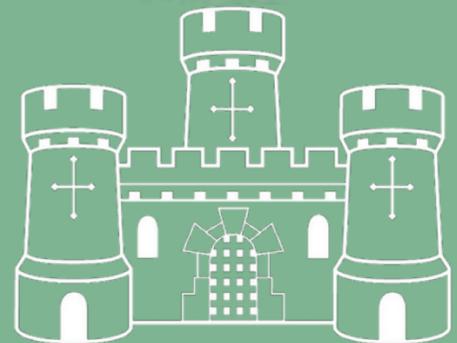


Newcastle-under-Lyme Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023 Update



**NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Commitment for Newcastle-under-Lyme

Newcastle under Lyme is dedicated to ensuring a sustainable future that leads to improvements within our communities and we will continue to strive to reduce our own impact on the environment in everything we do.

Sustainable Environment Strategy Action Plan 2022/2023

Foreword by Councillor David Hutchison

Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment

Since the climate emergency declaration and the publishing of the Sustainable Environment Action Plan (SES Action Plan) in 2019, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council has been focused on various overarching sustainability targets, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, reducing our emissions as an organisation, minimising our waste and increasing recycling and finally offsetting emissions. Over the last ~5 years the Borough Council has made some great progress in implementing the actions outlined in the SES Action Plan and as result the council have reduced their carbon footprint by 50% in the last 10 years.

The Borough Council now has the responsibility to become Net Zero within its own operations by 2030 and within the entire Borough by 2050 through installing renewable technology, decarbonising buildings and transportation, and influencing behaviour changes. The Council has received extensive consultation on multiple operational sites and the entire fleet to map the cost and time it will take to decarbonise the built estate and fleet by 2030. The decarbonisation of the Councils built estate will act as a case study to drive net zero initiatives within the residences, businesses and transport systems in the Borough to achieve a net zero Borough by 2050.

With the new net zero consultation data the Council will facilitate the creation of an updated SES Action Plan which will focus both on the Councils 2030 and 2050 goals for net zero but include embedded targets on scope 3 emissions such as procurement and commuting, increasing biodiversity and influencing sustainable behaviour change. The Borough Council is committed to these targets to ensure the Borough does everything in it's power to reduce the impact it has on climate change and the environment.



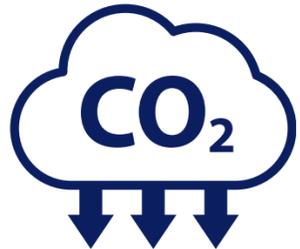
Sustainable Environment Strategy Action Plan 2022/2023



Overarching



Reduce our reliance on Fossil Fuels



Reducing Emissions



Minimising waste and increase recycling



Offsetting Carbon Emissions



Sustainable Environment Strategy Action Plan 2022/2023



Overarching

Action	By when?	Progress to date
1. The Staffordshire Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Report has been finalised and key policy recommendations will inform policies in the Local Plan to ensure that new development will seek to mitigate the impact on climate change.	At the adoption of the Local Plan	Local Plan been out for consultation. Analysis of results now taking place
2. The following policy principles are likely to be taken forward in the emerging Local Plan:-		
3. Presumption in favour of wind energy development on unconstrained areas (which will be identified on the Policies Map), subject to specific criteria on design, siting, amenity impact etc.	At the adoption of the Local Plan	As above
4. Electric vehicle charging points should be included in all developments' parking proposals. Where use of existing parking facilities are being utilised, contributions towards electric vehicle infrastructure is likely to be required;	At the adoption of the Local Plan	as above
5. Requirement that all development should be adaptable to climate change and help reduce carbon emissions by including, wherever appropriate, decentralised and renewable and low carbon sources.	At the adoption of the Local Plan	As above
6. Requirement on proposals for major developments to submit a sustainability statement demonstrating consideration of energy efficiency measures and low carbon technologies;	At the adoption of the Local Plan	As above
7. Requirement for all development and energy proposals that would generate significant surplus or waste heat should take all practicable measures to utilise that heat to meet local energy needs;	At the adoption of the Local Plan	As above
8. Requirement to connect into the heat network or be designed to do so where this is planned or exists, unless it can be demonstrated that there are more effective alternatives for minimising carbon emissions or such connection is impracticable;	At the adoption of the Local Plan	As above
9. The Report also recommends consideration of a carbon offset fund. Should the Council choose to adopt this, the level of charge set would need to be tested in a Viability Report and additional resources may be required to manage this fund.	At the adoption of the Local Plan	As above
10. Continuing to engage with Keele University (possible Staffordshire University) to explore what they are doing in relation to reducing carbon/becoming carbon neutral and to examine if the Council can learn anything from the work being undertaken.	2022/2023	Constructive progress made with Keele, focused around their Smart energy demonstrator and Hydrex projects.
11. To explore if there is any national best practice examples and/or guidance to support the delivery of such work.	2022/2023	Joined Sustainability west Midlands and APSE energy to share and learn from best practice.
12. Commission a base line study and roadmap plan to reach carbon neutrality for the Council's operations by 2030.	2022/2023	Commissioned and completed. Action plan by April 24
13. Create a dedicated Environmental Sustainability Officer post for initial 12 month period.	2022/2023	Completed appointed - 1.33 FTA's in post on permanent basis.



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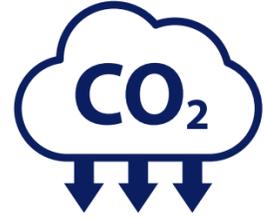


Reduce our reliance on Fossil Fuels

Action	By when?	Progress to date
14. An Air Quality Final Business case will be considered by Cabinet for submitting to DEFRA which will include a package of measures to be implemented with respect to Air Quality improvements.	2022/2023	Submission date moved to 2024, It was mentioned this action would contribute to a net increase in carbon emissions.
15. Staffordshire County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) 2020-2030 establishes a programme of improvements for pedestrians and cyclists to include better access and improved cycle routes for the residents of the Borough.	2020/2030	Council supporting initiatives, cycle routes around Newcastle currently being constructed Eg Keele rondabout
16. Promote the Council's agile working policy and Green Travel Plan, encouraging Car Sharing, Cycle Loans, and Annual Bus Travel Card for its employees to reduce CO2 from travel to work.	Ongoing	Continue supporting, Council introduced salary sacrifice scheme for EV's for employees
17. A consortium bid, funded by Low Emission Taxi Infrastructure Scheme, has approved eight rapid electric vehicle charging points to be installed within the Borough. To complete the installation of electrical vehicle charging points in car parks managed by the Borough for customer usage.	2022	Complete
18. Staffordshire County Council have developed an EV strategy for the County. The Council will use this as a basis for its borough-wide strategy. Continue to investigate further opportunities for on street parking charging points.	2022/2023	Cabinet formally adopted County EV strategy in January 23.
19. To consider future amendments of policy and further consultation and adoption to the Taxi/PHV policy.	2025	ongoing - workstream of Staffordshire Sustainability board.
20. To assess the suitability and applicability of financial support schemes from the Office of Low Emissions Vehicles grants for new vehicles/grant for second hand (loan schemes to support purchase of New and Used vehicles).	2025	Ongoing
21. To assess schemes established by Local Authorities such as Birmingham/Coventry/Nottingham with respect to electrical vehicles and its associated infrastructure improvement and to incorporate learning for the Council.	2025	Ongoing



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Reducing Emissions

Action	By when?	Progress to date
22. Build on vehicle route optimisation work in recycling, waste and fleet service and extend it to other parts of the Council's operations to reduce vehicle mileage and emissions.	Ongoing	Work has been undertaken with streetscene fleet, resulting in 20% reduction in vehicle use for litter bin emptying
23. To continue to provide driver CPC training and offer ECO driving aimed at Driver behaviour and well-being.	Ongoing	Programme agreed for 2023/24
24. Based on the data captured by Wi Bees Data Loggers, for utilities consumption, the Council will seek to effect behaviour changes and optimise energy usage.	2023	Complete
25. Monitor and utilise the data from the new "e-telligent" packages of building management systems.	2022/2023	Actions as part of RoadMap decarbonisation plan for Council Buildings
26. To appoint an energy specialist in- house or to engage an external specialist Consultant with the remit of reducing carbon emissions across the Council's portfolio.	2022/2023	to be considered as part of the action plan above.
27. The Council has appointed external consultants to assess the feasibility of deploying low carbon technologies, across the Council's landholdings and buildings.	Ongoing	ongoing - workstream of Staffordshire Sustainability board.
28. Continue to work collaboratively with Keele University to explore new energy efficient schemes such as district network heating.	2022/2023	Ongoing
29. The Council has made preliminary assessment of the type of street lighting for which the Council is responsible for, 382 lights of which only 4 are currently LED. To develop a proposal/business case to install LED to Council's owned street lighting.	2022/2023	Ongoing



Sustainable Environment Strategy Action Plan 2022/2023



Minimising Waste and increase Recycling

Action	By when?	Progress to date
30. To review what neighbouring authorities are delivering as part of their carbon reduction/carbon neutrality programme, examine if there might be benefits from a combined public sector L.A. approach.	2022/2023	Base pledge and work programme agreed by all Staffordshire authorities as part of Staffordshire Sustainability Board. Good progress being made. Newcastle second highest performer for Recycling in Staffordshire.
31. To engage with the Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce to understand the messages/guidance they are providing to the business sector on CO2 neutral energy tariffs.	2022/2023	Ongoing
32. To explore what local medium to large size private sector organisations are doing in relation to reducing carbon / becoming carbon neutral (examine any learning from the work being undertaken).	2022/2023	Work with Keele and staffs University's as well as SBEN.



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Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Action	By when?	Progress to date
33. Continue the planting of trees on Council owned land as part of the Urban Tree Planting Strategy and declare planted sites Urban Carbon Capture Areas.	2022/2023	Planted 14,947 in the first four phases of the urban tree planting strategy over 21 sites.
34. Explore the feasibility of installing a 30kw array of solar thermal-PV hybrid at south facing roofs of NULBC central Depot. Battery Solutions for the Depot. To store excess energy from the solar panels.	2022/2023	forms part of action plan for RoadMap - Building decarbonisation plan.
35. Implement Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Bid projects for sustainable energy solutions. Including LED street lighting, community building energy efficiency and feasibility of Keele solar green energy generation.	2022/2023	Completed, initiatives such as Solar farm being taken forward.
36. Social Housing & Decarbonisation Fund	2022	36 houses did receive decarbonisation funding and were refurbished and decarbonised.
37. Prepare a Nature Recovery Action Plan in conjunction with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	2022/2023	Ongoing
38. J2 Tree Planting Scheme - to plant a tree for every new Member signed up at J2.	2022/2023	Scheme is designed and ready for implementation
39. Progress Carbon Literacy Project	2022/2023	Sustainability training provided to members and staff across the Council. More indepth Carbon literacy training being developed for roll out in 2024.
40. Explore Long Life/Long Term Energy Storage opportunities	Ongoing	Part of RoadMap to net zero decarbonisation action plan being developed.

