
Staffordshire Sustainability Board

Vision and council commitments 2022-2023

Vision

The Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB) is to facilitate the collaborative forum, to work together, as the democratically elected bodies in Staffordshire, to influence change and to encourage organisations and individuals to ensure that Staffordshire is net carbon zero by at least 2050 or before.

The board will also work as a collective to address climate change adaptation measures that are within individual organisations leverage, to influence and facilitate change with adaptation to climatic changes that are already locked in. Sustainability and habitat biodiversity will be reviewed throughout 2022 and shall be considered in a revised vision in January 2023.

Context

The Staffordshire Leaders and Chief Executives Group has committed to work collaboratively to successfully achieve net carbon zero in line with our independent authority's climate change declarations.

It is recognised that the council's collective carbon footprint is less than 2% of Staffordshire's 5.8MtCO₂e annual carbon footprint however it is documented that, collectively, the councils could have an influence on a significant proportion of these emissions. This collaboration is to enable and facilitate change, where possible, throughout the geographic area of Staffordshire as a whole.

Work in the longer term will also bring into the discussion and actions, climate change adaptation and sustainable environment concerns.

Throughout all the activities and discussion that resonate from the SSB, we shall actively engage with external organisations that can bring specialist knowledge, understanding and facilitation to the board.

The SSB will comprise senior members of each authority and supported by a team of advisors drawn from across the authorities.

Council commitments

It is proposed that as an initial commitment, the combined councils will within their own carbon emissions boundary initiate the following but acknowledge that the larger scope of climate change mitigation and adaptation is within the wider community of Staffordshire.

1. Baseline and Reporting – All Councils will prepare and publish an annual baseline analysis of their organisation's carbon footprint. All Councils will assess and publish progress in reducing their carbon footprint in October each year.

2. Carbon Literacy Training & Awareness – All Councillors and Senior Management Teams will undertake carbon literacy training to build corporate awareness of the issue and the Council’s role in securing carbon reduction. All Councils will conduct a community impact assessment for key projects and proposals and include an assessment of Climate Change Implications in all key decision reports.

3. Ambassadors - All Councils will encourage members to act as climate change ambassadors, to encourage reduction in organisational carbon footprints and champion this in their own division/ward areas.

4. Green Travel Planning – All Councils will support and facilitate green travel by members, employees, and their communities through promotion of green travel planning. Policy implementation on green transport and ways of working

5. Communications – All Councils will contribute to a countywide communications group who will plan to deliver and manage a countywide Communications Plan, working together to drive our collective net zero visions forward, throughout the County.

6. Green Energy – All the Councils will commit to procure 100% green energy supplies for their electricity as soon as existing contract commitments allow.

7. Energy Reduction – By January 2023, all Councils will have established plans to reduce energy consumption across their estates.

8. Low carbon fuelled fleet vehicles – Moving towards an aspirational zero emission operational vehicle fleet, the Councils will by 2025, establish a plan to move to low carbon fuels within their internal fleets by 2030.

9. Waste & Recycling – By 2025 there will be a countywide waste strategy that all authorities will adhere to. This strategy will cover all aspects of the countywide waste operation, to reduce residual waste creation, increase recycling rates, promote composting of food waste at home and establish food waste collections throughout the County.

10. Innovation and Technology – Working collaboratively with research institutions, businesses and partners the Councils will encourage both innovation and technology development, that will assist the delivery of our combined net zero visions.

