

CORPORATE CARBON REDUCTION PLAN 2022

Our journey to Net Zero – Leading by example and getting our own house in order by reducing emissions from our estate and operations to work towards net zero emissions by 2030

<p>1 Council buildings and estate</p>	<p>Reducing energy consumption and developing programmes such as air and ground source heat pumps.</p>	<p>20% reduction in water use</p> 
<p>2 Vehicles/ fleet</p>	<p>Emissions from core fleet will be cut by electrification of cars and vans.</p>	<p>Over 175tn CO₂ reduced by 2024</p> 
<p>3 Roads and street furniture</p>	<p>Opportunities to reduce carbon emissions from maintenance and improvement of roads and paths and streets lights is being considered.</p>	<p>50% less CO₂ from street lights</p> 
<p>4 Staff and Councillor travel at work</p>	<p>Targeting 90% of business travel using public transport, active travel or electric vehicles by 2030.</p>	<p>90% sustainable business travel</p> 
<p>5 Waste minimisation which is Council generated</p>	<p>Adopting an electronic document by default (with limited exceptions) approach to all Council meetings to secure a 50% reduction in printing by 2023.</p>	<p>50% less paper at council meetings</p> 
<p>6 Governance</p>	<p>Reviewing the City Council governance arrangements to accelerate carbon reduction initiatives beyond 2022.</p>	
<p>7 Behaviours</p>	<p>Changing behaviours, implementing smarter working practices and maximising the use of technology.</p>	
<p>8 Engagement</p>	<p>Stepping up engagement to take staff with us on the net zero journey.</p>	
<p>9 Finance – strategic investment</p>	<p>Preparing the groundwork to enable projects to meet net zero commitments from 2022.</p>	

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the third of our Corporate Carbon Reduction Plans, setting out how as a City Council we will seek to move towards net zero by 2030 following our climate declaration of March 2019. Although the City Council itself only accounts for 1% of total emissions in Plymouth, and despite the on-going disruption of the pandemic, we must get our own house in order and show leadership by decarbonising the services we provide.

This 2022 action plan has been streamlined and focussed on reducing emissions from our buildings and our fleet. We are also continuing with actions relating to the highway, staff and councillor travel, and minimising waste.

We know we have a lot more work to do, and will strive to bring forward innovations and new funding to deliver actions that will make a difference to how we deliver services in the future.



Maddi Bridgeman

**Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene,
Plymouth City Council**

Message to staff - how can you help reduce your own carbon footprint?

Where you can:



Cut consumption and waste



Reduce, reuse and recycle all that can be



Only print as a last resort



Use less water



Use less energy



Turn the lights off when leaving rooms



Eliminate single use plastic



Try to use sustainable travel arrangements



Consider eating less meat and dairy



Think about sustainable fashion choices



Consider buying local



Talk about the changes you make and share best practice

ACTION PLAN

Focus	Ref No	Actions
1 Council buildings and estate	3.1.1	Prepare a 5 year rolling plan to address the retained corporate buildings in a priority order with a fabric first approach to energy saving.
	3.1.2	Develop a costed programme of air and ground source heat pumps required to decarbonise City Council buildings.
	3.1.3	Develop a Water Reduction Action Plan to achieve a 20% reduction in water use.
	3.1.4	Reduce energy consumption by minimising the temperature in all council offices following consultation with staff.
	3.1.5	Finalise a grassland management policy to maximise opportunity to manage areas for habitat to counter habitat loss and species decline.
	3.1.6	Investigate the use of City Council sites and parks for electricity storage.
	3.1.7	Implement a Sustainable Procurement Policy which specifically includes a minimum net zero certification for all City Council new development projects.
2 Vehicles/fleet/transport/equipment	3.2.1	Continue to implement a vehicle decarbonisation programme so all cars and vans are converted to EVs by 2024.
	3.2.2	Commit to having a zero carbon vehicle for the Lord Mayor by 2023 through either a renegotiation of the lease contract or a replacement zero carbon vehicle.
	3.2.3	Undertake a review of school transport procurement criteria and routes to reduce emissions from 2023.
	3.2.4	Provide personalised travel advice to young people to be more confident of using public transport.
	3.2.5	Minimise unnecessary journeys for street bin emptying by investing in physical and digital solutions.
3 Roads and street furniture, including lighting and traffic lights	3.3.1	Introduce a more efficient payment systems into all council multi-story car parks to enhance environmental outcomes.
	3.3.2	Undertake a pilot 'Sustainable Street Lighting' initiative to save energy with a view to reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2030.
	3.3.3	Pilot the use of modern technology to change the road surface dressing methodology to reduce CO ₂ output.
	3.3.4	Research and pilot further opportunities to reduce carbon emissions from the maintenance and improvement of roads and paths.

ACTION PLAN

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4 Staff and Councillor travel/travel at work	3.4.1	Aim for 90% of business travel to be using public transport, active travel or electric vehicles by 2030.
	3.4.2	Introduce a Zero Emissions Travel Incentive Scheme to encourage employees to commute to work by cycling and other sustainable transport options.
	3.4.3	Support the delivery of events such as Car Free Days, to promote the benefits of public transport, walking and cycling to staff.
	3.4.4	Work with the Key Cities Group to explore innovative approaches to staff and councillor travel options to inform future climate actions and initiatives.
5 Waste*	3.5.1	Adopt an electronic document by default (with limited exceptions) approach to all Council meetings to secure a 50% reduction in printing by 2023.
6 Governance	3.6.1	Implement a Climate Decision Wheel for all key decisions and all capital project business cases.
	3.6.2	Prepare Emissions Profiles for all City Council services and embed climate actions in departmental service plans during 2022.
	3.6.3	Update the taxi licensing policy to encourage greener vehicles and work with taxi drivers and operators to move towards a ULEV taxi fleet by 2030.
	3.6.4	Review the City Council governance arrangements for the acceleration of carbon reduction initiatives beyond 2022.
7 Behaviours	3.7.1	Implement smarter working practices by maximising the use of technology to support home and flexible working, including the use of shared hubs with partners.
	3.7.2	Develop education and outreach programmes with maintained schools to deliver a programme of awareness raising of green issues for children of all ages.
	3.7.3	Introduce more low carbon menus in City Council and partner catering facilities.
8 Engagement	3.8.1	Implement 'carbon literacy' training to City Council staff, Green Champions and Councillors in 2022 to achieve silver accreditation and enable progression to gold accreditation by 2024.
	3.8.2	Undertake a Climate Change Conference for City Council staff to capture ideas for future carbon reduction actions.
	3.8.3	Review government commitments arising from COP26 and the Net Zero Strategy in relation to new requirements on how the City Council decarbonises its services.
9 Finance/strategic investment policy and procurement	3.9.1	Introduce a contract award weighting for climate change in procurement processes where relevant and proportionate.
	3.9.2	Develop a set of standard procurement questions which assess the suitability of a supplier to deliver a contract in relation to addressing the climate emergency.
	3.9.3	Reduce the number of out of city placements to minimise the need for travel and reduce emissions for foster child placements.
	3.9.4	Establish a City Council Carbon Offsetting Fund to enable projects to meet net zero commitments from 2022.

*Waste minimisation which is Council generated