

CLIMATE CHANGE - ROUTE MAP TO DELIVERY

Introduction

The United Nation COP26 conference in Glasgow aims to plot out a route to achieving net zero carbon growth by mid century, and a lower than 1.5% increase in global temperatures. Delivery of this goal relies on everyone's contribution, not just that of national governments.

Similarly, at a local level, whatever North Northamptonshire Council can deliver as an organisation and landowner, as the deliverer of services and as an employer and educator, is small in proportion to what the whole community can deliver, working together or in tandem.

The Council has adopted a framework and action plan (developed by the Shadow Authority in March 2021) and has declared a Climate and Environment Emergency (July 2021) as first steps in its strategic journey on climate change mitigation. As part of this declaration a commitment was made to develop a Climate Change Action Plan to Council as soon as is reasonably practicable, setting out the earliest date that North Northamptonshire Council and the area as a whole can be carbon neutral, and establishing targets to meet that date.

Progress has been made and reported into the Climate, Growth and Environment Executive Advisory Panel in August 2021. Further reports linked to elements of the Action Plan have and will continue to be reported into the Advisory Panel.

Where the Council can act alone, it will. But the greater impact will be in forging a consensus amongst partners and with the business, voluntary, and community sectors to identify priorities and agree on targets. There are many things that can be done, but not all of them will be impactful on the scale required, or the time required, nor are all of them affordable by any one organisation or group of people. NNC's adopted framework referred to above, specifically recognises the need for partnerships to achieve objectives.

The Council also recognises it needs to set aside a dedicated resource to map out plans and strategies, co-ordinate delivery, communicate, build partnerships, monitor and report on progress and explore innovative approaches. Finance has to be mobilised to secure the right investment in the best areas to achieve greatest impact.

Climate change mitigation should not be seen in isolation – many of the outcomes from this strand of work also have positive impacts on health, welfare, poverty and prosperity, on the lifetime of assets and on people’s wider quality of life. Mainstreaming these actions serves corporate and social objectives and should be seen and funded accordingly.

The following route map therefore builds on the existing Climate Change Framework and sets out what can be achieved in the short term (the next 12 months) to October 2022 to provide clear timelines on progress.

Further work is developing on what could be delivered in the medium term (from October 2022 to October 2024) and what should be the focus of corporate effort in the longer term (2024-2030). Targets need to be set for each of these stages, but these need to be further explored and agreed with others.

SHORT TERM - October 2021- October 2022

A) LEADERSHIP, AMBITION AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

OUTCOME	TIMESCALE	ACTION
Establishing dedicated resources to drive progress	By February 2022	Establish a budget for Climate Change activity as part of the current 2022/23 budget setting process
	By October 2021	Secure external expertise, on a short term basis (6 months), to provide resources to drive short term actions between November and April 2022.
	By December 2021	Commission external consultants for higher level strategic work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Elected Member and staff awareness and training - Building local network of climate change champions - Designing education and engagement programme - Establishing NNC’s carbon baseline output and a plan of how this can be mitigated

	By October 2021	Develop a cross-council dedicated team to focus on the work and provide future strategic direction to the council and wider partners
	By March 2022	Establishing NNC Climate and Flood team
Increased awareness and understanding of the Climate Change agenda amongst members	From January 2022 onwards	Member workshop sessions on Carbon Literacy with a view to becoming an accredited Carbon Literacy organisation
	From January 2022 onwards	12 month rolling programme of awareness sessions on climate change threats and mitigations, actions taken to date, and examples of best practice.
Increased awareness for staff (beginning with Executive Directors and Assistant Directors) towards climate change goals	From January 2022	Ensure all Executive Directors and Assistant Directors undertake Carbon Literacy training with a view to cascading this out across wider teams
	From April 2022	Ensure that service plans for 2022-3 specifically reference climate change mitigations.
	By December 2021	Develop Climate Change Staff Network
	From January 2022	Ensure all new job descriptions reference the importance of climate change in their roles
	From April 2022	Ensure the new Corporate Performance Plan includes reference to achieving corporate climate change objectives.
	From January 2022	Design staff induction topic to include carbon literacy training for all new staff

Explore the development of a Virtual Climate Change Partnership and forum – champions and partners with specific goals and roles	By April 2022	Identify likely participants for a standing panel embracing community, voluntary and business; panel role would be advocacy, advice, resource identification, finding new partners, supporting bids into government, education and endorsement, project leadership where relevant.
Community engagement, awareness raising and partnership building	November 2021	<p>Host inaugural NNClimate 21 Conference to create momentum and energy behind climate change activities; engage speakers from outside and within the North Northants area. Tie into the COP26 event.</p> <p>Outcomes from the first conference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increased awareness of what is already happening across the North Northants geography to mitigate carbon emissions b) Consider, alongside COP26 outcomes, how these could help inform a new Climate Change and Environmental Strategy for North Northants c) Explore and develop the top 10 priorities for collective action over the medium term
Develop a Climate Change and Environmental Strategy and Action Plan	<p>By January 2022</p> <p>By February 2022</p>	<p>Report to EAP on the outcome of NNClimate21 conference, and the approach to be taken in developing a Climate Change and Environmental Strategy</p> <p>Begin development of a five-ten year strategy for the delivery of outcomes that engages and consults with the sector and the public.</p>
Development of several Single Page, high-level Policies to demonstrate strategic direction of travel	By January 2022	<p>Single Page Policies on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Policy • Energy/carbon Policy

B) POLICY, FINANCE, ASSET AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

OUTCOME	TIMESCALE	ACTION
Ensure Procurement Policy and practice maximises climate change mitigation outcomes.	By March 2022 By March 2022	Ensure procurement rules reflect the recommendations from the Climate change framework and enable the adoption of a Social Value Approach Explore how NNC can make best use of local suppliers who have a commitment to reduce carbon emissions and promote green practices Ensure new Highway's contract has a strong focus on climate change and clear targets on developing an all-electric fleet
Understand and manage emissions from fleet and property assets, to guide future investment priorities	By March 2022 By February 2022	Produce a carbon management plan which sets out the means of capturing carbon emissions from buildings and vehicles Confirm how emissions reporting to members and more widely is best achieved. Implement test for inclusion of capital programme bids which scores energy efficiency highly amongst intended outcomes, in time for 2022/23 capital programme
Understand the Energy efficiency performance of NNC owned homes, with the twin objectives of directing future investment in stock	By March 2022	Develop a plan, and roll out Year 1 activity in 2022-23, enabling the Council to build a comprehensive picture of the energy efficiency of all of its house types, heating and ventilation measures, water usage and insulation across the stock.

renewal and reducing energy costs for tenants		
Work with Registered Providers to understand the Energy efficiency performance of their housing stock	By June 2022	Produce a baseline data set for the Registered Provider sector across North Northants
	By March 2022	Develop a consultation plan to engage with tenants on fuel and water usage, insulation and future investment plans, with a view to wider dialogue later in 2022.
Develop a strategy for the roll out of Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP's) across the Council's estate and on street	By January 2022	Implement first tranche of on-street EVCPs in the area through the VPACH2 project
	By March 2022	Identify scope for further sites and implement second tranche of EVCPs through VPACH2
	By June 2022	Explore funding options, identify potential sites and test practicality for further EVCPs across North Northants

C) SOCIETY AND THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

OUTCOME	TIMESCALE	ACTION
Ensure spatial planning frameworks and policies as part of the wider Strategic Plan are guided	Begin scoping of Strategic Plan development by January 2022	Plans should examine and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of sites for wind, solar, anaerobic digestion and other forms of renewable energy production - Flood protection and mitigation measures in new developments

<p>by climate change mitigation objectives</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More sustainable domestic and commercial energy usage and generation, electric vehicle charging facilities, water use minimisation - Woodland and biodiversity protection and enhancement, delivering biodiversity net gain - Blue and green infrastructure planning and support for projects such as Forests for Life, River Nene and River Ise initiatives - Measures which encourage walking, cycling and greater use of public transport and less private vehicle usage within the design of new developments and their connectivity
<p>Develop a Waste Strategy which focuses on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste minimisation and reduction - Promotion of a circular economy - Sustainable and local disposal and waste treatment options - Food waste collection - Green waste options - Harmonisation and simplification of waste and recycling collection - Re-use of waste materials 	<p>Completed strategy by August 2022</p> <p>Individual progress on specific areas continuing from November 2021 onwards</p>	<p>Plans to take account of changes in national policies and the roll out of those policies and maximise the opportunities arising from them.</p> <p>To consider how the current Wellingborough Norse contract and its review could lead to more effective arrangements and consider what changes can be made to existing collection and disposal arrangements to improve outcomes.</p>

- Fuel efficient collection methods		
Develop a local Pollinator Strategy	By March 2022	Extend the principles of the Kettering strategy throughout NN area with implementation thereafter, and engagement with town and parish councils on its delivery across the area.
Develop and review the Tree Planting Strategy and plans –“right tree, right place”	By February 2022	Utilise investment from the Treescape Fund for tree planting on council owned land to improve tree coverage
	By March 2022	Establish principles by which local community groups can secure advice on tree planting on land outside the Council’s ownership.
	Ongoing throughout 2022	Work alongside the Queen’s Green Canopy to maximise awareness of activity
	By June 2022	Understand total number of trees in NNC ownership and how this can be used for offsetting our carbon emissions
Develop an Active Travel Strategy	By September 2022	Continue progress of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans in Wellingborough, Rushden, Corby and Kettering
	By October 2022	Develop design schemes to enable future funding bids to be submitted
	By March 2022	Explore the potential options for the future use of how e-scooters and e-bikes, following the end of the current Department for Transport

	Ongoing from December 2021	Continue development of the Greenway Project through the development of the Design Study between Rushden and Wellingborough
	By September 2022	Progress an e-cargo bike trial
Review Air Quality Action Plans and introduce six monthly monitoring	By February 2022	Develop strategy for rolling review and regular reporting to the EAP (first report in October 2021)
Develop an ongoing public dialogue with transport providers to explore accelerated adoption of electric vehicles	From October 2021 onwards	<p>Work with bus operators to explore how progress can be made to move the transport fleet to electric vehicles</p> <p>Build into the Bus Strategy Implementation Plan scope to develop a feasibility study into the transition to electric buses to inform a potential business case for future government funding to implement the transition</p> <p>Explore with the private hire and taxi trade on how adoption of electric vehicles could be developed</p>
Review the support structure for working with a local green community interest company (such as the Electric Corby)	By June 2022	Consult on effect it could have and how best deployed, with a view to any implementation taking place during 2022-24