



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



SEVENTH PROGRESS REPORT | SEPTEMBER 2026



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. The council has a Climate & Nature Strategy and publishes an annual Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) report to track progress.

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 Retrofit**
- 4. **Nature**
- 5. **Waste & Recycling**
- 6. **New Developments**
- 7. **Procurement**
- 8. **Engagement & Behaviour Change**
- 9. **Council Specific Actions**

The tables on the next few pages summarise our actions across these 9 priorities. For each of the 9 priorities, the high-level outputs within each table (highlighted in grey) follow a colour RAG rating system to summarise progress.

Where possible, targets are aligned with government ones, though stretched to be more ambitious than the overall 2050 net zero Government goal. This report details the progress and associated carbon savings against each action where possible. It covers the 2025/26 period (April to March).

To ensure we monitor progress against our 2030 ambition, 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	- Idea developed in more detail - Recognised risks and benefits identified - Estimated costs and resources scoped - Value for money assessment undertaken
3. Develop	- Detailed requirements, goals and milestones established - Business case approved and finance source identified
4. Initiation	Delivery of actions start, and progress monitored
5. Delivering	Ongoing delivery of actions until completion

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. 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.



1. TRANSPORT



1. TRANSPORT

Annual Carbon Savings: 73,803 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 Local Transport Plan 4 and travel targets within this.

Key Achievements this year:

- Increase in EV Mileage Share from 4.3% in 2025 to 6.3% in 2026.
- 415 Public EV charge points currently operate in the borough (Zapmap 2026).
- Targets for active travel have been reviewed and increased reflecting progress achieved.
- Construction of the Woodley to Reading cycleway has commenced, implemented additional pedestrian crossings and removed barriers to walking and cycling.
- Wokingham's highways carbon footprint performs significantly better than benchmark authorities, with emissions per kilometre of network 54% lower.

Related Strategies:

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

- Local Transport Plan 4 – The 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 – This outlines how the EV transition for residents and businesses will be supported, primarily through charging infrastructure, network capacity and system compatibility.
- Bus Service Improvement Plan – 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 basis.
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – The LCWIP outlines the approach and actions aimed to encourage modal shift towards greater active travel.

Action Changes from last year:

- The active travel mileage share target has increased by 1%.
- To align with the new EV Charging Strategy and latest position of the council on the delivery approach for this, the EV actions have been updated to reflect this.
- Previous action 1A3.4 on Love to Ride removed.
- Previous actions 1A1.1, 1A2.1, 1A2.2 and 1A2.5 on the EV Strategy, BSIP, bus contract retendering and Arborfield Green Bus Strategy have been removed as completed.
- Bus and train data have now been more accurately included within the methodology.
- Freight Policy target changed from 22% to 5% reduction, pending further work on this objective.

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
1A Reduce Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) private car mileage to 49% Mileage Share.	This currently sits at 75.3%	69,867 tCO₂e		
1A.1 Increase EV (Electric Vehicle) mileage share to 30%.	This currently sits at 6.3%	63,107 tCO₂e		Amber
1A.1.1 Support the installation of residential EV charging points, in line with the EV strategy. 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.	48 sockets have been installed under the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS). Review of implementation of a programme of installation of chargepoints is underway to maximise benefits.	277 tCO ₂ e (Included in total)	Long term (2030)	4 Initiation
1A.1.2 Support local businesses, including commercial property owners, to transition their commercial fleets to electric. Support EV infrastructure and promote the benefits of EVs to businesses and their employees, including salary sacrifice and workplace charging schemes.	A pan Berkshire, business focused EV awareness event took place in July 2025 at Winnersh Triangle Business Park. Businesses had the opportunity to test drive EVs, find out about grants, explore emerging technologies and talk to experts and get advice.	2,373 tCO ₂ e (Included in total)	Medium term (2028/29)	4 Initiation
1A.1.3 Promote the uptake of electric vehicles with residents. Engage with residents on: • Transitioning to EVs. • Charge points • Government grant schemes Provide an avenue of contact for residents to submit queries and request support on chargepoints.	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 . There were around 500 attendees across the Winnersh and Elms Field EV events in 2025. A further EV Event is planned for Elms Field in July 2026. Advice on EVs is provided on the My Journey and Climate Emergency Hub webpages.	Included in total	Long term (2030)	4 Initiation

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
1A.1.4 Coordinate the installation of EV charging points on council-owned sites, in line with the EV strategy. The EV network plan will have standardised EV charging point requirements.	Review of implementation of a programme of installation of chargepoints is underway to maximise benefits.	Included in total	Medium term (2028/29)	4 Initiation
1A.2 Increase public transport mileage share to 13%.	This currently sits at 11.1%	3,062 tCO2e		Green
Increase bus passenger numbers to 3.3 million	This currently sits at 2.6 million			Green
1A.2.1 Support electrification of local buses under Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA). Depending on Reading buses having the required funding for fleet renewal Gov will fund 75% and the local authority need to fund the rest.	Six fully electric buses were introduced on Route 21 in February 2026. WBC is working with local bus operator to vehicle improve emission standards. Capital bus grant will be made available to help incentivise greener vehicles on contracted local bus services from April 2027 onwards.	Included in total	Medium term (2028/29)	4 Initiation
1A.2.2 Improve the bus public transport network. Identifying the key transport needs for the public, as part of the objective to grow passenger trips from 2.6M to 4M by 2040.	Commercial services returned to their pre-covid frequencies on key corridors. Overall national data shows bus journeys grew by 5.7% - compared to national figure of 1.2% (exc. London). Frequency of buses on Route 3 between Arborfield, Finchampstead, Barkham and Wokingham Town doubled to every 30 minutes on weekdays and Saturdays, and a Sunday service was added. Passenger numbers have shown a 62% increase on this section of the route this year. Executive approval has been given to increase annual support for local bus services and community transport. Potential new routes include a park and ride to Wokingham station and Twyford station at peak times and are being proposed in the Bus Service Review. Demand Response Transport (DRT) options have been considered in the Bus Service Review and remain a longer-term aspiration, especially for more rural areas.	Included in total	Short term (2026/27)	4 Initiation

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
1A.2.3 Maintain and increase the mileage share within the borough of trains as a mode of transport to 8.5%. 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.	The Community Rail Partnership continues to try and engage with local people to help them see the stations as a local asset in improve usage. WBC are working with GWR on improvements to Twyford improving access by all modes as well as exploring car parking solutions.	Included in total	Long term (2030)	3 Developing
1A.3 Increase active travel mileage share to 8%.	This currently sits at 7.2%	2,143 tCO₂e		Green
Increase active travel trips at monitored locations to 3.5 million	This currently sits at 3.2 million			Green
1A.3.1 Teach primary school children cycling skills. Bikeability training up to level 3 offered to primary school children.	76% of year 6 children have been trained in Bikeability Level 1 or 2, with 90% of schools in Wokingham Borough receiving Level 1 or 2 Bikeability training. If we use maximum places available this year Bikeability Level 1 or 2 training would be for 2,840 children. Balance Bike (max provision) - 1,152 children. Learn to Ride (max provision) - 432 children.	342 tCO ₂ e (Included in total)	Short term (2026/27)	5 Delivering
1A.3.2 Promote sustainable and active travel within schools through Modeshift STARS. Create a culture of active travel amongst school children.	Three schools have submitted for their accreditation (Crosfields, Shinfield Infants and Nine Mile Ride). A new active travel officer is supporting this action for 9 schools in Strategic Development Locations and 7 in areas of deprivation.	133 tCO ₂ e (Included in total)	Medium term (2027/28)	5 Delivering

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
1A.3.3 Roll out the Safe Routes to School programme. Programme to improve walking and cycling routes for local schools.	5 schemes have been identified for delivery in addition to pedestrian crossings service school routes. The capital programme aims to deliver improvements to support these identified areas over the next two years.	133 tCO₂e (Included in total)	Long term (2029/30)	3 Developing
1A.3.4 Deliver the priority schemes within the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Create a comprehensive network of walking/cycling routes across the borough which are joined up.	The funding awarded by Active Travel England for the A329 scheme is to be spent on improving Active travel through the Woosehill Roundabout. Further design work is required this financial year with implementation expected in Summer 2027 (subject to road space availability). For future years, the DfT have awarded a consolidated package of funding; from this WBC has allocated £3.1M in the 3-year budget towards integrated transport and active travel schemes to deliver those schemes that will make the biggest difference in terms of making active travel feel safer and more attractive.	Included in total	Long term (2030)	3 Developing
1A.3.5 Promote active and sustainable travel through local engagement. 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.	This is ongoing, with events booked across spring and summer and strong participation numbers being recorded, such as Trinity Church, Lower Earley Library family fun day. A car club strategy and potential 20mph zones are being explored as part of further measures to shift travel modes. Within the National Highways & Transport Survey, answered by over 3,000 residents, Wokingham scored positively on a number of aspects such as bus routes and being informed on climate change.	Included in total	Medium term (2028/29)	5 Delivering

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
1B. Reduce Road freight by 5%	Not Started	5,492 tCO₂e		Red
1B.1 Develop a domestic and industrial freight management policy. 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. The framework will support decision making on the traffic distribution, based on air quality, carbon emissions and energy savings.	This policy is a daughter document of the LTP4 and is planned to start in 2027. Target has been reappraised pending analysis of the scope and potential for reduction.	5,492 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2030)	1 Idea
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 (2026/27)	4 Initiation



2. RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION



2. RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

Annual Carbon Savings: 19,981 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 43,816 MWh of renewable electricity in the borough at the end of the last recorded year (2024) saved the borough 7,755 tCO₂e.

Action Changes from last year:

- No major action changes from last year.

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 (Megawatt peak)	This currently sits at 0MWp as it will be delivered in bulk.	8,808 tCO₂e		Amber
2.1.1 Deliver the installation of a solar farm in Barkham with the capacity to generate over 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 Council remains committed to the delivery of this project and work is-ongoing to progress to construction and connection in 2027, informed by connection reforms at a national level. Further information on this can be found on the WBC website	5,055 tCO ₂ e	Medium term (2028/29)	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 depending on surveys and other considerations.	The Council submitted the project to the national Gate 2 process in 2025, but it was assigned a Gate 1 status meaning it does not currently meet the criteria to progress within the reformed connections queue. Due to the extended timescales and increased uncertainty with securing grid connection, development work has paused. It will be kept under review pending any future changes to the connections reform or network capacity.	3,540 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2030)	3 Developing
2.1.3 Deliver the installation of a solar canopy at Mere oak park and ride with the capacity to generate approximately 1.5MWp or 1,200,000 kWh of energy.	Mere oak park and ride solar canopy approved by the Executive on 28 th May 2026 with new configuration of battery storage alongside EV charging hub. Next step is to agree on the procurement approach which is being discussed at the internal officer Strategic Procurement Board in June 2026.	212 tCO ₂ e	Short term (2026/27)	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 43,816 MWh.	11,173 tCO₂e		Amber
2.2.1 Support Community Energy Projects Utilising Community Energy will help accelerate the uptake of renewable energy generation within the borough.	A Wokingham Borough Council school has been identified for a community solar installation. A site visit has been undertaken by the community energy group, MaidEnergy and technical information is being reviewed and analysed.	5 tCO ₂ e	Short term (2026/27)	2 Scoping
2.2.2 Support residents to lower their bills through renewable energy generation.	Approximately 128 solar installations were undertaken through the 2025/26 Solar Together scheme, taking the total number of residents who installed solar through this scheme to 665, around 25% of MCS installations across the borough between 2023 and 2026.	6,637 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2030)	4 Initiation
2.2.3 Support local businesses and voluntary organisations to lower their bills through reduced energy usage and renewable energy generation.	14 SMEs installed solar through Solar Together in 2025/26, taking the total number of SMEs installing solar through this scheme to 19. Tailored information for businesses is included on WBC's Climate Emergency hub providing advice on reducing energy costs and installing renewable energy systems.	4,480 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2030)	2 Scoping



3. RETROFITTING DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS



3. RETROFITTING DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Annual Carbon Savings: 41,894 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:

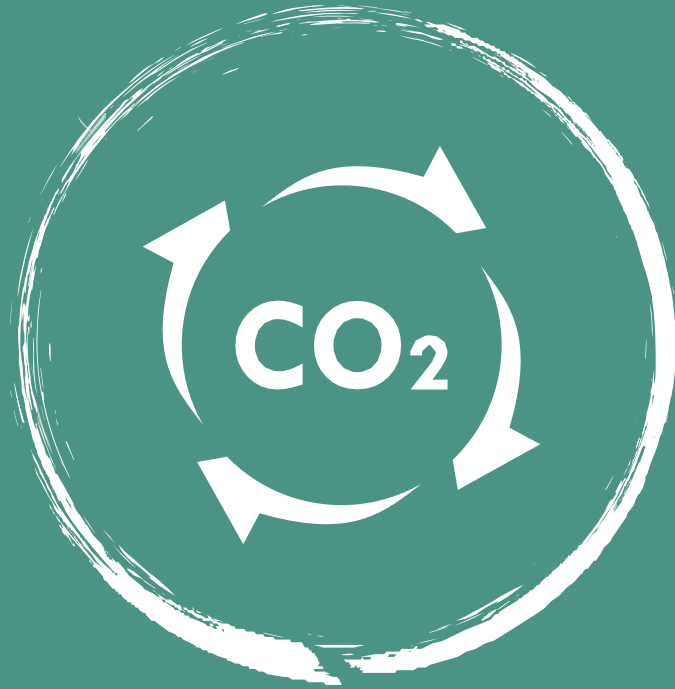
- Residential homes at EPC C rating or above up from 51% to 56%.
- The thermal imaging camera scheme delivered through Wokingham Borough libraries has seen strong engagement, with nearly 200 residents loaning a camera.
- A Borough wide retrofitting and energy saving engagement campaign was delivered during 2025 and 2026.
- 22 homes have been improved through the Warm Homes: Social Housing scheme, with measures including solar panels, loft insulation, ventilation, and cavity wall insulation, bringing the properties up to EPC band C.
- Additional funding of £125,000 has been requested from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to support the Warm Homes: Social Housing project which would take the total amount of government funding to £875,000.

Action Changes from last year:

- No major action changes from last year.

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.	1,756 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.	22 homes have been improved through the Warm Homes: Social Housing scheme, with measures including solar panels, loft insulation, ventilation, and cavity wall insulation, bringing the properties up to EPC band C. Further retrofit works as part of the Warm Homes: Social Housing scheme have been planned on 40+ homes during the 2027–28 financial year. In addition, an extra £125,000 has been requested from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to deliver further retrofit works in that period. A Solar PV and Battery Storage, and Loft Spaces policy for the social housing stock has been drafted and is currently progressing through the Council's governance and approval process.	1,756 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2030)	4 Initiation
3.2 School buildings to be EPC C or above.	This currently sits at approximately 65% of schools.	266 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. 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.	266 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2030)	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 13,581 homes	This currently sits at 56% of homes.	39,873 tCO₂e		Red
3.3.1 Develop and deliver schemes to support retrofitting of homes. Support residents to reduce their energy usage and carbon emissions.	The thermal imaging camera loan scheme delivered through Wokingham Borough libraries has seen strong engagement, with over 200 residents signing up. This was supported by a winter 2025 to spring 2026 energy-saving and retrofitting campaign, encouraging simple home improvements to reduce energy bills and keep homes warm. Promotion included dedicated newsletter editions, social media and digital campaigns, and warm homes drop-in sessions at libraries across the Borough. The Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme has been promoted as part of the wider retrofitting campaign. Eligible households in Wokingham can apply for one or more home energy-saving installations with air-source heat pumps, solar PV and loft insulation installed in Wokingham homes since the scheme launched in 2025.	Included in total	Long term (2030)	4 Initiation
3.3.2 Registered Providers (RPs) social housing stock to be EPC C or above.	Approximately 97% of our partner RPs' housing stock is EPC band C or higher. EPC data is collected annually from our partner RPs. 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".	Included in total	Long term (2030)	4 Initiation
3.3.3 Improve EPCs of private rental properties. Private rental properties have their own governmental policy which will require EPC C rating to be let by 2030.	Private rental properties are eligible for the Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme outlined in 3.3.1 and other upcoming schemes.	Included in total	Long term (2030)	2 Scoping



4. NATURE



4. NATURE

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 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.

Following increased national focus on nature and adaptation, additional emphasis has been included regarding these topics throughout the CEAP and associated strategy, with these elements now included across this plan, rather than a separate biodiversity or adaptation action plan at this stage.

Related Strategies:

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

- Tree Strategy – This outlines the approach and guidelines being taken by the council to increase tree cover within the borough, protect old trees and more.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy – This Berkshire wide approach will provide a 5% uplift on the number of biodiversity net gain (BNG) units that can be generated in areas identified as part of the network.

Key Achievements this year:

- To date, 60,000 trees have been planted across 33ha.
- New Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) are being brought forward, including the design of a 33-hectare extension to Rooks Nest Wood SANG.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) schemes have progressed on several Council-owned sites, such as Ashenbury Park and the Covid Memorial Woodland.
- Work is underway to secure conservation covenants, enabling the sale of BNG units to generate income.

Action Changes from last year:

- Previous Action 4.3 on adaptation removed and replaced with the wider actions focused on nature and biodiversity. A new overall target focused on the % of the borough area designated for biodiversity importance has been added here.
- Action 4.1.4 on the tree strategy removed as completed.
- Action 4.3.5 on assessing and setting a % target for areas designated for biodiversity has been added.
- Previous Action 4.1.2 on Wokingham Garden Forest promotion 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
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. 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. This includes 10ha from new strategic development locations within the Local Plan Update.	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. 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. 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. A 10 % biodiversity net gain is now mandatory for all planning applications. An Ecological Emergency was declared on 5 January 2024 and a further plan is currently under assessment. The Council has achieved Tree City of the World status in recognition for the commitment to enhancement and protection of the borough tree assets.	Included in total	Medium term (2028/29)	5 Delivering
4.1.2 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 (2028/29)	5 Delivering

Action / Co - Benefits	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
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. The ability of soil to sequester carbon correlates positively with biodiversity.	Complete - WBC approved the public consultation version of the LNRS in January 2025.	Included in total	Medium term (2028/29)	5 Delivering
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 (2030)	1 Idea
4.2.3 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 (2028/29)	4 Initiation

Action / Co - Benefits	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
4.3 An increased % of the borough area is managed or designated for its biodiversity importance (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, SANGS and BNG sites)	This is to be confirmed through action 4.3.5	Neutral		Red
4.3.1 Add ecological implications to those for climate in committee and Council reports. This includes adding ecological impact assessment to all standard committee and Council Reports templates, alongside securing resource to do so.	Implementation is awaiting the resources required to review the ecological impacts of all Council Executive decisions.	Neutral	Medium term (2028/29)	2 Scoping
4.3.2 Re-establish the Wokingham Biodiversity Forum to allow the Council to collaborate effectively with local partners and the wider community. Operating quarterly.	Not currently progressed due to resources requirements.	Included in total	Medium term (2028/29)	2 Scoping
4.3.3 Ensure the delivery of biodiversity and environmental enhancements through our planning policy and development control functions by: - Adopting robust biodiversity policies and measures into the Borough Design Code. - Ensuring that all our planning guidance documents reflect the importance of biodiversity. - Striving to enable the development of a 20% mandatory biodiversity net gain policy for Wokingham through the local plan.	Robust policies included in the Wokingham Local Plan that was submitted to the Inspectorate for Examination on the 28 February 2025. This included a minimum 20% Biodiversity net gain policy. Additional Planning Guidance will be drafted once the Local Plan Update is adopted in Summer 2026.	Neutral	Medium term (2028/29)	2 Scoping

Action / Co - Benefits	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
4.3.4 Promote habitat creation and restoration. In addition to those from planning funding and utilising council owned land for corridors. Provide advice for local communities and businesses on how to incorporate biodiversity, green infrastructure and natural capital into Neighbourhood Plans and other initiatives.	New Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) are being brought forward, including the design of a 33-hectare extension to Rooks Nest Wood SANG. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) schemes have progressed on several Council-owned sites, such as Ashenbury Park and the Covid Memorial Woodland. Work is also underway to secure conservation covenants, enabling the sale of BNG units to generate income. Future opportunities for BNG delivery on Council land will continue to be assessed in line with LNRS priority habitats and opportunity areas. Progress on specific projects will be subject to available resources.	Included in total	Medium term (2028/29)	2 Scoping
4.3.5 Establish a KPI to help measure and increase the % of the borough designated for biodiversity importance. To be incorporated into the council plan, following an initial assessment.	Initial assessment to determine the current % to be completed in late 2026.	Included in total	Short term (2026/27)	2 Scoping



5. WASTE AND RECYCLING



5. WASTE AND RECYCLING

Annual Carbon Savings: 4,051 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.

The new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations were introduced in January 2025 which compels manufacturers to reduce packaging weight. This in turn is making it harder to increase recycling rates further. In effect the service is collecting the same volume, but less weight compared to c.2020 which adversely impacts the recycling rate.

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, 39,063 tonnes of waste was recycled, representing 58% of the borough total. This meant over 19,240 tonnes of CO₂e savings.
- From the change to alternate weekly collections, refuse has decreased significantly and the expected financial saving of £1m and has been achieved.

Action Changes from last year:

- No major action changes from last year.

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
5.1 Achieve a 70% recycling rate	This currently sits at 58%.	4,051 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.	From the change to alternate weekly collections, refuse has decreased significantly. The dry recycling tonnage is slightly below the target but this now increasing. Food waste has increased significantly with over 2,077 tonnes collected. The expected financial saving of £1m has been achieved. The anticipated savings on carbon are slightly below the expected target however carbon has reduced and the waste team continues to closely monitor this.	2,415 tCO₂e (Included in total) This figure is only from AWC. More will come from contract, electric waste, soft plastics, wheeled bins etc, along with the below supporting actions.	Medium term (2028/29)	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.	A new re3 strategy for 2026 to 2031 was consulted on in late 2025, with Bracknell, Reading and Wokingham residents. This will help determine the future of waste management over this five-year period with Wokingham residents submitting the majority of responses (58%). Residents will continue to be consulted on the future of waste collection and disposal to hear their views and ensure the right approach is taken. The waste and recycling newsletter currently has approximately 20,000 subscribers, to provide informative waste and recycling communications to residents.	Included in 70% target total	Short term (2026/27)	4 Initiation

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
5.1.3 Target low participation areas to increase food waste tonnage to increase participation above 70%. Improve uptake in food waste recycling to increase food waste tonnage, hence reducing loss of recyclable material.	Direct recycling engagement with residents in houses and flats continues to be undertaken. This involves monitoring low participation areas across the borough to understand residents' waste behaviours and to encourage preventing, reducing, reusing and recycling. Surveys of recycling provision in flats (nearly 2,000 of 7,500 total) has improved the food waste collections with new bins and containers being installed. A digital campaign across re3 partner areas has increased food waste recycling participation, alongside a corresponding reduction in food waste placed in residual bins. This has helped support wider waste reduction and recycling objectives.	Included in 70% target total	Short term (2026/27)	4 Initiation
5.1.4 Increase & improve facilities for glass recycling. Increase capture rate of glass from general waste through new collection methods, making it more convenient for residents and reducing loss of recyclable material.	The current network of glass recycling banks is extremely effective and efficient, with a capture rate of 85%. The Council remains committed to introducing Kerbside collections in 2027 as part of the Government's Simpler Recycling reforms, though at significant capital investment for vehicles and containers. This is anticipated to increase the overall recycling rate by 0.5%.	Included in 70% target total	Medium term (2028/29)	2 Scoping
5.1.5 Implement a new Waste Strategy 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.	A new re3 Waste Strategy (2026 to 2031) is currently being developed which will focus on a variety of themes which correlate with the CEAP aims, ambitions, activities and targets: (i) Waste Prevention, Recycling and the Circular Economy (ii) Our Facilities and Service Delivery (iii) Stakeholder Engagement and the Future of Services In addition, a new Waste Strategy for Wokingham Borough will be progressed this year to focus on future improvements to waste management in the borough. This will support the re3 strategy and residents will be engaged in its development.	Included in 70% target total	Long term (2030)	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 0.85%.	Action Completed		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.	Action completed. The remaining type of materials that are disposed of in landfill are mainly bulky waste and items that cannot be recycled or reused such as asbestos.	Action Completed	Long term (2030)	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.	19 schools were visited in 2024/25 and this is set to be exceeded in 2025/26. Furthermore, two SHARE events were attended in Woodley to provide information on recycling and waste minimisation which were well received and numerous recycling containers were distributed to residents. Each week SHARE helps over 2000 people in the community who need support foodwise by redistributing 40 tonnes of food from local supermarkets and food suppliers that would otherwise go to waste.	Included in total	Medium term (2028/29)	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 - 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 - 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:

- The LPU is currently going through external independent review, including Climate and Energy policies.
- Planning approved for a new branch of the natural history museum at Shinfield meeting these regulations. This will house 28 million specimens and support researchers from around the world to tackle urgent environmental issues and address global challenges.
- All newly developed self-contained homes must be provided with one EV charge point.

Action Changes from last year:

- Previous Action 6.2.5 on EV charger inclusion has been removed as completed.

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
6.1.1 Require residential and non-residential development to be built to carbon neutral standards, including for council properties. 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. 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. Use of certification schemes such as BREEAM* is still supported for commercial elements as an alternative way to demonstrate compliance.	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. The LPU is currently going through external independent review, including Climate and Energy policies. Planning has been approved for a new branch of the natural history museum at Shinfield meeting these regulations. This will house 28 million specimens and support researchers from around the world to tackle urgent environmental issues and address global challenges.	Neutral	Medium term (2028/29)	3 Developing
6.1.2 Provide guidance to support major residential and non-residential development to achieve carbon neutrality. Supplementary Planning Documents (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.	This is to follow on from, and provide additional detail to, the Local Plan Update. One example is Loddon Garden Village, where a consultation which includes some climate change considerations has been collated and is under review. This relates to the largest proposed development in the LPU and is a key document in ensuring a single, coordinated vision is in place for its design and delivery. Climate change resilience is a key thread throughout the code, underpinning the ultimate aim for the development to achieve an outstanding 21st century garden village.	Neutral	Medium term (2028/29)	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 (2028/29)	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. This is currently out for consultation.	Neutral	Medium term (2028/29)	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 (2028/29)	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 (2028/29)	3 Developing
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 (2028/29)	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 - 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:

- From April 2025, the Procurement Strategy & Options Appraisal template was updated to include a mandatory CEAP advice section for all procurements over £100k. This ensures climate considerations are assessed and documented in every strategic procurement paper and input is received from the climate team.
- In addition, the sustainability questionnaire is embedded as standard in Invitation to Tender packs and supplier information packs for over threshold procurements, with limited exceptions (e.g. people-based services).
- 20 contracts have included sustainability considerations through to evaluation stages.

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 align with the ambitions of the climate emergency action plan.	The Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy is to be updated to align with the 2025 National Procurement Policy Statement; leverage the Act's transparency/KPI provisions to track environmental impact; expecting a multi-year embedding period. The roadmap for development of this has been delayed in order to embed the Act into council processes. It is expected to take at least 2 years for the full effects of the Procurement Act to be embedded.	Neutral	Short term (2026/27)	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 on the councils training website. The development of e-learning modules on the Procurement Act and Procurement and Contract Governance has been implemented and from October 2025, training sessions have been held quarterly. Take up is good with 75% of available spaces taken. Courses will continue to be held quarterly throughout 2026/27, with support from the Council's Learning and Development Team.	Neutral	Short term (2026/27)	3 Developing
7.1.3 Incorporate sustainability considerations into the procurement process. To reduce indirect emissions from key services, the council will apply sustainability considerations into its existing procurement process where possible.	From April 2025, the Procurement Strategy & Options Appraisal template was updated to include a mandatory CEAP advice section for all procurements over £100k. This ensures climate considerations are assessed and documented in every strategic procurement paper and input is received from the climate team. In addition, the sustainability questionnaire is embedded as standard in Invitation to Tender packs supplier information packs for over threshold procurements, with limited exceptions (e.g. people-based services).	Neutral	Medium term (2027/28)	4 Initiation

	Based on the small improvement on the numbers returned, the completion of the questionnaire by suppliers should be made mandatory for all relevant tenders. Currently 20 questionnaires have been received out of 75 tenders put out. In addition, 2 projects went past the questionnaire stage, to directly mention the CEAP Requirements as part of the contract			
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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.	On conclusion of the review of sustainability requirements for businesses, it is planned to make this requirement applicable to companies with a turnover of over £5m and/or over 100 employees, as there is no difference in the sector that these businesses operate in. On review of the companies that have returned questionnaires, only the smallest (e.g. less than 50 staff) are less likely to have these measures in place but have demonstrated that it is possible to scale by using free tools available to them.	Neutral	Medium term (2028/29)	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.	A draft social value policy framework is currently under development, around residents needs to deliver a standardised process for the tender process This will support further implementation stages into the procurement process itself and will be informed by the full borough community vision and national procurement policy.	Neutral	Medium term (2028/29)	2 Scoping



8. ENGAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE



8. ENGAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Annual Carbon Savings: Neutral as per below

WBC recognises it cannot reach the 2030 goal alone. The success of the CEAP requires stakeholders including residents, businesses, schools, Town and Parish Councils, partners and community organisations to 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 also helps us to consider and develop actions, for inclusion in the CEAP, that will have the most impact in delivering behavioural change to meet our carbon neutral ambition.

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 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:

- The Climate Emergency Communication Plan 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 Achievements this year:

- The new Environment bi-weekly newsletter has over 25,000 subscribers.
- 60% of schools are actively engaged with the Climate Ambassador Scheme which supports climate action plan development.
- Working in partnership with the Natural History Museum, a 'Fix our broken planet' exhibition and activities was delivered through Wokingham Borough libraries during the 2025 summer holidays.

Action changes from last year:

- No major action changes from last year.

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 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	Initiatives and opportunities are communicated through a range of channels including the Climate Emergency online hub. The new Environment bi-weekly newsletter has over 25,000 subscribers which includes articles and engagement campaigns across all the priorities within this action plan. In 2025, the Forest of Imagination project engaged schools and the wider community in responding to the climate emergency and exploring nature through an arts and culture programme. Central to the project was a strong focus on sensory experiences, developed in close collaboration with SEND pupils, whose ideas and needs directly shaped the installations. The project culminated in a four-day celebration at Dinton Pastures Country Park, where areas of the park were transformed by accessible, immersive and multi-sensory installations. Welcoming over 3,000 visitors, the event invited residents to deepen their connection with nature through inclusive participatory activities, performances, and digital experiences, placing accessibility, sensory engagement, and lived experience at the heart of environmental storytelling.	Neutral	Long term (2030)	5 Delivering

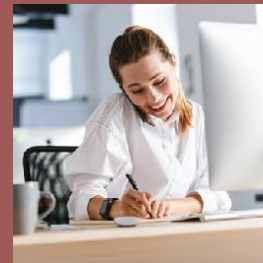
Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
Council Staff				Green
8.1.2. Support changes in work practices and behaviour amongst council staff. Deliver a sustained communication campaign to inspire staff to reduce their carbon footprints by making sustainable shifts in the office and at home. Investigate and promote the carbon footprint of Wokingham Borough Council as an organisation and how individual actions of staff contribute towards this.	Internal communication through articles in the staff newsletter raise awareness on key issues related to climate change. Climate emergency engagement activities were part of the colleague conference in October 2025. A Net Zero Heroes internal staff recycling campaign was launched in May 2025 to boost recycling rates at Shute End. This was supported by new recycling and food waste bins, featuring clear labelling, which were introduced in early 2026. A number of staff and elected members have completed carbon literacy training from accredited providers and we are looking into working with neighbouring authorities to roll this training out wider.	Neutral	Long term (2030)	5 Delivering

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
Businesses				Amber
8.1.3. Support changes in work practices and behavioural change amongst local businesses. Provide information and advice to local businesses to promote sustainable behaviours.	Climate change was identified as a priority focus within the Economic Strategy and Town Centre strategy that in 2025. The Climate Emergency Hub includes a dedicated business section that signposts businesses to useful resources and guidance on how to calculate their carbon footprint and reduce emissions. This information is also featured in the local WBC Business Directory. Targeted information for businesses, including details on available external support, green skills training opportunities and examples of good practice, is shared through the Business Matters newsletter which has over 8,500 subscribers and through events hosted by WBC's Economic Development team, such as the Job Fair.	Neutral	Long term (2030)	5 Delivering

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
Schools				Green
8.1.4 Support education settings in producing climate action plans through the Climate Ambassador scheme. 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. 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. 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.	University of Reading (UoR) lead the South-East Climate Ambassador programme. The Climate Emergency team, working with the University of Reading, delivered engagement presentations to Wokingham Borough Heads and Early Years networks in Spring 2025, and to Governors in Autumn 2025. Schools were also invited to participate in a Climate Festival event in June 2025. Online webinars to support climate action planning for staff are planned for 2026, and 60% of schools are already actively developing climate action plans with scheme support. Climate action planning workshops are also offered to all multi-academy trusts in Wokingham Borough through the climate ambassador scheme. Climate action planning updates and support are shared with all school staff across the Borough through the education newsletter.	Neutral	Short term (2026/27)	4 Initiation
8.1.5 Engage with schools to support the adoption of sustainable behaviours. Deliver engagement campaigns to inspire children, parents and school staff to adopt more sustainable behaviours.	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. Working in partnership with the Natural History Museum, a 'Fix our broken planet' exhibition and activities was delivered through Wokingham Borough libraries during the 2025 summer holidays.	Neutral	Long term (2030)	4 Initiation



9. COUNCIL SPECIFIC ACTIONS



9. COUNCIL SPECIFIC ACTIONS

Annual Carbon Savings: 4,671 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 16.7 ktCO₂e, which represents only 3.4% 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 2025-2030 – The Asset Management Plan outlines our approach to the effective and efficient use of the Council's assets in pursuit of agreed corporate objectives, including the challenge of climate change.

Key Achievements this year:

- Council sites of varying sizes are currently generating 1,466,187 kwh solar PV per year as of the 25/26 financial year, saving approx. 271 tCO₂e
- The full Asset Management Plan has been published, which outlines the principles which will guide future planning of the Council's property portfolio.
- Construction for Phase 2b at Gorse Ride has commenced.
- Energy use at major council locations is being explored for efficiency opportunities, with demonstrated savings achieved at Shute End.

Action changes from last year:

- Action 9.33 on Gorse Ride has been updated to follow the EPC approach.
- The methodology and carbon savings for action 9.3.1 have been updated to reflect a change to EPC B rather than carbon neutral.

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 grey mileage for opportunities to reduce mileage, including assessment for pool cars, and enhanced management.	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 (2028/29)	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. From this 39 EV or hybrid vehicles have been delivered or are on order. Additional schemes such as cycle to work are also available to staff to further encourage this.	20 tCO ₂ e (Included in section 1 totals)	Medium term (2028/29)	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 (2028/29)	2 Scoping

Action / Description	Current Status	Carbon Savings	Timescale	RAG
9.3 Council buildings to be EPC B or above.		4,671 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 full asset management plan is now published which outlines the principles which will guide future planning of the Council's property portfolio. This includes all council corporate and commercial properties to meet minimum energy standards of EPC B and above. An audit of all properties within this is currently ongoing to identify the size and timescales of works to deliver this. Energy use at major council locations is being explored for efficiency opportunities, with demonstrated savings achieved at Shute End.	4,347 tCO ₂ e	Long term (2030)	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 full asset management plan is now published which outlines the principles which will guide future planning of the Council's property portfolio. This includes all council corporate and commercial properties to meet minimum energy standards of EPC B and above. An audit of all properties within this is currently ongoing to identify the size and timescales of works to deliver this.	TBC	Long term (2030)	2 Scoping
9.3.3 Gorse Ride Regeneration Project Build 249 new council homes at EPC B or above at Gorse Ride to provide residents with more efficient, warmer homes, with cheaper running costs.	Houses onsite are designed to reach EPC B rating. Phase 2a has now been completed and is occupied. Phase 2b demolition has been completed and construction works have commenced. Completion of Phase 2b is targeted for 2027/28, with Phase 2c to follow.	271 tCO ₂ e	Medium term (2028/29)	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 (tCO2e)	Percentage of Total Emissions
Scope 1	Heating	3,269.68	51.2%
	Fugitive Emissions	0.00	0.0%
	Authority's Fleet	39.77	0.6%
	Authority's Fuel Use	0.00	0.0%
Scope 2	Electricity	1,820.63	28.5%
Scope 3	Staff Business Travel	157.15	2.5%
	Staff Commuting	921.95	14.4%
	Working From Home	0.00	0.0%
	T & D Losses	160.87	2.5%
	Water	19.10	0.3%
	Material Use	0.00	0.0%
	Waste generated from own operations	0.18	0.0%
	Outsourced Scope 3 (TOTAL)	0.00	0.0%
Total Emissions		6,389.34	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. 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 28 tonnes of waste, of which just over 10 tonnes was recycled reflecting an overall recycling rate of 36% (as shown in the table below). This is an increase of 3% from last year's recycling rate.

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 increased separation of food waste and dry recyclables.

Waste and recycling figures from Shute End office.

Type	Tonnes	tCO ₂ e
Commercial Waste	17.88	0.11
DMR (Dry Recyclables)	9.11	0.05
Food	1.14	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 81.2% and 5,252.18 tCO₂e across all scopes. By excluding streetlighting, which the council has lower direct influence over, this figure would fall to 4,573.55 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.

Overall

The council has demonstrated significant progress in reducing overall emissions since last year, falling by almost 22%.

