



# Climate and Environment Action Plan 2024-25



In 2019, Cirencester Town Council declared a Climate Emergency; this is because the Council acknowledged that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a special report in October 2018 on the subject of 'Global Warming of 1.5°C'.

The report stated that:

- human activity has already caused 1°C of warming to the earth;
- to limit warming to 1.5°C, it will be necessary to halve global carbon emissions by 2030 and to achieve near-zero net emissions by 2050;
- the consequences of 2°C warming is significantly worse than 1.5°C warming across all areas considered in the report.

Extreme weather events happening now can be attributed with confidence to warming at this scale, and the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world. The UK faces damaging local impacts related to extreme heat, water shortages, sea level rise, and global impacts such as food price shocks and greatly increased migratory pressures.

The Climate Change Advisory Group has already made good progress in starting to audit and benchmark the Council's carbon footprint, the leasing of vehicles and equipment, banking arrangements and investments and switching energy tariffs.

We have also significantly minimised the number of in person meetings and have introduced flexible arrangements for working from home, reducing the need to travel. Our Council and Committee meetings are now streamed live via YouTube, reducing the need for members of the public to physically travel to our meetings.

We are also printing less and using less plastic; thinking more about how we can re-use and recycle. Our open spaces are also important for bio-diversity as well as contributing positively to the climate, this means less manicuring and more appropriate management with partners such as the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.



The purpose of this action plan is to record and reference each of the group's priorities in a SMART way as per the template below:

Ref	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Timeframe	Financial	Notes (Lead responsibility)
<i>colour coded tracking ref</i>  <i>red = delayed start</i> <i>amber = in progress</i> <i>green = complete</i> <i>no colour = update is before start date and no work has commenced on priority</i>	<i>brief description of strategic priority</i>	<i>bullet point outputs</i>	<i>coded reference identifying how achievable the output is</i>  <i>1 = directly deliverable by CTC</i>  <i>2 = directly deliverable by third party</i>  <i>3 = jointly deliverable/joint responsibility of CTC and third party(ies)</i>  <i>4 = outside of CTC direct control – impact and influence to be monitored by CTC</i>	<i>priority origin i.e. public consultation, neighbourhood planning, community plan, planning concept statement</i>	<i>where a priority is a task and finish project, to identify the earliest date by which the project is to be completed; where a project is not task and finish it will be denoted as ongoing</i>	<i>coded reference:</i>  <i>1 = funding identified and available in approved CTC budget/medium term financial plan</i>  <i>2 = funding needed by CTC to deliver project, to be identified in the budget or raised through precept/external grant or partner funding</i>  <i>3 = delivery is dependent on third party funding</i>  <i>4 = funding not required</i>	<i>notes for monitoring progress and any arising issues</i>  <i>(lead officer and lead committee/group to be identified for providing updates and overseeing delivery)</i>

Ref	Specific Description of Strategic Priority	Measurable Outputs	Achievable	Timeframe a. start date b. estimated completion	Financial	Lead Points of Contact	Information and Updates
1	To audit and benchmark the carbon footprint of Cirencester Town Council	Arrange annual carbon footprint assessment  Benchmark against other local councils	1	a. August 2022 b. ongoing	1	Chief Executive Officer Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Group	A Carbon Footprint Appraisal has been undertaken by Carbon Footprint Ltd each year since 2021.  CTC submitted the 2022-23 report to the Carbon Footprints public database.  The 2023-2024 carbon footprint has been commissioned.
2	To encourage the co-operation of local organisations in endeavours to become more ecologically sustainable in their practices and/or work on initiatives to reduce and/or mitigate against the effects of climate change with a focus on biodiversity net gain and nature recovery,	To lead by example through what we do internally and support CDC on the clean and green projects – we do what we can in a sustainable a way as possible	3	a. September 2022 b. June 2024	1	Chief Executive Officer Land and Property Manager Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Group	CTC is leading on a working sub-group, with representatives from the Friends of the Gumstool Brook, for a one-day Climate and Environment Symposium at the Royal Agricultural University on the 12 June 2024. The Symposium has secured funding from the Winstone Trust.  Lead Officer attended GCC Biodiversity week kick off meeting to give Town Council level input.  The LIC has joined the Green Tourism certification programme which recognises the commitment of tourism businesses which are actively working to become more sustainable. The bronze, silver and gold awards are recognised as a benchmark of good environmentally friendly practice and a way of promoting this to eco-minded tourists (Award pending).
3	To encourage behavioural change and modal shift, reducing reliance and sole and individual use of CO2 emission vehicles	To raise awareness and host a community workshop to consider ways of achieving modal shift and behavioural change and explore options for community pilots; link with establishing multi modal mobile hubs – see community engagement ref 8 and also ref 1 (multi modal mobile hub)	1	a. August 2022 b. <del>March 2023</del> b. Sept 2023 (at the earliest)	4	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Group Lead Member for Land and Property	This links directly to strategic work being undertaken by GCC and CDC, which is supported by CTC. It also forms part of the 20-minute neighbourhood concept being considered as part of the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan  The revised Active Travel Map has been published and is available, free of charge, from the LIC.  Two electric vans have joined the Land & Property fleet, with electric charging infrastructure installed in the Abbey Grounds Depot. Options to add publicly accessible charging at Kingshill are also being explored

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4	Commit to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030, to include scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions	To be assessed and scoped for consideration by the Climate and Environment committee.  Commit to a carbon reduction target	1	a. November 2022 b. January 2030	2	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Chair of Climate & Environment	Annual assessment to monitor progress on reducing carbon footprint – target waste, fuel and electricity usage in 2023-24.  CEO prepared a report with a draft roadmap and interim targets.  Staff and Member event in November generated practical ways in which we can reduce our carbon footprint; CTC staff away day was climate themed and generated further everyday changes that have been put into practice.
5	Switch to 100% renewable energy use across the council's land and buildings, rented or owned by the Council	Check scope and type of renewable energy tariff, including response to climate emergency by energy suppliers.	1	a. April 2024 b. March 2025 / ongoing.	4	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Lead Member for Land and Property Land and Property Manager	CTC energy usage included in rent and service charge for Bingham House. Smart Meters installed at Bingham House and across CTC sites. Leases run until 2028.  Current tariffs on CTC owned sites are not 100% renewable energy. Opportunity to renew CTC owned sites tariff comes in 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025; this should include securing lower overnight charging rates for electric vehicles at the depot. Agreed Council should go directly to 100% renewable energy suppliers for quotes.
6	Community Engagement	To lead on community engagement and awareness campaign including schools, business and local community  Create a local hub for climate and environmental advice  Support Cotswold District Council's clean and green public initiatives and facilitate events such as big clean-up/recycling/re-purposing.	1 / 3	a. September 2022 <del>b. May 2023</del> b. January 2024	4	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Chair of Climate & Environment	There is a permanent information board in the LIC, alongside a leaflet and dedicated climate web page.  LIC is a litter pick hub on behalf of CDC's clean and green team where the community can borrow litter pick equipment.  The theme of the Community Services Big Lunch in 2024 is sustainability, including reusing and repurposing and growing your own food.

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7	Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Working	Encourage constructive links with Cotswold District Council (CDC) and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), along with bordering Parish Councils on best practice and joint initiatives; including Youth Climate Group run by Creative Sustainability in Stroud	1	a. September 2022 b. October 2023	2	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Chair of Climate & Environment	Lead Officer invited to GCC climate engagement meetings.  A successful Climate Competition and The Big Lunch have created networking and possible partnership opportunities with Youth Climate Group.
8	Roadmap Delivery 2024-25	To deliver the roadmap to net zero by 2030	1	a. April 2024 b. March 2025	4	Lead Officer Chief Executive Officer	Climate Committee are responsible for delivering the roadmap. Q1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offset the green-house gas emissions for 2021-22</li> </ul> Update: Will create a specific carbon reduction target and include this in the roadmap, along with further research to measure the carbon and ecosystem impact of work that the Council is already involved with, how it might be possible to obtain carbon ecosystem credit certification of work on our own land, and to revisit GHG offsetting in April 2025 when we may better understand our unavoidable carbon production. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>confirm all sites using renewable energy tariff</li> <li>review energy usage across all sites</li> <li>introduce annual energy audit</li> </ul> See No 5 above. Q2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>data collection 2023-24 carbon assessment</li> <li>commission carbon footprint assessment for 2023-24 – completed March 2024</li> <li>evaluate travel to meetings/conferences and events 2023-24</li> <li>define essential/preferred travel options, local, national and international</li> <li>office services and LIC resources and supply chain screening</li> </ul> Q3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>evaluate transition to electric vehicles</li> <li>evaluate installation of charging points</li> <li>community services resources and supply chain screening</li> <li>L&amp;P resources and supply chain screening</li> </ul> Q4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate resources and supply chain screening</li> <li>Evaluate budget and medium-term financial planning impact</li> </ul>

Members are asked to consider other priorities for inclusion within the Action Plan, subject to staff and budget resources. Version13: April 2024