

Climate Change Action Plan

Policy and Project Advisory Board – 19th November 2024

Redraft of the Climate Change Action Plan

The current action plan contains 12 proposed actions, which are focused on reducing the Council's own carbon footprint, as well as support the objective of achieving a greener and more sustainable Rushmoor. The action plan does not aim to summarise all activity that the Council is undertaking to support the Climate Change agenda, much of which is undertaken as business-as-usual activity due to changes made in recent years (eg. food waste collection). The annual report in action 12 is to allow for a full range of associated activity to be reported on an annual basis.

The redraft of the climate change action plan looks to refresh the areas of focus, with the aim to keep this between 12-15 actions.

Priorities going forward:

The climate change action plan is proposed to be drafted recognising the following priorities:

- Encouraging wider impact by engaging with the wider community and business
- Improving transparency
- Putting sustainability at the heart of activity

whilst also acknowledging the constraints that the Council is under, such as financial implications and levels of influence and control.

Rushmoor Climate Community Group

The Rushmoor Climate Community Group launched in October. This group is a forum for those who live, work or volunteer within the borough to engage with the Council on climate, environmental and sustainability issues within Rushmoor.

The aims of the group:

- To **ENGAGE** Rushmoor residents in caring for, protecting, and enhancing our natural environment
- To **CONSULT** and ask for opinions and feedback on Rushmoor Borough Council's existing policies and help shape and inform future policies and plans.
- To **NETWORK & SHARE** information & resources and form partnerships between people and organisations.
- To **CREATE** initiatives by and for residents

- To **RAISE AWARENESS** of climate, environmental and sustainability issues across the community and beyond

Timeline - Redraft of the Climate Change Action Plan

At the launch meeting of Rushmoor Climate Community, feedback on the current Climate Change Action Plan and the Council's approach so far was sought.

The feedback from Rushmoor Climate Community will be summarised to the group at PPAB and there will be a further opportunity for PPAB Members to discuss and inform the development of the Action Plan. It is intended that a revised Climate Change Action Plan will go to Cabinet in March 2025 and therefore there is an opportunity for PPAB to consider a more developed draft of the Action Plan prior to Cabinet.



Climate Change Action Plan (2023-2026)

The current action plan is listed below with a brief summary of progress. This update doesn't aim to consolidate all related activity (which will be summarised in the annual report)

Action 1: Transition electricity across the Council's sites to 100% renewable tariffs.

Work commenced in January 2024 and costs have been estimated. Any change to tariffs will need to be taken in the context of the Council's financial position.

Action 2: Switch the council's car fleet to electric alternatives and investigate options for other council vehicles.

Reduced the number of CPO vehicles, more foot patrol time (therefore reduction in mileage).

Action 3: Achieve a 5% annual reduction in overall travel from employee-owned vehicles for business purposes and refresh the council's Workplace Travel Plan.

Signposting to relevant Schemes and policies available on the Staff People Portal (eg. Cycle to work scheme and Ways of Working Policy).

Action 4: Consider opportunities arising from a relocation of the council's offices to reduce gas consumption and/or increase renewable energy generation on site.

Opportunities to install more renewable energy on site at Council sites have been undertaken. This includes Solar PV at the Aldershot Pools and Crematorium.

Action 5: To continue to engage young people on climate change through the schools' programme which is now running in four junior schools within Rushmoor.

Wonderseekers (Winchester Science Centre) were given a grant to run the Climate Trackers Scheme. This uses a repeat engagement model for Year 4/5 to raise climate awareness, whilst developing interest, skills, and aspirations in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). This scheme is in the third year of delivery with four schools (Alderwood, Cherrywood, Talavera, and Tower Hill).

This partnership with Wonderseekers has meant that this year, they have introduced a session for year 2 and year 6 in each participating school as part of their offer. They have also attended Playfest for the last 2 years.

Action 6: To use the council's communications channels (including through member engagement) to promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to reduce their own carbon footprint, including promoting schemes to improve energy efficiency of their home or business.

Over the course of 2023/24 the Council have shared various campaigns across the Council's communication channels in relation to Climate, Sustainability, and biodiversity. This includes Council updates, schemes and sharing relevant partner updates.

Rushmoor Borough Council contributes to the Sustainable Business Network (North Hants) and supports the development of their webinars which aim to improve support and mentor SMEs on carbon reduction and sustainable business measures.

Relevant information for business is also being shared across the Council's business channels.

Action 7: To hold an eco-fair in September 2023 at Southwood Country Park and Field Centre to allow residents to find out more about climate change and opportunities to reduce their own carbon footprint and to hold an event for local businesses on low carbon opportunities.

Eco Fair was held at Southwood Visitor Centre in September 2023 and again in September 2024, where the number of stallholders was increased.

Stallholders ranged from local community groups, charities, green space groups, local business and included activities for children (and adults), as well as the sale of local sustainable goods.

Action 8: To work with Hampshire County Council to improve access to EV charging facilities across Rushmoor.

The Council continues to work with Hampshire County Council on EV infrastructure throughout the borough. Hampshire County Council have got LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) funding, and further support will be given as this progresses.

Action 9: To refresh the council's procurement strategy to ensure that the goods and services that the council buys support the aim of the council being carbon neutral by 2030.

A revised procurement strategy will be presented to Cabinet in November 2024.

Action 10: To review processes for the council's capital programme so that environmental impacts are incorporated into business case development and whole life cycle carbon assessments are undertaken.

Implemented with environmental impacts embedded into project development. A specialist piece of work commissioned for the crematorium refurbishment.

Action 11: To develop the council's offsetting approach with a view to ensuring that any offsetting undertaken by the council has a local impact.

A definitive approach will be implemented further down the timeline to ensure up to date and best practices. However, will continue to ensure that any offsetting undertaken by the Council, will have a local impact. Available schemes will be identified and looked into as part of this.

Action 12: To review, update and publish the council's carbon footprint on an annual basis, publish an annual report detailing all that the council has achieved in relation to its climate action plan and associated strategies (e.g. Green Infrastructure Plan).

Annual report 2023-24, which summarised all work undertaken that year, detailing all business-as-usual updates, smaller projects, and ad hoc work. This also summarised other relevant strategy updates, such as projects from the Green

Potential Changes:

Action		Potential Change
1	Transition electricity across the Council's sites to 100% renewable tariffs.	
2	Switch the council's car fleet to electric alternatives and investigate options for other council vehicles.	
3	Achieve a 5% annual reduction in overall travel from employee-owned vehicles for business purposes and refresh the council's Workplace Travel Plan	This has a small impact on the Council's Carbon footprint and thus could focus on future campaigns instead of a formal plan, as there is a travelling to work Section on the Staff's People Portal. Reframed around active travel
4	Consider opportunities arising from a relocation of the council's offices to reduce gas consumption and/or increase renewable energy generation on site.	
5	To continue to engage young people on climate change through the schools' programme which is now running in four junior schools within Rushmoor.	Reframe as young people engagement with reference to Climate Trackers Scheme.
6	To use the council's communications channels (including through member engagement) to promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to reduce their own carbon footprint, including promoting schemes to improve energy efficiency of their home or business.	
7	To hold an eco-fair in September 2023 at Southwood Country Park and Field Centre to allow residents to find out more about climate change and opportunities to reduce their own carbon footprint and to hold an event for local businesses on low carbon opportunities.	Reframe as Community Engagement Action which would reference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eco Fair - Rushmoor Climate Community
8	To work with Hampshire County Council to improve access to EV charging facilities across Rushmoor.	REMOVE - as area of focus, as RBC has limited influence/control.

9	To refresh the council's procurement strategy to ensure that the goods and services that the council buys support the aim of the council being carbon neutral by 2030.	
10	To review processes for the council's capital programme so that environmental impacts are incorporated into business case development and whole life cycle carbon assessments are undertaken.	
11	To develop the council's offsetting approach with a view to ensuring that any offsetting undertaken by the council has a local impact.	
12	To review, update and publish the council's carbon footprint on an annual basis, publish an annual report detailing all that the council has achieved in relation to its climate action plan and associated strategies (e.g. Green Infrastructure Plan).	Inclusion of Climate Emergency UK's Climate Action Scorecards.
13	NEW ACTION	To develop and implement Climate Change Impact Assessments for all new project proposals across the Council
14	NEW ACTION	Reduction of single use plastics across Council sites
15	NEW ACTION	Active Travel