



Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

Climate Change *Action Plan* 2021 - 2025



A Cleaner, Greener Organisation

is developing and improving rapidly, affecting governmental policy, technology, manufacturing and availability of solutions. As a result, the Council's action plan to tackle its own emissions will focus on a two - three year rolling cycle, enabling changes in funding and technology to be capitalised upon.



Heating



Seek decarbonisation grant funding for building retrofit work including improvements to the way buildings are heated through measures such as hybrid heating systems.



Finalise an accommodation strategy which reviews our property portfolio in order to provide a better service to the public but also consolidate the numbers of office buildings required. The strategy must achieve improved service delivery alongside reduced consumption and emissions.



Develop a building retrofit programme based on a heat decarbonisation plan, aimed at substantially reducing the emissions from Council buildings via measures such as air source heat pumps and improved IT infrastructure.





Electricity



Pursue the installation of a solar farm on Council land to generate renewable energy for use by the Council in its operations and deliver a return on investment which can be used to support further climate change reducing initiatives.



Develop a programme of future energy generation and / or storage projects for the borough, ready to be initiated as funding becomes available.



Explore the use of on-site generation of solar power and energy storage for Council facilities and amenities including car parks, visitor attractions, offices accommodation and public conveniences.



Monitor developments in the national and international energy sector to identify new and / or promising emerging technologies and applications to deliver Net Zero.



Council Fleet



Double the amount of EV charging points specifically for fleet vehicle use.



Increase the level of zero emission vehicles in the Council fleet to a minimum of 20% by 2022.

Other

- Develop a plan for waste and recycling in line with the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy and forthcoming Environment Act requirements.
- Promote pension fund investment in green enterprises / disinvestment in fossil fuels
- Embed 'low consumption' as a fundamental component of our procurement pipeline.
- Explore ways in which our highways and engineering schemes can reduce and even eliminate their carbon footprint.
- Examine how the planting of trees and use of natural materials can be introduced as a measure within flood prevention plans
- Finalise a Tree Strategy setting out commitments for tree planting year on year in the borough as well as promoting biodiversity.
- Explore the feasibility of a Sustainable Christmas Tree initiative as well as of Amenity Trees / Seed schemes with educational settings.
- Explore amendments to the staff mileage process to encourage uptake of ultra-low and zero emission cars
- All growth plans initiated will have carbon reduction (where there is an existing carbon footprint) or carbon neutrality (where there is no pre-existing carbon footprint) as a fundamental component of scheme designs.



Actions: Collective Responsibility

Industry and Commerce



- Continue working to deliver the Energy Recovery Facility and agree a plan with the awarded contractor for the year on year reductions in carbon emissions from the site.
- Require the successful Energy Recovery facility Operator to explore carbon capture technology as a means to offset outputs from the site.
- Continue to support the hydrogen heating trial in the South Bank area and future schemes that arise from it.
- Work with education providers and partners to prepare for, and support, a low carbon skills transition.
- Support the development of the Net Zero Teesside project at the Teesworks site.
- Establish partnerships with organisations in the borough to support their plans to reduce emissions

Domestic fuel



- Engage with the private rented sector to ensure adherence with the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) and support where possible implementation of low carbon measures to deliver EPC improvements.
- Develop a communications programme for local private homeowners directing them to information about how and why to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Administer government grant funding for private homeowners with low energy banded homes.

Transport



- Support the delivery of the Tees Valley Hydrogen Transport Hub Masterplan
- Working with the Tees Valley Combined Authority identify a list of appropriate public EV charging sites throughout the borough aimed at facilitating commerce and tourism.
- Agree and implement a car parking strategy to increase sustainability and drive green transportation and tourism
- Clarify transport information responsibilities to deliver improved, timely bus/train times & fares to all residents, businesses and visitors.
- Improve promotion of walking, cycling, bus and train routes in our Borough, specifically targeting residents
- Develop a programme of strategic walking & cycling schemes to create an enhanced Redcar & Cleveland network.
- Trial charging points in residential areas where most houses do not have driveways
- Develop a low emissions bus pilot with bus operators in the borough.
- Encourage the uptake of electric vehicles as taxis in the borough by supporting charging infrastructure investment.

Land Usage



- Following the National Planning Policy Framework and any legislative changes to the planning process, we will review our Local Plan to ensure that our planning system in Redcar & Cleveland is as robust as possible in relation to sustainable development, low carbon / carbon neutral development and the growth of infrastructure to support a low carbon economy.

Other

- Lobby government regarding updating Building Regulations to include more environmentally friendly design requirements.



Actions: The Bigger Picture



Work with TVCA to support the introduction of climate change reducing industry to the south tees region



Actively support climate change research through participation in research programmes

