



Climate and Environment Action Plan 2023-24



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 create local multi modal hubs which support environmental improvements and integrate with light rail and public transport hub proposals	To ensure that through the Neighbourhood Plan consideration is given to: (a) the introduction of a multi modal hub (b) options for frequent point to point transport services c.f.: https://como.org.uk/shared-mobility/mobility-hubs/what/ and the role of Cotswold Friends	3	a. August 2022 b. subject to town centre master planning, neighbourhood plan and local public transport studies.	2	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Group Lead Member for Land and Property	Included in CDC led transport study and the town centre master planning work; also, referenced in emerging Neighbourhood Plan policy as part of 20-minute neighbourhood initiative Note: CEO on an officer working group 'Cirencester Masterplanning and Transport Integration' led by CDC and including officers from GCC. Provision of a multi modal hub forms part of the town centre master planning which is work in progress; CDC public consultation expected late 2023/early 2024. Multi modal hubs are designed to offer a variety of transport modes and provide connectivity to public transport networks. Update: Incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.
2	To audit and benchmark the carbon footprint of Cirencester Town Council	Review and assess response to the 2019-20 carbon footprint Arrange re-assessment through Carbon Footprint Ltd Benchmark against other local councils	1	a. August 2022 b. ongoing	1	Chief Executive Officer Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Group	Officers have attended carbon literacy course. A Carbon Footprint Appraisal has been undertaken by Carbon Footprint Ltd in respect of 2021-22 and considered by the Advisory Group. Update: The Carbon Footprint Appraisal for 2022-23 has been submitted. Once the report is received officers will benchmark results, where possible, with other local councils.
3	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 Support for wild flower planting of roundabouts and verges; joint initiative with CDC and GCC Explore options for a flood and environmental conference at the RAU and external funding to support local projects [see agenda item 2]	3	a. September 2022 b. June 2024	1	Chief Executive Officer Land and Property Manager Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Group	Wild flower planting pilot of GCC roundabouts and verges being undertaken. Update: CTC is leading on a working sub-group, with representatives from the Friends of the Gumstool Brook, to plan a one-day Climate and Environment Symposium at the Royal Agricultural University in June 2024. The Symposium has secured funding from the Winstone Trust. The Lead Officer is attending meetings of the working group.

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4	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. March 2023 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 Cf. community services electric/hybrid car promotion - access to electric vehicles, promoting awareness of walking cycling public transport, electric vehicles/car sharing for businesses and local charities; Robin scheme Note: Exploring options for installing EV charging points at various sites. Project Officer following up a pilot initiative, subject to funding and external grants, through L&P for solar and EV charging. The revised Active Travel Map has been published and is available, free of charge, from the LIC.
5	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 Change Advisory Group	1	a. November 2022 b. January 2030	2	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Group	Note: Continue with annual assessment to monitor progress on reducing carbon footprint – target waste, fuel and electricity usage in 2023-24. Assess working practices in 2024-25, target setting Option 2 £2,700 to be commissioned. Assess use of amenity land and open spaces. Update: CEO has prepared a report, with a draft roadmap and interim targets. Staff and Member event in November to review the roadmap and explore practical ways in which we can reduce our carbon footprint.
6	Retain 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. December 2022 b. ongoing	4	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Lead Member for Land and Property Land and Property Manager	Current tariffs and energy suppliers have been reviewed with 100% renewable energy tariffs being secured on CTC and BLT property through Total Energies Gas and Power. CTC energy usage included in rent and service charge for Bingham House. Smart Meters installed at Bingham House and across CTC sites.

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7	Support, in principle, Cirencester to reduce direct and indirect CO2 emissions and become resilient to changes caused by the changing climate.	In particular, encouraging the: use of sustainable transport, reduction of energy uses in homes, including home insulation initiatives, reduction/efficient use of energy in businesses and other buildings, co-operation of organisations seeking to develop low carbon and community-led affordable housing in Cirencester, use and development of renewable energy sources, including exploring generating local energy (e.g. hydroelectric stations), addressing fuel poverty issues and exploring potential for local energy infrastructure, production, sale and consumption of locally-sourced food, including community allotments and minimisation of air travel.	4	a. January 2023 b. May 2024	3	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Group	Link to community competition as part of Carbon Literacy initiative. Raise awareness of companies such as ZeroAvia based at Kemble producing the world's first practical zero emission aviation. Update: Climate Competition will launch in November 2023 to coincide with COP28. The winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Town.
8	Community Engagement	To lead on community engagement and awareness campaign including schools, business and local community To arrange workshops and talks hosted by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Phoenix Gardeners building on the Wild Campus concept of what we can all do in our own areas of green space, however limited the space is (including modal shift and behavioural change see ref 4) 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	a. September 2022 b. May 2023 b. January 2024	4	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Group	Note: Work continues on establishing a courtyard space at Bingham House, promoting bio-diverse, environmentally friendly, well-being spaces in urban areas, and launching a workshop and talks by GWT/RAU/Phoenix Gardeners @ Bingham House. Library Service interested in a joint initiative for climate themed storytelling. There has been a display in the foyer cases at Bingham House on climate change and 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. Update: Climate Competition is an opportunity to engage with public and for councillors to engage with their ward residents. When the competition is launched the Climate Hub page on the CTC website will be updated and a link added from the home page.

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9	Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Working	<p>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 https://cscic.org/gycg/, run by Creative Sustainability in Stroud</p> <p>https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/</p> <p>https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/climate-change/greener-gloucestershire-climate-dashboard/</p> <p>Information about the response of town and parish councils can be found via:</p> <p>https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/climate-change</p>	1	<p>a. September 2022</p> <p>b. October 2023</p>	2	Chief Executive Officer Chair of Council Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Group	<p>Stakeholders and Partners to be contacted with the view to setting up a meeting/workshop before October (Lead Officer: Natalie Reynolds).</p> <p>Update: Lead Officer attended Local Nature Recovery meeting at RAU and made contact with Kelly Osbourne, Sustainability and Engagement Officer at GCC.. Opportunity to participate in GCC climate engagement meetings.</p>
10	Achievements and Progress 2022-23	To measure the impact of achievements and produce a progress report	1	<p>a. January 2023</p> <p>b. March 2023</p> <p>b. May 2023</p>	4	Chief Executive Officer	CEO prepared report and summary for Annual Meeting of the Town.
11	Training and Development	Carbon Literacy Certification	1	<p>a. May 2023</p> <p>b. March 2024</p>	2	Lead Officer	<p>Note: All staff and Councillors to be offered opportunity to attend climate emergency related training and events. Subject to funding, all staff and Councillors to be offered opportunity to become carbon literate certificated between 2023 and 2026.</p> <p>Officers have attended a net-zero training and networking event at the Growth Hub which has provided valuable resources.</p> <p>Update: Subject to funding, the aim should be 2025/26 for all staff and councillors to become carbon literate certified.</p>

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

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