



Organisational Carbon Reduction Plan



Foreword

Mike Wilcox - Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling, Ecology and Climate Change

LDC has declared a climate and a nature recovery emergency. We have pledged to do all we can in as a District Council 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'.

As a council we need to press on with reaching our targets as soon as we can. We made it clear at the outset 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.



Context

In 2019, 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 though, local solutions will contribute to reducing its impacts. We know as an organisation we currently emit approximately 1,450 tonnes 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.

Objectives

We will achieve net zero carbon emissions for the Council by 2035. In doing this we will enhance the quality of life and well-being for your residents and provide a sustainable economy for businesses.

Priorities

In declaring a climate emergency, we pledged to identify steps we can take to achieve carbon neutrality. We know our emissions come from the following areas:

Emissions Source	Tonnes CO2	% split
Natural gas	121	8%
Electricity	275	19%
Council vehicles	1054	73%
total	1450	100%

We want to set an example for our communities by how we manage our assets, how we deliver services and how we reduce our own carbon footprint. The areas detailed in this plan have been produced to concentrate our actions and initially, we are focusing on impacting those activities we can directly change or influence as a Council. We are taking steps to make Lichfield a greener district for us all and to help sustain and improve the quality of life for our residents, now and in the future. Each year, we will monitor our carbon emissions and report on our progress to achieve net zero.

We have five areas of focus but recognise that as our zero carbon journey progresses, more areas may be identified to allow us to achieve our vision.



Buildings and Transport

We will:

- Reduce building energy usage/energy emissions
- Reduce vehicle emissions
- Reduce our overall carbon impact
- Increase utilisation of renewable energies

Biodiversity and environment

We will:

- Maximise opportunities for carbon capture through our parks and open spaces
- Flood prevention/ mitigation
- Adapt to climate change
- Carbon sequestration

Waste

We will:

- Take action to reduce waste generation
- Re-use items where possible
- Improve local recycling infrastructure

Air Quality

We will:

- Increase sustainable travel
- Reduce travel by fossil fuel vehicles

Behaviour change, policies and data

We will:

- Identify policies which can contribute to Net Zero
- Enable understanding of climate change
- Be more efficient in the energy we use



Action Plan

Phase - UNDERSTAND

	Activities	Outcome	By when (CO2 reduced)
1	Collate data on LDC's carbon emission that will be used for decarbonisation purposes and to track the progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baseline assessment & starting point.	Complete Jan 2021
2	Set up monitoring and reporting template for Climate Emergency Action Plan to measure emissions and KPI's.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shows progress against the target.	Jan 2022
3	Develop internal network and staff training to promote and communicate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify change champions and ensure all staff have awareness of issues.	Jun 2022
4	Establish the costs associated with delivering this action plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budgets identified and committed to deliver these activities.	December 2022
5	Undertake internal workshop – externally facilitated – to understand what additional activities we should consider.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify additional activities to contribute to our target reductions.	March 2022

Phase - REDUCE

	Activities	Outcome	Target emissions reductions (CO2 tonnes)	By when (CO2 reduced)
6	Decarbonisation/Increase energy efficiency of heating, lighting and cooling system within the Council's estate and assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decarbonisation work completed at District Council House, the Pavilion, Beacon Park & Burntwood Leisure Centre. Reduced operational costs. Climate change adaption & mitigation. Reduction in office space required due to hybrid & agile working. Reduced travel. 	Estimated saving 260 tonnes per annum	Complete September 2021
7	We will implement smart waste technology solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced operational costs. More efficient recycling resulting in landfill waste minimisation. Climate change adaption & mitigation. 	Saving an estimate 150 tonnes per annum	2030
8	Ensure environmental implications are considered within procurement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change adaption & mitigation. Sustainable procurement. Reduced carbon emissions. 	Saving an estimated 5 tonnes per annum	2025
9	Decarbonise and improve Depot to optimise the management of recyclables and prepare for the fleet transition to alternative fuels and/or EVs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change adaption & mitigation. Reduced carbon emissions. 	Saving estimated 50 tonnes per annum	2025
10	To renew the existing fleet to a fully electric vehicle (EV) fleet by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully developed and implemented strategy that will results in financial savings from reduced operational costs and CO2 emissions. 	Estimated 700 tonnes per annum	2030
11	Promote sustainable options for employees - walking and cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change adaption & mitigation. Reduced carbon emissions. 	Saving an estimated 5 tonnes per annum	2025
12	Create a carbon neutral district council house by 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change adaption & mitigation. Reduced carbon emissions. 	Saving an estimated 120 tonnes per annum	2025

Phase - OFFSET

	Activities	Outcome	Target emissions reductions (CO2 tonnes)	By when (CO2 reduced)
13	Create Tiny Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved health and wellbeing of participants and local residents. Become one of the first local authorities in West Midlands to have a Tiny Forest. 	3600 trees to be planted sequestering/ offset to be determined	2035
14	LDC future electricity supply is provided by a 100% ecologically generated sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further reduction in CO2 emissions by carbon credit offset. 	Offset an estimate of 5 tonnes per annum	2025
15	Identify LDC land to plant for a further 4000 trees and create areas of biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further reduction in CO2 emissions Opportunities for new planting 	Offset an estimate of between 87 and 129 tonnes	2035
16	Develop a nature based solutions offsetting strategy for our own assets including carbon sequestration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to Nature Recovery Network evidence base 	To be determined	

PHASE – Shape future climate change plans

	Activities	Outcome	Target emissions reductions (CO2 tonnes)	By when (CO2 reduced)
17	Develop a strategy for achieving net zero district wide by 2050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of our developing long term strategic plan 	Impacts district emissions	2024

Our measures of success are simple

1. By 2025 our Council carbon emissions will have reduced/been offset to 1005 CO₂ per annum.
2. By 2030 our Council carbon emissions will have reduced/been offset to 155 CO₂ per annum.
3. By 2035 our Council carbon emissions will have reduced/been offset to zero.

CO₂ sequestering

In 2020 scientist from WENR concluded that a standard sized Tiny Forest sequesters 127,5 kg of CO₂ per year. They expect this to rise to 250 kg of CO₂ per year as the forests grow older. Tiny Forest Zaanstad (planted December 2015) sequestered 631 kg of CO₂ in 2020. This is being used to offset 2022 Commonwealth Games.

