

# Climate Change Strategy

2023 - 2030

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# Foreword



*Caring for the environment is a key principle of our Corporate Strategy and our day-to-day operations are integral to this, such as maintaining over 600 acres of open spaces, including the ancient Outwoods woodland, and operating the recycling and refuse service.*

*A key element is also, taking action to reduce our contribution to Climate Change within our own operations and the Borough. Since 2013 the Council has significantly reduced emissions from its own operations, for example, in heating, lighting, transport, and waste. Our Climate Action Board and dedicated Sustainability Officer are monitoring our work towards becoming Carbon Neutral within our operations by 2030. The Council supports Leicestershire County Council's Net Zero Carbon 2045 ambition for the County and its vision for a 'cleaner, greener Leicestershire'. Within Charnwood Borough, we will work to influence businesses, residents and other stakeholders, to reduce their emissions although total emissions for the Borough are outside of the Council's direct control.*

*Our 2023-2030 Climate Change Strategy sets out the Council's commitment to take local action on Climate Change, through our adoption of a series of focused themes: Transport, Buildings, Housing & Heating (energy), Planning, Land Use & Biodiversity, Governance & Finance, Business & Economy, Resources & Waste, and Partnerships and Communication. The Strategy will help the Council to meet its statutory environmental duties. Addressing climate change risks will bring opportunities and lasting benefits for the Borough. These include savings on energy bills, encouraging renewable energy in the transition to a low carbon economy, strengthening business competitiveness, enhancing energy security, reducing air pollutants, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, reducing flood risks and managing the impacts of extreme weather. Considering Climate Change and the impact our decisions and activities have on it are now 'business as usual' for the Council. The Climate Change agenda features strongly in the areas of staff training, strategic partnerships, and policy implementation.*

*The strategy will work alongside the Carbon Neutral Plan, but has a broader scope and looks at how the Council can influence others to reduce climate impact in Charnwood and the local environment. Climate Change is a collective issue and we can all make changes to our lifestyles to reduce our impact on the environment. Together, these contributions will influence the extent to which the climate changes. We will provide leadership across the Borough in terms of climate responsibility. We recognise the key role that the Council has in supporting and promoting these local actions and supporting local people and businesses in the move to a low carbon future.*

*The Council has launched a new vision statement for Charnwood, setting out how we plan to realise our Climate Vision and Strategy by 2030. Working in partnership with other local authorities, organisations, and our wider community, we intend to drastically reduce our contribution to Climate Change by 2030.*

# Our Vision



In 2030, the Borough of Charnwood is better prepared for Climate Change thanks to partnership working with other local authorities, organisations and our wider community. The Council's own impact on the environment has been reduced by becoming Carbon Neutral, producing benefits and co-benefits including increased biodiversity, air quality, climate education and a circular economy.

***Endorsed by Justin Henry  
Director of Commercial and  
Economic Development.***

# Introduction

This Climate Change Strategy replaces our 2018 version and establishes our new Vision. This strategy firmly places managing, mitigating, and adapting to climate change as major priorities, integral to our activities. We will continue to take planned action within our own operations to become a ‘Carbon Neutral’ Council by 2030.

We recognise that we cannot achieve our vision in isolation, and that we must lead, influence and act urgently to address climate and ecological issues. We will continue to develop strong partnerships with local communities, businesses, educational institutions and neighbouring authorities to reduce the impact on Climate Change from our own operations.

Our actions will help to protect and improve the environment of the Borough, and in turn the county, to achieve a resilient ‘clean green’ Leicestershire that will benefit the community, economy and environment for future generations.

Our Strategy and ‘The Charnwood Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2030’ (the Action Plan) are now separate documents. This Strategy provides an unchanging vision for 2030 together with themes, broad aims and objectives.



**The Action Plan** provides a roadmap of our climate achievements, gives a list of key ‘SMART’ (specific, measurable, actionable, realistic, timebound) actions we are taking that are monitored regularly by our Climate Action Board, and reviewed annually by the Council’s Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

The Carbon Neutral Plan 2030 is a subset of this document addressing our Carbon Neutral ambition, its Annual Monitoring Report, monitors our actions to reduce our emissions from our own operations. We recognise that positive actions taken within our own operations and sphere of influence within the borough can have a positive effect in reducing our emissions at a county level.



Climate Change is recognised as a priority in our Corporate Strategy, its associated Delivery Plan and in our emerging Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037, which can be accessed on our website.

The Strategy and Action plan have been established through cross-department consultation within the Council and the Councils own 'Climate Action Board'. The Strategy and Action plan are both subject to public consultation, and we welcome all views to enable us to make considered decisions to help achieve our climate vision.

## Our Strategy

1

### Our Approach

How we are approaching Climate Change within our sphere of influence to create lasting positive change.

2

### Carbon Neutral Plan

Provides an overview of our Carbon Neutral Plan 2030 and how it is monitored annually.

3

### Our seven key themes

Explain why the Strategy and Action Plan have been formed around seven key themes: Transport, Planning, Land Use & Biodiversity, Buildings, Housing & Heating (energy), Resources & Waste, Business & Economy, Governance & Finance, and Partnerships & Communication.

4

### Realising our ambitions

Highlight how we intend to fund the strategy to realise our Climate Change ambitions.

5

### Measuring success

The Strategy will conclude with a description of how we will measure our success leading up to our ambition to be Carbon Neutral within our own operations by 2030. Our Action Plan can be accessed on the council website.

# An Introduction to Climate Change



Climate Change is frequently described as global warming, however global warming is just one aspect. Global warming refers to the rise in global temperatures, due mainly to the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Climate Change refers to the increasing changes in the measures of climate over a long period of time, including precipitation, temperature and wind patterns. It is the increase in global temperature and its effects on the Earth's climate system, including weather patterns. Climate Change, in a broader sense, includes previous long-term changes to Earth's climate. The Earth's temperature has risen by  $0.08^{\circ}\text{C}$  per decade since 1880, but the rate of warming since 1981 is more than twice that at  $0.18^{\circ}\text{C}$  per decade.

Scientists believe that recent rapid rises in the global average temperature are caused by human behaviour, with the burning of fossil fuels (oil, coal & gas) being the main contributor. Fossil fuel use, deforestation, some agricultural and industrial practices increase greenhouse gases, notably carbon dioxide and methane. Greenhouse gases absorb some of the heat the Earth radiates when it is warmed by sunlight. Larger amounts of these gases trap more heat in Earth's lower atmosphere, causing global warming.

Deforestation significantly contributes to carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) emissions, as the number of trees that would naturally convert  $\text{CO}_2$  to oxygen are being rapidly cut down and replaced with areas of intensive agriculture, that can generate high levels of emissions including methane.

As a result of Climate Change, deserts are expanding, heatwaves and wildfires are becoming more common across the world. Increased warming in the Arctic has contributed to melting permafrost, glaciers retreating and ice loss in the sea. Higher temperatures are also causing more intense storms, droughts, and other weather extremes. Adverse effects of Climate Change include increased flooding, food & water scarcity, intense heat, diseases, economic loss, and human poverty, migration and conflict. The World Health Organisation (WHO) named Climate Change as the most significant risk to global health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Leicestershire will continue to be affected by Climate Change. Climate predictions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century indicate a further increase of up to 3°C in the Region’s temperature by the end of the century. The table (Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) dataset from 2019) below, shows emissions in kilotonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e) for Charnwood at a Borough level:

Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) dataset 2019

Transport	Domestic	Industry	Waste Management	Commercial	Agriculture	Public Sector	LULUCF <sup>1</sup>	Total Emissions
342	261	156	65	49	62	36	-8	963

<sup>1</sup> Land use, land-use change and forestry.

Our emissions per capita are the second lowest in Leicestershire:

Local Authority	Per Capita Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> )
North West Leicestershire	10.9
Harborough	8.2
Melton	8.2
Blaby	6.5
Hinkley & Bosworth	6.3
Charnwood	5.2
Oadby & Wigston	3.8

A major Climate Change risk for Charnwood is flooding. Charnwood Borough Council works with partnership organisations to minimise the impact of flooding. Our commitment to planting trees to reduce flood risk and address the loss of biodiversity, reinforces the connection between Climate Change and the other environmental issues we currently face.

In 2019, Charnwood Borough Council declared its ambition to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. The Carbon Neutral Plan 2030 outlines a series of actions, these actions and the plan itself are being monitored and evolved over time.



# Influencing Strategy and Legislation

The following International and national targets in line with current UK Government Strategy have influenced this Strategy:

## A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

In January 2018, the UK Government published 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'. The 25-year plan confirms the Government's aim to take all possible action to mitigate Climate Change.

## The Climate Change Act 2008

The Climate Change Act 2008 adopted a long-term approach with targets to be met by 2050, interim budgetary targets and reporting requirements all of which was overseen by the independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC). In 2019, the UK introduced the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019, amending the 2050 target from an 80% to a 100% reduction against baseline (or net zero).

## The Sixth Carbon Budget

The Sixth Carbon Budget (for 2033-2037) was published at the end of 2020 by the Committee on Climate Change. The budget recommended reductions of UK greenhouse gas emissions of 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels.

## The Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on Climate Change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5, degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

## Net Zero Strategy

In October 2021 ahead of COP 26, the Government published the Net Zero Strategy, building on the 'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution'. It is a cross economy Strategy designed to drive the path to net zero by 2050. The Strategy was published under section 14 of the Climate Change Act 2008 and sets out how the UK plans to meet

its legally binding goals by 2050. Electrification, hydrogen and innovation are the key pillars of the Strategy. The Strategy contains sections on power, fuel supply and hydrogen, industry heat and buildings, transport, natural resources, waste, f-gases and greenhouse gas removals. It included:

- A commitment that all the electricity in the UK will come from low carbon sources by 2035 (subject to security of supply)
- An ambition for UK low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030
- An ambition for industrial Carbon Capture Use and Storage (CCUS) with targets for 2030 and 2035
- An aim to phase out the installation of new gas boilers and to replace all by 2035.
- Introduction of a zero-emission vehicle mandate ending the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030 and ensuring that from 2035 all cars and vans are fully zero emissions at the tailpipe.
- Planting 30,000 ha of woodland per year by 2024 and maintain planting at this level from 2025.
- Investing in negative emissions technology, with an ambition of deploying at least 5MtCO<sub>2</sub> engineered greenhouse gases per year by 2030.

## COP26

The UK hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in October/November 2021. The summit brought parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It was agreed countries will meet in 2022 to pledge further cuts to emissions of carbon dioxide. This is to try to keep temperature rises within 1.5°C, which scientists say is required to prevent a "climate catastrophe". Current pledges, if met, will only limit global warming to about 2.4 °C. The goal is to keep cutting emissions until they reach net zero mid-century.

The Glasgow Climate Pact was agreed to on 13th November 2021 after negotiations overran the last day of COP26. It is a "series of decisions and resolutions that build on the Paris accord", setting out what needs to be done to tackle Climate Change. However, it doesn't stipulate what each country must do and is not legally binding.

Whilst the agreement is not legally binding, COP26 set the global agenda on Climate Change for the next decade. The agreement includes the following commitments:

- **Emissions.** Countries will meet in 2022 to pledge further cuts to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The aim is to keep temperature rises within 1.5°C to prevent a "climate catastrophe". Current pledges would limit global warming to about 2.4°C.
- **Coal.** A plan to reduce use of coal. Coal is responsible for 40% of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Late interventions by India and China changed the wording from a "phase out" to a "phase down" of coal. To hit the 1.5°C target, at least 40% of the

world's existing 8,500 coal-fired power plants must be closed by 2030 and no new ones built.

- **Developing countries.** Pledges to increase finance to assist poorer countries with the effects of Climate Change and make the switch to clean energy. There is the prospect of a trillion dollar a year fund from 2025.
- **Phase out fossil fuel subsidies.** World leaders agreed to phase-out subsidies that artificially lower the price of coal, oil, or natural gas.
- **Carbon Markets.** Article 6 addressed the rules allowing purchasing carbon offsets for countries finding it difficult to cut greenhouse gases. They will be able to buy credits representing emissions reductions from nations that have lowered their pollution more than their pledge. There is also a possibility for public institutions and private companies to invest in projects that cut emissions in developing countries, where costs are usually lower.
- **Loss and Damage.** This refers to the impacts of Climate Change which occur beyond the limits of societies and ecosystem's ability to adapt. The agreement endorsed the need for more finance to be provided to tackle loss and damage through existing source. No consensus was reached on a proposal to set up a facility dedicated to loss and damage.

Other agreements made at Glasgow centred around:

- **Deforestation:** Stopping deforestation by 2030. However, it is not yet clear how the pledge will be policed.
- **US-China agreement:** The US and China, pledged to cooperate more over the next decade notably with methane emissions and switching to clean energy and grow the market for clean technologies. China had previously been reluctant to tackle domestic coal emissions.
- **Methane:** A scheme to cut 30% of methane emissions by 2030 was agreed by more than 100 countries. Methane is currently responsible for a third of human-generated warming.
- **Finance:** Over \$130 trillion, 40% of the world's financial assets, will now be aligned with the climate goals in the Paris Agreement. They will back clean technologies such as renewable energy and direct finance away from fossil fuel burning industries.
- **Vehicles:** Twenty-four countries and a group of leading car manufacturers committed to ending the fossil-fuel powered vehicles by 2040. The agreement to sell only zero-emissions vehicles from this 2040, includes Canada, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Ireland and the UK, which had already agreed to phase out new petrol and diesel car sales by 2030.

## The Environment Act 2021

The Environment Act 2021 was passed into UK law in November 2021, and applies mainly to England. The Environment Act 2021 introduces the setting of enforceable

targets across a number of areas and allows the UK to enshrine some environmental protection into law. It offers new powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction. The Act is a vehicle for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) environmental policies and sets out the legal framework for significant reforms to local authority waste and recycling services, as well as creating new statutory duties for local authorities on nature recovery. The Act includes a target to halt the decline of species by 2030.

Targets in the Environment Act include:

- Halt the decline in species populations by 2030, and then increase populations by at least 10% to exceed current levels by 2042.
- Increasing tree and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050.
- Halve the waste per person that is sent to residual treatment by 2042.
- Reduce levels of PM2.5 to 10 micrograms per cubic metre by 2040.

## Net Zero Review

As above, in 2021, the UK Government published its Net Zero Strategy, setting out a pathway to meeting its target of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Since then, various factors have altered the economic landscape in the UK, placing pressure on households and businesses through high energy prices and broader inflationary pressures.

Given this changed economic context the Government decided in September 2022 to review its approach to net zero to ensure that it is pursuing “the most economically efficient path to meeting its Climate Change commitments.” The review will consider how the Government’s approach to net zero can:

- Deliver maximum economic growth and investment.
- Support UK energy security and affordability for consumers and business.
- Minimise cost borne by businesses and consumers.

## COP27

Egypt hosted the 27th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP27) in November 2022. Egypt’s COP27 presidency vision was to move from negotiating changes designed to combat Climate Change, to implementing the changes.

The agreement includes the following commitments:

- **Loss and Damage Fund:** A breakthrough agreement to provide “loss and damage” funding for vulnerable countries impacted by climate disasters.
- **Agreement** on the institutional arrangements to operationalise the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, to catalyse technical assistance to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of Climate Change.

- **A package of decisions by countries**, which reaffirmed their commitment to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- **Strengthened action** by countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of Climate Change, as well as boosting the support of finance, technology and capacity building needed by developing countries.

Other key outcomes of COP27:

- **Technology**: The launch of a new five-year work program to promote climate technology solutions in developing countries.
- **Mitigation**: A mitigation work programme was launched, aimed at urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation. The work programme will start immediately following COP27 and continue until 2026 when there will be a review to consider its extension.
- **Global Stocktake**: Delegates completed the second technical dialogue of the first global stocktake, a mechanism to raise ambition under the Paris Agreement.

Announcements from COP27 included:

- Countries launched a package of 25 new collaborative actions in five key areas: power, road transport, steel, hydrogen, and agriculture.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced a USD 3.1 billion plan to ensure everyone on the planet is protected by early warning systems within the next five years.
- The UN Secretary-General's High Level Expert Group on NetZero Commitments published a report, serving as a how-to guide to ensure credible, accountable net-zero pledges by industry, financial institutions, cities, and regions.
- The G7 and the V20 ('the Vulnerable Twenty') launched the Global Shield against Climate Risks, with new commitments of over USD 200 million as initial funding. Implementation is to start immediately.
- Announcing a total of USD 105.6 million in new funding, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Walloon Region of Belgium, stressed the need for even more support for the Global Environment Facility funds targeting the immediate climate adaptation needs of low-lying and low-income states.

COPs will continue to be held annually for countries to progress dealing with Climate Change.

## Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan

In February 2023, the Government created the new Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. 'Powering Up Britain' sets out the Department's approach to energy security and net zero, and acts as an introduction to 'Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan and Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan'.



## Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023

In 2018, the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) set out the UK Government's vision to help the natural world regain and retain good health. 'The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England', is the Government's first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how it says it will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of its goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress.

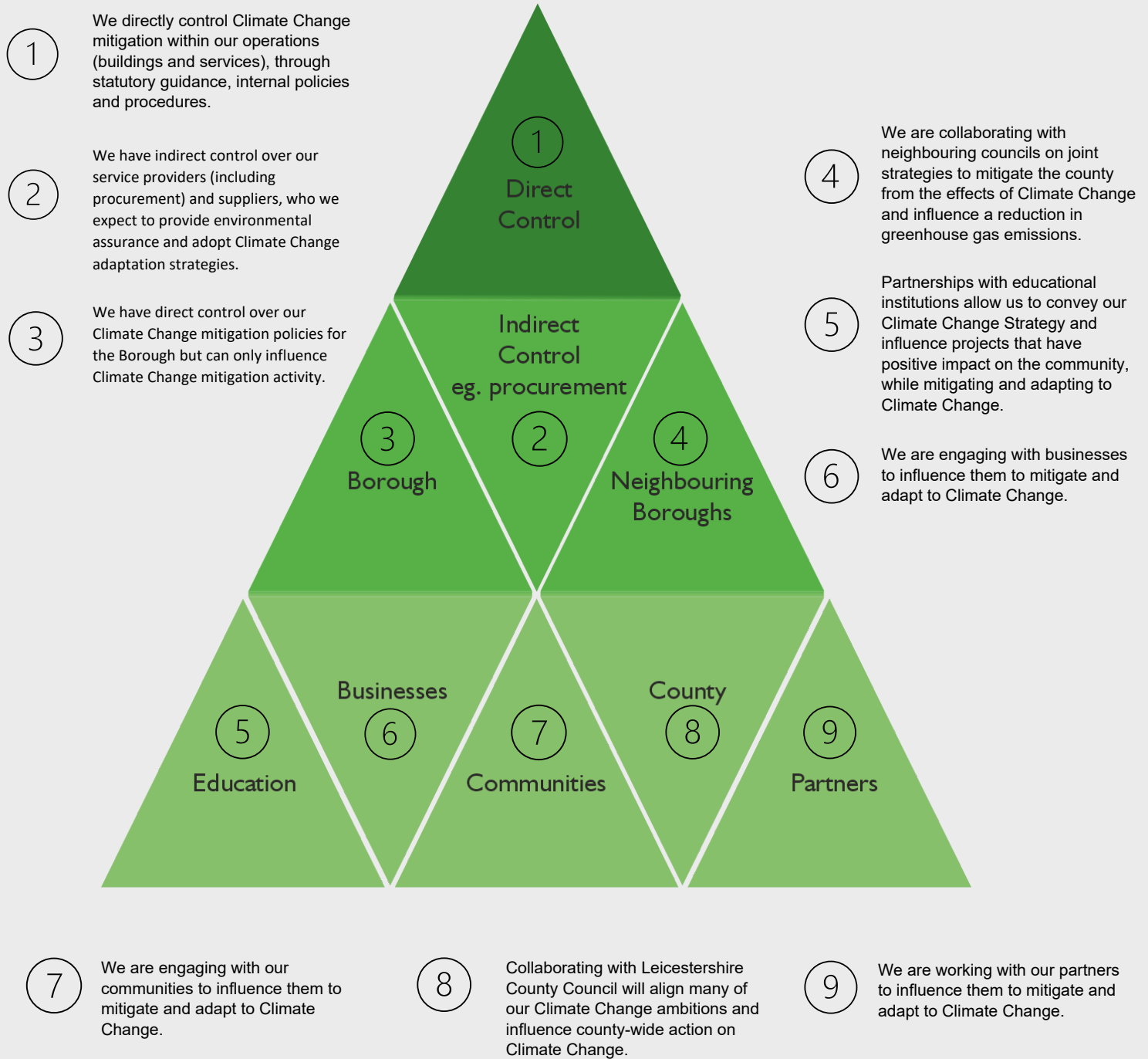
## The Climate and Ecological Bill

The Climate and Ecological Bill is currently before the House of Lords, in the 2022-23 session the bill would ensure that the UK Government:

- Reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in line with remaining global carbon budget for 1.5°C.
- Reverses the damage to the natural world by 2030.
- Establishes a climate and nature ('citizens') assembly to recommend measures for inclusion in an all-of-Government Strategy

# Our Approach and Influence

Our “pyramid of influence” below, shows our understanding of the levels of influence we can have on our diverse stakeholders to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change:



## What are the Council's responsibilities?

Leicestershire County Council and the Council are classed as Tier 1 and 2 Councils, they have specific responsibilities for services in the area as follows:

Leicestershire County Council is classed as a Tier 1 council, its main responsibilities include:

- Adult Social Care.
- Children & Young People's Services (formerly Education).
- Country Parks.
- Libraries.
- Museums.
- Property.
- Roads and Traffic.
- Trading Standards.
- Transport.

Charnwood Borough Council is classed as a Tier 2 council, its main responsibilities include:

- Environmental Health.
- Housing.
- Leisure & Amenities.
- Local Planning.
- Recreation.
- Refuse Collection.

Parish or Town Councils are classed as Tier 3 Councils. In Loughborough town, Charnwood Borough Council is responsible for the following Tier 3 functions as there is no Parish or Town Council.

- Allotments.
- Cemeteries.
- Footpaths.
- Recreation.

The "pyramid of influence" on the previous page demonstrates how the Council seeks to influence our stakeholders in relation to Climate Change mitigation and adaptation.

# Our Carbon Neutral Plan

## The Carbon Management Plan 2015-2020

In 2015, we developed a Carbon Management Plan 2015-2020, aiming to achieve a 15% reduction in carbon emission by 2020 against a 2012-2013 baseline. Within a year from 2015-2016, as a result of energy savings across the Council operations, we had achieved a 21% decrease.

Our commitment to carbon neutrality was announced in June 2019. By the end of 2019, our emissions had fallen by 37%. In absolute terms, this was a reduction of 787 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This assisted financial savings of over £280,000. To achieve these savings, we switched to using renewable electricity, which means all the electricity purchased didn't create carbon emissions, we installed highly energy efficient LED lighting and controls in offices, buildings, car parks including Beehive Lane car park and communal areas of sheltered housing, installed more energy efficient heating in Charnwood Museum and swapped vehicles for electric and more fuel-efficient ones.

## The Carbon Neutral Plan 2030

In 2021, we launched our Carbon Neutral Plan 2030 (a subset of this document) to present options for inspiring local and regional action whilst reducing our carbon footprint. We established this through consultation with all parts of Charnwood Borough Council. We established a new 2018-2019 baseline of a carbon footprint of 1,130 tCO<sub>2</sub>e which took into account our decision to procure renewable electricity.

Annually, we publish a Carbon Neutral Plan Monitoring Report which provides an assessment of our carbon footprint and the status of our actions relating to reducing it. It is available on our website.

# The Draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Consultation

We carried out a public consultation of the draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan between 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023. A full report on the findings can be accessed on our website. The findings of the consultation were based on 129 responses to the survey and the participation of 18 students from Loughborough College during focus groups. In addition, five organisations and one individual submitted detailed and in-depth responses to the survey.

A wide range of views were expressed by those participating in the consultation. The consultation process demonstrated that the residents of the Borough broadly support action taken by the Council to reduce the impact of Climate Change and to adapt to the consequences. However, some stakeholders appeared to have incomplete knowledge of the Council's responsibilities. We believe that the consultation was a worthwhile exercise and the Loughborough College focus groups provided valuable additional information from a younger cohort.

Respondents were generally supportive of our actions to date. Suggestions about what people want to see from us going forward included:

- Embedding the issue of Climate Change within our decision-making processes.
- Decisions that contradicts Climate Change Policy should be fully explained and justified.
- Lead by example.
- Take action to reduce our emissions and impact.
- Provide honest and impartial information to residents.
- Continue measures to reduce waste and increase recycling and to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Following a review of the responses we have considered the availability of resources and where appropriate and practicable amended the draft Climate Strategy and Action Plan. We will continue to engage with relevant additional local and national bodies, identified through the consultation. We maintain our position and work with individuals, groups and businesses who share our 2030 Carbon Neutral Vision.



# Our Themes and Aims

We have identified seven strategic themes within our control that contribute to our climate impact, including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The themes identified allow us to focus our resources to take climate mitigating actions to address each area.

The strategic themes are Transport, Planning Land Use & Biodiversity, Buildings, Housing & Heating (energy), Resources & Waste, Business & Economy, Governance & Finance and Partnership & Communications, as depicted in the graphic below:



Each theme contains:

- An explanation of why it is important
- An aim which provides a target outcome
- Objectives on which to focus our related actions
- Climate Change risks appropriate to the theme
- Information on how we Manage, Mitigate, Reduce and Adapt to Climate Change impacts appropriate to the theme
- Co-benefits of actions taken to mitigate the adverse effects of Climate Change

Co-benefits are the potential positive outcomes of addressing Climate Change risks. An example would be to encourage walking and cycling in town centres and reducing personal car use which will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from vehicles in the town centre. In this example the co-benefits are improved air quality, improved wellbeing, lower levels of traffic noise and increased use of public transport. The Climate Change Action Plan is a separate document that contains live actions and past achievements for the strategic themes. It can be found on our website.

# 1

# Transport

## AIM:

To deliver low carbon, affordable transport options and to decarbonise transport within our own operations and services.

## Objectives:

- T1. We will encourage and enable walking, cycling, and active travel.
- T2. We will support and encourage behavioural change in travel.
- T3. We will encourage and support transition to low emission vehicles, and work in partnership to deliver the Leicestershire County Council EV strategy.
- T4. We will support, encourage, and promote low-carbon, sustainable travel.

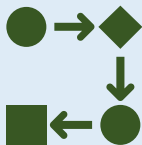


Transport is our largest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Emissions data can be found in our Carbon Neutral Plan and latest Monitoring Report, available on the website. We seek to reduce our own transport emissions and influence a Borough wide reduction, through various awareness initiatives.



### Climate Change Risks




- Severe weather impacting local transport infrastructure through flooding, storm damage, and extreme temperatures.
- Severe weather may discourage people from travelling.
- Erratic weather changes could cause more road accidents.
- Road Transport signals can fail in extreme heat.
- Extreme temperatures can cause damage to roads and railways.
- Supply chain disruption or failure.
- Property loss and damage.



### Management

We manage our commitment to reduce environmental impacts originating from our Transport operations, through the following strategies, plans and monitors:

- The Corporate Strategy includes 'Caring for the environment' as a key Council Principle and acting on local Climate Change as a priority.
- The Corporate Delivery Plan contains funded climate actions and is monitored quarterly and revised annually.
- Encouraging hybrid modes of working to reduce travel; approximately 75% of staff are office based, with many working from home.
- The Climate Action Board and Sustainability Officer monitors key actions, via the Council's monitoring software package.
- The Carbon Neutral Monitoring Plan monitors our initiatives and actions to reduce carbon emissions from transport.
- The Transport objectives are component parts of our planning, plan making and decision taking functions. Including directing new development to the right locations (and linking that to infrastructure investment).
- Any issues concerning new development proposals will be considered through the development management process, in accordance with policies in the emerging Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037 (once it is adopted).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council seeks to influence privately run bus operations but does not have direct control over them.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Mitigation</b> Reducing negative climate impacts by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing our Charnwood 2030 Carbon Neutral Plan, Monitoring Plan and The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.</li> <li>Encouraging our staff to reduce their negative climate impact outside of our operations, through the Green Rewards Scheme.</li> <li>Promoting the 'Choose How You Move' programme encouraging residents to cycle more, with the Active Charnwood team.</li> <li>Installing electric charging points in the Council's portfolio of car parks.</li> <li>Purchasing a hybrid vehicle and an electric bike as an alternative to grey fleet.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Adaptation</b> Continue to adapt to actual or expected effects of local Climate Change, to moderate harm and take advantage of emerging beneficial opportunities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessing the feasibility of electric or hybrid vehicles when the Council's existing fleet vehicles are replaced (service vehicles).</li> <li>Assessing the feasibility of large service vehicles powered by hydrogen or electricity and providing supporting infrastructure for a service vehicle depot.</li> <li>Introducing a car park strategy.</li> <li>Adopting the emerging Local Plan 2021-37, in particular Sustainable Transport Policy CC5, which supports sustainable patterns of development and seeks to support a shift from travel by private car to walking, cycling and public transport.</li> <li>The emerging Local Plan 2021-37 notes that the Council will work with local partners, including Leicestershire County Council, to prepare Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) for Loughborough and the area north of Leicester.</li> <li>Contributions towards sustainable transport infrastructure will be sought from the Local Plan Housing Allocations (Policy DS3).</li> <li>The emerging Local Plan 2021-37 also adopts a proactive approach to sustainable travel in policies DS1, LUA1, LUA2, LUA3, LUC1, LUC2, LUC3, SUA1, SC1.</li> <li>Investigating a cycle to work scheme and an electric vehicle salary sacrifice scheme.</li> <li>Working with partners to support community cycling and walking initiatives, to discourage private car travel.</li> <li>Neighbourhood plans encourage local communities to take action against climate change.</li> <li>The Council will continue to promote active travel through the Choose How You Move website.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Co-Benefits</b> The anticipated co-benefits of our actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved air quality.</li> <li>Improved wellbeing due to the increase in walking, cycling and other forms of travel.</li> <li>Lower levels of traffic noise.</li> <li>Increased spending in local shops and services.</li> <li>An economic boost to the economy, through the provision of supporting infrastructure, e.g., Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging points.</li> </ul>

- Increased use of open spaces available.
- Increased use of public transport.



### **Partnerships**

- Police, Fire Service Community Safety Partnerships.
- Leicestershire County Council.
- Leicestershire City Council.
- East Midlands Energy Hub.
- Green Living Group.
- Sustrans (Custodians of the National Cycle Network).

## 2

Planning,  
Land Use &  
Biodiversity



# Planning, Land Use & Biodiversity

## AIM:

To conserve and enhance biodiversity and habitats in Charnwood, and encourage a low carbon economy to support climate resilience.

## Objectives:

PLB1. We will work in partnership to reduce flood risk within the Borough.

PLB2. We will work in partnership with stakeholders to ensure open spaces and habitat are safeguarded and well adapted to the changing climate.

PLB3. We will continue to protect and enhance Council owned open spaces and habitat to ensure a resilient and healthy environment.

PLB4. We will minimise the impact of development on climate impact and encourage a low carbon economy through the planning system.

PLB5. We will ensure that new development is directed to the most sustainable locations in the Borough, maximising access to existing and new infrastructure jobs, amenities, services and facilities. We will encourage proposals for renewable and low carbon energy installations in accordance with Policy CC3 of the draft Local Plan.

We have a responsibility to protect our environment, including biodiversity, when planning land use and building developments. Charnwood has a rich selection of wildlife, habitats and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The conservation of biodiversity is essential to mitigating the effects of Climate Change, through natural carbon sequestration (storage).

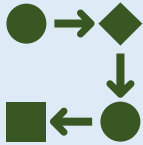
The policies in our emerging Local Plan 2021-37, including the overall spatial strategy for Charnwood, will play a significant role in helping to shape a sustainable pattern of development which supports our Climate Change ambitions. Our approach also provides a positive planning framework which addresses issues such as renewable and low carbon energy, sustainable construction, minimising flood risk, encouraging the application of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and promoting sustainable transport. We will also work with our partners, stakeholders and local communities to protect and enhance our local environment.



### Climate Change Risks

- Extreme weather impacts, flooding, extreme heat and cold.
- Impacts of drought on agriculture, biodiversity and public health.
- Threats to species and habitats.
- Poor water quality.
- Invasive species and diseases.

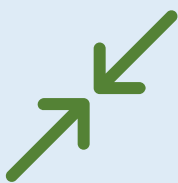




## Management

We commit to reducing the impact of Climate Change on Planning, Land use & Biodiversity, through the following strategies, plans and monitors:

- The Corporate Strategy includes 'Caring for the environment' as a key Council Principle and acting on local Climate Change as a priority.
- The Corporate Delivery Plan contains funded climate actions and is monitored quarterly and revised annually.
- Provision of a:
  - Head of Contracts, Leisure, Waste and Environment.
  - Head of Planning and Growth.
  - Full time Ecologist.
- The Climate Action Board and Sustainability Officer monitors key actions, via the Council's monitoring software package.
- Progress on actions is reported to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee.
- Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy, the Core Strategy Policies of the Borough and the emerging Local Plan 2021-37.
- The Charnwood Biodiversity Planning Guidance.
- Considering climate impact is a standard requirement when making policy and planning decisions.
- Information regarding planning permission is available to members of the public on the Planning section on our website.
- Once the Council has decided on a planning application it will publish a 'decision notice' on the Council's website and to interested parties setting out either a) reasons for refusal if an application has been refused or b) notifying that an application has been approved (& supported by paperwork that supports the approval decision).
- The principles of the emerging Local Plan 2021-37 deal with area and site-specific mitigation, rather than the Climate Change Strategy.



## Mitigation

We are reducing our negative climate impact by:

- Implementation of the current Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy and the Core Strategy Policies of the Borough.
- Adopting the emerging Local Plan 2021-37.
- Adherence with the Charnwood Biodiversity Planning Guidance.
- Adherence with current Government legislation in Building Regulations.
- Having a planning policy in relation to solar farms. Wymeswold Airfield is an example of a large installation in the area.
- New builds are required to have a water efficiency of 110 litres per person per day in policy CC4.
- Establishing a Loughborough Flood Risk Board, in partnership with Leicestershire County Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent.
- The Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment remains up to date.
- We direct new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding.
- We are measuring our biodiversity net gain.
- Working in partnership with the National Forest Company.
- Planting trees in Hathern Woodlands.
- We promote Loughborough in Bloom annually.

## Adaptation



We will continue to adapt to actual or expected effects of local Climate Change, to moderate harm and take advantage of emerging beneficial opportunities, by:

- Adopting the emerging Local Plan 2021-37 in 2023, setting our emerging Development Strategy, Place Based, Housing Climate Change and Environment policies.
  - Climate Change Policies are:
    - Flood Risk Management.
    - Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
    - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Installations.
    - Sustainable Construction.
    - Sustainable Transport.
    - Electric Vehicle Charging Points.
  - Environment policies include.
    - Landscape.
    - Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity.
    - Tree Planting.
    - Charnwood Forest and the National Forest Company.
    - Open Spaces.
- The emerging Local Plan 2021-37 contains Policies Map 2, which shows suitable areas for the installation of solar and wind farms.
- A Loughborough Flood Risk Board is being set up in partnership with Leicestershire County Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent.



### Co-Benefits

- A circular economy.
- Ecosystem conservation and biodiversity enhancement.
- Improved Climate Change adjustment.
- Improved open spaces.
- Improved public health.
- Improved soil quality.
- Low carbon energy generation.
- Lower Borough emissions.
- Move to more sustainable behaviours.
- Natural Carbon sequestration.



### Partnerships

- Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership.
- Green Living Group.
- Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.
- Leicestershire County Council.
- Loughborough in bloom.
- Natural England.
- Neighbourhood plan groups.
- Parish Councils.
- Partners in delivering biodiversity offsetting.
- Severn Trent.
- The Development Industry, house builders.
- The Environment Agency.
- The National Flood Forum.
- The National Forest Company.

# 3

Buildings,  
Housing &  
Heating  
(energy)



## Buildings, Housing & Heating (energy)

### AIM:

Reduce energy usage and adopt sources of low carbon energy within our own operations and enable our community and businesses to benefit from energy efficiency initiatives and low carbon solutions.

### Objectives:

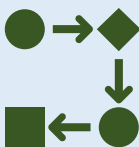
- BH1. We will continue to encourage energy reduction, clean energy, and energy efficiency, and promote its benefits to our community and businesses.
- BH2. We will reduce energy demand within our buildings and employ low carbon solutions where possible.

We have committed to Carbon Neutrality by 2030 within our own operations. Buildings are a significant part of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The Charnwood 2030 Carbon Neutral Plan focuses on our carbon reduction strategy and actions. This Climate Change Strategy provides an overview of our ambition to reduce the climate impacts of Buildings, Housing & Heating (energy), throughout our sphere of influence, as we reduce reliance on energy from fossil fuels and move to low carbon alternatives.



#### Climate Change Risks

- Adverse impacts of Climate Change on Building and Energy infrastructures.
- Energy supply threats.
- Extreme weather impacts, including flooding, extreme heat and cold.
- Fuel Poverty.
- Public health risks.
- Infrastructure threat to water supplies.
- Market and economy demand adjustments.
- Property loss and damage.
- Supply chain disruption or failure e.g., building supplies.

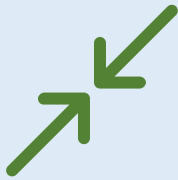


#### Management

We commit to reducing the impact of our Buildings, Housing and Heating (energy) on Climate Change through the following strategies, plans and monitors:

- The Corporate Strategy includes ‘Caring for the environment’ as a key Council principle and acting on local Climate Change as a priority.
- The Corporate Delivery Plan contains funded climate actions and is monitored quarterly and revised annually.
- A Director of Housing and Wellbeing, the Head of Strategic Housing, and the Head of Assets and Property, monitor actions for their departments.

- A Climate Action Board, Capital Projects Board, and a Growth and Regeneration Board, monitor key actions, via the Council's monitoring software package.
- Progress on actions is reported to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee.
- Charnwood 2030 Carbon Neutral Plan and monitoring reports.
- Considering climate impact is a standard requirement when making policy and planning decisions.
- Emerging Local Plan 2021-37, Policy CC4 Sustainable Construction.



### Mitigation

The Climate Change impacts caused by our Buildings, Housing and Heating (energy) are being reduced by the following:

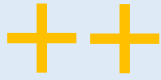
- Allocation of Council funds for distinct budgets in relation to Buildings and Heating (energy).
- Reviewing a stock condition survey, by an independent energy assessor, to monitor the energy condition of 1000 properties in our housing stock.
- Our Home Repair Grant, for those on a low income, passported benefits and income support.
- Through implementation of the emerging Local Plan 2021-37, Climate Change Policies.
- Upholding private sector housing standards.
- Our Cost-of-Living Group and Charnwood Community Action Group, providing cost of living advice and support.
- Working in partnership to deliver:
  - The Green Living Partnership contract with Eon, delivering upgrades through ECO 4 (energy company obligation grants).
  - The HUG Grant (for houses without a gas supply, to upgrade air flow heating).
  - The LAD Grant (for houses with a gas supply that requires replacing or upgrading).
  - The Lightbulb Project (home adaptations for people with disabilities).
  - The Solar Together Leicestershire Project, offering residents access to a group buying scheme to purchase solar panels.



### Adaptation

We will continue to adapt to actual or expected effects of local climate Change, to moderate harm and take advantage of emerging beneficial opportunities, by:

- Establishing an Asset Management Strategy.
- Investigating the building of solar arrays at the Charnwood Campus.
- Running comprehensive campaigns for residents, to take advantage of Government grants available to help conserve energy in the home.
- Investigating methods of reducing energy use in our car parks.
- Realising our Carbon Neutral Plan 2030 actions, including:
  - LED replacement lighting in our offices and car parks.
  - Making our buildings and offices more energy efficient.
  - Assessing the use of solar power and collaborating with the East Midlands Energy Hub.
  - Rolling out EV charging points.
- Ensuring that future buildings are developed, managed, and constructed to be energy efficient and resilient to the effects of Climate Change.



### Co-Benefits

- Enhanced infrastructure resilience for buildings and services.
- Improved economic opportunity (green economy).
- Improved energy security.
- Improved wellbeing.
- Increased employment.
- Increased renewable energy use and lower costs.
- Lower Borough emissions.
- Lower fuel poverty.



### Partnerships

- Central Government.
- Charnwood Campus.
- Charnwood Community Action Group.
- CHOG (Chief Housing Officers Group).
- East Midlands Energy Hub.
- Green Living Group Leicestershire.
- Leicestershire County Council.
- On-Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS).
- Solar Together Leicestershire.
- Savills UK.
- The Lightbulb Project.



# Resources & Waste

## AIM:

To support the Borough to reduce waste, re-use and recycle, conserve resources, and encourage a circular economy.

## Objectives:

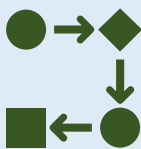
- R1. We will encourage residents to reduce waste and increase recycling.
- R2. We will reduce waste by encouraging recycling, re-use and a circular economy.
- R3. We will continue to promote the allotment and community orchard schemes and locally produced food and goods.

We have a responsibility to reduce our emissions from our operations. Waste collections and waste contribute to our greenhouse gas emissions. We work with our service providers, partner organisations and the community to encourage a circular economy and to reduce the impact of our waste on Climate Change.



### Climate Change Risks

- Extreme weather impacts, flooding, extreme heat and cold.
- Impacts of drought on agriculture, biodiversity, industry, commerce and public health
- Increased poverty.
- Transport infrastructure disruption, affecting commuting, supply chain and service provision.
- Public health risk from uncollected waste.
- Release of greenhouse gases from waste.
- Supply chain or service disruption or failure.
- Infrastructure threat to water supplies.



### Management

We commit to reducing the impact of Climate Change on Resources & Waste, through the following strategies, plans and monitors:

- The Corporate Strategy includes 'Caring for the environment' as a key Council principle and acting on local Climate Change as a priority.
- The Corporate Delivery Plan contains funded climate actions and is monitored quarterly and revised annually.
- The Climate Action Board and Sustainability Officer monitors key actions, via the Council's monitoring software package.
- A dedicated Head of Contracts covers Leisure, Waste and the Environment.
- Progress on actions is reported to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee.
- The Strategic Risk Register is monitored on a quarterly basis by the Risk Management Group and the Audit Committee.
- Considering climate impact is a standard requirement in Corporate and Management decision making.
- Through implementation of the emerging Local Plan 2021-37.





### Mitigation

We are reducing our negative climate impact by:

- Ensuring that all staff receive our Environmental Induction Training.
- Working with our suppliers to ensure waste is collected in the Borough.
- Providing resources including staff and equipment to support suppliers to fulfil service requirements.
- Ensuring that collected waste does not go to landfill.
- Raising awareness through Community campaigns:
  - 'Choose to Reuse' student waste events are held at the end of term. Donated items are repurposed and range from electrical items to tins of food.
  - 'Love Food Hate Waste'
- Supporting National Recycle Week.
- Providing information on our website about waste, home composting and food waste digesters.
- Providing allotments.
- Addressing our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from waste through our Carbon Neutral Plan 2030.



### Adaptation

We will continue to adapt to actual or expected effects of local Climate Change, to moderate harm and take advantage of emerging beneficial opportunities, by:

- Adopting regulatory waste measures introduced by the Environment Act 2021.
- Encouraging local sustainable food initiatives.
- Implementing Leicestershire County Council's Waste Strategy.
- Setting contractor waste targets.
- Setting targets for residential waste.
- Carrying out targeted work on poorly performing recycling rounds:
  - Launching information campaigns.
  - Setting recycling targets.
  - Monitoring progress on recycling levels of poor performing areas.
- Assessing the feasibility of electric, hybrid, hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) or hydrogen service vehicles when our existing fleet vehicles are replaced.
- Completing actions contained in our Climate Change Action Plan 2030.
- Carrying out planned actions contained within our Carbon Neutral Plan 2030.



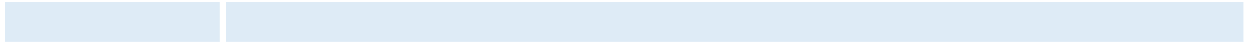
### Co-Benefits

- Decreasing the amount of water, land, and air pollution.
- Decline in demand for natural resources.
- A circular economy.
- Improved public health.
- Improved resource efficiency.
- Enhanced resilience of infrastructure and services.



### Partnerships

- Serco.
- Idverde.
- Leicestershire County Council.
- Love Loughborough.
- Green Living Group.
- Renewable energy providers





# Business & Economy

## AIM:

We will encourage a low carbon economy, helping businesses to adopt sustainable 'green' practices and increase local demand for low carbon goods and services.

## Objectives:

BE1. We will provide information to support businesses to benefit from low carbon initiatives.

BE2. We will continue to encourage energy reduction, clean energy and energy efficiency, and promote its benefits to businesses and contractors.

BE3. We will work with businesses to protect against the adverse effects of Climate Change and encourage local commerce.

BE4. We will support local voluntary sector organisations and community groups to take action to reduce carbon emissions in their local communities.

We recognise that by engaging with local business forums, universities and further education institutes, and the community, it will help businesses to invest in a low carbon Charnwood and build a sustainable green economy.

	<p><b>Climate Change Risks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial instability.</li> <li>• Property loss and damage.</li> <li>• Adverse impact on our infrastructure.</li> <li>• Extreme weather impacts, including flooding, extreme heat and cold.</li> <li>• Increased migration adding pressure to housing and health services.</li> <li>• Supply chain disruption or failure.</li> <li>• Market and economy demand adjustments.</li> <li>• Impact of drought on agriculture, industry, commerce.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Management</b></p> <p>The Council manages our commitment to reducing the local impact of Climate Change on Business and the Economy, through the following strategies, plans and monitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Corporate Strategy includes 'Caring for the environment' as a key Council principle, with acting on local Climate Change as a priority.</li> <li>• The Corporate Delivery Plan contains funded climate and economic actions and is monitored quarterly and revised annually.</li> <li>• The Climate Action Board and the Growth and Regeneration Board.</li> <li>• The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mitigation</b></p>	

The Council is reducing its negative climate impact by:

- Supporting the delivery of the Town Deal , including projects which seek to:
  - Make the town centre attractive and accessible, and link urban and open spaces such as the award-winning Queen's Park.
  - Transform the Bedford Square, Wards End and Devonshire Square areas from an environment heavily dominated by cars, to one where priority will be given to the health, safety, and mobility of pedestrians.
  - Provide more space for events and activities to take place.
  - Improve connectivity and reduce commercial property vacancies by increasing footfall, to encourage economic growth and business support.
- Reviewing regeneration activity which will encourage more people to shop locally and use more local services, reducing the need to travel. This will include a public realm improvement scheme in Shepshed.
- Adopting the emerging Local Plan 2021-37.
- Developing and delivering the Green Market Plan, in partnership with the market traders to encourage new and existing traders to embrace environmental initiatives.
- The Buy Local campaign led by Charnwood Borough Council and Love Loughborough, incorporating use of the Discover Charnwood brand.
- Signposting businesses to grants and other funding schemes which help small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to install low carbon measures and increase their energy efficiency.

### Adaptation

The Council will continue to adapt to actual or expected effects of local Climate Change, to moderate harm and take advantage of emerging beneficial opportunities by:

- Adopting the emerging Local Plan.
- Implementing Town Deal Projects including:
  - 'Lanes and Links' initiative is planned for delivery 2023 to 2025 and will encourage walking.
  - 'Living Loughborough' plans to encourage visitors to new market stalls in the town centre by 2025 and will provide other town centre infrastructure.
- Liaising with Government departments and the Local Enterprise Partnership to identify and establish sources of funding that encourage businesses to review their energy efficiency.
- Encouraging SME business start-ups and growth in the area.
- Assessing impacts of the Loughborough Town Deal, in partnership with Loughborough University through the 'Healthy and Innovative Loughborough' project.

### Co-Benefits

- Lower Borough emissions.
- Improved air quality.
- Improved wellbeing.
- Increased spending in local shops and services.
- Increased Investment from businesses.
- Increased Employment.
- A circular economy.
- Economic growth.
- Enhanced resilience of infrastructure and service.



### **Partnerships**

- Central Government.
- Charnwood Campus.
- Green Living Group.
- Leicestershire County Council.
- LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership).
- Local businesses.
- Loughborough College
- Loughborough University
- Love Loughborough.
- LUSEP (Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park).
- Other Leicestershire local authorities



# Governance & Finance

## AIM:

We will continue to recognise Climate Change as a key corporate commitment for the Council.

## Objectives:

GF1. We will continue to fulfil our statutory and legal duties in relation to Climate Change.

GF2. We will allocate resources, including funding to realise our planned actions.

GF3. We will work in partnership with key stakeholders to improve resilience across our buildings, services, and the Borough.

GF4. We will ensure that services are delivered in a way that protects the quality of the environment.

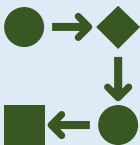
GF5. We will embed Climate Awareness into the Council through staff training and policy decision making.

We recognise that to achieve our own ambition of being a carbon neutral council and a Borough prepared for Climate Change, we must implement our Climate Change Strategy and Action plan. It is critical that we have in place strategies, policies, funding and key partnerships to deliver this agenda.



### Climate Change Risks

- Financial instability.
- Property loss and damage increased insurance premiums.
- Adverse impact on our infrastructure.
- Extreme weather impacts flooding, extreme heat and cold.
- Growing fuel poverty.
- Increased migration adds pressure to housing and health services.
- Supply chain disruption or failure.
- Market and economy demand adjustments.
- Impacts of drought on agriculture, biodiversity, industry, commerce and public health.







### Management

The Council governs and finances our commitment to reducing the local impact of Climate Change through the following strategies, plans and monitors:

- The Corporate Strategy includes 'Caring for the environment' as a key Council Principle and acting on local Climate Change as a priority.
- Climate actions in the Corporate Delivery Plan are monitored quarterly and revised annually.
- Dedicated Climate Action Board and Sustainability Officer monitors key actions, via the Council's monitoring software package.
- Progress on actions is reported to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee.
- The Strategic Risk Register is monitored on a quarterly basis by the Risk Management Group and the Audit Committee.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considering climate impact is a standard requirement when decision making.</li> <li>• Climate Change is at the forefront of our decision making, the Carbon Neutral Plan 2030 includes an action to formalise and embed a process for evaluating impacts arising from the Council's decisions.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Mitigation</b></p> <p>The Council are reducing our negative climate impact by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing our Charnwood 2030 Carbon Neutral Plan, Monitoring Plan and The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.</li> <li>• Providing Staff Environmental and Net Zero training.</li> <li>• Encouraging our staff to reduce their negative climate impact outside of our operations.</li> <li>• Active strategic partnerships, for example the Green Living Group.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Adaptation</b></p> <p>The Council will continue to adapt to actual or expected effects of local Climate Change, to moderate harm and take advantage of emerging beneficial opportunities, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to provide funding and resources within our own operations to take planned actions to become a 'Carbon Neutral' Council by 2030.</li> <li>• Adopting our Local Plan.</li> <li>• Communicating information on Climate Change resilience, wellbeing and behavioural change.</li> <li>• Engaging with a diverse section of stakeholders.</li> <li>• Complying with our Statutory obligations.</li> <li>• Supporting Leicestershire County Council's Net Zero Carbon 2045 ambition for the county.</li> <li>• We will continue to engage with Loughborough College and other educational bodies. Where practicable collaborating with them to tackle Climate Change.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Co-Benefits</b></p> <p>The anticipated co-benefits of our actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A circular economy.</li> <li>• Economic growth.</li> <li>• Enhanced resilience of infrastructure and services.</li> <li>• Social, community and labour improvements.</li> <li>• Poverty reduction.</li> <li>• Disaster /emergency preparedness.</li> <li>• Improved resource efficiency.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Audit Committee.</li> <li>• District Council Chief Executives meetings.</li> <li>• District Councils Network.</li> <li>• Green Living Group.</li> <li>• Local Council Chief Executives, The Police, Health Officials and Central Government meetings.</li> <li>• Risk Management Group.</li> </ul>



# Partnership & Communications

## AIM:

We will work with our partners to communicate environmental behaviour change and best practice.

## Objectives:

PC1. We will encourage environmental and Climate Change awareness through proactive communication.

PC2. We will work in partnership with other organisations to promote sustainable practices that improve lifestyles in the Borough.

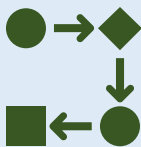
PC3. We will provide information in relation to our progress towards achieving our 2030 Climate Change ambition.

We are committed to delivering sustainability information and advice to our stakeholders. This is carried out by working with partnership organisations and through our website and social media platforms.



### Climate Change Risks

- Public concern.
- Extreme weather impacts.
- Impacts of drought on agriculture, biodiversity, industry, commerce and public health.
- Loss of biodiversity.
- Loss of communications.
- Growing fuel poverty.
- Reduced public wellbeing.
- Market and economy demand adjustments.
- Increased Carbon Footprint.



### Management

We manage our commitment to reducing the local impact of Climate Change through our activities related to Communications and Partnerships:

- The Corporate Strategy, which includes 'Caring for the environment' as a key Council Principle and acting on local Climate Change as a priority.
- The Corporate Delivery Plan contains funded climate actions and is monitored quarterly and revised annually.
- The Climate Action Board and Sustainability Officer monitor key actions, via the Council's monitoring software package.
- A Communications Manager and Team.
- A Neighbourhoods and Partnerships Manager.
- A Sport and Active Recreation Manager.
- The Council's website and social media platforms.
- Partnerships with contractors and service providers.



### Mitigation

We are reducing our negative climate impact by:

- Communicating relevant Climate Change and environmental awareness and training throughout the organisation.
- Communicating Climate Change awareness, for example flood awareness and the Solar Together initiative, through our website and social media.
- Working with our partners to deliver programmes such as:
  - Charnwood Community Action Campaign, which organised a cost of living and wellbeing event with support from a range of partners.
  - The Green Rewards Scheme, which enables Council employees to reduce their climate impact.
  - Charnwood Borough Council, John Storer Charnwood, The Bridge, and Charnwood Food Poverty Group, created 'Your Store' a social supermarket which aims to provide affordable food for families and individuals in Charnwood. Much of the food is grown in allotments at Fearon Hall Community Garden.
  - Working with Leicestershire County Council's Active together team, to support cycling programmes in Charnwood, working alongside B-Buddies to deliver Dr Bike Sessions and Bike skills clubs for children aged 18 months to 3 years.
  - Loughborough based community group; B-BUDDIES CIC works closely with schools and in the local community to get more children cycling.



### Adaptation

We will continue to adapt to actual or expected effects of local Climate Change, to moderate harm and take advantage of emerging beneficial opportunities, by:

- Continuing to provide resources to work on initiatives with the local community, to help them adapt to Climate Change and take advantage of any grants or schemes available.
- Providing information to the public on the actions the Council is taking to minimise the effects of Climate Change on Council assets and the Borough, including updates on our low carbon initiatives.
- Continuing to work with our key partners including Leicestershire County Council on initiatives that provide county-wide benefit.



### Co-Benefits

- Increased public, awareness, wellbeing and health.
- Decreased costs.
- Reduced poverty.
- Economic growth in local communities.
- Enhanced resilience of infrastructure and services.
- Increased public development and occupation levels.
- Social, community and labour improvements.



### Partnerships

The Council has collaborated, communicated or formed working partnerships, with the following list of organisations. The list is not exhaustive as we seek to partner in the success of this Strategy:-

- B-BUDDIES CIC.

- British Horse Society.
- Campaign for Better Transport.
- Campaign for Rural England.
- Capita.
- Central Government.
- Charnwood Campus.
- Charnwood Community Action Group.
- Charnwood Food Poverty Group.
- Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership.
- Charnwood Forest Regional Park Board.
- Charnwood Labour Group.
- CHOG - Chief Housing Officers' Group – county wide discussion.
- Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire.
- Council Audit Committee.
- Cycling UK. and other active travel advocates.
- District Council Chief Executives hold regular meetings.
- District Councils Network.
- East Midlands Energy Hub.
- Electric Blue, ORCS funding.
- Environment Agency.
- Equality Action.
- Faith groups such as Loughborough Churches Partnership.
- Fearon Hall.
- Forestry England.
- Green Living Group Leicestershire.
- Green Living Group.
- Homes England (can give grants for new builds).
- Idverde.
- Jewson (inhouse repair team responsive repairs).
- John Storer Charnwood.
- LCC County Sports Partnership.
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board.
- Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Rural Councils.
- Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.
- Leicestershire City Council.
- Leicestershire County Council (LCC) on initiatives e.g., 'Green Living Leicestershire.'
- Leicestershire County Council.
- LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership).
- Living Without Abuse.
- Local businesses.
- Local Council Chief Executives, The Police, Health Officials and Central Government.
- Loughborough Air Quality Protection Group.
- Loughborough College.
- Loughborough in bloom.
- Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park (LUSEP).
- Loughborough University.
- Love Loughborough.
- LUSEP (Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park).
- Midlands Net Zero Hub.
- Mother and toddler groups.

- National Farmers Union.
- Natural England.
- Neighbourhood plan groups.
- Neighbouring Local Authorities.
- NHS / Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB)
- On-Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS).
- Other Leicestershire local authorities.
- Parish Council Tree and Environmental Wardens networks.
- Parish Councils.
- Partners in delivering biodiversity offsetting.
- Police, Fire Service Community Safety Partnerships.
- Renewable energy providers.
- Risk Management Group.
- Savills UK.
- Serco Plc.
- Severn Trent.
- Solar Together Leicestershire.
- Sustrans (Custodians of the National Cycle Network).
- The Bridge.
- The Development Industry, house builders.
- The Lightbulb Project.
- The National Flood Forum.
- The National Forest Company.
- The National Trust.
- The Prince's Trust.
- The Virtual Citizens' Panel.
- Transition Loughborough.

# Financing our ambitions

We realise that we cannot achieve our goals alone and must work in partnership with others where appropriate to secure necessary funding. We will continue to seek out other sources of funds, to help achieve our 2030 climate ambitions. Our plan to become Carbon Neutral by 2030, relies on our ability to resource and fund our planned actions:

01

### Capital Plan

Our Capital Plan contains a budget allocation to deliver our Climate Change projects. We allocate funds to Climate Change projects through our Corporate Delivery Plan, the Charnwood 2030 Carbon Neutral Plan, and our Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2030.

Capital allocations for our strategic priorities, including the delivery of our services, often have benefits that relate to Climate Change Strategy and the environment of the Borough.

02

### Government

Main sources of funding come from Government backed initiatives, an example being the Loughborough Town Deal. The Loughborough Town Deal Board involves a range of organisations, including Charnwood Borough Council. In June 2021, Government confirmed that Loughborough had successfully secured £16.9 million for projects including:

- Loughborough Wood Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme.
- Improving a 2km stretch of the River Soar towpath, to allow a traffic free-route into Loughborough town.

03

### Other sources

Our funding originates from a range of sources, including Government grants, council tax and fees and charges. We provide information on our website signposting funding available for both. Other funding sources included:

- National Lottery funding.
- HS2, who provided finance for tree planting at Hathern Woodlands.
- Government funding for electric charge points. residents and businesses.



# Measuring & Monitoring our



# Success

We recognise the importance of measuring and monitoring our success in our Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The Climate Change Strategy is reviewed regularly to ensure that it aligns with our Climate Change ambitions. This strategy is integral to directing our climate actions and provides a focus for our Corporate Strategy and Delivery Plan. Climate Change actions contained in the Corporate Delivery Plan are reviewed annually. Reviewing annually allows us to measure our success and monitor what more needs to be carried out.

The Climate Change Action Plan is a separate document available on our website, that tracks and monitors our strategic climate actions. This plan enables us to keep track of what needs to be carried out to ensure we measure the success and keep up to date with the required actions. The following panels review the Climate Change Action Plan:

- Climate Action Board (meet every 2 months).
- Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee (annual review).

When reviewing the Climate Change Actions, we adopt a Plan, Do, Check and Act approach to ensure appropriate action has been taken and that we can understand the further actions that may need to be taken to achieve our Climate Change Aims and Objectives:

- Plan - planning a change in a method.
- Do - applying the change.
- Check - assessing the outcomes.

- Act - carrying out appropriate action.

Our success will be tracked using our monitoring software package, which will help us keep us to report on our actions.

# Glossary

The following is a reference to terms used with our Strategy:

<b>Biodiversity</b>	Biodiversity is the volume of life on Earth and how various species connect with each other and the physical world.
<b>Carbon Footprint</b>	A carbon footprint is the total greenhouse gas emissions generated by a person, occasion, institution, service, business, or product, defined sometimes as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO <sub>2</sub> e).
<b>Carbon Neutrality</b>	Carbon neutrality is a state of net zero carbon dioxide emissions. This can be achieved by balancing emissions of carbon dioxide with its removal or by eliminating emissions.
<b>Carbon Offsetting</b>	A carbon offset is the decrease or removal of emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases to balance emissions made elsewhere.
<b>Circular Economy</b>	A circular economy is an economic strategy in which resources like raw materials, services, and products lose their value as little as possible.
<b>Climate Change</b>	Climate Change defines a change in an area's average conditions, such as temperature and rainfall, over the long term.
<b>Climate Change Adaptation</b>	Climate Change adaptation is adapting to the present or expected impacts of Climate Change. It is one of the ways to react to Climate Change, along with mitigation
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) is a colourless gas with a light odour and a sour taste. It contributes to greenhouse gas, and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere warms the planet, causing Climate Change.
<b>Co-benefits</b>	Co-benefits are the potential positive outcomes of addressing Climate Change risks.
<b>Emission</b>	An emission is something that has been discharged or emitted out in the open, and car exhaust is an example of an emission.
<b>Extreme events</b>	Extreme events are severe climate or climate conditions that can cause destructive effects. An example is snow, rain, drought, flood, or storm, which is rare for the location where it happens.
<b>Fossil Fuel</b>	Fossil fuels are compound combinations made of fossilised plant and animal remains from millions of years ago. Coal, crude oil, and natural gas are all fossil fuels.
<b>Greenhouse gases</b>	Greenhouse gases, or GHGs, trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The greenhouse gases responsible for the greenhouse effect include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, water vapour and fluorinated gases.
<b>Kilotonnes</b>	A unit of weight or capacity equal to 1,000 metric tonnes.
<b>Local Authority</b>	A local authority is an institution officially accountable for all the public services and establishments in a specific location.
<b>Mitigation and Climate Mitigation</b>	Climate Change Mitigation refers to measures to decrease or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases.
<b>Net Zero</b>	The term 'net zero' means achieving a balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it. This balance or net zero will happen when the amount of carbon we add to the atmosphere is no more than the amount removed.
<b>Renewable Electricity</b>	Renewable energy is energy created from sources like the sun and wind, and it is all natural. Therefore, it does not run out; examples of renewable energy sources include wind, solar, bioenergy, hydroelectric and tidal energy.



Charnwood

Charnwood Borough Council  
Southfield Road  
Loughborough  
LE11 2TX

01509 263151

[www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk)