporated into the Fleet Strategy to achieve the corporate ambition. This will form an integral part of the work in 2025, with Passenger Transport Unit and the Housing Service already having identified a capital requirement and revenue for their fleet provision and will produce a carbon reduction plan in due course. Housing Service has commenced the transition to electric vehicles, with further action planned.</p> <p>The Fleet Strategy covers Scope 1 and 2 emissions of vehicles owned or controlled directly by the council, whereby Scope 1 emissions are caused by direct combustion of fossil fuels or alternative fuels such as HVO, and Scope 2 emissions from electricity used by vehicles.</p> <p>The Fleet Strategy principles are to be incorporated into future vehicle procurement or contract arrangements for additional vehicles that are accounted for under Scope 3 (i.e. refuse collection vehicles see Household Waste Management).</p> <p>Electric vehicle chargepoints are being installed to support the transition to electric vehicles. A watching brief on the best technology to transition the larger / heavier vehicles with Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) being the interim fuel that many councils and companies are using.</p> <p>The new Depot Plan aims to house vehicles in the area of work demand and support the transition to electric and other alternative fuels.</p> <p><u>Fleet decarbonisation – What’s next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional 70 charge points will be installed across council sites, to enable further decarbonisation of fleet. • 50 further vehicles will follow once the charge points have been installed. • The first depot renewal project will look at how EV charging at depots can support fleet decarbonisation. • The Passenger Transport Unit Service is trialling an electric Demand Response Transport in the Warminster Mere area <p><u>Longer term activity</u></p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot renewal programme supports transition to low carbon fleet by incorporating EV chargepoints and futureproofed by designing in flexibility for other alternative fuels • All services purchasing and using council fleet will develop a carbon reduction plan and integrate this into vehicle replacement plans. 	
Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: Medium</p> <p>Overall impact: Medium</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: Fleet decarbonisation is a key part of emissions reduction in relation to council operations, though not as high as the impact of council buildings. Direct carbon savings can be achieved through replacement and efficient use of the council's core fleet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing fleet emissions from baseline of 837 t CO₂e to 703 t CO₂e (Year 1-2) - Further reduce to 613 t CO₂e (Year 3-4) - Reach 533 t CO₂e (Year 5-6) - Achieve 256 t CO₂e (Final phase before 2030) <p>Additional fleet within Passenger Transport Unit (PTU), Housing and Waste can be decarbonised in accordance with the Fleet Strategy principles. Baseline emissions from Housing and PTU services are 95.58 tCO₂e.</p>
Co-benefits:	Air quality; Health and Wellbeing; Fair and inclusive; Vibrant, well-connected communities
KPI:	Target:
C4 Number of EV charge points at council sites (workplace chargepoints)	20% annual increase year on year. Interim targets as per Fleet Strategy: 90 chargepoints for 2025/26
Review: New KPI 'Electric vehicles as % of all fleet'	Targets from Fleet Strategy

C 3	Area of Focus:	Staff Travel
Deliverable:	Encourage staff to travel to work by sustainable travel options	
Outcome:	Reducing council's scope 3 emissions	
Governance:	Responsible directorate / service: HR &OD; Highways and Transport; Service lead: HR / staff engagement. Stakeholders: Climate Team; HR &OD; Parking services.	
Overview:		
<p>With over 5,000 staff at Wiltshire Council, commuting patterns have a role to play in reducing emissions. Refresh of Staff Travel Plans and parking strategy will be a focus going forward, with the first to be produced in conjunction with the developing plans for the new Trowbridge Leisure Centre adjacent to County Hall.</p> <p>Staff surveys will help to understand current patterns and needs, staff travel planning will be complemented by promotion of the schemes offering bicycles and ultra-low emissions vehicles through a salary sacrifice mechanism.</p> <p>Staff Travel – What's next for 2025</p>		

- Continue to promote schemes to staff, promoting sustainable travel, and allowing purchase of bikes and ultra-low emissions vehicles through salary sacrifice.
- Work with staff on a new travel and parking strategy for County Hall, in tandem with development of the new Trowbridge leisure centre

Longer term activity

- Develop and update travel plans for all Wiltshire Council office hubs

Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: Low</p> <p>Overall impact: Medium</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Rationale: This deliverable aims to work with staff to encourage them to make switches to more sustainable commuting, where possible. It is challenging given the needs of many staff to drive to work, dependent on their mobility, location and individual circumstances, caring duties etc. Therefore, the potential to shift to other modes is unknown at present. Through this work there is the added impact of having conversations about climate impacts and the knock-on effects of staff disseminating this information further.</p>
Co-benefits:	Air quality; Health and Wellbeing; Fair and inclusive; Vibrant, well-connected communities
KPI:	Target:
No KPI to date. Suggestions TBC:	
Review – new KPI: Proportion of staff using private car as a single occupant	Reduced % using private car as a single occupant.
Review – new KPI: Number of Cycle Scheme uptakes	Increase over baseline
Review – new KPI: Number of Tusker Ultra-low emissions vehicle scheme uptakes	Increase over baseline

C 4	Area of Focus:	Supply Chain and Scope 3 emissions
Deliverable:	Achieve Carbon Reduction and Resilience in Supply Chain	
Outcome:	Reducing council's scope 3 emissions	
Governance:	<p>Responsible directorates: Director of Finance and Procurement (for all procurement, pension fund; Director of Commissioning (for social care contracts only).</p> <p>Responsible services: Head of Procurement; Head of Adults Commissioning; Head of Families and Children Commissioning</p> <p>Service leads: Strategic Procurement / Social Value; Adults Commissioning, Families and Children Commissioning. Climate team to help coordinate.</p> <p>Stakeholders: Adult Social Care; Waste Services; Highways; Capital Projects; All services – commissioning and contract managers; Engagement and Partnerships</p>	
Overview:		

The council's purchased items and outsourced contracts are classed as Scope 3 emissions and outside our direct control. While existing contracts often limit the council's ability to mandate GHG reductions, it can help to engage suppliers to assess their climate actions.

Priority focus will be on high-emission contracts, such as highways and waste, as well as the cumulative emissions from adult social care contracts. The council is also collaborating with smaller organisations, like care providers, to identify opportunities for carbon reduction and support their decarbonisation efforts. We use data to inform our approaches, and will report using the LGA tool and our own annual Greenhouse Gas report.

Supply chain and Scope 3 – What's next for 2025

- Use estimated Scope 3 data, and work on obtaining further actual data to inform target areas for carbon reduction
- Continue to engage with the top 10 council suppliers (in terms of their greenhouse gas emissions)
- Working with care providers through the Care Provider Forum to identify opportunities and support on emissions reduction and climate resilience
- Continue to incorporate climate objectives into all tenders and contracts, and further develop the council's procurement policy, process and guidance, building on the existing Socially Responsible Procurement Policy.

Longer term activity

- Develop a system for greenhouse gas emissions data collection from all suppliers
- Showcase and share best practice of council suppliers
- Continue to build up reporting on Scope 3 emissions in the annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report (e.g. schools, Wiltshire Pension Fund, contracts)

Impact:	<p>Level: High</p> <p>Rationale: While there is currently insufficient quantitative data to fully assess the carbon impact of this deliverable, a previous estimate by Anthesis (Anthesis, 2022a) indicates that Scope 3 emissions from Procured Goods and Services account for approximately 269,000 tCO₂e. Although this specific deliverable may not result in a complete reduction of these emissions, it has significant potential to make a meaningful contribution to reducing the carbon footprint in a high-impact area of council operations. By engaging with suppliers, and using specific requirements within contracts, there is a high potential impact on carbon emissions.</p> <p>Scope 3 emissions work will need to include further engagement with suppliers and collection of data in order to accurately assess the specific carbon impact of this specific deliverable.</p>
Co-benefits:	Leading by example; Efficiency and capacity building
KPI:	Target:
G1 Emissions from Wiltshire Council's key suppliers in CO ₂ e Review: consider adding a KPI to reflect the number of suppliers engaged per annum.	Target not yet defined.
C2 Carbon Footprint of pension funds investments. (CO ₂ e /\$m invested) Review: to align with Wiltshire Pension Fund annual reporting	Decreasing. Carbon neutral by 2050

C 5	Area of Focus: Household waste management
Deliverable:	Develop the council's waste management service to help achieve climate objectives
Outcome:	Reducing council's scope 3 emissions
Governance:	Responsible directorate / service: Director of Environment; Head of Waste Services Service lead: Waste Manager Technical Stakeholders: Climate Team; Highway operations (Fleet Services & Depot Strategy); Comms
<p>Overview:</p> <p>The objectives of the Climate Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards zero avoidable waste in Wiltshire and decarbonising the waste management process • Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy, increase the amount and quality of waste recycled and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill <p>The council's waste management service handles household waste collection and management through external contracts. While commercial waste falls under the 'Green and Circular Economy' theme, there are opportunities for cross-sector knowledge sharing to explore circular waste streams. Efforts are focused on understanding actual emissions, embedding carbon monitoring and reduction targets in future contracts, and aligning with the Waste Strategy and Environment Act requirements. Carbon analysis has targeted high-emission areas, such as reducing landfill waste from Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). The service continues to prioritise waste reduction, recycling, re-use, and landfill diversion, with future plans addressing the 2027 changes to waste collection services and the carbon impact of residual waste processing.</p> <p>The council is also reviewing its waste collection fleet, starting with trials of electric waste vehicles in Wiltshire and exploring alternative fuels like HVO.</p> <p>The council has a dedicated Waste Engagement Officer working with residents on ways to reduce waste and increase re-use and recycling.</p> <p>The waste management services have carried out a Climate Change Risk Assessment to ensure the service is resilient to the impacts of climate change, and resulting actions are included in the emerging Climate Adaptation Plan.</p> <p><u>Household waste management - What's next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued focus on promoting reuse of materials that would otherwise be disposed of as waste, with the proposed launch of a new reuse shop reselling items donated for reuse at Wiltshire household recycling centres in Devizes in Q4 24/25. • Increase activity to prepare for the delivery of new dry recycling collection and food waste collection services from 2027, following Cabinet decision on 19 Nov 2024. • Progress the trial of a new electric Refuse Collection Vehicle on operational collection rounds throughout 25/26 and consider use of alternative fuels on a trial basis. • Establish baseline and monitoring for greenhouse gas KPIs for household waste management (see below) <p><u>Longer term activity</u></p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to use greenhouse gas emissions data within decisions on household waste management service options and strategy, and within the tender and contract management process for waste contracts 	
Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: High</p> <p>Overall impact: High</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: Carbon emissions from waste contracts is estimated to be the council's second highest greenhouse gas emitting contract, based on contract spend in 2020. There are also savings to be made on the gross emissions by continuing to follow the waste hierarchy.</p>
Co-benefits:	Air quality; Health and wellbeing; Renewable energy (energy from waste, landfill, anaerobic digestion)
KPI:	Target:
R1. Amount of household waste (kg waste produced per household)	Below 880kg
<p>Review: - delete R2a, R2b, and R2c – these are already included in the corporate scorecard, and other KPIs may provide specific focus on the carbon emissions impacts of the waste service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R2a. Proportion of household waste managed, by destination: Recycled or composted (%) ('recycling rate') R2b. Proportion of household waste managed by: Landfill diversion (%) R2c. Proportion of household waste managed by: Landfill (%) 	
R3. Impact of waste management services on GHG emissions (carbon and methane emissions from waste management services, including fleet in t CO ₂ e)	Currently establishing baseline and monitoring.
<p>Review: consider additional KPIs to help monitor the actual carbon emissions from household waste management, as well as the carbon savings due to specific practices such as recycling, landfill diversion</p>	

2. Transport delivery theme

The Climate Strategy objectives for transport are:

- To achieve a transport system in Wiltshire that has zero carbon emissions, acknowledging the different solutions for our towns and city versus rural villages
- Creating the infrastructure for increased walking, cycling, shared and public transport and use of alternative fuels, including electric vehicle charging points
- Achieving high-quality public transport and transport hubs that offer a pleasant and convenient way to get around, and seamless combined journeys
- Locating and designing new developments to reduce the need to travel

Surface transport is the largest proportion of greenhouse gas emissions in Wiltshire (38% of territorial emissions, DESNZ, 2024). The emissions decreased slightly between 2021 and 2022, but the trajectory is nowhere near close to the pathway that is needed to reach carbon neutral by 2030 or even 2050, and this follows the trend seen in other local authority areas and nationally.

Wiltshire Council's fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4) sets the holistic vision and strategy for transport in the county, and is on track to be adopted by Full Council in 2025, subject to consultation and any necessary changes. Whilst it is acknowledged by the national [Transport Decarbonisation Plan](#) that decarbonising vehicles will not be enough to achieve net zero transport, it is accepted that rural areas may need different approaches than urban. Wiltshire Council is mindful that being a rural county, there will be a significant amount of private vehicle travel that is necessary for many residents and businesses. Initiatives such as demand responsive transport and car clubs will be expanded, alongside integrated mobility hubs, and these concepts are supported by the national guidance for rural areas '[Future of Transport: supporting rural transport innovation](#)'.

The approach will be to support the uptake of electric vehicles, by increasing electric charging infrastructure, and providing sustainable travel options and encouraging take up. In scenarios where people are able to travel by cycling, walking and wheeling, for shorter journeys we will continue to increase the provision of safe routes and publish Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans. Demand for car clubs will also be explored.

Challenges

- The draft Wiltshire Fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4) identifies that in order to close the emissions gap of the DfT transport decarbonisation pathway (to 2050) an approximate 35% reduction from current emissions levels would be required. In 2035 this would equate to a 70% reduction from the current (2023) levels. Whilst the draft LTP4 includes measures to support the decarbonisation of transport and contribute to closing this emissions gap, these measures are assessed to achieve approximately one third of the carbon reduction needed. This aligns with the notion that local authorities are thought to be able to influence approximately one third of area-wide emissions⁴. LTP4 measures will require support of residents, businesses and local organisations to ensure success.
- Beyond the influence of the Local Transport Plan, there remains a substantial emissions reduction to be made. National and regional policy and changes are required, where the council and LTP4 have limited influence, such as freight and other journeys through the county. Therefore, individuals and organisations located and operating within Wiltshire can help to achieve the carbon reduction required, on top of what will be carried out under the context of the LTP4.
- Wiltshire is above national average for EV adoption, but below where we need to be on pathways to net zero. The [Zero Emissions Vehicles \(ZEV\)](#) mandate is an important part of closing the emissions gap.
- Travel which is not directly included within the LTP4 may be influenced by the council, e.g. The council's suppliers that have high mileage are an area we will explore, e.g. care providers' vehicle use.

⁴ Climate Change Commission, 2020. P16 <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/>

The ongoing activities, and priorities for 2025 are set out in the following tables.

T 1	Area of Focus: Electric Vehicles
Deliverable:	Increase availability of electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints to promote the transition from fossil fuel to EVs.
Outcome:	County carbon reduction
Governance:	Responsible directorate / service: Director Highways and Transport; Head of Major Highways Projects. Planning Service Service lead: EVI manager and team Stakeholders: Climate Team; Highway Operations; Highways Development Management.
<p>Overview:</p> <p>The council has established a team of officers, funded through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) capability funds, to develop an updated EV strategy focused on delivering charging networks and facilities in areas with limited or no off-street parking. This initiative aims to expand EV charging infrastructure to encourage EV adoption, particularly in locations where home chargers cannot be installed.</p> <p>The strategic direction is informed by the Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) EVI sub-strategy.</p> <p>The planning system will support and encourage developers to ensure new and refurbished developments provide residents accessible EV charging facilities, enabled by the upcoming Air Quality SPD which increases minimum requirements beyond those in Building Regs AD-S.</p> <p><u>Electric Vehicles – What’s next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a Wiltshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy for 2025-28, which will be adopted as part of the LTP4. • The Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) project will be the focus of activity – aiming to significantly increase the number of public EV chargepoints across the county. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community engagement with Wiltshire parish/town/city councils and residents, to ensure public participation in the location of new council led EV charger builds. ○ Engagement with electricity distribution network operator to identify and overcome barriers to chargepoint infrastructure rollout <p><u>Longer term activity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, once this is adopted as part of the LTP4 • Work with business fleet operators (e.g. taxis, buses, commercial logistics) to identify needs of their fleet, and potential to collaborate in EV infrastructure provision • Explore future plans for the Wiltshire Council owned and operated public charging network • Conduct trial deployment of cable channel products to enable resident on-street home charging 	
Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: High</p> <p>Overall impact: High</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: NEVIS modelling through LEVI project details potential emissions reductions based on predicted EV adoption, inc CO₂e, NO_x & PM_{2.5}.</p>

	<p>The carbon impact of this deliverable is projected to be high, based on an assessment of the potential savings from transitioning 88% of cars within the county by 2030 in line with Anthesis forecasts (Anthesis, 2022b). The impact has been calculated using projected 2030 carbon factors. Whilst the council's activity to install chargepoints is not the only factor in increasing uptake of electric vehicles, it is impactful and can give confidence to those considering switching to an electric vehicle.</p> <p>Annual Carbon Savings (Based on 2030 Carbon Factors): 552 ktCO₂e.</p>	
Co-benefits:	<p>Air Quality; Fair and inclusive (social equity of charging provision); Vibrant, well-connected communities; Energy supply resilience (less reliant on imported fossil fuels)</p>	
KPI:		Target:
X2 Total transport GHG emissions for Wiltshire in kt CO ₂ e (territorial). Figures now include CH ₄ , NO ₂ & CO ₂		1054kt for 2021; 933 kt for 2022 (based on transport emissions as % of total) (DESNZ, 2022, is most recent data)
T3 Total number of EV charge point locations in Wiltshire (all publicly available charging points including those owned by the council). Measured quarterly by DfT as 'number of devices per 100,000 population', see Quarterly DfT reporting		Increasing in line with SW average (75 per 100,000 population in April 2024)
T2 Air quality: number of annual exceedances of NO ₂ (nitrogen dioxide) over 40 µg/m ³ target in Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)		No exceedances (NO ₂ remains below 40 µg/m ³) and aiming to revoke AQMAs
Review: New KPI: Electric vehicles as % of total county vehicle parc. (Parc is European term for all vehicles registered in a geographical area)		3.8% @ Autumn'24 33% by 2030 (NEVIS)
Review: Consider adding a new KPI to help track EVI utilisation rate for Wiltshire Council public devices (Fast and Rapid)		

T 2	Area of Focus:	Active Travel
Deliverable:	Increase options for active travel across Wiltshire	
Outcome:	County carbon reduction	
Governance:	<p>Responsible directorate / service: Director Highways and Transport; Head of Major Highways Projects. Planning Service</p> <p>Service lead: Principal Planning and Development Manager</p> <p>Stakeholders: Climate Team; Highway Operations. Highways Development Management</p> <p>Active Travel Steering / Delivery Group</p>	
Overview:		
<p>The council will implement Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) to develop active travel infrastructure, ensuring that walking and cycling are safe, connected and convenient options for residents in Wiltshire's larger settlements. This work will be supported by sourcing external funding streams to deliver the necessary infrastructure.</p> <p>Through the planning system, the council will work with developers to secure sustainable transport outcomes in new developments, supporting new homes and businesses while also</p>		

retrofitting the existing built environment with infrastructure for walking, cycling, and public transport. Active Travel England are a statutory consultee in the system.

In 2025 we will continue to focus on delivering infrastructure using the funding available to the council from Active Travel England and other sources, such as S106 development funding.

Active Travel – What’s next for 2025

- Continue developing LCWIPs for all of our towns and produce a pipeline of active travel schemes that will be delivered when funding becomes available.
- A new grant has been awarded to the council by Active Travel England for cycling and walking infrastructure.
- Bikeability, WalkSafe and Scootability will continue, with a £229,573 grant for 2024/25.
- Continued focus on [air quality](#): Carbon reduction and air quality objectives go hand in hand and better air quality makes active travel more inviting.
- Continue to offer support to schools in developing their School Travel Plans
- Explore partnerships with others to achieve messaging and activity to encourage shifts to more sustainable modes of travel.

Longer term activity

- Embed active travel in the design of new developments and town centre regeneration projects by enhancing the public realm and improving pedestrian and cycling access infrastructure as well as advocating for travel plans that should incentivise alternatives to the private car.

Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: Medium</p> <p>Overall impact: Medium</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Rationale: This deliverable has the potential for a medium impact due to its ability to drive modal shifts away from vehicle use, reducing transport-related emissions (a major contributor to Wiltshire’s overall carbon footprint – 33.2% (Anthesis, 2022b)). Under a High Ambition Pathway, active travel mileage share in Wiltshire would need to increase by over 200% compared to 2020 levels, from 3% in 2020 to 9% in 2045 (Anthesis, 2022b). As active travel is considered zero carbon, any increases in this mode will directly correlate with reducing emissions from cars.</p> <p>Due to the way funding is administered by Active Travel England, additional funding may need to be sought to carry out some of the behaviour change measures necessary to achieve this impact.</p> <p>It is also important to recognise that the urban/rural geography of Wiltshire, including narrow roads in market towns and areas of heritage can cause challenges in designing active travel plans. Furthermore mode shift is not always feasible due to longer distances travelled within rural areas.</p>
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Co-benefits:	Air quality; Health and Wellbeing; Thriving economy and right skills; Awareness and Empowering; Fair and inclusive; Green and blue infrastructure; Vibrant, well-connected communities
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KPI:	Target:
X2 Total transport GHG emissions for Wiltshire in kt CO _{2e} (territorial). Figures now include CH ₄ , NO ₂ & CO ₂	1054kt for 2021; 933 kt for 2022 (based on transport emissions as % of total) (DESNZ, 2022, is most recent data)

T2 Air quality: number of annual exceedance of NO ₂ (nitrogen dioxide) over 40 µg/m ³ target in Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)	No exceedances (NO ₂ remains below 40 µg/m ³) and aiming to revoke AQMAs
T4 Cycle Training: Number of children and adults trained through Bikeability	TBD
T5 Local Cycling and Walking Plans (LCWIPs) produced (cumulative total)	16 produced by 2025
Review: consider adding KPIs to help monitor the Number of active travel projects implemented; funding secured for active travel projects; increased usage of active travel modes.	

T 3	Area of Focus:	Sustainable Travel
Deliverable:	Improve sustainable transport in Wiltshire.	
Outcome:	County carbon reduction	
Governance:	<p>Responsible directorate / service: Director Highways and Transport; ALL Highways and Transport services.</p> <p>Service lead/teams: Passenger Transport & National Bus Strategy managers. Highways and Transport. Highways Asset Management.</p> <p>Stakeholders: Climate Team; Highway Operations; Highways Major Projects. Active Travel Steering / Delivery Group; LTP4 Board</p>	
Overview:		
<p>Sustainable transport in Wiltshire includes public transport and active travel, but it's important to recognise that many are currently, and will remain, reliant on private vehicle use to live in our rural context. Wiltshire Council can work with others to try to ensure that public transport provision is reasonably priced, convenient, and reliable so far as possible. We can work with bus operators to support the transition to EVs in public transport, such as the ZEBRA project with Salisbury Reds. The council will work with rail companies to improve current and new train stations in the county, such as that proposed for Corsham and Devizes.</p> <p>Through the planning system, the council will work with developers to secure sustainable transport outcomes in new developments that support the new homes and businesses but will also help to retrofit the existing built environment with walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure too.</p> <p>Carbon assessment of all transport projects, in partnership with council contractors and suppliers is an area to be further explored. The council will aim for consistency of data and methodologies for reporting, moving from estimates based on conversion factors, to scheme- and material-specific assessment where possible.</p>		
<u>Sustainable Travel – What's next for 2025:</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation and adoption of the fourth Wiltshire Local Transport Plan (LTP4) • Continue to work in partnership to deliver transport and climate objectives, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhanced Partnerships with bus operators ○ School travel planning ○ Work with business on freight decarbonisation and EV infrastructure • Explore further rollout of Demand Responsive Transport e.g. in Malmesbury, Mere and Warminster areas • Work closely with the Department for Transport (DfT) and the rail industry to enhance train services across Wiltshire 		

<u>Longer term activity</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore how best to work with residents, community groups and organisations in Wiltshire to encourage the shift away from private vehicle use, where possible, and where alternatives are realistic • Ensure sustainable transport options are integrated into new developments, engaging with developers early to implement an agreed avoid, shift and improve framework. 	
Impact:	Direct emissions reduction impact: Medium Overall impact: Medium Priority: High Rationale: Emissions from transport represent 38% of Wiltshire’s emissions profile (DESNZ, 2024), making them a key source to target action. Therefore, this deliverable has the potential for a medium impact due to its ability to drive modal shifts away from vehicle use, reducing transport-related emissions. However, we recognise that given the rural nature of Wiltshire, mode shift may not always be feasible due to the longer distances travelled.
Co-benefits:	Air quality; Health and Wellbeing; Thriving economy and right skills; Awareness and Empowering; Fair and inclusive; Green and blue infrastructure; Vibrant, well-connected communities
KPI:	Target:
X2 Total transport GHG emissions for Wiltshire in kt CO _{2e} (territorial). Figures now include CH ₄ , NO ₂ & CO ₂	1054kt for 2021; 933 kt for 2022 (based on transport emissions as % of total) (DESNZ, 2022, is most recent data)
T1 Number of passenger trips on both the commercial and supported bus networks	10% per year (8.4 million in 2023/24)
T2 Air quality: number of annual exceedance of NO ₂ (nitrogen dioxide) over 40 µg/m ³ target in Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)	No exceedances (NO ₂ remains below 40 µg/m ³) and aiming to revoke AQMAs
Review: consider adding KPIs to help monitor Number of active travel projects implemented; usage of active travel modes; bus patronage and reduction in car usage.	

3. Homes and the Built Environment

The Climate Strategy objectives for Homes and Built environment are:

- New buildings, including homes, to be net zero carbon and adaptable to climate change as soon as possible (including measures such as water efficiency)
- Existing buildings in all sectors to be retrofitted to improve energy efficiency and decrease energy demand through low carbon technology
- New and existing buildings to be adapted to climate change for both heating and cooling, and to include measures of benefit to the wider environment where possible.

Buildings, and specifically homes, are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases in Wiltshire. With over 194,000 homes in the county there is a huge challenge but also significant benefits to ensuring that these are warm or cool enough and can be run efficiently so that bills and emissions are reduced. The council will focus on domestic retrofit, but will

also explore how to support the commercial sector to decarbonise and move its buildings towards net zero emissions.

Our approach to retrofit and new build advice will also make sure that consideration of adaptation and resilience measures are included, such as ventilation, shading and cooling and mitigating flood risk.

The draft Wiltshire Local Plan sets out a framework for delivering up to 36,740 new homes by 2038. The plan also includes new policies requiring net zero development, assessment of embodied carbon as well as policies relating to the design of new development to ensure that sustainable travel options are incorporated, which will work alongside the existing Wiltshire Design Guide.

The ongoing activities, and new priorities for 2025 are set out in the following tables.

B 1	Area of Focus:	Domestic Retrofit
Deliverable:	Develop and implement a comprehensive Retrofit Strategy that is available to all housing sectors, centred on enabling more homeowners to take up energy assessments and home energy improvements	
Outcome:	County-wide carbon reduction	
Governance:	Responsible directorate / service: Director Environment; Head of Climate and Environment Service lead: Retrofit Development Manager Stakeholders: Climate Team; Economy & Regeneration; Education and skills; HRA; Strategic Assets & FM - Energy Team; Comms Registered providers retrofit working group	
Overview:		
<p>Wiltshire has various retrofit projects, initiatives, and grants led by different organisations, but overcoming barriers to retrofitting requires a comprehensive, collaborative strategy. The Retrofit strategy will promote a whole-house approach supported by a One Stop Shop to guide residents through the retrofit process, with community engagement ensuring designs are tailored to local needs. It will include blended funding models to make retrofitting accessible to all and focus on building a skilled supply chain through recruitment and training. A robust and compelling supplier journey will play a vital role in engaging, recruiting and training a skilled supply chain.</p>		
<u>Domestic Retrofit - What's next for 2025</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting residential retrofit through advice, and targeted projects such as Solar Together and HUG. • Solar Together scheme 3 opened for registration in June 2024 with over 3,000 registrations in Wiltshire by the September 2024 closing date. Installations will be complete by end of March 2025. Solar Together scheme 4 planned to open in June 2025. • Start developing a retrofit strategy for Wiltshire: building on existing activities, reviewing data and using the Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator (LENZA) tool to inform our approach. 		
<u>Longer term activity</u>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Retrofit Strategy and promote it to be used as a framework for delivery by the council and other stakeholders working on retrofitting in Wiltshire. Explore setting up a Lendology fund to provide loans for home retrofit 	
Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: High</p> <p>Overall impact: High</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: Approximately, 50% of emissions in Wiltshire originate from buildings (Anthesis, 2022b) which underscores the significant role that building emissions play in overall the county's emission profile. Consequently, interventions to decarbonise this sector, such as retrofitting, will generate a substantial impact. Additionally, the emissions reductions from retrofitting are cumulative and multiply with the number of homes retrofitted, making this intervention scalable and impactful.</p> <p>Retrofit savings have been based on a typical medium-sized home (2–3-bedroom house) (Ofgem, 2024). Energy efficiency measure savings have been based on the CCC Sixth Carbon Budget Balanced Pathway. Heat Pump installation savings have been based on assuming that a typical home has a gas boiler and is replaced with an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) unit. Solar PV calculations are based on average UK performance and array size, assuming all electricity is used in the home.</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Annual Carbon Savings: 270 kgCO_{2e} per home.</p> <p>ASHP Annual Carbon Savings: 1790 kgCO_{2e} per home.</p> <p>Solar PV Annual Carbon Savings: 150 kgCO_{2e} per home.</p>
Co-benefits:	Health and Wellbeing; Local economy;
KPI:	Target:
B4. EPCs certificates rated A to C / all EPCs registered that year (rolling 3 year average) for all dwellings in Wiltshire (%)	Increasing, and above SW benchmark (54%)
B6a. Energy efficiency of existing dwellings: EPC C and above in Wiltshire. (% of total EPCs registered that year)	Increasing, but below SW benchmark (49%)
B6b. Space heating demand for existing homes in Wiltshire per dwelling (kWh/m ² /year)	Decreasing, above SW benchmark (241)
Review: consider adding KPIs to help monitor number of heat pumps installed per annum; percentage of homes with solar PV.	

B 2	Area of Focus:	Commercial and community retrofit
Deliverable:	Develop programmes to support decarbonisation of commercial and community buildings	
Outcome:	County-wide carbon reduction	
Governance:	<p>Responsible directorate / service: Director Environment; Head of Climate and Environment</p> <p>Service lead: Retrofit Development Manager; LAEP and community energy lead officer.</p> <p>Stakeholders: Climate Team; Economy & Regeneration; Education – schools commissioning; Engagement and Partnership Team; Strategic Assets & FM; Comms</p>	

Overview:

A key proportion of business carbon emissions are those produced as a result of heat and power use in buildings. This area of focus will be centred around information and signposting to services for businesses and making use of any grant schemes that become available. Retrofitting of commercial buildings will be a mix of optimisation, light retrofit and deep retrofit.

In addition, schools are a source of emissions that could be reduced through targeted retrofit projects planned around school operational times. There is interest from communities in decarbonising buildings such as village halls, and this will also be supported through information and signposting.

The council will also develop more targeted projects aimed at supporting businesses to decarbonise their wider operations, and supply chains, and this will overlap with the deliverable on 'Commercial decarbonisation'.

Commercial and community retrofit – what's next for 2025

- Provide a briefing note for community organisations with information on how to decarbonise buildings such as village halls. Resulting projects have potential to be a focus for local energy awareness and community energy projects.
- Seek grant funding to support decarbonisation of businesses (see section on Commercial Decarbonisation).
- Explore the potential for the council to provide capital loans to schools to fund projects to install renewable energy and reduce their energy consumption and costs.

Longer term activity

- Develop a Retrofit Strategy to understand retrofit needs of commercial and community buildings
- Continue to deliver and seek funding for further targeted projects aimed at supporting businesses to decarbonise their wider operations, and supply chains. Where appropriate, this will include promoting the benefits of the community energy model to roof-owners, including those in business parks, community-owned assets, and commercial properties.

Impact:**Direct emissions reduction impact:** High**Overall impact:** Medium**Priority:** High

Rationale: Approximately, 50% of emissions in Wiltshire originate from buildings (Anthesis, 2022b) which underscores the significant role that building emissions play in the county's emission profile. However the commercial and community sector is a smaller share of emissions than domestic buildings. Nevertheless, interventions to decarbonise this sector, such as retrofitting, will generate a substantial impact. Additionally, the emissions reductions from retrofitting are cumulative and multiply with the number of buildings retrofitted, making this intervention scalable and impactful.

Community buildings such as village halls have relatively low energy use, so low potential for GHG emissions reductions. However, they may be important for community buy-in, awareness raising, and adaptation and resilience. There is potential to extend projects to generate renewable energy that is not just used in the building, but serves EV chargers, heat networks and local energy markets.

Retrofit savings have been based on the commercial and public sector emissions for the county in 2019 (Department for Energy Security and Net

	<p>Zero, 2024). Energy efficiency measure savings have been based on the CCC Sixth Carbon Budget Balanced Pathway. Heat Pump installation savings have been based on assuming that each building with a gas boiler is replaced with an ASHP unit. Solar PV calculations are based on average UK performance and a single panel (as roof size is not known for the council's buildings), assuming all electricity is used on-site.</p> <p>Commercial Energy Efficiency Annual Carbon Savings: 29 ktCO₂e. Commercial ASHP Annual Carbon Savings: 33 ktCO₂e. Public Sector Energy Efficiency Annual Carbon Savings: 26 ktCO₂e. Public Sector ASHP Annual Carbon Savings: 42 ktCO₂e. Solar PV Annual Carbon Savings: 20 kgCO₂e per panel.</p>
Co-benefits:	Health and Wellbeing; Local economy;
KPI:	Target:
No KPI to date. Suggestions TBC:	
Number of commercial and community buildings with PV; number of SMEs engaging in the programme	
Number of schools taking part in Energy Sparks / with PV	
Consider how to monitor measures being used to decrease vulnerability to climate change impacts	

B 3	Area of Focus:	New builds and land use
Deliverable:	Promote low-carbon, climate-resilient development and sustainable land use planning	
Outcome:	County-wide carbon reduction; Council carbon reduction; Adaptation and Resilience	
Governance:	<p>Responsible directorate / service: Director Environment; Head of Climate and Environment</p> <p>Service lead: Retrofit Development Manager; Climate-buildings & planning-technical lead officer</p> <p>Stakeholders: Strategic Planning; Development Management; Education – schools commissioning; Capital Projects; Estate and Property - Residential Development (council homes new build).</p>	
Overview:		
<p>Planning policy is the main way that the council can influence new builds and land use, in tandem with providing guidance and engaging with developers more generally.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review is central to the council's approach to supporting low carbon and climate resilient development. Until the new Local Plan is adopted, the council continues to use the planning process to highlight the benefits of renewable and low-carbon energy projects and encourage nature-based solutions to mitigate any negative impacts while maximizing co-benefits through the mitigation hierarchy.</p> <p>Climate and Planning teams will continue to work together to ensure Neighbourhood Plan groups have appropriate evidence that supports climate action.</p>		

The council aims for its new developments to achieve net-zero targets in accordance with its Environmental Policy. A two-page guidance document will be provided to businesses with practical advice on addressing climate change in new developments.

New builds and land use – What’s next for 2025

- Use Modern Methods of Construction for council home delivery, including sites underway at Corsley Heath and Rowde.
- The Local Plan Review is progressed through examination towards adoption, to embed planning policies that advance climate objectives. The plan includes a monitoring framework to track the impact of policies on carbon emissions in Wiltshire.
- Early engagement with applicants, developers and businesses to establish industry best practice in new developments regarding net zero and climate resilience.

Longer term activity

- Ensure all council new builds integrate climate adaptation measures and meet high standards for low carbon and net zero operation, facilitated through requirements of the capital bid process

Impact:

Direct emissions reduction impact: High
Overall impact: High
Priority: High
Rationale: Approximately, 50% of emissions in Wiltshire originate from buildings (Anthesis, 2022b), highlighting the critical importance of ensuring new developments are both energy-efficient and low-carbon. While the council’s current Draft Local Plan (Policy 85) does not mandate Passivhaus standards, it does set robust targets for energy efficiency and renewable energy integration (Wiltshire Council, 2023) including that new developments will demonstrate the following:

- Space heating demand less than 30kWh/m₂/annum
- Total energy use less than 40kWh/m₂/annum
- On site renewable energy generation to match the total energy use, with a preference for roof mounted solar PV, subject to building orientation and heritage considerations
- Connection to a district heating network where one is available

Policy 86 outlines support for renewable energy proposals, which contributes to the wider decarbonisation of the electricity grid, providing further benefit than quantified below and also outlines support for renewable energy proposals. Policy 87 supports lower emissions from embodied carbon, which will provide additional benefits that have not yet been quantified.

Given national uncertainties surrounding new build standards, carbon impact evaluations have been modelled across a range of building standards including current Part L Regulations, Policy 85 Standards, as well as Future Homes Standard and Passivhaus for reference.

Annual Carbon Savings from Buildings at Policy 85 Standards, compared to Current Part L: 1230 kgCO₂e per home without Solar PV, or 1420 kgCO₂e per home with Solar PV.

Annual Carbon Savings from Building at Future Homes Standard, compared to Current Part L: 1180 kgCO₂e per home.

Additional Annual Carbon Savings from Building at Passivhaus, compared to Future Homes Standard: 240 kgCO₂e per home.

Co-benefits:

Health and Wellbeing; Local economy;

KPI:	Target:
B4. EPCs certificates rated A to C / all EPCs registered that year (rolling 3 year average) for all dwellings in Wiltshire (%)	Increasing, and above SW benchmark (54%)
B5a. Energy efficiency of new dwellings: EPC B and above in Wiltshire. (% total EPCs registered that year)	Increasing, and above SW benchmark (91%)
B5b. Space heating demand for new homes in Wiltshire per dwelling (kWh/m2/year)	Decreasing, and below SW benchmark (86)
Review: add KPI to monitor the number of projects where the climate team have been engaged in RIBA Stages 0-2 across Wiltshire	
Review: add KPI to monitor the Number of planning and pre-application consultations provided by climate team, and % within set deadline	Number of consultation responses 100% target for responses provided by deadline.
Review at end of 2025: add KPI to help monitor embodied carbon in new developments, once new Local Plan policy is adopted. Measures as per the Local Plan monitoring framework for Policies 85, 86 and 87	Below 900 kgCO ₂ /m ²

4. Natural Environment, Food and Farming theme

The Climate Strategy objectives for the Natural Environment, Food and Farming are:

- Efficient and environmentally sensitive use of land, providing for the needs of an increasing population and nature: food production, renewable energy generation, housing and transport, alongside woodland creation and nature recovery
- Absorbing carbon, by plants and well-managed soils
- Sustainable, low-carbon food and farming systems
- Protect and extend our network of green spaces and land and water habitats. Make best use of this network of green and blue spaces for biodiversity, active travel, recreation, cooling, shade and absorbing carbon
- Natural water management – improving climate resilience by reducing flood risk and summer droughts, and reducing water use

There are many opportunities to link climate, natural environment and health and wellbeing objectives. The council's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy is a framework that combines these themes, and the council will focus on projects that achieve outcomes in combination. In terms of climate change, the focus for 2025 will be quantification of carbon reduction associated with nature-based projects, and supporting farmers and landowners, as well as the council, to undertake projects that remove carbon dioxide, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve resilience to climate change impacts.

The council will continue to develop its Local Nature Recovery Strategy and identify and implement land-based, nature recovery, biodiversity and nutrient management projects, that will also have positive outcomes for resilience to the impacts of climate change and carbon sequestration.

The approach of working with farmers and landowners through farming networks and clusters will be expanded, with climate adaptation and resilience, and regenerative farming practices at the forefront.

The council's existing tree planting initiatives will continue to build towards the target of an increase of 444 Ha of new trees per year in Wiltshire.

The ongoing activities and new priorities for 2025 are set out in the following tables.

N 1	Area of Focus: Nature recovery, carbon and resilience
Deliverable:	Implement Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy to protect biodiversity, absorb carbon and increase resilience
Outcome:	County-wide carbon reduction; Council carbon reduction; Adaptation and Resilience
Governance:	Responsible directorate / service: Director Environment; Head of Climate and Environment Service lead: Ecology Manager and lead officers for nutrient neutrality, local nature recovery and GAPS team Stakeholders: Climate Team; Spatial Planning; Development Management; Estate and Property – County Farms.
<p>Overview:</p> <p>The council will develop and implement projects that enhance green and blue infrastructure and deliver nature-based solutions for biodiversity, nutrient neutrality, flood risk mitigation, health and wellbeing, carbon sequestration, and climate resilience. Key initiatives include wetland restoration, partnerships with farmers, and projects that integrate access to green spaces, heritage, and active travel. The council will adopt a LNRS for Wiltshire and work within a new Nature Partnership alongside key stakeholders to implement its responsibilities.</p> <p>The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy will be delivered through place-based community engagement, creating local visions or 'settlement strategies' with management objectives and community-led projects.</p> <p><u>Nature recovery, carbon and resilience - What's next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon assessment of projects, to help understand the potential for reducing emissions, increasing carbon sequestration, informing further work with farmers, landowners and partner organisations. • Local Nature Recovery Strategy adoption • Continue to implement the Nutrient Management Plan to reduce pollution from agricultural run-off and improve water quality • Continue to provide input into planning applications with expert feedback in relation to ecology, landscape, design, archaeology and climate <p><u>Longer term activity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with communities to develop place-based 'settlement strategies', incorporating nature recovery, GBI, climate resilience and energy • Identify and deliver projects with communities, landowners and stakeholders for climate adaptation and resilience, also co-delivering outcomes for health and wellbeing, biodiversity, nature recovery. 	
Impact:	Direct emissions reduction impact: Low-Medium

	<p>Overall impact: High</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: This deliverable has the potential for a low carbon impact as it primarily focuses on strategy development and habitat restoration. However, it could increase to medium dependent on the scale and implementation of the measures identified within the strategies. While its direct emissions reductions may be limited compared to other interventions, it will contribute to resilient, adaptive and biodiverse ecosystems, which has a potentially high impact in terms of carbon sequestration and resilience to the impacts of climate change as ecosystems are strengthened. Currently, there is insufficient quantitative data to enable a detailed assessment of this deliverable's carbon impact. Wiltshire Council is the responsible body for the purposes of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Swindon and Wiltshire, so this is an important role and influence for the council on this potential impact.</p>
Co-benefits:	Health and Wellbeing; Local economy; Awareness and empowering; Resilient environment and society
KPI:	Target:
No KPI to date. Suggestions TBC:	
KPI to help monitor the number of restoration projects implemented; number of different species recorded per annum.	
KPI to help monitor the amount of carbon sequestered by tree planting, and other nature recovery projects	
kgTP/yr removed (Nutrient Neutrality) (total phosphorous)	no target – just for information

N 2	Area of Focus:	Tree Planting
Deliverable:	Increase tree planting in Wiltshire, to sequester carbon and enhance outcomes for biodiversity/nature recovery and resilience	
Outcome:	County-wide carbon reduction; Council carbon reduction; Adaptation and Resilience	
Governance:	<p>Responsible directorate / service: Director Environment; Head of Climate and Environment</p> <p>Service lead: Manager and lead officer for GAPS team;</p> <p>Stakeholders: Climate Team; Estate and Property – County Farms; Local Highways; Engagement and Partnerships; Economy and Regeneration, Major Projects and Highways have options to support this work.</p>	
Overview:		
<p>The council will continue to facilitate tree planting by working with landowners, as well as the council planting trees on its own land. The Grant Application and Planting Support (GAPS) Team will provide support to landowners, community groups and local Town and Parish Councils, to deliver more tree planting across the county. This will be done in partnership with Swindon Borough Council's Great Western Community Forest project. The approach is to help to define the scope and aims of projects, help to choose the right tree for the right place, and to find funding suitable for the projects.</p> <p>The team will finalise the Tree and Woodland Planting Strategy and guidance to support these projects, and the council's tree planting practice.</p>		

Any tree planting projects will aim to quantify the carbon sequestered, and carbon credit schemes will be used as appropriate.

Tree Planting – What’s next for 2025

- Continue to work with Wiltshire landowners, organisations and community groups to support tree planting and maintenance plans. The GAPs team has identified the following for 2024-25 planting season so far: 68 Ha of Woodland / 50 individual trees / 6379 m of hedgerow
- Developing a Wiltshire Council Tree and Woodland Planting Strategy to establish targets and advice on planting the right tree in the right place

Longer term activity

- Continue to support the network of Tree Wardens, engaging residents in tree planting, care and maintenance.

Impact:	Direct emissions reduction impact: Medium-High Overall impact: High Priority: High Rationale: Carbon sequestration from tree planting develops gradually, making this deliverable less impactful in the short term but increasingly significant over decades. Planting trees of one hectare (broadleaf woodland with minimal intervention/thinning with low disturbance) sequesters 386 tCO ₂ e over 100 years, therefore the cumulative effect of scaling up tree planting across Wiltshire could lead to substantial carbon savings. Additionally, the broader environmental, social, and resilience benefits make tree planting a vital component of any comprehensive climate strategy, even if short-term carbon impacts are moderate. 5 years from planting: 0 tCO ₂ e per hectare. 10 years from planting: 6 tCO ₂ e per hectare. 50 years from planting: 322 tCO ₂ e per hectare. 100 years from planting: 386 tCO ₂ e per hectare.	
Co-benefits:	Health and Wellbeing; Local economy; Air Quality; Biodiversity; Flood risk mitigation; Awareness and empowering; Resilient environment and society	
KPI:	Target:	
NE2 Hectares of trees planted in Wiltshire. (Includes woodland (0.5ha or more); trees outside woodland (individual trees or areas <0.5ha; hedgerows)	Plant 422ha or 675,000 trees per year on average in the period 2022-2045. 111 Ha during winter season 2023/24. 222 Ha during winter season 2024/25	
Review: Consider adding a KPI to help monitor the amount of carbon sequestered by tree planting, and other nature recovery projects		

N 3	Area of Focus:	Sustainable agriculture
Deliverable:	Work with farmers and landowners on nature recovery, carbon reduction and climate resilience projects	

Outcome:	County-wide carbon reduction; Council carbon reduction; Adaptation and Resilience
Governance:	Responsible directorate / service: Director Environment; Head of Climate and Environment Service lead: Climate Team and GAPS team. Stakeholders: Ecology; Landscape; Heritage and Archaeology; Estate and Property – County Farms; National Landscapes teams; Engagement and Partnerships; Economy and Regeneration.
Overview:	
<p>To complement the action outlined in Deliverable N1 and N2, the council will also explore projects with farmers to enhance the agroforestry landscape with benefits for farm business resilience in a changing climate. Any land-based projects will aim to quantify the carbon sequestered, and carbon credit schemes will be used as appropriate.</p> <p>The council will continue to work with farmers (including County Farms) to explore opportunities for farm business resilience through delivery of objectives for nature recovery, tree planting, carbon reduction and climate resilience in Wiltshire with a focus on supporting farm business case development.</p> <p>The National Landscapes teams work with the council to support farmers in nature recovery and regenerative farming projects, as part of Farming in Protected Landscape schemes.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that agriculture is a significant source of greenhouse gases in Wiltshire, and this is mainly due to methane emissions from livestock, as well as greenhouse gas emissions from farm operations. The council will carry out a study of methane emissions in Wiltshire to find out more about the potential to reduce emissions and identify the role for Wiltshire Council specifically in supporting farms. Opportunities could include farm businesses using anaerobic digestion to produce renewable energy.</p> <p>The council will continue partnership-working with other organisations, such as Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, to deliver climate/nature recovery objectives in the farmed landscape. We will explore partnerships and knowledge sharing with local authorities, universities and business that aim to support reduction of carbon emissions from food and farming, reduction in inputs to farmland and help ensure viability of our rural economy.</p>	
<u>Sustainable agriculture – What’s next for 2025:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with landowners and local farmers to adopt Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) that improve soil health, sequester carbon and enhance biodiversity • Increase farmers' awareness and knowledge of farm business opportunities from climate/nature recovery to the farming community such as the Avon catchment local nutrient mitigation fund availability, and carbon credits • Continue to develop links with the farming community such as Wiltshire Young Farmers and NFU. • Carry out a study to identify the key sources of methane emissions in Wiltshire, identify the role of the council to influence these emissions. 	
<u>Longer term activity:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with farmers (and waste operators) to reduce methane, as informed by the study above 	
Impact:	Direct emissions reduction impact: Medium-High Overall impact: Medium

	<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Rationale: Agriculture accounted for 23% of Wiltshire's total emissions in 2022 (DESNZ, 2024), making it a significant sector to target for decarbonisation. Interventions could yield meaningful reductions in the county's overall carbon footprint while simultaneously providing co-benefits for biodiversity, soil health, and rural communities. The potential scale of impact has been estimated based on the National Farmer's Union 2040 Net Zero Plan, evaluating the impact of various measures to boost productivity and reducing emissions across Wiltshire's agricultural emissions. Potential for emissions reduction, and the council's influence in the farming sector is moderate, so the overall impact and priority is assessed as medium for the short term.</p> <p>Annual Carbon Savings: 180 ktCO₂e.</p>
Co-benefits:	Health and Wellbeing; Local economy; Air Quality; Biodiversity; Flood risk mitigation
KPI:	Target:
No KPIs to date. Suggestions TBC:	
Agricultural emissions & Methane emissions in Wiltshire (DESNZ data)	TBC based on study
% of farmers who have adopted ELMS - this data may be available through the RPA (Rural Payments Agency)	TBC
Projects delivered on farms	
Consider adding a KPI to help monitor the amount of carbon sequestered by tree planting, and other nature recovery projects	

5. Energy

The Climate Strategy objectives for the Energy delivery theme are:

- Existing energy use in Wiltshire to be reduced to allow for decarbonisation
- Heat and electricity to be decarbonised (moving from fossil fuels to alternatives)

In addition to the council's own property carbon reduction and council home energy efficiency programmes, the goals of increasing energy efficiency and using renewable sources of energy are transferable to the Wiltshire-wide objectives, and require delivery in partnership with others, to promote energy demand reduction, a move to cleaner energy sources and overcoming electricity grid constraints. The council tracks the capacity of renewable energy in the county and would like to see more renewable energy being delivered through community-led projects.

Part of the Climate Strategy's energy theme objective is to investigate and progress joined-up Local Area Energy Planning, which is critical to delivering the County's net zero target. Local Area Energy Planning can identify the most cost-effective, integrated, energy systems for a local area to contribute to national and local Net Zero targets, and scale investment faster.

The ongoing activities, and new priorities for 2025 are set out in the following tables.

E 1	Area of Focus: Community-led energy
Deliverable:	Support the development of community energy groups, and empower communities to develop energy plans
Outcome:	County-wide carbon reduction; Adaptation and resilience
Governance:	Owner: Director, Environment; Head of Climate and Environment Service lead: Climate Team energy lead officer and manager Stakeholders: Economy and Regeneration; Climate Team - Retrofit; Capital Projects; Strategic Assets & FM - Energy Team; School Commissioning. LAEP Internal Working Group Community Energy roundtable
<p>Overview:</p> <p>Community energy involves community-led renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, typically owned by the community, and is an effective way to accelerate the rollout of energy initiatives. Many organisations and businesses in Wiltshire, including community energy groups, are already leading renewable energy projects, and these efforts can be built upon.</p> <p>Beyond addressing climate change, energy security, and fuel poverty, community energy initiatives foster trust and cooperation by providing common ground for communities that may not usually interact. These models enable renewable energy installations where building owners lack capital by allowing community groups to raise funds and install technologies like solar panels. In local energy markets, the benefits can extend to local residents, offering discounted energy when not in use by the building. The council plans to explore these models and collaborate with communities to develop visions and plans for community-led energy projects, empowering individuals and bringing economic benefits to the area.</p> <p><u>Community Energy - What's next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Energy Landscapes project with Centre for Sustainable Energy, working with a small number of communities in Wiltshire to develop a vision and plan for community-led energy • Continue to convene regular roundtable with community energy groups operating in Wiltshire to ensure the council is supporting where needed • Encourage businesses, schools and community organisations to consider viable models for renewable energy generation, including community energy <p><u>Longer term activity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify community-led energy projects, through the Future Energy Landscapes project, and Local Area Energy Plan. • Access support and feasibility studies through the South West Net Zero Hub to develop projects and investment. 	
Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: High</p> <p>Overall impact: Medium</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Rationale: This deliverable primarily focuses on building capacity, fostering collaboration, as well as progressing potential renewable energy projects. Therefore, the impact will be dependent on the scale, technology and implementation of these projects. Currently, there lacks sufficient quantitative data on the types of projects that will be progressed to enable assessment of the carbon impact.</p>

	However, increasing the amount of community energy projects in Wiltshire will help to decarbonise the electricity grid and provide zero carbon / renewable energy sources for Wiltshire communities often at lower cost and return on investment for community shareholders. It can also be a helpful, positive way to engage communities with energy and climate issues, and if this approach is successful, the impact could change to high in this respect.
Co-benefits:	Lower energy bills. Resilient environment and society (Community cohesion). Awareness and engagement.
KPI:	Target:
No KPI to date. Suggestions TBC:	
Number of renewable energy / community energy projects implemented Total energy generated (kWh) from renewable sources Capacity installed via community energy projects	
Surveys, evidence, Stories or testimonials highlighting positive impact of projects. Numbers of households / communities / investors involved in community-led energy projects	

E 2	Area of Focus:	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)
Deliverable:	Develop and begin implementation of LAEP framework, to identify strategic priorities for grid upgrades, and create an energy system to support the net zero transition.	
Outcome:	Council carbon reduction; County-wide carbon reduction; Adaptation and resilience	
Governance:	Owner: Director, Environment; Head of Climate and Environment Service lead: Climate Team energy lead officer and manager Stakeholders: Economy and Regeneration; Spatial Planning; Climate Team - Retrofit; Capital Projects; Strategic Assets & FM - Energy Team; Major Projects; School Commissioning; Highway Operations. LAEP Internal Working Group	
Overview:	<p>Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) are recognised as the leading method for translating national net zero targets into local energy system action with plans that are collaborative, data-driven, and cost-effective. LAEPs are led by local government and developed collaboratively with defined stakeholders. The results are a fully costed, spatial plan that identifies the change needed to the local energy system and built environment, detailing 'what, where and when and by whom'. LAEP sets out the total costs, changes in energy use and emissions, and sets these out over incremental time periods to meet the 2030 target of a 68% reduction in emissions, and the 2035 target of a 78% reduction in emissions, and net zero by 2050.</p> <p>The council has started work to understand Wiltshire's current energy system and to identify the most cost-effective way to contribute to national and local net zero targets. This project will pave the way for a formal Wiltshire LAEP. Wiltshire Council is also piloting the 'Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator' (LENZA) tool from Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks</p>	

(SSEN) as part of its LAEP. LENZA will aid in baselining, data analysis, and developing the LAEP, along with planning EV infrastructure, renewables, and retrofits.

Local Area Energy Planning - What's next for 2025

- The council will continue to work on early stages of Local Area Energy Plan process, and prepare the engagement and data to support a formal Wiltshire Local Area Energy Plan.
- Work with South West Net Zero Hub and south west local authorities on LAEP project to progress into the stage of engaging stakeholders to incorporate their energy uses and future plans into the Local Area Energy Plan

Longer term activity

- Work with partners to identify renewable energy projects, through the Local Area Energy Plan and Economic Strategy.
- Access support and feasibility studies through the South West Net Zero Hub to develop projects and investment.

Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: Low-Medium</p> <p>Overall impact: High</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: Whilst developing the LAEP is critical for ensuring a cohesive plan for energy decarbonisation across Wiltshire, as the deliverable primarily refers to strategy development the direct carbon impact is anticipated to be low. However, the outputs of the LAEP and resulting projects will be critical to supporting energy decarbonisation and could have a high impact. Currently, there is insufficient quantitative data to enable a detailed assessment of this deliverable's carbon impact.</p>
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Co-benefits:	Improved Decision-Making. Stakeholder Engagement. Policy Alignment. Future-Ready Planning. Innovation Opportunities. Cost Optimisation. Accelerated Implementation. Investment Attraction. Social and Economic Benefits (e.g., job creation and reduced energy poverty)
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KPI:	Target:
No KPI to date. Difficult to monitor with an indicator or measure, but signs of success would be:	
LAEP framework developing, with resulting pipeline of projects. – Number of projects with feasibility study, and financial implementation plan	
Number of grid upgrades (number may not be important)	
Renewable energy projects / installed capacity	
Measure of transition to a low carbon energy system: Reduction in energy consumption from fossil fuels (DESNZ data set)	

6. Green and Circular Economy

The green economy section of the climate strategy has two main objectives:

- To grow the green economy in Wiltshire, increasing capacity and skills in key sectors to meet demand and delivery targets
- Wiltshire businesses take action to become carbon neutral and climate resilient

According to national data on *territorial* emissions, the sectors with lower sources of emissions within Wiltshire are waste and commercial / businesses, however this is still an area with a lot of potential for carbon reduction and perhaps more importantly for innovation and supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. The council's role may be limited, as commercial interest may override the motivation to reduce carbon emissions, especially for smaller enterprises. However, businesses above a certain size are required to report their emissions and action plan progress through the [Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme \(ESOS\)](#).

Supporting green businesses to grow in size and number will be aided by the Local Area Energy Plan and the Economic Strategy. The LAEP will clarify potential for growth in the renewables and energy sector, and identify a pipeline of deliverable and investable projects to support the transition to low carbon energy system and economy. Opportunities include renewable energy development, home energy retrofit installation, future fuel refuelling infrastructure (including EV charging, and potentially hydrogen), sustainable construction as well as innovation in circular resource use, recycling and waste management. This will need to be supported by training to develop the right skills in the workforce.

On the doorstep, Swindon is home to the Innovation Centre for Applied Sustainable Technologies (iCAST), a joint collaboration between the universities of Bath and Oxford to drive forward innovation and commercial application of groundbreaking research in sustainable chemicals and chemical engineering.

Green growth encompasses concepts of lower-carbon travel aligned to new housing and employment, with opportunities underpinned by the development and delivery of Local Area Energy Plans.

The ongoing activities, and new priorities for 2025 are set out in the following tables.

G 1	Area of Focus:	Upskilling and Green skills
Deliverable:	Increase green skills and training opportunities to support climate objectives	
Outcome:	County-wide carbon reduction; Adaptation and resilience	
Governance:	Owner: Director for Education and Skills Service lead: Targeted Education. Stakeholders: Economy and Regeneration; Climate Team (Energy, Retrofit); School Effectiveness. Education and Skills (Directorate)	
Overview:		
Nationally there is a shortage of installers with the skills necessary work to carry out retrofit of buildings. In Wiltshire there is more demand than supply of skilled engineers and other STEM qualified workers. There are opportunities to increase skills, inspire and retain young people		

and innovate in this theme. Green skills and knowledge are important to make sure the changes from the other themes can be implemented.

The low carbon and renewables sectors, and green skills are an important part of future-proofing and diversifying our economy and workforce. The draft Economic Strategy for Swindon and Wiltshire 2025/26 includes increasing green skills to match the needs of the workforce to support the transition to a low carbon economy and energy system. Upskilling of the business community includes sustainability awareness and general management skills for any business wishing to improve its sustainability performance.

Our focus will continue to be on stimulating local supply chains through investments in housing and renewable technologies. We will also work with training providers, such as Wiltshire College and the National Self Build and Renovation Centre in Swindon, to increase the courses and training opportunities for trades and students wishing to upskill. There is also potential to build on the council's existing work to support the farming sector through agri-tech and carbon sequestration projects that can help to generate income and a resilient business model.

Implementation will be via the Economic Strategy for Swindon and Wiltshire and link to the needs and priorities for training identified in the [Local Skills Improvement Plan](#) (LSIP) which helps to match skills to the future jobs, including those needed for the net zero transition.

Green skills – What’s next for 2025

- Work with training providers (e.g. Lackham; Swindon Self-build centre) Wiltshire Careers Hub to improve skills required for Net Zero
- Work with Business West, and relevant partners, to understand the current skills and qualifications in the local workforce to support retrofit and renewables, carry out an audit of existing training available. Identify opportunities for the council to support skills and training in Wiltshire.

Longer term activity

- The draft Economic Strategy for Swindon and Wiltshire seeks to use green construction techniques and drive the development of green skills within our workforce

Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: Low</p> <p>Overall impact: Medium</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: This deliverable serves as a critical enabling deliverable to ensure Wiltshire is well-prepared for the net zero transition, fostering a skilled workforce capable of implementing a range of decarbonisation technologies. While the direct carbon impact of this action is anticipated to be low, its importance lies in laying the groundwork for future emissions reductions across multiple sectors. Currently, there is insufficient quantitative data to enable a detailed assessment of this deliverable’s carbon impact.</p>
Co-benefits:	Awareness and empowering; Resilient environment and society; Capacity building and efficiency; Thriving economy and right skills
KPI:	Target:
No KPI to date. Suggestions TBC	
Number of existing / new training programmes; workforce skill improvement; participation in training programmes.	

G 2	Area of Focus:	Commercial decarbonisation and circular economy
Deliverable:	Work with Wiltshire organisations, contractors, and businesses to reduce carbon emissions from their operations, including commercial waste and supporting circular economy initiatives	
Outcome:	Council carbon reduction; County-wide carbon reduction; Adaptation and resilience	
Governance:	<p>Owner: Director, Environment; Head of Economy and Regeneration.</p> <p>Service leads: Economic Development Service Manager; Swindon and Wiltshire Business Growth Unit</p> <p>Stakeholders: Climate Team (Energy, Retrofit); Waste services; Engagement and Partnerships.</p>	
<p>Overview:</p> <p>The council aims to support businesses in moving towards increased energy efficiency and resilience to the impacts of climate change. We want to encourage investment in green and renewable business in Wiltshire and build up skills and supply chains to support delivery of retrofit and renewables.</p> <p>The council's role is through the (draft) Economic Strategy for Swindon and focusses on integrating climate objectives into existing activity and partnerships.</p> <p>Additionally, the council can also provide information via business e-newsletters and business networks and targeted projects will assist businesses with their energy efficiency (see 'Commercial and community retrofit' deliverable).</p> <p>According to national data on <i>territorial</i> emissions, the sectors with lower sources of emissions within Wiltshire are waste and commercial / businesses but they could have a wider impact outside of Wiltshire's borders, for example from their supply chains, transport and freight. We also want to work with waste operators to explore the potential for short term methane reduction.</p> <p>We want to understand more about the carbon emissions associated with Wiltshire businesses and their potential to reduce emissions from operations and supply chains, and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. We want to support businesses in learning from each other and find out how the council can enable businesses to achieve impacts at scale.</p> <p>Ongoing support to businesses via the Swindon and Wiltshire Growth Hub and the council's Economy and Regeneration programme will integrate climate objectives into delivery.</p> <p><u>Commercial decarbonisation and circular economy - What's next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Chippenham Avon Project, which includes measures for flood risk mitigation • Continuing, through the Towns Programme, to seek out and encourage new opportunities of national funding sources to support new tree planting in our urban areas • Seek funding to continue providing grants to businesses to incentivise reducing energy consumption and decarbonisation, such as the Fit for Net Zero scheme. • Proactive work to clarify planning requirements - with developers, businesses investing • Broadband Programme delivery through Project Gigabit 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with commercial waste operators to explore the potential for methane reduction and circular solutions, including setting up re-use and recycling schemes that involve Wiltshire businesses and their supply chains. <p><u>Longer term activity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green and renewables sector – focus on retrofit, and making sure these benefit local suppliers and economy where possible 	
Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: Medium</p> <p>Overall impact: Medium</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Rationale: This deliverable has the potential for a medium carbon impact, driven by its focus on reducing emissions from commercial waste management and promoting circular economy practices. While the carbon reductions from this initiative may vary based on the scope and uptake of proposed strategies, the collaborative approach and targeted interventions in high-emission areas position it to deliver meaningful benefits. Currently, there is insufficient quantitative data to enable a detailed assessment of this deliverable’s carbon impact.</p>
Co-benefits:	Thriving economy and right skills; Awareness and empowering; Capacity building and efficiency
KPI:	Target:
G1. Emissions from Wiltshire Council's key suppliers in CO ₂ e Review: consider adding KPIs to measure Councils Scope 3 emissions; Contractors measuring and recording their scope 1,2 & 3 emissions.	
Review: consider KPIs to monitor Reduction in emissions associated waste (DESNZ data); commercial waste diverted from landfill, through circular economy projects; Businesses signing up to projects such as Fit for Net Zero	

7. Adaptation and Resilience

The Climate Strategy objectives for Adaptation and Resilience are to plan to be able to cope with the impacts of climate change associated with a 2°C rise in global temperature

The findings of the Climate Change Committee (CCC) in their March 2023 report indicated that the UK is not adequately planning for the impacts of climate change associated with a 2°C rise in temperature and should also be considering the impacts of scenarios associated with a 4°C rise.

Wiltshire Council is responsible for ensuring our services, assets and activities are resilient to the impacts of climate change. Climate change is already bringing more severe weather to Wiltshire. The impacts for Wiltshire will be warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers, with more instability in weather patterns. More heavy rain is causing increasing fluvial and surface water flooding, storms are causing structural damage, and heatwaves are damaging infrastructure and putting the health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups at risk. In future years we can expect to see more extreme weather events as global temperatures continue to increase.

Wiltshire Council supports many vulnerable residents, and we want to make sure that everyone is included and able to become resilient to the impacts of climate change.

A 1	Area of Focus:	Climate Adaptation
Deliverable:	Implement a Climate Adaptation Plan that enhances the resilience of Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire communities to climate change.	
Outcome:	Adaptation and resilience	
Governance:	Owner: Director, Environment; Head of Climate and Environment. Service lead: Climate Team - Adaptation lead officer and manager. Stakeholders: Key services - Adult Social Care, Commissioning; Families and Children; Highways; Waste Services; Strategic Assets and FM; Climate and Environment (Ecology, LNRS, Nutrient Neutrality, BNG; Landscape – GBI, Tree Planting); Comms; Emergency Planning; Customer Services; Public Health; Planning; Libraries, Culture and Communities; Education and Skills.	
<p>Overview:</p> <p>During 2024 there was a fundamental review of the Wiltshire Council Climate Change Adaptation Plan, with a new plan due to be adopted in 2025. This shows the councils commitment to implement actions that enhance Wiltshire’s resilience to climate change. These actions will be linked to specific climate risks, with clear ownership, timelines, and monitoring, developed in collaboration with key services, embedding the consideration of climate risk, and necessary mitigation into council business, using climate change risk assessments.</p> <p>The council will monitor its responses to severe weather, such as flooding incidents or heatwaves and associated follow up investigation and action, to inform additional mitigation or resources needs over time.</p> <p>Focussed efforts on flooding with continue to be via the North and South Operational Flood Working Groups including key messaging to communities, and we will continue to encourage Town and parish councils to participate in the flood working groups and to develop Flood Plans and Emergency Plans for their areas.</p> <p>Existing networks will support community prevention, preparedness and response to future sever weather events, including working through the Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Team, Area Boards, and Town and Parish Councils.</p> <p>Learning from delivering the Marlborough Rapid Adaptation Pathway Assessment (RAPA) will inform future engagement with stakeholders to make places and communities more resilient to future climate change including mid-century and end of century scenarios.</p> <p><u>Climate Adaptation – What’s next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council Climate Adaptation Plan to be produced by March 2025 • Make the Climate Adaptation Plan available to stakeholders, as a basis for their own adaptation planning and potential partnership working with the council • Council service areas will continue to identify risks to their service and customers due to the impacts of climate change, understand the adaptation actions needed, and timeframe for delivery, and build adaptation and resilience into projects and service delivery • Continue to deliver environmental mitigation projects, and quantify the climate benefits as much as possible • Continue to chair and convene Wiltshire and Swindon Local Resilience Forum 		

<u>Longer term activity</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify specific need and opportunities to work in partnership to improve resilience in Wiltshire communities. 	
Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: Low</p> <p>Overall impact: High</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: This deliverable is an enabling mechanism, focusing on formalising a structure of reporting and monitoring as well as engagement with the local community. While the direct carbon impact of this deliverable is expected to be low, its importance lies in ensuring that the council is preparing to be resilient to climate impacts, so that it can continue to deliver its services, and respond to severe weather events, managing one of the council's strategic risks. Over time the focus will broaden to supporting residents, businesses and organisations, and the natural environment to be resilient to the impacts of climate change. Impacts will depend on how well the plan (this deliverable) and its actions are embedded into council's delivery programme, and progress toward climate objectives is effectively tracked, measured, and communicated.</p>
Co-benefits:	Awareness and empowering; Resilient environment and society; capacity building and efficiency; Leading by example
KPI:	Target:
KPIs to be developed as part of the Adaptation Plan	

8. Cross-cutting, Enabling and Empowering

Cross-cutting areas of action are those that help to deliver across all themes of the Climate Strategy and involve all service areas of the council. Our approach and a critical part of implementing this Climate Delivery Plan is ensuring that climate considerations are integrated into council projects, processes and decision-making, and part of business as usual. This way all of the council's activity can be aligned and help to deliver our carbon neutrality and resilience aspirations for the council and the county. In addition to business-as-usual activity being adjusted towards climate goals, the council will use the available data (such as DESNZ local authority emissions data) and commission additional work as needed to ensure that decisions and project development are based on up to date evidence.

As well as directly influencing activities that can contribute to climate objectives, the council also wants to partner with key organisations and empower residents and communities to take action on climate. Our approach to date has mainly been with and through town and parish councils, Community Area Boards, as well as working with relevant stakeholders on specific projects. Details of some of the environmental projects that have been supported through £60,000 area board funding was included in the '[Climate Update 2024](#)'.

We plan to engage more with communities and relevant partner organisations, through projects, and increasingly through place-based, place-shaping and visioning approaches which will empower communities to reach a shared goal for transition to net zero and resilience, alongside other important aspects such as open space, access to services, support with health, wellbeing, local economy and jobs. It will also help the council, with

communities and partner organisations, to understand needs and aspirations of communities and identify specific projects, for which to seek funding.

A key part of this plan has been to clarify costs where currently available, and as the detail of delivery is refined, we will develop realistic and innovative ways to finance the plan. Green finance options will be explored, including inviting private investment, harnessing carbon offsetting mechanisms, crowd funding and community bonds, contributions from council suppliers and developers.

The ongoing activities, and new priorities for 2025 are set out in the following tables.

X 1	Area of Focus:	Staff engagement and training
Deliverable:	Develop and roll-out Carbon Literacy Training across council staff, and support staff to integrate climate objectives into business-as-usual	
Outcome:	Council carbon reduction; County-wide carbon reduction; Adaptation and Resilience	
Governance:	Owner: Director, Environment; Head of Climate and Environment. Service lead: Climate Team lead officer and manager. Stakeholders: Climate and Environment service – as trainers; Democratic services; ALL services	
<p>Overview:</p> <p>The council will continue to encourage staff and elected members to undertake in-house training accredited by the Carbon Literacy Project. Each participant of the course must pledge two actions for carbon reduction in the workplace. These actions not only support the council’s climate objectives, but also help to ensure that climate awareness and considerations in project development and decision-making becomes part of business as usual.</p> <p>The council is already a Bronze award recipient, and aims to achieve the Silver award from the Carbon Literacy Project, which involves training over 800 staff.</p> <p>To support the implementation of pledges and share ideas of how colleagues are incorporating climate objectives into their work and homelife, the Green Scene staff network has been set up. This will be a channel for communication among over 5,000 staff, and an opportunity to gain feedback on council initiatives and communications before sharing with the wider public.</p> <p><u>Staff engagement and training - What’s next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to offer Carbon Literacy training for staff and councillors • Establish the ‘Green Scene’ as an internal communication and sharing network for staff <p><u>Longer term activity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to accredit an increasing number of staff through the Carbon Literacy Project (CLP), working towards having trained 15% of staff (over 800) to achieve the CLP Silver award 		
Impact:	Direct emissions reduction impact: Low – Medium (difficult to quantify) Overall impact: High Priority: High	

	<p>Rationale: The development and roll-out of carbon literacy training is an enabling deliverable that primarily focuses on building awareness and capacity among council staff to support Wiltshire’s climate objectives. While the direct carbon impact of this initiative is anticipated to be low, its indirect impact can be significant over time, as it empowers staff to embed carbon-conscious decision-making and practices across the organisation. It also supports behaviour change and the cascade effect, with training being discussed with family, friends & colleagues.</p> <p>Currently, there is insufficient quantitative data to enable a detailed assessment of this deliverable’s carbon impact.</p>
Co-benefits:	Health and wellbeing, fair and inclusive, resilient environment and society, awareness and empowering, leading by example + others depending on the nature of the pledge/action.
KPI:	Target:
C8 Number of staff completing carbon literacy training Review: Change KPI to match the target: ‘Number of staff accredited through Carbon Literacy training’ (and include % to tie into target of 20%)’	Bronze carbon literacy award by July 2023; Silver carbon literacy award by end 2025 (20% staff certified carbon literate)

X 2	Area of Focus:	Decision Making and Processes
Deliverable:	Embed Climate Objectives into Council Processes and Decision-Making	
Outcome:	Council carbon reduction; County-wide carbon reduction; Adaptation and Resilience	
Governance:	<p>Owner: Director, Environment; Head of Climate and Environment. With Legal and Governance</p> <p>Service leads: Climate Manager & Senior Corporate Manager – Executive Office</p> <p>Stakeholders: Capital Projects; Data & Insight; Legal and Governance; Corporate Governance Group; ALL Key services</p>	
Overview:	<p>Embedding climate objectives into business operations is a core aim of this plan, supporting all delivery themes. By continuously reviewing council processes and integrating climate considerations, alongside carbon literacy training, the council ensures that staff align service delivery with climate goals. This contributes to the Climate Strategy across regulatory roles, community and business engagement, and the management of infrastructure and the natural environment.</p> <p>The existing Environmental Policy sets out how the council is mitigating its environmental impacts. Flowing from this it will be important to ensure that all business cases include relevant climate impacts and associated costs, savings and co-benefits, in order to inform decisions and strategic planning. Therefore the area of focus to ‘embed climate objectives into council processes and decision-making’ underpins the delivery plan, and is supported by Carbon Literacy Training.</p> <p>In this way, delivery of the climate objectives will be shared across the whole council, and delivered through business as usual, and will involve partnerships with organisations outside the council as necessary.</p>	

Governance supporting delivery will include oversight at a senior management level of performance against this delivery plan, as well as management of the strategic climate risks included in the corporate risk register.

Decision-making and processes - What's next for 2025

- Develop further guidance and tools to ensure proportionate carbon assessment is part of any project (e.g. on council land or external projects), procurement and decisions.

Longer term activity

- Ensure that all climate projects fully consider and monitor impacts on wider council objectives, especially any unforeseen or avoidable negative impacts on vulnerable or underrepresented groups, aiming to work towards a 'just and fair transition' to a carbon neutral Wiltshire

Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: Medium</p> <p>Overall impact: High</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: This is a foundational and enabling deliverable with the potential to drive medium carbon impact over time by integrating climate considerations into all aspects of the council's operations. While the direct carbon reductions from this initiative may be low, its systemic approach ensures that all council activities contribute to meeting climate targets and reducing emissions.</p>
Co-benefits:	Capacity building and efficiency; Awareness and empowering; Leading by example
KPI:	Target:
<p>No KPI to date</p> <p>Difficult to monitor with an indicator or measure, but signs of success might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how many cabinet reports incorporate relevant climate considerations (% target) • Impact assessment process developed and adopted • Capital projects including climate considerations in their business case. • Service plans integrating Climate Delivery Plan actions • Council's own new build (and budgeted) is designed to be net zero in operation • Procurement tenders and key contracts all include climate requirements. Key contracts all provide climate data and have a carbon reduction management plan. All key sectors for resilience have this built into their contracts 	

X 3	Area of Focus:	Green Finance and carbon offsetting
Deliverable:	Develop green finance, carbon accounting and offsetting, to enable projects that sequester carbon, avoid carbon emissions, and adapt to climate change.	
Outcome:	Council carbon reduction; County-wide carbon reduction; Adaptation and Resilience	
Governance:	Owner: Director, Environment; Head of Climate and Environment. Service lead: Climate Manager	

	Stakeholders: Ecology; Finance and Procurement; Climate Team – retrofit, energy. GAPS team. Strategic Assets & FM; Estate and Property; Engagement and Partnerships.	
<p>Overview:</p> <p>To achieve carbon neutrality, the council will offset residual emissions from its operations. The principles for offsetting will be discussed and agreed upon, with options presented to the cabinet for consideration.</p> <p>By 2030, the Wiltshire area will also have residual emissions that need to be offset to reach carbon neutrality. While these emissions are not the council's responsibility, it can play a role in facilitating offset opportunities, ideally through local projects that benefit residents and businesses. Offsetting may include both carbon emissions avoidance and carbon dioxide removal, through initiatives such as tree planting, soil regeneration, wetlands, and energy efficiency projects. These projects will also provide co-benefits such as improved biodiversity, energy efficiency, and flood risk mitigation.</p> <p>A detailed proposal for offsetting will be presented to the cabinet in 2025. The council will explore setting up a 'Climate Fund' to attract green finance, enabling projects that may not otherwise be feasible.</p> <p><u>Green finance and carbon offsetting - What's next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive Carbon Offsetting Strategy and Action Plan will be proposed in 2025, to discuss the options for carbon offsetting. • Develop the financial implementation plan for this Climate Delivery Plan as further detail is known about specific delivery and projects, with associated impacts and costs <p><u>Longer term activity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore setting up a dedicated Climate Fund to finance carbon reduction and climate adaptation projects and develop a marketplace to connect local projects with funding opportunities 		
Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: Low - Medium</p> <p>Overall impact: High</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: This deliverable has the potential for a low-medium carbon impact, but its effectiveness is highly dependent on the scale, scope, and successful implementation of the initiatives, as well as their primary focus. If the deliverable emphasises carbon removals, such as through nature-based solutions or soil carbon sequestration, the impact is likely to be higher. Conversely, if the focus is primarily on offsetting mechanisms, the carbon impact may be lower. Additionally, the lack of sufficient quantitative data at this stage limits the ability to accurately evaluate its overall carbon impact. Additional impact will come via the ability of an offsetting scheme to generate finance for carbon reduction projects in the county, and this would have a potentially high impact.</p>	
Co-benefits:	Awareness and empowering; Capacity building and efficiency; Green and Blue Infrastructure	
KPI:		Target:
<p>No KPI to date. Suggestions TBC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of projects initiated / money paid out to support projects; measures related to the outcomes of specific projects 		No target in the first year – just for information and monitoring.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of businesses using the council's climate fund / mechanism to invest or donate funds in climate projects • Money drawn into the climate fund • Volunteer hours banked 	
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X 4	Area of Focus:	Engagement with stakeholders
Deliverable:	Provide information and actively engage with stakeholders to maximise the impact on climate change in Wiltshire.	
Outcome:	Council carbon reduction; County-wide carbon reduction; Adaptation and Resilience	
Governance:	Owner: Director, Environment; Head of Climate and Environment. Service lead: Climate Team – managers and project / theme leads. Stakeholders: Communications. Engagement and Partnerships. Waste services. GAPS team. Sustainable transport. Economy and Regeneration.	
<p>Overview:</p> <p>The activity in this section covers general comms and engagement methods with businesses and encompasses all the council does to engage with stakeholders, participate in knowledge sharing, networks and events, and develop projects with partners.</p> <p>The council actively collaborates with partners and suppliers on projects like the Home Upgrade Grant and supporting Wiltshire Climate Alliance in running Green Open Homes events. The council also leads the Public Sector Climate Working Group, and participates in national and regional boards to share insights and expertise. The council (particularly elected members and the Leader of the council as well as senior officers) use these networks and individual opportunities to influence and lobby national policy and programmes.</p> <p><u>Engagement with stakeholders - What's next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council will continue to use its communications such as press articles, e-newsletter, website and social media to share best practice and encourage sustainable practices by businesses, and these messages may be combined with waste, transport and air quality themes. • The council is working with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to pilot their Blue Business Awards and businesses will be encouraged to take part in reviewing their impact on the water environment as part of wider climate and environment good practice. • Work in partnership with Wiltshire Climate Alliance, businesses, local councils and community groups towards a Wiltshire event to showcase sustainable practices and journeys towards decarbonisation. A particular aim is for businesses to increase visibility of net zero targets and action plans, including meaningful decarbonisation of their supply chains and plans for climate adaptation and resilience. <p><u>Longer term activity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to develop projects and identify funding, in partnership with key organisations, to deliver carbon reduction and climate adaptation projects • Ensure that existing networks and partnerships continue to benefit from knowledge sharing, as well as developing collaborative projects where this is appropriate and can add value to what organisations are doing individually 		
Impact:	Direct emissions reduction impact: Low	

	<p>Overall impact: High</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: This deliverable primarily focuses on building capacity and fostering collaboration and lacks sufficient quantitative data on the types of projects that will be progressed to enable assessment of the carbon impact. However, as an enabling deliverable, it plays a critical role as the council cannot achieve carbon neutrality for Wiltshire without working in partnership with key local organisations.</p>
Co-benefits:	Awareness and empowering; Resilient environment and society; Thriving economy and right skills; Capacity building and efficiency; Leading by example
KPI:	Target:
No KPI to date. Suggestions TBC:	
Businesses engaging with climate fund	
e-newsletter articles each quarter / year.	

X 5	Area of Focus:	Community Climate Action
Deliverable:	Empower Wiltshire communities to contribute towards climate action.	
Outcome:	Council carbon reduction; County-wide carbon reduction; Adaptation and Resilience	
Governance:	<p>Owner: Director, Environment; Head of Climate and Environment.</p> <p>Service lead: Climate Team – managers, and community engagement officer to be proposed.</p> <p>Stakeholders: Communications. HR Staff Engagement; Engagement and Partnerships. Waste services. GAPS team. Sustainable transport.</p>	
Overview:	<p>Effective communication and engagement with residents and community groups are essential as the council focuses on county-wide climate action and partnerships. The council aims to clarify where it can influence and support action, and where others should lead, with council support such as providing data and guidance on impactful, scalable actions.</p> <p>Area boards and town and parish councils offer key channels for communication and action, with many already including climate priorities in their action plans. Communications on climate action will continue through broad messaging via social media, press releases, and newsletters, while tangible engagement will focus on specific, place-based projects, like the Future Energy Landscapes project.</p> <p>Wiltshire’s Climate and Environment Forum serves as a sounding board for council initiatives, and the council will partner with relevant organisations to host events, such as the Climate and Environment Summer Showcase, to bring stakeholders together for action. Community Conversations and place-based groups will help develop local carbon reduction, energy generation, and adaptation projects. The council will also work with partners to explore how carbon literacy training can support county-wide action.</p> <p><u>Community climate action – What’s next for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to use the council's e-newsletter, social media, website and press articles to promote community action on climate change 	

- Explore climate awareness or training for communities
- A 'menu' of project ideas has been created for Area Boards, and this will be followed up with Area Boards to support climate and environment projects within the context of their annual action plans
- Explore how activity within Area Boards and good practice can be shared, and further guidance and support developed.
- Schedule a programme of topics for the Climate and Environment Forum to help shape the council's communications and projects
- Wiltshire Council will continue to work in partnership with Wiltshire Climate Alliance and Area Board groups to create events, building on the success of the 2024 Climate and Environment Summer Showcase, to bring together multiple stakeholders including residents, to share ideas and good practice, and generate tangible action to tackle key areas of emissions in Wiltshire.
- Roll out 'Green Scene' champions network, intranet site and resources to support staff to implement climate objectives in their workplace and at home.

Longer term activity

- Ensure that the council's website clearly explains how residents can get involved in implementation of climate actions within their communities, and contribute to the further development of the council's Climate Strategy delivery

Impact:	<p>Direct emissions reduction impact: Low</p> <p>Overall impact: High</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Rationale: This deliverable primarily focuses on building capacity and fostering collaboration and lacks sufficient quantitative data on the types of projects that will be progressed to enable assessment of the carbon impact. However, as an enabling deliverable, it plays a critical role by equipping communities, raising awareness, and fostering local ownership of climate solutions. These foundational efforts are essential for driving future, more impactful climate initiatives.</p>	
Co-benefits:	Awareness and empowering; Resilient environment and society;	
KPI:	Target:	
<p>X8 – social media engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website and social media engagement in response to climate campaigns (Total click-throughs on climate-related posts) • Reach (reflects times a post is read) • Engagement rate (reactions to a post in relation to views) 	Consistent level of engagement in relation to posts and press releases	
Review: consider adding a KPI to reflect e-newsletter articles each quarter / year.		
Review: consider adding a KPI to monitor funding secured to deliver community projects, perhaps via area board funding.		