



Internal Carbon Reduction Plan (ICRP)

Context

In 2025, the UK became the first major economy to pass a law requiring it to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. This means that by then the country needs to remove as much carbon from the atmosphere as it emits.

Climate projections show that past, current and future greenhouse gas emissions will influence our climate for decades to come. While climate change is a global challenge, local solutions will contribute to reducing its impacts. We know as an organisation we currently emit approximately 1,000 tonnes¹ of carbon each year, across our assets and activities to deliver our services. We will reduce or offset the damage we cause to the environment around us through these activities and pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030. Our commitment to tackling climate change is embedded within our Lichfield 2030 strategic objective: 'Green Communities'.

¹ See the Environmental Report

Foreword



Janice Silvester-Hall

Cabinet Member for Water Economy,
Ecology & Climate Change

Lichfield District Council has committed to take ambitious steps in order to achieve carbon neutrality across the district by 2050. Set out here is the Council's current action plan to 'get our house in order'. To help hold ourselves accountable to our commitments, we have recently launched our Organisational Carbon Dashboard ([Climate change resources hub - Carbon neutral dashboard | lichfield.gov.uk](#)), which our residents can use to monitor our carbon reduction journey. Our Dashboard shows that our carbon emissions have reduced between 2021 and 2022 in all areas apart from our depot fleet (waste, street cleaning and recycling vehicles) and our car parks.

There is much work still to be done and our action plan will be continually developed to ensure that we achieve what we need to do. As a Council, we plan to complete many actions well in advance of the 2050 deadline, but this will only be possible with proper planning and prioritisation.

We made it clear at the outset that the challenge to achieve a carbon neutral district will be too great for the Council to act alone. We will only be successful if we work together with our residents and businesses to drive change. Localised actions can make a huge difference.

It is only by working together that we can make a greater difference for a greener, cleaner and more sustainable district.



Introduction

The Carbon Reduction Plan sets out the broad range of actions to drive forward change to our internal operations and activities to reduce the carbon that Lichfield District Council and our wholly owned company Lichfield/Wire Midlands Traded Services (LWMTS) directly emit to deliver Net Zero by 2030.

Our Action Plan is intended to be a dynamic document and will be updated when progress has been made, actions are amended due to advancements in best practices or resources, or new funding opportunities arise. Therefore, the content of this plan will change over time.

Our programme to date includes:

- Developing and launching our carbon dashboard to track our progress.
- Reducing carbon emissions from 2021 - 2022 in all areas apart from our depot fleet (passive, street scene and recycling vehicles) and our car parks.
- Reducing CO₂ emissions in homes for all of our buildings by 20% from 200,98 in 2020 to 170,28 in 2022.
- Installing LED lighting at District Council House, Borough Leisure Centre, Friary Grange Leisure Centre, the Depot, and all corporate estate buildings.
- Carrying out work to prepare our fleet for its transition to alternative fuels.
- Converted 20 street scene and park vehicles to electric, as part of the fleet replacement programme.
- Installed 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in our car parks.
- Launched "Habitat Homes" which is a series of mowing practices to promote biodiversity in select parks and other green areas we own.
- Introduced dual stream recycling (sorting of recyclables by household).
- Launched our new Recycling campaign - "Recycle for Good".
- Our council is developing a new leisure center in Lichfield which is designed to a high quality of sustainability both in terms of construction and its future operation.

The next stage will be in developing a Carbon Reduction Plan for the whole district, working with local businesses, residents and community groups, that we hope to publish in 2023.

	Objectives 	Actions 	Responsible Department 	Timescale Short (0-1yrs) Medium (2-10yrs) Long (10yrs+)	Carbon Saving 
1	Collate and report on the council's carbon data.	<p>Collate carbon data for LSC assets to establish our carbon baseline for 2020, 2022 and following years.</p> <p>Create an organisational carbon dashboard displaying our carbon emissions to inform and direct future actions.</p> <p>Establish automatic data validators to enable the carbon dashboard to be continuously updated.</p> <p>Publish an annual update, detailing carbon data for the year and progress made.</p>	Policy & Strategy	Short	N/A
2	The Climate and Environment officer group to monitor progress and impact of the carbon reduction plan.	<p>Climate and Environment Group to meet bi-annually to discuss progress, maintain accountability and discuss ideas for new initiatives.</p> <p>Responsible departments to review actions and report on progress quarterly to ensure the plan is deliverable.</p> <p>Annual update of the plan including progress made, completed and new actions.</p> <p>Annual report to Senior Leadership Team on progress to ensure alignment with strategic priorities.</p> <p>Continuously seek and apply for suitable funding opportunities to improve the carbon neutrality of our assets and associated programs.</p>	Policy & Strategy Responsible Departments	Short	N/A

	Objectives	Actions	Responsible Department	Timescale	Carbon Saving
1	To ensure the Council's estate and assets through increasing the energy efficiency of heating, lighting, and cooling systems.	<p>Replace lights in council buildings with LEDs.</p> <p>Install solar panels on buildings where appropriate and feasible.</p> <p>Review and reduce office consumables such as stationery to a minimum.</p> <p>Provide guidance to existing tenants on sustainable choices and purchases prior to refitting their properties.</p>	Property	<p>Long</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Moderate</p> <p>Low</p> <p>N/A</p>
2	To develop an EV strategy for Lichfield District Council.	<p>Produce an EV charging strategy for Lichfield District Council.</p> <p>Install EV charging points in council assets such as car parks where there is a business case to do so.</p>	Policy & Strategy / Operations	<p>Short</p> <p>Short</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Moderate</p>

	Objectives	Actions	Responsible Department	Timescale	Carbon Saving
	Utilise latest technology in our operations.	Reduce fuel consumption of waste fleet by 10% through the use of driver management monitoring, route optimisation and in-cab technology.	Operations	Short	Moderate
		Develop a Business Plan to enable a 10% increase in the total number of LSC owned streetlights converted to LEDs.		Short	Moderate
	Encourage residents to recycle better and reduce risk of waste.	Implement simpler recycling in line with government initiatives.	Operations	Short	Low
		Roll out food waste collections.		Short	Low
		Roll out deposit return schemes.		Short	Low
		Roll out food plastics collection.		Short	Low
		Recycling campaign - 'Recycle for good' including a schools education campaign.		Short	Low
		Measure recycling and residual waste by quality on a quarterly basis to ensure quality is high and contamination is reducing.		Short	Low

	Objectives	Actions	Responsible Department	Timescale	Carbon Saving
7	Increase the number of greener fuelled and electric vehicles in our fleet	<p>Work with our fleet supply partners and the market to introduce greener fuelled vehicles, subject to the business case.</p> <p>Convert lower tiered and Paris vehicles, to electric vehicles, as a rolling program (replacing vehicles as they reach their end date subject to electricity capacity at depot).</p> <p>To replace the business case for our Hybrid fueled Vegetable Oil (HVO) in our fleet.</p>	Operations	Short/Medium	High
8	Identify suitable LSC land to be managed effectively for the benefit of wildlife and carbon sequestration in line with our Nature Recovery Plan.	<p>Review existing practices to promote biodiversity in select parks and other green areas owned by LSC and other local authorities set more on behalf 'Local Natural Areas'.</p> <p>Identify areas, such as grassland, heathland and wood-land, suitable for habitat development, setting baseline condition scores based on DEFRA metrics.</p> <p>Work with Parks teams, to create Habitat Management and Monitoring Plans (HMMAs) for each area (over 10-year period) to establish problems and consequent solutions.</p> <p>Align Nature Recovery strategy to Staffordshire County Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy</p> <p>Collaborate with strategic partners on delivering joint projects delivering district wide biodiversity enhancement.</p>	LSC/TL, Policy & Strategy, Operations	Short	Moderate
				Short	N/A
				Short	Moderate
				Short	Low
				Short/Medium	Low

	Objectives	Actions	Responsible Department	Timescale	Carbon Saving
	Ensure that events are more sustainable, reducing and reducing their environmental impact.	Ensure event application process considers the carbon footprint of the proposed event.	Events and Communications.	Short	Moderate
		Reuse UDC events resources where possible e.g. clear tables.		Short	Low
		Introduce a green band element into the event application process.		Short	Moderate
		Explore options for a Paris and Rule for large events.		Short	Moderate
		Undertaken carbon footprint of UDC run events to inform future venue choice to minimise the environmental impact.		Short	N/A
	Ensure carbon neutrality is valued in the procurement process.	Implement a Social Value Policy that includes Carbon Reduction and improvement measures in the awarding and monitoring of contracts.	Finance and Commissioning team	Short	Low
		Consideration of carbon reduction plans as part of the procurement process, for in scope contracts in accordance with government guidance.		Short	Low
		Establish working relationships between the council and its supply chain to enable suppliers to demonstrate their contributions to reduce scope 2 emissions.		Short	Moderate

	Objectives	Actions	Responsible Department	Timescale	Carbon Saving
T1	To ensure staff and councillors are aware of our aims and plans and improve awareness through regular and effective Climate Change training.	Identify training needs of staff and members.	Policy & Strategy	Short	High
		Organise regular training sessions on Climate change and the environment for all staff and councillors.		Short	Low

T2	Introduce greater, more sustainable staff benefits.	Carry out research to establish options, budget availability and appetite for more sustainable staff benefit schemes e.g. cycle to work scheme.	Policy & Strategy	Short	Low
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