



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



SIXTH PROGRESS REPORT | SEPTEMBER 2025



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

In July 2019, Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) members unanimously declared a climate emergency. This declaration commits WBC to do as much as possible to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. Subsequently, the council now has a climate emergency strategy ([available here](#)) and publishes an annual Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) progress report, which establishes key priority areas, actions and reports on the status.

The CEAP establishes 9 key priority areas to mitigate carbon emissions and work towards our 2030 goal. These are:

- 1. **Transport**
- 2. **Renewable Energy Generation**
- 3. **Building Retrofitting**
- 4. **Carbon Sequestration**
- 5. **Waste & Recycling**
- 6. **New Developments**
- 7. **Procurement**
- 8. **Engagement & Behaviour change**
- 9. **Council specific actions**

This report details the progress and associated carbon savings against each action. It covers the 2024/25 period (April to March).

The tables on the next few pages summarises our actions across these 9 priorities. The carbon savings outlined by each action represents the cumulative annual savings, towards the 2030 carbon neutrality target. Some of these actions will not directly represent carbon savings but are essential to the delivery of other actions; these are identified as 'Neutral'. For simplicity, the carbon saving figures are rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Within the CEAP, short term actions will be completed within a few years of this report (2025 to 2026), medium term actions take several years to complete (2027 to 2028), and long-term actions take more years (2029 to 2030). To ensure we monitor progress against our 2030 dream, a 'project stage' from 1-5 is assigned to each action, defined by the criteria below:

Stage	Criteria
1. Idea	High-level idea has been identified
2. Scoping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Idea developed in more detailRecognised risks and benefits identifiedEstimated costs and resources scopedValue for money assessment undertaken
3. Develop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Detailed requirements, goals and milestones establishedBusiness case approved and finance source identified
4. Initiation	Delivery of actions start, and progress monitored
5. Delivering	Ongoing delivery of actions until completion

For each of the 9 priorities, the high-level outputs within each table (highlighted in grey) follow a colour RAG rating system.

The council seeks to ensure accurate and quality information in the CEAP, and that our response to climate change is as robust as it can be. Actions within this plan are continually revisited to adjust or re-evaluate in line with new policies and learning. Not all carbon savings for the projects listed in this plan have been calculated, as some of the information needed is not yet available. Once this information is available it will be included.

The emission targets within this document are best estimates based on the information we currently have; the carbon accounting methodology is subject to ongoing refinement.



1. TRANSPORT



1. TRANSPORT

Annual Carbon Savings: 101,712 tCO₂e

Being one of the key contributors towards our emissions, and with higher-than-average car ownership in the borough, this is a priority area for reductions. These are aimed to be achieved through a combination of approaches designed to support, enable and encourage residents and businesses to shift their modes of travel from car use to active or low-carbon options.

To identify and calculate the carbon savings from modal shift, mileage is attributed to each mode of transport. This data is acquired from government data which outlines the average distances per mode of transport for people in the rural/urban fringe. This is the closest available option currently and allows for greater alignment with the LTP4 strategy and travel targets within this.

Targets for transport mode shift to walking, cycling and public transport are provisional following the substantial change of methodology and will be refined over the next 12 months to reflect the council's plan for increasing use of buses and walking and cycling.

Key Achievements this year:

- LTP4 and Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy adopted.
- From 2019-2023 there has been an 8% decrease in all trip mileage, primarily from commuting and business travel.



Related Strategies:

For more information on these actions, their background and milestones, please see the strategies below:

- Local Transport Plan 4 ([Live](#)) – This Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) considers the numerous changes to transport policy and strategy across national, regional and local areas to deliver a plan that will meet the needs of our present and future residents.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy ([Live](#)) – This outlines how the EV transition for residents and businesses will be supported, primarily through charging infrastructure support, network capacity and system compatibility.
- Bus Service Improvement Plan ([Live](#)) – The BSIP outlines a vision, plan, policy framework and targets for bus passenger growth within the borough. Further funding under this plan is being applied for on a project specific basis.
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan ([Live](#)) – The LCWIP outlines the approach and actions aimed to encourage modal shift towards greater active travel.

Action Changes from last year:

- Actions under 1A have been changed towards the new 'mileage share' approach, as detailed on the left.
- Reduction target removed with change to mode shift.
- This approach now includes trains within carbon saving calculations, replacing 'on-demand travel' actions.
- Actions on general engagement, events and housing development contact merged into 1A 3.6.
- Previous action 1A 1.3 on smart chargers removed as now complete and part of BAU.

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
1A Reduce Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) private car mileage to 50% Mileage Share.	This currently sits at 78.8%	82,670 tCO₂e		
1A.1 Increase EV (Electric Vehicle) mileage share to 30%.	This currently sits at 4.3%	73,708 tCO₂e		Green
1A.1.1 Develop an EV Charging strategy. Develop a borough wide strategy to specify the infrastructure for EV charging points to encourage the uptake of EVs.	Strategy adopted.	Included in total	Short term (2025/26)	5 Delivering
1A.1.2 Review the residential charge point infrastructure for those who have no off-street parking facilities. As of 2020, 27% of residential buildings (approximately 12,000 households) did not have off-street parking and therefore direct access to safely charge an electric vehicle.	44 sockets have been installed under the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS). These have been added to the ZAPmap app for visibility. 45,556kWh of charging has occurred at these sites between approx. Dec 2023 and Dec 2024. Funding has been secured through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) capital scheme to deliver further chargepoints.	254 tCO ₂ e (Included in total)	Long term (2029/30)	4 Initiation

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
<p>1A.1.3 Support local businesses, including commercial property owners, to transition their commercial fleets to electric.</p> <p>Support EV infrastructure and promote the benefits of EVs to businesses and their employees, including salary sacrifice and workplace charging schemes.</p>	<p>The business networking group, Wokingham Positive Difference delivered a session on EVs and chargers (including grants) to local small and medium businesses in February.</p> <p>A pan Berkshire, business focused EV awareness event is scheduled to take place on 11th July at Winnersh Triangle Business Park. Businesses will have the opportunity to test drive a range of EVs, find out about grants and financial savings from switching to EVs, explore emerging technologies and talk to experts and get advice. My Journey will attend the event showcasing the EV cargo bike.</p>	<p>2,407 tCO₂e</p> <p>(Included in total)</p>	<p>Medium term (2027/28)</p>	<p>4 Initiation</p>
<p>1A.1.4 Promote the uptake of electric vehicles with residents.</p> <p>Engage with residents through different on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitioning to EVs. • Charge points • Government grant schemes <p>Providing an avenue of contact for residents to submit queries and request support on chargepoints.</p>	<p>Officers have responded to emails received from residents without off-street parking about the closest charge points and the process for requesting a potential charger installation in their area if appropriate, along with FAQs.</p> <p>An EV event is planned for September at Elms Field through Let's Experience Electric to showcase electric vehicles and infrastructure solutions for residents and businesses.</p> <p>Advice on EVs and links to the Energy Saving Trust is provided on the My Journey and Climate Emergency Hub webpages.</p>	<p>Included in total</p>	<p>Long term (2029/30)</p>	<p>4 Initiation</p>

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
<p>1A.1.5 Coordinate the installation of EV charging points into both council buildings and private or commercially owned land, in line with the EV network plan approved in the strategy.</p> <p>The EV network plan will have standardised EV charging point requirements to make charging easy to access.</p>	<p>The EV standards from highways design guide is being used. Ongoing process of exploring new options for charging points.</p> <p>Targets for charger installations are now included in the EV strategy. 113 active sockets installed at council properties/car parks etc, with a further 29 planned, totalling 820 tCO₂e identified. 158 sockets are aimed to be installed at the Gorse Ride development.</p> <p>These are also to be added to ZAPmap for visibility. Discussions with provider Flowbird are underway to support integration.</p>	820 tCO ₂ e Included in total	Medium term (2027/28)	4 Initiation
1A.2 Increase public transport mileage share to 13%.	This currently sits at 10.3%	7,720 tCO₂e		Amber
1A.2.1 Produce Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).	Action completed, with the BSIP updated as part of business as usual each year.	Included in total	Short term (2025/26)	5 Delivering
<p>1A.2.2 Establish an enhanced partnership with contractors to improve usage.</p> <p>Working with Bus companies as partners to increase bus usage through more accessible services.</p>	This is now in place and includes variation clauses for: more frequent and more reliable bus services, better access in rural areas, more attractive fares for young people, better marketing and improved buses themselves.	Included in total	Action Completed	5 Delivering
<p>1A.2.3 Support electrification of local buses under Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA).</p> <p>Depending on Reading buses having the required funding for fleet renewal Gov will fund 75% and the local authority need to fund the rest.</p>	<p>WBC supported a successful bid with Reading for Route 21 as this covers the Lower Earley and University areas.</p> <p>This will be revisited for further vehicles if suitable funding opportunities arise from the Department for Transport (DfT).</p>	Included in total	Medium term (2027/28)	2 Scoping

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
<p>1A.2.4 Improve the bus public transport network for Wokingham Town.</p> <p>Identifying the key transport needs for the public travelling between Wokingham and surrounding areas: Wokingham Town, Finchampstead, Winnersh, Twyford, and Woodley. To decrease the number of people arriving in personal vehicles at public transport interchanges.</p>	<p>Contracts have gone out for retender with bus companies due to the costs involved. Thames Valley Buses appointed to provide the services for 3 additional years.</p> <p>Funding secured to enhance the frequency of buses to 30 minutes between Arborfield, Finchampstead, Barkham and Wokingham Town on weekdays and Saturday.</p>	Included in total	Short term (2025/26)	4 Initiation
<p>1A.2.5 Bus stop infrastructure works to support Arborfield Green bus strategy.</p> <p>Public Transport infrastructure enhancement includes more shelter from poor weather, more seating capacity and real time information displays to encourage more residents to use the bus network.</p>	<p>Action completed.</p> <p>The strategy has been published and an implementation plan agreed. This has been assessed as part of an ongoing enhanced partnership agreement process, with new bus stops added and routes amended as part of wider works.</p>	Included in total	Medium term (2027/28) Action completed	5 Delivering
<p>1A.2.6 Maintain and increase the mileage share within the borough of trains as a mode of transport to 9%.</p> <p>To encourage this shift through a range of actions, detailed more within individual travel documents for each station. These are primarily based on improving station accessibility for disabled users, active and public transport connections, communicating opportunities and optimising services where possible through discussions with providers.</p>	New Action, currently sitting at 7.4%.	Included in total	Long term (2029/30)	3 Developing

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
1A.3 Increase active travel mileage share to 7%.	This currently sits at 6.3%	1,242 tCO₂e		Green
1A.3.1 To provide primary school children with the opportunity to develop practical skills and an understanding of how to cycle safely. Bikeability training up to level 3 offered to primary school children.	Courses still underway. Project fully funded with a total of 2,335 children trained across the 3 levels of Bikeability. This is an ongoing programme of training which we intend to continue subject to future funding.	346 tCO ₂ e (Included in total)	Short term (2025/26)	5 Delivering
1A.3.2 Promote sustainable and active travel within schools through Modeshift STARS. Create a culture of active travel amongst school children.	Ongoing work with schools via certification and competitions. This includes Modeshift awards, which are continuing, with 18 schools currently receiving awards. Engagement with parents is also being delivered as part of the air quality programme for anti-idling.	135 tCO ₂ e (Included in total)	Medium term (2027/28)	5 Delivering
1A.3.3 Roll out the Healthy School Streets programme. Trial programme at school streets to tackle congestion, road safety and air quality by restricting motor traffic at the school gates for a short period of time, generally at drop-off and pick-up times.	Awaiting executive decision on newly identified sites.	135 tCO ₂ e (Included in total)	Long term (2029/30)	3 Developing

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
<p>1A.3.4 Increase the uptake of cycling from local businesses by promoting the Love to Ride programme.</p> <p>Encourages people to choose cycling as their main mode of travel.</p>	<p>Love to Ride scheme now has over 3,000 users across 132 companies and 2 million miles travelled, saving 155 tonnes of carbon dioxide.</p> <p>There is a dedicated business page on the My Journey website which identifies support to encourage sustainable commutes to work. New schemes to further support the goal of this target are being explored.</p>	<p>608 tCO₂e</p> <p>(Included in total)</p>	<p>Medium term</p> <p>(2027/28)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Delivering</p>
<p>1A.3.5 Deliver the priority schemes within the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).</p> <p>Create a comprehensive network of walking/cycling routes across the borough which are joined up.</p>	<p>LCWIP has been adopted by the council and is being used for bidding for funds.</p> <p>The Woodley to Reading route will start building in Q4 2025.</p> <p>£600k has been awarded for the design of A329 Reading Road, with the design and consultation now complete. A further £690k has been provisionally assigned to deliver the first phase of this project.</p> <p>Network Rail have replaced the Carnival Hub bridge, the council are working to add ramps.</p> <p>Analysis work is underway to ensure schemes that deliver the biggest benefits are prioritised.</p>	<p>Included in total</p>	<p>Long term</p> <p>(2029/30)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Developing</p>

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
<p>1A.3.6 Promote active and sustainable travel through local engagement.</p> <p>Inform new and existing residents of alternatives to single occupancy car use, promoting the wider benefits of active and sustainable travel, while providing a local context.</p>	<p>This is ongoing, with events booked across spring and summer and strong participation numbers being recorded. New areas are also being explored for Adult cycle training.</p> <p>A new round of personal travel planning recently completed, targeting 750 households.</p>	Included in total	Medium term (2027/28)	<p>5</p> <p>Delivering</p>
1B. Reduce road freight	Not Started	19,042 tCO₂e		Red
<p>1B.1 Develop a domestic and industrial freight management policy.</p> <p>To develop a borough wide traffic distribution hierarchy to understand traffic capacity, and traffic carrying routes to improve operational logistics and reduce the number of 'empty runs' and consequently the number of trucks on the road.</p> <p>The framework will support decision making on the traffic distribution, based on air quality, carbon emissions and energy savings.</p>	This policy is a daughter document of the LTP4 and is planned to start late 2025.	19,042 tCO ₂ e	Short term (2025/26)	<p>1</p> <p>Idea</p>

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
1B.2 Support the transition of business vans to cargo bikes. Establishing a short-term business grant fund for businesses to apply for funds to switch their large vans to smaller petrol or electric vehicle cargo bikes.	3 cargo bikes are available for organisations to borrow on a short term trial basis. Further options are being explored to support this scheme, with this being promoted at events to small businesses.	Included in total	Short term (2025/26)	4 Initiation
1C Local Transport Plan 4		Included in total		Green
1C.1 Develop a Local Transport Plan to combine and support the above strategies and actions, enabling greater coordination and opportunities for government funding. Local Transport Plans (LTPs) provide information on how the council intend to manage transport responsibilities including objectives, policies, and plans for transport improvements. Once adopted the progress of this plan will be measured by the individual strategies it defines and supports.	Plan adopted.	Included in total	Short term (2025/26)	5 Delivering



2. RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION



2. RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

Annual Carbon Savings: 26,053 tCO₂e

Emissions from fossil fuel burning to supply electricity is a significant contributor to the borough's emissions. The majority of electricity is provided via the national grid and hence emissions are calculated based on the current composition of energy providers.

By generating our own renewable energy through large schemes such as solar farms we can feed that back into the grid and reduce the overall requirement and composition of fossil fuel provision. This is how the carbon savings are calculated, by identifying how much MWh (Megawatt Hour) the renewable generation in our borough will reduce the need for such alternatives in the national grid system.

Smaller schemes installed by households, businesses and in some cases, whole communities, can also contribute to these savings more directly, supplying the power used by the property owners and hence reducing the overall demand on power from the fossil fuel dominated grid. Calculations for savings remain similar though, based on replacing electricity generation from burning fossil fuels with a no carbon alternative.

As renewable energy relates to all forms not just solar, installations of alternative energy sources are incorporated into assessments for future projects and support schemes where viable. This includes exploring the continued installation of varied renewable energy systems in public buildings.

Wokingham Borough Council has established the complex planning and procurement necessary to deliver significant projects intended to increase the generation of renewable energy across the borough. The Council remains committed to the delivery of large-scale ground mounted solar farms.

Key Achievements this year:

- The generation of 34,425 MWh of renewable electricity in the borough at the end of the last recorded year (2023) saved the borough 7,128 tCO₂e.
- Solar Together continues to be successful, over 500 installations have been delivered through the scheme to date.
- The Big Community Switch scheme has helped 172 residents switch to a greener and cheaper energy tariff.

Action Changes from last year:

- No major action changes from last year.

SDGs:



Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
2.1 Increase the generation of renewable energy through investment in solar farms to generate 49 MWp	This currently sits at 0MWp as it will be delivered in bulk.	10,304 tCO₂e		Green
2.1.1 Deliver the installation of a solar farm in Barkham with the capacity to generate approximately 29 MWp or 28,563,000 kWh's per annum. Installation of a large- scale solar farm on council owned land will allow the council to offset its carbon emissions from electricity and gas usage and possibly 'retail' any excess. New route for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders are being considered, alongside circa 10,000 new trees planted on the farmland.	The project is progressing for delivery to connect to the grid in Spring 2027. Further information on this can be found on the WBC website .	5,914 tCO ₂ e	Medium term (2027/28)	4 Initiation
2.1.2 Deliver the installation of a solar farm in Site 2 with the capacity to generate approximately 20 MWp of energy. This will be reviewed case by case depending on surveys and other considerations.	Potential site has been identified and initial feasibility/options appraisals are currently underway. A connection offer has been received from SSEN and the Council are in active discussions with SSEN regarding implementation.	4,141 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2029/30)	3 Developing
2.1.3 Deliver the installation of solar canopies at Mere oak park and ride with the capacity to generate approximately 1.5MWp or 1,200,000 KWh of energy. This will be reviewed case by case depending on surveys and other considerations.	Initial feasibility/options appraisal is complete. Public consultation and planning application is due Autumn/Winter 2025. Completion of works is planned for Spring 2027.	248 tCO ₂ e	Short term (2025/26)	3 Developing

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
2.2 Support the generation of renewable energy in the borough to generate approx. 106,000 MWh	This currently sits at 30,886 MWh.	15,748 tCO₂e		Amber
2.2.1 Support Community Energy Projects Utilising Community Energy will help accelerate the uptake of renewable energy generation within the borough.	<p>A feasibility assessment of installing solar panels and battery storage through existing local and national community energy groups for a sheltered housing site. This feasibility study will be used internally to increase understanding of community energy.</p> <p>The Local Authority-Community Energy (LACE) collaboration assessment is being used to support this area. Six building blocks have been identified to support growing the community energy sector. The focus for 25/26 is the first three building blocks identified in the Greater South East Net Zero hub report.</p>	5 tCO ₂ e	Short term (2025/26)	2 Scoping
2.2.2 Support residents to reduce their energy usage and encourage the uptake of green energy.	<p>The Berkshire-wide Solar Together scheme was delivered in 23/24 and 24/25. Wokingham had the highest number of solar panel installations across the six participating authorities with 511 installations. The scheme offers both solar panels and battery storage installation. Solar Together scheme 25/26 is due to start in summer.</p> <p>Through the Big Community Switch scheme 172 residents have switched to a greener and cheaper energy tariff.</p>	7,765 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2029/30)	4 Initiation
2.2.3 Support local businesses and voluntary organisations to reduce their energy usage and carbon emissions.	<p>Tailored information for businesses is included on WBC's Climate Emergency hub providing advice on reducing energy costs and installing renewable energy systems.</p> <p>The Economic Development Strategy and Town Centre Strategy were signed off in January 2025, following this the economic development team are refining their business engagement approach, information on reducing energy costs and installing renewables will be incorporated into wider business engagement content.</p>	5,605 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2029/30)	2 Scoping



3. RETROFITTING DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS



3. RETROFITTING DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Annual Carbon Savings: 51,594 tCO₂e

While energy supply is primarily targeted in priority two, reducing energy demand, by retrofitting domestic and commercial buildings, is also vital in minimising overall carbon emissions. The government recognise this as a key area to address, reflected in the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) which sets minimum energy efficiency levels measured through Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). Where possible, retrofit targets use EPCs to measure progress to align to the metrics used by the government.

Key measures include encouraging awareness of energy saving measures available to domestic property owners, looking to support them throughout the process of identifying opportunities and installing them. By doing so, significant savings can be achieved in both energy bills and carbon emissions, particularly for buildings with low energy efficiency ratings.

In addition, the council are keen to work with local businesses to improve commercial properties, to deliver similar benefits, in line with government aspirations.

Social houses are also included in this section. Offices, leisure centres and libraries, and other Council owned buildings are included in the council section at the end of the CEAP, as this relates directly to council energy use.

Key Achievements this year:

- Bids for social housing and private housing decarbonisation support under 2 separate aspects of the government's warm homes scheme have been successful.
- Thermal imaging camera loan scheme pilot due to launch at Wokingham library later this year.

Action Changes from last year:

- New Action added on private rental properties (3.3.4)
- Private homes actions merged into 3.3.1
- Actions have been moved towards EPC rating certification where possible, following national approaches and for consistency.
- The progress on Gorse Ride is now shown in the council specific section.

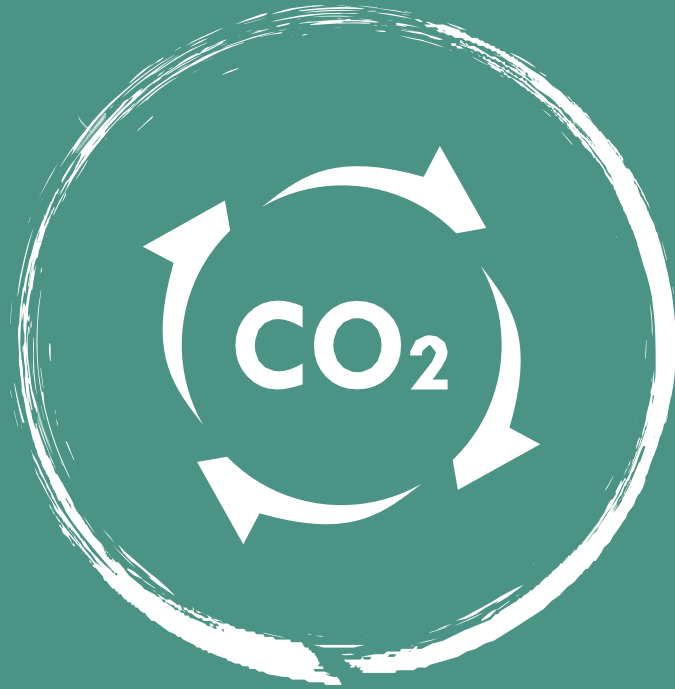
SDGs:



Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
3.1 Council social housing stock to be EPC C.	This currently sits at 1,902 houses.	1,755 tCO₂e		Green
3.1.1 Improve energy performance of council housing stock. Improve energy efficiency of approximately 2,500 council owned housing units to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band C.	An initial assessment of the social housing stock has revealed that 75% of homes are EPC C or above. Further surveys are required in the next number of years to assess the performance alongside retrofitting the least energy efficient homes (EPC D or below). Funding has been won through the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3 scheme to retrofit 100 social homes over the next three years.	1,755 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2029/30)	4 Initiation
3.2 School buildings to be EPC C or above.	This currently sits at approximately 65% of schools.	310 tCO₂e		Amber
3.2.1 Upgrade various energy measures in the schools and encourage sustainable property management practices to improve their energy performance. Works will typically include LED lighting, Insulation measures, controls upgrades, heating upgrades/replacements and Renewable Energy Generation technologies.	The assessment mapping is regularly monitored and updated, with a rolling programme for identifying unusual energy usage and scheduling retrofit work to address these. The Council has invested in renewable energy infrastructure on school buildings, including solar panels. An initiative where schools buy the energy from council installed panels has been implemented and is ongoing. Future investment projects will be identified, working with maintained schools to identify projects with the biggest impact and sustainable financial business cases. Continued work with schools to identify opportunities for improvements in energy consumption and renewable energy generation and changes in behaviours around energy usage.	310 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2029/30))	4 Initiation

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
3.3 75% of privately owned homes to be EPC C rating or above, an increase of 16,859 homes	This currently sits at 51% of homes.	49,528 tCO2e		Red
3.3.1 Develop and deliver schemes to support retrofitting of homes. Support residents to reduce their energy usage and carbon emissions and increase the uptake of green energy technologies. This scheme will include energy efficiency measures.	<p>A pilot thermal imaging camera loan service has been set up to operate from Wokingham library. Depending on the success of the scheme, a wider roll out will be explored.</p> <p>A bid for private homes support under the Warm Homes: Local Grant Scheme has been successful as part of wider consortium bid. Eligible households in Wokingham can apply for one or more home energy-saving installations.</p> <p>The ECO flex scheme is ongoing, with 1600 measures installed since the start upgrading houses mainly from D to C or E to D. The Great British Installation Scheme (GBIS) follows this and is currently being explored.</p>	Included in total	Long term (2029/30)	4 Initiation

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
3.3.2 Registered Providers (RPs) social housing stock to be EPC C or above.	<p>Approximately 97% of our partner RPs' housing stock is EPC band C or higher. EPC data is collected annually from our partner RPs.</p> <p>Commitment added to the Registered Preferred Partnership Agreement stating: "Bring all properties to an Energy Performance Certificate C rating by 2030 & "Purchase & build all new Housing Association homes in Wokingham Borough to the highest energy efficiency standards".</p>	Included in total	Long term (2029/30)	4 Initiation
3.3.3 Street lighting project Major street lighting LED Upgrade Scheme to significantly reduce energy consumption and equip the streetlights with remote control/monitoring.	Completed	Included in total	Long term (2029/30)	5 Delivering
3.3.4 Improve EPCs of private rental properties. Within the private housing sector, a portion of this stock is used as rental properties. These properties have their own governmental policy which will require EPC C rating to be let by 2030.	<p>New Action to align with upcoming national legislation.</p> <p>Private rental properties are eligible for the ECO flex scheme and other upcoming schemes outlined in 3.3.1.</p>	Included in total	Long term (2029/30)	2 Scoping



4. CARBON SEQUESTRATION



4. CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Annual Carbon Savings: 875 tCO₂e

Some emission sources will be nearly impossible to eliminate, hence some carbon sequestration will be required. This will always be done as a final response, with emission minimisation being prioritised. These projects also offer considerable benefits to biodiversity and public health.

Key measures here revolve around land management, aiming to increase both the area utilised for sequestration and biodiversity through more trees and allotments, alongside maintaining or improving the quality of these areas, through better soil/grassland management. Figures used are those for the final number of hectares that will be covered by any trees, hedgerows or orchard once fully grown, coming from the Woodlands Trust.

2023 delivered a Tree Strategy, which will help meet statutory biodiversity obligations, while maximising the wide range of benefits that trees and woods can deliver.

The council plans also include projects to manage grassland, rewild land, protect and enhance wetland habitats, promote native planting and target woodland creation, as well as retention and maintenance of existing trees. Our partnership with the Woodland Trust will ensure we receive the advice and support needed to ensure that we will be able to maximise the wide range of benefits that trees and woods can deliver.

However, agricultural emissions remain a noticeable element (5.6%) of the boroughs overall profile, so future iterations of the CEAP will aim to incorporate targets to minimise these where possible by working alongside landowners to improve the efficiency of their operations.

Related Strategies:

For more information on these actions, their background and milestones, please see the strategies below:

- Tree Strategy ([Live](#)) – This outlines the approach and guidelines being taken by the council to increase tree cover within the borough, protect old trees and more.
- Biodiversity Action Plan – This emerging plan will outline the approach being taken to protect and increase biodiversity within the borough, including primarily the implementation of biodiversity net gain (BNG) in developments.

Key Achievements this year:

- To date, 60,000 trees have been planted across 33 hectares.
- A 10 % biodiversity net gain is now mandatory for all planning applications.
- The Council has achieved Tree City of the World status.

Action Changes from last year:

- 4.1 Target amended to align with tree strategy timeline.
- All tree planting actions merged into 4.1.1 and now includes BNG related sites.
- The Tree Strategy has been separated into individual action.
- Community garden and citizen science actions removed due to barriers.
- Previous action 4.2.3 on grass cutting removed as completed.



Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
4.1 Cover 50 hectares with new trees in the form of woodlands, hedgerows and orchards.	This currently sits at 33 hectares.	233 tCO₂e		Green
<p>4.1.1 Deliver the Tree Strategy of long-term creation and retention of woodland and trees, to improve carbon capture and biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>This will utilise appropriate species and locations, along with improving retention rate of trees and a greater veteran tree population. It will also encourage more planting on private land through a grant scheme for local private landowners to apply for funding.</p> <p>This includes 10ha from new strategic development locations within the Local Plan Update.</p>	<p>To date, 60,000 trees have been planted across 33 hectares of council owned public open space, town and parish owned land, community spaces, schools and private land.</p> <p>Schemes have consisted of new hedgerows, community orchards and woodland planting, with adoption of semi-natural greenspaces on an ongoing basis. The project has included the design and implementation of a new Covid Memorial Woodland which was carried out in collaboration with local volunteers.</p> <p>Officers developed a 'Greening the Borough' application on Wokingham Engage to provide an opportunity for private landowners to register their interest in participation of the tree planting scheme.</p> <p>A 10 % biodiversity net gain is now mandatory for all planning applications. An Ecological Emergency was declared on January 5th 2024 and a further plan is currently under assessment.</p> <p>The Council has achieved Tree City of the World status in recognition for the commitment to enhancement and protection of the borough tree assets.</p>	Included in total	Medium term (2027/28)	5 Delivering
<p>4.1.2 Make Wokingham a Garden Forest by promoting and encouraging residents to plant new trees.</p> <p>Support residents and local businesses who want to plant and maintain their own trees either with our permission on our land, or on their own land.</p>	Action Completed	Included in total	Action completed	5 Delivering

Action / Co - Benefits	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
4.1.3 Support schools to implement carbon sequestration projects. Connect schools to voluntary sector and the community in projects such as planting in care homes, working with local allotments and farms.	Collaborative working with Freely Fruity and the woodland trust with schools across the borough has resulted in 26 schools participating, consisting of hedgerows, small woodland and fruit tree planting. There is currently no further government funding to support this. Officers have instead directed landowners to the MOREwoods and MOREhedgerow planting packs.	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	5 Delivering
4.1.4 Develop the Wokingham Borough Tree Strategy	Action Complete.	Included in total	Short term (2025/26)	5 Delivering
4.2 Carbon sequestration by design - improving carbon sequestration rates in land management decisions.	This currently sits at the equivalent of 40tCO₂e	642 tCO₂e		Red
4.2.1 Support the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to provide complementary funding source to aid land use change towards being a carbon sink. Developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy that covers the borough will provide a 5% uplift on the number of biodiversity net gain units that can be generated in areas identified as part of a local nature recovery network. The ability of soil to sequester carbon correlates positively with biodiversity.	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) are acting as the Lead Authority for Berkshire in developing this, which Wokingham Borough Council has acted as a supporting authority for. There is currently a draft strategy for this, to be finalised this year.	Included in total	Medium term (2027/28)	3 Developing
4.2.2 Develop a Natural Flood Management partnership and scheme. Creation of wetland habitat as part of a programme of restoration of natural flood management processes to sequester carbon and reduce soil degradation.	Ongoing work with Environment Agency to reduce fluvial flood risk in the borough. All new developments come with drainage responsibility, so measures are incorporated. There are plans to investigate the feasibility of additional catchment capacity with biodiversity benefits, initial focus will look at Hurst.	Included in total	Long term (2029/30)	1 Idea

Action / Co - Benefits	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
4.2.4 Work to transition Grassland Management to support the Restoring Biological Processes. Natural greenspace grassland will perform better at carbon sequestration where: A) Soil compaction from machinery is kept to a minimum. B) Structural diversity is encouraged by 'conservation' grazing (instead of uniform cutting).	Trialling management of some sites by our countryside services team to help improve biodiversity net gain. Cut and collect trial is still to be agreed due to upfront costs and infrastructure required.	642 tCO ₂ e	Medium term (2027/28)	4 Initiation
4.3 Implement a climate change adaptation programme for the Council and borough	Idea scoping stage	Neutral		Amber
4.3.1 Draft a climate change risk register to support the future design and implementation of an adaptation plan for the borough.	A climate change risk register was drafted in 2023. The University of Reading strategic partnership is being explored to support on progressing adaptation work.	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	2 Scoping



5. WASTE AND RECYCLING



5. WASTE AND RECYCLING

Annual Carbon Savings: 4,314 tCO₂e (Out of scope)

To reach carbon neutrality as a country, it is vital to minimise the amount of waste produced, following the waste hierarchy., therefore a reduction in overall waste is the primary goal of the Waste Strategy, followed by an increase in the percentage of total waste being recycled, supporting the further goal of minimising the amount going to landfill or incineration. This means the potential savings by 2030 can be reduced as they are instead saved by lowering the total waste produced.

Key measures here include engaging with residents to encourage behaviour changes around waste minimisation and increased recycling to 70%, along with providing the supporting infrastructure to do so.

The majority of waste which is not recycled is currently incinerated, to generate energy as this is a marginally more sustainable alternative to landfill. However, it is certainly not the aim and is used as a last resort. It is also recognised that some outlying/unusual materials such as asbestos will never be fully recyclable or used for incineration, so 0% of waste going to landfill cannot be realistically achieved, however we can get very close and have moved this target forward to reflect our ambition here.

Waste generation & recycling related carbon emissions are not included in the government datasets. Hence, the savings are not included in the overall totals, but demonstrate the potential savings from such measures and their continued importance overall.

Related Strategies:

For more information on these actions, their background and milestones, please see the strategies below:

- Waste Strategy – Currently under development, this outlines the approach being taken by the council to reduce waste, increase recycling rate and reduce landfill, by encouraging shifts in established waste patterns.

Key Achievements this year:

- Overall, 39,580 tonnes of waste was recycled, representing 58% of the borough total. This meant 19,419 tonnes of CO₂e savings.
- The change to alternate weekly collections (AWC) is progressing well, with quarter 2 and 3 figures outperforming previous years in terms of tonnages.

Action Changes from last year:

- The Waste Strategy has been separated into an individual action.



Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
5.1 Achieve a 70% recycling rate	This currently sits at 58%.	3,947 tCO₂e		Amber
5.1.1 Implement a new waste and recycling collection system and approaches, with improved facilities. As part of new waste collection contracts, improved approaches will focus on waste minimisation, a high recycling rate, improved quality of recycling and reduced collection/ disposal costs and reduced carbon emissions.	<p>The change to alternate weekly collections (AWC) is progressing well, with Q2 and Q3 figures outperforming previous years in terms of tonnages. This interim measure aims to support a shift in recycling patterns, towards a 64% recycling rate.</p> <p>Further measures as part the new waste collection contract in 2026 will be informed by the full government environment bill to support the additional shift.</p> <p>Approximately 50 specialist collections have switched to normal collections, reducing the number of collections from this pilot area, with aims to expand this if successful.</p>	<p>2,415 tCO₂e (Included in total)</p> <p>This figure is only from AWC. More will come from contract, electric waste, soft plastics, wheeled bins etc, along with the below supporting actions.</p>	Medium term (2027/28)	4 Initiation
5.1.2 Engage with residents to encourage waste minimisation and recycling. Utilise numerous methods to support and encourage greater engagement with residents and behaviour changes, towards increasing the recycling rate and reducing waste.	<p>Going forward the council has taken over the delivery of comms internally, utilising newsletters, social media and more to reach over 18,500 residents.</p> <p>Engagement work, includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targeted surveys and communications delivered directly to residents in low participation areas. - Improved response times on social media and email for queries. - Share and scrapp app schemes. - An increase in locations that residents can collect extra green recycling bags. 	Included in 70% target total	Short term (2025/26)	4 Initiation

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
<p>5.1.3 Target low participation areas to increase food waste tonnage to increase participation above 70%.</p> <p>Improve uptake in food waste recycling to increase food waste tonnage, hence reducing loss of recyclable material.</p>	<p>Between February and July 2024, 2,255 properties were surveyed based on the information provided by Veolia on low food waste and recycling participation areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 314 residents were spoken to or given leaflets on how to improve their recycling. 107 food bins were given to residents who had been identified as not participating in the food waste scheme. 456 green recycling bags were given out to residents who had been identified as requiring additional green bags for the waste collection changes 	Included in 70% target total	Short term (2025/26)	4 Initiation
<p>5.1.4 Increase & improve facilities for glass recycling.</p> <p>Increase capture rate of glass from general waste through new collection methods, making it more convenient for residents and reducing loss of recyclable material.</p>	Re3 (the councils waste disposal contractor) are reviewing glass collection in conjunction with likely outcomes of environment bill as a way to collect glass from kerbside or other. Work is ongoing with 3 councils in Berkshire to review options.	Included in 70% target total	Medium term (2027/28)	2 Scoping
<p>5.1.5 Implement a new Waste Strategy</p> <p>Following consultation, a full Waste Strategy will focus on waste minimisation, a high recycling rate, improved quality of recycling and reduced collection/ disposal costs and reduced carbon emissions.</p>	Work on a new long-term strategy is anticipated to start in 2027.	Included in 70% target total	Long term (2029/30)	2 Scoping

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
5.2 Achieve a maximum of 3% of waste going to landfill.	This currently sits at 4.1%.	367 tCO2e		Green
5.2.1 Identify & deliver measures to achieve zero waste to landfill from domestic properties. Reuse, recycle and recover 97% of WBC waste from domestic properties by moving waste up the waste hierarchy and increasing potential savings from landfill diversion.	Ongoing campaigns and actions are significantly contributing towards a reduction in waste to landfill. Consultation regarding enforcement is ongoing. Combustion has been identified as one potential avenue of energy generation to minimise existing fossil fuel use. 25,667 tonnes of waste going to EFW, providing over 87,000 kWh of electricity this year.	367 tCO2e	Long term (2029/30)	4 Initiation
5.2.2 Engage with school children to encourage waste minimisation and recycling. Deliver events and material to support schools in increasing awareness and knowledge of waste and recycling.	18 schools have been engaged, delivering material through leaflets, talks to classes or whole schools, and information incorporated into lesson plans at some schools. A number of benches have been delivered to schools from recycled waste including Wescott Infants school and St Cecilia's CofE Primary School. Supported clothing recycling by arranging for Westende and Wescott Primary Schools to collect 4 x wheeled bins.	Included in total	Medium term (2027/28)	5 Delivery





6. NEW DEVELOPMENT



6. NEW DEVELOPMENT

Annual Carbon Savings: Neutral as applies to future development.

With the need for new homes, including the level of need calculated through government planning policy, it is essential new homes are provided in a sustainable manner, which minimises the overall long-term cost of reaching carbon neutrality (with retrofit much more expensive). By using this information, combined with industry knowledge, and government policy, planning requirements are being established within actions in this section. These are preventative targets, with neutral savings against the 2030 goal.

The majority of the actions in this section are currently included within, or revolve around, the Local Plan Update process. This will review all existing planning policy and provide an opportunity to establish a new strategy to manage development locally as well as performance standards for all types of new development.

Within this, the council will also utilise its influence over its own properties where possible, to set standards for our own leased and owned properties, along with land sold for development.

Engagement and cooperation with numerous parties is vital, including the council's Development Management and Delivery teams, Building Control assessors, developers, housing associations and the highways authority, as well as consulting with the local community, to embed the new standards once the Local Plan Update is adopted.

Related Strategies:

For more information on these actions, their background and milestones, please see the strategies below:

- Local Plan Update ([Live](#)) - This emerging plan will outline the approach being taken by the council to meet government housing targets, alongside the needs of the borough. This includes a variety of building standards and policies, including applicable ones for sustainability.
- Climate Change Interim Policy Position Statement ([Live](#)) - This sets out the position of WBC on the issue of climate change when assessing planning applications, including minimal requirements and positive weighting for going above and beyond.

Key Achievements this year:

- Sustainability policies included within the latest Local Plan Update, which has been submitted for review.

Action Changes from last year:

- Action 6.5 now merged into 6.1 as the same standards apply across all development.
- Previous action 6.4.1 changed into 6.2.5 as this falls under the wider action (6.2) of encouraging sustainable travel.

SDGs:



Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
6.1 Residential and non-residential (Including Council) development to be designed and built to carbon neutral standards.		Neutral		Amber
<p>6.1.1 Require residential and non-residential development to be built to carbon neutral standards, including for council properties.</p> <p>Policy within the emerging Local Plan Update (LPU) proposes to require residential developments to achieve net zero operational performance. A definition of what carbon neutral means in this context will be provided within LPU documents</p> <p>Where there is robust evidence that this cannot be achieved on site, as a last resort the Council proposes to accept appropriate financial contributions to provide carbon offsetting.</p> <p>Use of certification schemes such as BREEAM* is still supported for commercial elements as an alternative way to demonstrate compliance to an acceptable level.</p>	<p>The Local Plan Update (LPU) includes eight draft policies directly addressing the climate emergency, seeking to influence development proposals to adapt to the effects of the climate emergency while minimising and mitigating the impacts of development on climate.</p> <p>LPU adoption is anticipated during 2026.</p>	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	3 Developing
<p>6.1.2 Provide guidance to support major residential and non-residential development to achieve carbon neutrality.</p> <p>A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will support the new Local Plan Update by providing additional detail on how development proposals of all types are expected to demonstrate the achievement of the policy requirements, including zero carbon. The SPD will itself be subject to consultation and formally adopted, following the Local Plan Update.</p>	<p>This is to follow on from, and provide additional detail to, the Local Plan Update.</p>	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	2 Scoping

**Full definition: BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology) is a way to measure the sustainability performance of buildings. A BREEAM assessment uses recognised measures of performance, which are set against established benchmarks, to evaluate a building's specification, design, construction and use. The measures used represent a broad range of categories and criteria from energy to ecology. Each category focuses on the most influential factors, including reduced carbon emissions, low impact design, adaptation to climate change, ecological value and biodiversity protection."*

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
6.2 Establish a spatial strategy and design framework which promotes active and sustainable travel, alongside EVs, sustainable design and construction and enables biodiversity gain.		Neutral		Amber
6.2.1 Minimise unnecessary travel from new development, better house design for working from home and better integrated IT capability. The Local Plan Update will establish a spatial strategy which secures a pattern of development which allows for more people to live and work where journeys can be undertaken by walking, cycling and public transport.	This is being incorporated into the Local Plan Update and associated policies.	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	3 Developing
6.2.2 Require development, including the public realm, to be accessible to all and prioritise walking, cycling and other sustainable modes of transport. The emerging Local Plan Update will establish a spatial strategy which secures a pattern of development which allows for more people to live and work where journeys can be undertaken by walking, cycling and public transport.	This is being incorporated into the Local Plan Update and draft policies. For example, Loddon Garden Village SDL will be subject to a design code which will be developed with sustainable transport and decarbonisation across the whole development lifecycle as priorities.	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	3 Developing
6.2.3 Require allocations for major development to secure smart and sustainable approaches that champion climate change resilience and adaptation. Buildings and spaces, services and infrastructure need to be able to respond to the impacts of climate change. Part of this ability relates to ensuring that new development is designed to adapt to more intense rainfall and the possibility of flooding, plus heat waves and droughts.	This is being incorporated into the Local Plan Update and associated policies. LPU draft policies emphasise the need for adaptation as well as mitigation. Existing policies aim to be strengthened to support this, requiring adequate adaptation responses across major development An updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is complete as part of the evidence base.	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	3 Developing

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
6.2.4 Provide positive policy support for sustainability when retrofitting existing buildings. There are limitations in the role of planning policy and decision making to influence existing buildings, but highlighting a permissive approach will assist in raising the profile of retrofit and provide a positive weighting where possible for incorporating sustainability improvements when planning permission is required.	This is being incorporated into the Local Plan Update and associated policies.	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	3 Developing
6.2.5 Ensure new developments make adequate provision for Electric Vehicles (EV). Make all new houses EV ready by establishing requirements for EV charging points in new dwellings as described in the EV strategy. Electric and hybrid vehicle ownership is increasing, and likely to become more prevalent. Lack of charging infrastructure is a principal barrier to increased use of low-emissions vehicles. Therefore, all new developments will be expected to design in electric vehicle charging facilities.	Action Completed. Under Part S of the Building Regulations which was published in 2021 and came into force on June 15th 2022 as part of the transitional arrangements for the Future Homes and Buildings Standards, all newly developed self-contained homes must be provided with one EV charge point. For all new developments with 10 or more parking spaces, future connection points (cable runs) must be provided for every space without an EV charge point	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	5 Delivering
6.3 Support low carbon and renewable energy generation.		Neutral		Amber
6.3.1 Provide positive policy supporting low carbon and renewable energy generation. Due to the benefits which low carbon and renewable energy generation bring to tackling climate change, the emerging Local Plan Update proposes a positive framework which supports such proposals unless there are unacceptable impacts that outweigh the benefits.	This is being incorporated into the Local Plan Update and associated policies.	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	3 Developing





7. PROCUREMENT



7. PROCUREMENT

Annual Carbon Savings: Neutral as applies to future procurement.

The Council recognises its ability to reduce its carbon emissions through its own procurement processes.

This will be achieved by encouraging our suppliers to improve their own sustainability measures through implementing policies which encourage this to be applied as a consideration within procurement processes of tender and evaluation. Doing so will also set an example for others, demonstrating the viability of such actions and outlining our commitment to enacting them ourselves.

With a number of significant contracts and strategies set to expire or be reviewed before the 2030 goal, these opportunities will be utilised to review and improve the sustainability elements of these services.

Goals under this section also covers training staff on climate change and other methods through which climate change considerations can be embedded into the governance and decision making within the council.

Social value will form a noticeable element of these considerations as this will incorporate the environment and climate emergency, to provide further information and justification to suppliers for the purpose behind these changes.

Carbon savings here are neutral as they apply to future procurement or are captured in other existing actions.

Related Strategies:

For more information on these actions, their background and milestones, please see the strategies below:

- Procurement Strategy ([Live](#))- This outlines the approach being taken by the council to procurement overall, covering a wide variety of aspects to ensure quality and value. This includes sustainability considerations where relevant within contracts and tender processes.

Key Achievements this year:

- 5 contracts have included sustainability considerations through to evaluation stages.
- Procurement strategy under update, following support for this approach from national procurement policies.
- Review and highlighting of supplier questionnaires to suppliers and officers.

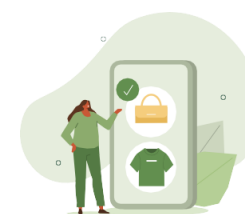
Action Changes from last year:

- No major action changes from last year.



Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
7.1 Achieve sustainable procurement practices throughout the council as part of Corporate Procurement Strategy.		Neutral		Amber
7.1.1 Update the Procurement Strategy to directly align with the ambitions of the climate emergency action plan.	Following the Procurement Act 2023, within upcoming wider updates to the corporate procurement guidance, there will be greater emphasis on social value and sustainability as a part of this. This high-level inclusion will allow for greater embedding within the detailed procurement steps.	Neutral	Short term (2025/26)	2 Scoping
7.1.2 Develop a sustainable procurement culture and associated skills for green procurement Support relevant council officers by providing the required tools to improve their knowledge on climate emergency and how it can be acted on within procurement process.	A climate emergency online learning module has been completed and is to be uploaded to the councils training website. A section on procurement specifically is being explored to be added, including elements on specific legislation. A training module for procurement is also under development and will include climate emergency links.	Neutral	Short term (2025/26)	3 Developing
7.1.3 Incorporate sustainability considerations into the existing procurement process. To reduce indirect emissions from key services, the council will apply sustainability considerations into its existing procurement process where possible.	Following initial review, a questionnaire is aimed to be provided for suppliers with each tender over the standard thresholds. This will gather information on standard climate emergency considerations such as their adoption of a climate emergency action plan and emission goals. Pilot stages and market engagement has been carried out with suppliers for some key contracts in order to better understand the current market capabilities and impacts for sustainability improvements for the largest emissions sectors. This includes climate emergency involvement at the evaluation stage of 5 substantial/high-value contracts.	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	4 Initiation

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale / Total Cost	RAG
7.1.4 Implementation of sustainable procurement KPIs amongst suppliers. To monitor the application of the above criteria, measures will be applied where relevant to contracts to enable this and ensure targets are delivered during the lifetime of the contract.	Further implementation will depend on the full review process denoted in 7.1.3. Pilot stages and market engagement has been carried out with suppliers for some key contracts in order to better understand the current market capabilities and impacts for sustainability improvements for the largest emissions sectors. This includes discussion on how these elements could be realistically monitored within contracts.	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	4 Initiation
7.2 Incorporate social value within procurement processes.		Neutral		Amber
7.2.1 Incorporate the environmental and sustainability elements of a WBC Social Value Policy within procurement processes. Utilise these elements to provide further information and justification for suppliers to offer as much as possible towards the sustainability considerations within tender processes and documents, as outlined in 7.1.3.	A draft social value policy framework is currently under development, which will support further implementation stages. This will be informed by the full borough community vision and national procurement policy. Implementation will depend on the full review process denoted in 7.1.3.	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	2 Scoping





8. ENGAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE



8. ENGAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Annual Carbon Savings: Neutral as per below

WBC recognises it cannot reach this ambitious 2030 goal alone. Alongside the successful delivery of mitigation and adaptation projects the success of the CEAP requires stakeholders including residents, businesses, schools, Town and Parish Councils, partners and community organisations to engage with the CEAP and minimise their carbon footprint by shifting to more sustainable behaviours.

The engagement actions within this section generally cover all areas of the CEAP (transport, energy, waste, carbon sequestration etc), while communication which relates only to one specific area are included within the relevant priorities. Our engagement and communication plan is used as a guide to work with stakeholders, share ideas, and to collaborate on initiatives, in a positive and inclusive way.

The communication and engagement plan will also help us to consider and develop actions, for inclusion in the CEAP, that will have the most impact in delivering behavioural change to meet our dream for a carbon neutral borough by 2030.

This section outlines some of the specific measures for each stakeholder group focusing on raising awareness of the existing climate impacts that the Council and borough are experiencing, along with providing examples and opportunities for change.

The carbon savings here will feed into carbon savings achieved elsewhere in the CEAP. The majority of the actions are therefore listed as 'Neutral' for their carbon savings against the 2030 target.

Related Strategies:

For more information on these actions, their background and milestones, please see the strategies below:

- Climate Emergency Communication Plan - This outlines the approach and methods being taken by the council to engage with key stakeholders, including residents and businesses through a variety of mechanisms, to support and encourage the wider CEAP actions. Key focus areas within this document are demonstrated by the actions and relevant audiences below.

Key Achievements this year:

- The Forest of Imagination project will be fully delivered in May 2025, with 402 pupils across 14 schools participating and over 30 community creative arts and culture workshops delivered.
- Over 1/3 of Wokingham Borough schools are actively working on their School Climate Action Plans with the Climate Ambassador Scheme.
- A Climate Change e-learning module has been developed for all staff and is now live.

Action changes from last year:

- Previous action 8.1.1 on comms plan removed as completed and now referenced as related strategy above.



Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
8.1 Raise awareness in the community about the climate emergency agenda		Neutral		Green
Residents				Green
8.1.1. Engage with residents on how to reduce carbon emissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a sustained campaign providing information and advice to residents to encourage behaviour change, promote the actions the council are taking and highlight how individual actions can add up to make a big difference Ensure climate emergency messaging is intertwined with communications and engagement initiatives for projects within the climate emergency action plan 	<p>Initiatives and opportunities are communicated through a range of channels including the new Climate Emergency online hub launched in June 2024.</p> <p>The climate emergency monthly newsletter has over 7,000 subscribers and will later in the year be combined to become an 'Environment' newsletter to widen audience and increase subscriptions.</p> <p>A series of successful events were delivered for Climate Action week in Nov 2024 with Woodley Town Council.</p> <p>The Forest of Imagination project in 2025 engaged the wider community and schools on the climate emergency and connecting with nature through an extensive arts and culture programme.</p>	Neutral	Long term (2029/30)	5 Delivering

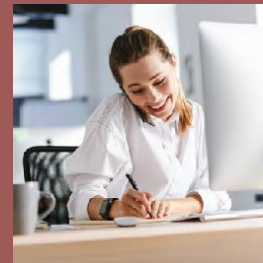
Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
Council Staff				Amber
<p>8.1.2. Support changes in work practices and behaviour amongst council staff.</p> <p>Deliver a sustained communication campaign to inspire staff to reduce their carbon footprints by making sustainable shifts in the office and at home.</p> <p>Investigate and promote the carbon footprint of Wokingham Borough Council as an organisation and how individual actions of staff contribute towards this.</p>	<p>Internal communication through articles in the staff newsletter raise awareness on key issues of climate change.</p> <p>Climate emergency engagement activities were part of the colleague conference in July 2024 and planned in October 2025.</p> <p>A Net Zero Heroes internal recycling campaign was launched in May 2025 to increase recycling rates at Shute End</p> <p>A climate change e-learning module has been developed for all staff and is now live.</p> <p>Climate emergency presentations delivered to various teams to promote awareness and increase collaboration.</p>	Neutral	Long term (2029/30)	5 Delivering

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
Businesses				Amber
<p>8.1.3. Support changes in work practices and behavioural change amongst local businesses.</p> <p>Provide information and advice to local businesses to promote sustainable behaviours.</p>	<p>Climate change was identified as a priority focus within the Economic Strategy and Town Centre strategy that were both adopted early 2025.</p> <p>A climate emergency talk was held for all voluntary and community organisations as part of a network event hosted by Involve in November 2024.</p> <p>Targeted information on how businesses can reduce their carbon emissions is shared through different channels and events including the Business matters newsletter, the climate emergency online hub and events hosted by the economic development team at WBC such as the job fair.</p>	Neutral	Long term (2029/30)	5 Delivering

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
Schools				Green
<p>8.1.4 Support education settings in producing climate action plans through the Climate Ambassador scheme.</p> <p>This is part of the Department of Education (DfE) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy where each setting is required to produce a climate action plan and have a nominated sustainability lead by 2025. The climate ambassador scheme links up volunteers with teachers to support them to integrate climate education into a range of disciplines and help them with their action plan.</p> <p>Schools are encouraged to sign up to the Sustainability Support for Education online digital hub and National Nature Parks scheme which will signpost sustainability leaders to training, guidance learning resources and support carbon literacy training.</p>	<p>Launch event was delivered to Wokingham borough schools in September 2024. University of Reading (UoR) are leading the South-East Climate Ambassador programme. A further event is planned as part of the Climate Festival in June 2025.</p> <p>Engagement presentations delivered by the Climate Emergency team and UoR to Wokingham Borough Heads network and Early Years network meetings in Spring 2025.</p> <p>Climate action planning workshops are offered to all multi-academy trusts in Wokingham Borough in collaboration with UoR through the climate ambassador scheme.</p>	Neutral	Short term (2025/26)	4 Initiation
<p>8.1.5 Engage with schools to support the adoption of sustainable behaviours.</p> <p>Deliver engagement campaigns to inspire children, parents and school staff to adopt more sustainable behaviours.</p>	<p>The Forest of Imagination project in 2025 engaged 14 schools on the climate emergency and connecting with nature through an extensive arts and culture programme.</p> <p>Working in partnership with the Natural History Museum, a 'Fix our broken planet' exhibition and activities is planned in summer 2025.</p>	Neutral	Long Term (2029/30)	4 Initiation



9. COUNCIL SPECIFIC ACTIONS



9. COUNCIL SPECIFIC ACTIONS

Annual Carbon Savings: 7,306 tCO₂e (transport included in section 1)

The council aims to lead the way on carbon neutrality, by improving its own operations, to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. To do so a number of key areas have been identified to target high emission activities.

Currently the public sector within Wokingham emits approximately 14.8 ktCO₂e, which represents only 2.8% of the boroughs total. From the below summary the 3 main areas of council emissions are energy, transport and waste, though the latter remains out of scope for the CEAP emission reporting. As such these are the key areas the actions in this section focus on, with the carbon savings for 9.1 accounted for in the transport section. The exceptions are actions 9.2 and 9.3, which is regarding the council fleet and buildings specifically in addition to above metrics and so is noted separately here.

The council has an internal team of officers from across the organisation, who are interested in driving sustainable shifts, through behaviour change and workplace practice change. This group – Net Zero Heroes – is volunteering their time to meet regularly, assess progress, and provide updates and insight into potential improvements in sustainability for internal practices. These projects and ideas, which often also help staff minimise their impact at home too, are included in regular internal communication.

Related Strategies:

For more information on these actions, their background and milestones, please see the strategies below:

- Asset Management Plan – This is currently under development and will assess the council's current property stock, to support the improvement of energy efficiency and meeting regulatory requirements.

Key Achievements this year:

- 112 council sites of varying sizes are currently generating 1,500,000 kwh solar PV per year as of the 23/24 financial year, saving approx. 310 tCO₂e
- Seaford Court, one of WBC's specialist housing units has been retrofitted to EPC band A.

Action changes from last year:

- Action 9.3.1 has been split to now have a separate action 9.3.2, to cover the council's stock of corporate and commercial properties separately.
- Previous action 9.1.2 on home working removed as completed.
- The target for these actions has been updated to now align with minimum efficiency standards.
- The methodology and related carbon savings for this section have been aligned to account for the progress made in some actions.



Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
9.1 Reduce council related travel by 30% (200,000 miles) from 2023 figure.	This currently sits at 9% (61,000 miles) reduced.	60 tCO₂e		Amber
9.1.1 Deliver a strategy to reduce miles travelled by council staff for work. Investigate the possibility to introduce electric vehicle car clubs for council staff.	Feasibility study on grey mileage complete and under review, including assessment for pool cars, and enhanced management.	40 tCO ₂ e (Included in section 1 totals)	Medium term (2027/28)	2 Scoping
9.1.2 Incentivise council staff to travel sustainably to work. Investigate incentives that can be given to council staff to support their commute to work being more sustainable by implementing schemes that make such methods more accessible.	A salary sacrifice scheme for electric vehicles is now in place for permanent or fixed contract officers.	20 tCO ₂ e (Included in section 1 totals)	Medium term (2027/28)	4 Initiation
9.2 Council's car fleet to switch to electric	This currently sits at 3 out 16 vehicles.	53 tCO₂e		Amber
9.2.1 Ensure 100% of the car fleet operated by the council is electric Transition the 16 WBC owned and leased vehicles possible to convert to electric at the end of their leasing contract/ life.	Recommendations available for a transition of council fleet to electric alternatives. This is subject to sufficient funding availability.	53 tCO ₂ e	Medium term (2027/28)	2 Scoping

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
9.3 Council buildings to be EPC B or above.	A baseline energy performance audit is being established as part of the Asset Management Plan (adopted June 2025).	7,254 tCO₂e		Amber
9.3.1 Improve energy performance of council corporate buildings to minimum energy standards of EPC B or above. Implement a wide range of energy efficiency measures based on energy performance baseline and improvement requirements.	A baseline audit of energy performance for all operational stock is being established. KPI RA4 has been included in the Asset Management Action Plan which measures the % of WBC owned properties meeting current Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations. A 3–5-year programme of works to implement compliance with MEES will be established and monitored through the Asset Management Plan and the CEAP. During 2024/25, Seaford Court was retrofitted to EPC band A.	6,340 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2029/30)	2 Scoping
9.3.2 Improve energy performance of council commercial buildings to minimum energy standards of EPC B or above. Implement a wide range of energy efficiency measures based on energy performance baseline and improvement requirements.	A baseline audit of energy performance for all operational stock is being established. KPI RA4 has been included in the Asset Management Action Plan which measures the % of WBC owned properties meeting current Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations. A 3–5-year programme of works to implement compliance with MEES will be established and monitored through the Asset Management Action Plan and the CEAP.	TBC	Long term (2029/30)	2 Scoping
9.3.3 Gorse Ride Regeneration Project These 249 new council homes will follow the Passivhaus housing scheme to provide residents with more efficient, warmer homes, with cheaper running costs.	Houses onsite are designed to the first stage of Passivhaus. Section 1-4 of Phase 2a have now been completed and handed over. Progress on site is going well. Demolition on Phase 2b has commenced with construction to commence later this year.	914 tCO ₂ e	Medium term (2027/28)	4 Initiation

COUNCIL EMISSIONS



COUNCIL EMISSIONS

The council monitors its gross emissions within the borough to measure progress to become carbon neutral. This is done through the Local Authority GHG Accounting Tool, which applies standard emissions factors to usage figures and is designed specifically for local authorities. Data used within this tool is the most accurate and up to date available at the time, though some estimations are included where it is not possible to collect to the level of detail required by the tool.

This currently applies to scope 1+2 emissions where the council has direct accountability and can have the most impact through solutions, though scope 3 elements are also considered where it is possible for the council to influence. Going forward, as an organisation we will begin measuring and targeting a reduction in scope 3 emissions. Within this tool the following scopes for emissions are defined for businesses/councils.

Scope 1 and 2:

Direct emissions produced by sources which are owned or controlled by the council and include electricity use, burning oil or gas for heating, and fuel consumption from business travel or distribution. This therefore includes streetlighting for the council, though this is not a direct result of operations.

Scope 3:

Indirect emissions produced by external factors because of council operations and consumption. This includes elements such as staff commuting, contractors, waste production and working from home. Outsourced scope 3 emissions are not currently measured due to the large number of contractors that the Council works with.

Scope	Emissions Type	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Percentage of Total Emissions
Scope 1	Heating	4,649.65	56.8%
	Fugitive Emissions	0.00	0.0%
	Authority's Fleet	39.77	0.5%
	Authority's Fuel Use	0.00	0.0%
Scope 2	Electricity	2,199.80	26.9%
Scope 3	Staff Business Travel	152.09	1.9%
	Staff Commuting	921.95	11.3%
	Working From Home	0.00	0.0%
	T & D Losses	194.38	2.4%
	Water	25.26	0.3%
	Material Use	0.00	0.0%
	Waste generated from own operations	0.16	0.0%
	Outsourced Scope 3	0.00	0.0%
Total Emissions		8,183.07	100%

Emissions Summary:

A brief explanation on the sources of the emissions contributing to each of these areas is provided in the below analysis, along with the actions which have already been outlined regarding council operations specifically.

Transport:

Most council staff are continuing to work from home where possible and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. However, elements remain, primarily from the use of council owned or private vehicles for commuting or council work, representing a total of 1,113.83 tCO₂e across all scopes. This area is being targeted by the actions in the council emissions section.

Waste:

The council’s Shute End office produced approximately 25 tonnes of waste, of which just over 8 tonnes was recycled, as shown in the below table. This waste is collected separately to domestic waste. Council targets for waste are aligned with the waste & recycling priority area of the CEAP and therefore aims for a 70% recycling rate by 2030. This includes new practices, such as a zero single use plastics policy in staff areas, along with increased separation of food waste and dry recyclables.

Waste and recycling figures from Shute End office.

Type	Amount	tCO ₂ e
Commercial Waste	16.56	0.11
DMR (Dry Recyclables)	7.26	0.05
Food	1.10	0.01

Buildings and Energy:

As the scope in this report now includes all council run sites, not just offices, this now represents by far the largest area of emissions, directly contributing 86.1% and 7,043.82 tCO₂e across all scopes. By excluding streetlighting, which the council has lower direct influence over, this figure would fall to 6,397.52 tCO₂e. In response, as explained fully in the plan, the council is currently implementing a wide range of energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy generation where possible at all current and future properties. Figures for electricity, heating and water are from 2023-24 as the latest available.

