

Net Zero Action Plan 2025-2028

Project details

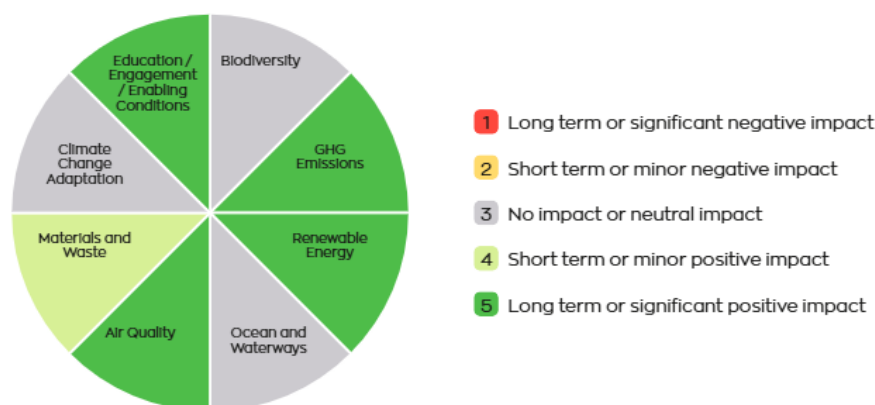
Assessment author

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Project summary

The Net Zero Action Plan is the city council climate change mitigation action plan. It covers a three year period and is rolled forward annually. It identifies actions to tackle the direct greenhouse gas emissions of the Council, with the aim of being a 'net zero' organisation by 2030. It also sets how the Council will use its influence to support the city-wide net zero agenda.

Summary of assessment



Given that the Net Zero Action Plan contains multiple individual initiatives, some of which will need to have their own climate impact assessments at decision-making stage, this assessment appraises the plan as a whole rather than its individual components.

As a climate change mitigation plan, the Net Zero Action Plan focuses on initiatives that are intended to drive down the Council's emissions of greenhouse gases, and contribute to the decarbonisation of the city, in respect of transport, buildings and energy, and behaviour change.

On this basis, the plan scores 5 for its positive and long lasting impact on GHG emissions, renewable energy supply, air quality and supporting education, engagement and enabling conditions. Neutral scores are selected for climate change adaptation, oceans and waterways, waste reduction, and biodiversity. These categories fall outside the remit of this plan, but are unlikely to be adversely impacted by its implementation.

Assessment scores

Biodiversity

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

Biodiversity enhancement is not the primary aim of the NZAP as this work is undertaken elsewhere in the Council. With a priority of climate mitigation (avoiding and reducing emissions), the NZAP focuses on ensuring that carbon remains sequestered in existing biodiversity and green spaces. The NZAP is not anticipated to have a negative effect on biodiversity.

GHG Emissions

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases within the Council and across the city is the primary goal of the Net Zero Action Plan. It will do so by tackling the causes of emissions. It focuses on key emission sources: buildings and power (BHP 1-10), transport (T1 to T6) and behaviours (BC1-4). The plan is a programme of transformation of how the Council's services are delivered and where the Council can leverage influence in the city to reduce emissions as much as possible and as fast as possible. Work is continually underway to gain a more precise understanding of the carbon impacts of Council initiatives as well as identifying new and emerging opportunities for emissions avoidance and reduction.

Renewable Energy

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

The plan is anticipated to increase the provision of renewable energy in Plymouth (BHP10). Notably, it includes two significant projects: the development of a solar farm at Chelson Meadow (BHP3) and the development of a strategic heat network programme (BHP10). The NZAP also encourages other actors in the city to support the development of renewable energy even further. In particular, the Council is committed to working with the wider region on the development of a Local Area Energy Plan (BHP10).

Ocean and Waterways

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

The Net Zero Action Plan is not anticipated to have impacts on water quality or aquatic habitats. The Net Zero Action Plan is supportive of, and coherent with initiatives to improve the marine environment.

Air Quality

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

The aims of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality are distinct but highly compatible. By encouraging the adoption of active travel, public transport, and electric vehicles, the NZAP will have the co-benefit of driving down not only greenhouse gases, but also the emissions of air pollutants. Several initiatives in the plan (T4 and T5) encourage walking and cycling and the adoption of public transport or car clubs. Where the use of private vehicle cannot be avoided, the plan encourages the adoption of Electric Vehicles by encouraging the development of the necessary charging infrastructure (T5a and T5c).

Materials and Waste

Score

Short term or limited positive impact

Score justification

This Net Zero Action Plan is anticipated to have limited positive impacts on material use and waste. As part of our approach to Behaviour Change (BC2), we will pursue two strategic waste initiatives: the delivery of a food waste collection service (BC2D) and engagement with the community on recycling (BC2C).

Climate Change Adaptation

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

The Net Zero Action Plan focuses primarily on initiatives that are intended to drive down the Council's emissions of greenhouse gases. its main purpose is to act as a climate change mitigation plan. There are significant adaptation projects in progress outside of the scope of the NZAP and the Council is committed to the development of a corporate adaptation plan.

Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

The NZAP considers behaviour change as a key pillar of mitigation action (section BC). It includes corporate engagement activities designed to support colleagues with reducing emissions from the Council's business operations (BC1). It also includes commitments to engage more effectively with the community (BC2 and BC3) in a way that is consistent with principles of climate justice and the Council's duty in respect of equality and diversity.