

North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan

The North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan is a live document which lists a series of over-arching actions that we will explore in North Somerset to address the causes and consequences of climate change. Each action could contribute towards our aim of being a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030. The actions are aligned to the **seven key principles** within our Climate Emergency Strategy.

The actions listed are subject to further exploration and in some cases, targeted business cases. Some actions fall under more than one principle and where that is the case they have been listed under the 'primary principle'. A more detailed working plan that informs the work programme for North Somerset Council and partners includes additional detail on calculations for carbon emission reductions, quantity of greenhouse gas removals of each action, financial estimates, ease of delivery, and specific targets for each year to 2030.

The North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy can be found [here](#).

Our commitment: North Somerset aims to be a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030

Become a net zero carbon council

- Take a **leadership role** across the area to encourage, support and enable others to reduce their carbon emissions
- Appoint a Climate Emergency Programme Manager to oversee the CE Strategy delivery and Action Plan implementation
- Ensure a programme of **robust reporting** on progress internally and externally (data dashboard)
- Assess all major council projects for their impacts on carbon emissions
- **'Carbon proof'** all future strategies and policies and ensure mitigations
- Continue to develop the Council's sustainable procurement policies and practices
- Support flexible working and home working to reduce the **carbon footprint** of our workforce
- Continue to provide/promote schemes such as 'cycle to work' and 'Travelwest challenge' to encourage **sustainable** transport choices by our workforce
- Calculate and then rapidly reduce the council's use of **single-use plastic**
- Ensure all the council's electricity supply is provided by **100%** renewably generated sources
- Review our estate to investigate means of increasing **energy efficiency** of heating, lighting and cooling systems
- Investigate the business case for acquiring or funding **renewable** energy installations in North Somerset
- Replace all streetlighting with **low energy** LED units
- Renew our ageing fleet with fully electric vehicles and charging facilities
- Work with our contractors and service providers to **support them** in reducing their carbon footprint, take advantage of renewable energy sources, consider an electric fleet, and reduce their use of single-use plastic.

An energy efficient built environment

- Aim for all our new homes to be **zero carbon** or net carbon plus
- Aim for all our own new commercial space to be zero carbon or net carbon plus
- Where possible, specify precision manufactured buildings for homes, community and commercial space
- Aim to focus new **mixed-use development** on brownfield land, in town centres with public transport and proximity to major employment hubs
- Work with schools and other stakeholders to ensure their estate is energy **efficient** and install **renewable** energy sources
- Develop planning policy to actively **support community** led housing, self-build and custom build housing and consider use of council land to enable this.

Renewable energy generation

- Explore the development of strategy that discourages investment in **fossil fuels** and promotes renewable energy generation
- Pass a motion declaring North Somerset a **Frack Free Zone** to discourage the exploration and production of shale gas
- Encourage our partners and stakeholders to procure electricity supply from **100% renewably generated sources**
- Encourage our residents to consider 100% renewable energy and support access to **grant funding** where available.

Reduce emissions from transport

- Continue to drive project delivery to **shift** from private car use
- Develop policies that **actively encourage** the demand for and delivery of connected public transport
- Develop and secure funding for projects to grow the **walking and cycling network** across the district
- Implement our project to deliver an electric charging hub in Portishead
- Require all schools to deliver *travel plans* which maximise the number of students walking, cycling or travelling **sustainably** to school.
- Review parking planning guidance note to consider maximum parking levels and reduce the number of spaces delivered for new development.
- Encourage resident parking schemes, car sharing schemes and walking and cycling to support
- Encourage our residents to consider their **transport choices**.

Replenish our carbon stores

Develop and implement our **Green Infrastructure Strategy** and as part of that:

- Identify Council land suitable for **rewilding** with aim of reducing areas off amenity grass by 20%
- Identify landscape scale tree planting opportunities to deliver **nature recovery networks** especially woodland creation and linking woodlands
- Identify Council land suitable for changing grass cutting regimes to encourage **biodiversity**
- Encourage and support our residents to create **wildflower gardens** through schemes such as the 'Blue Heart'.

Repair, reuse, reduce and recycle

- **Zero** kerbside waste to landfill with an increasing percentage recycled and the remainder used as **energy from waste**
- Consider our green waste collection to encourage composting and rewilding
- Increase the percentage of Improved **reuse areas** to be negotiated with contractors and encourage third sector involvement, such as Changing Lives in Clevedon
- Encourage our residents to reuse, repair and recycle
- Sign-post community groups to **expertise and funding**.

Adapting to climate change

- Ask Government to rapidly review the impacts which achieving net-zero will have across society and put in place effective measures to ensure that we have a **fair transition** to a net-zero country where the most vulnerable groups are supported
- Ensure a **resilient infrastructure** in North Somerset including retrofitting our built environment where necessary
- Ensure that work around our **flood defences** considers climate change and any local and regional effects
- Ensure North Somerset's **Emergency Management Plan** is robust and resourced.

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Our commitment: North Somerset aims to be a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030

Scope	Tonnage	Deliverability
S1: all direct emissions from activities within our area	H: high	GREEN: delivery is unlikely to pose any challenges or difficulties/ additional financial costs will be minimal
S2: all indirect emissions from energy production/ use in our area	M: medium	AMBER: delivery will pose some challenges or difficulties/there is likely to be an additional financial cost
S3: all other indirect emissions from activities within our area, occurring from sources we do not own or control	L: low TBC: to be confirmed <i>Note, these are estimates subject to further work</i>	RED: delivery will pose significant challenges or difficulties/there is likely to be a significant financial cost

Action	Method	Influence	Stakeholders	Scope	Tonnage	Other benefits	Deliverability
Become a net zero carbon council							
Take a leadership role across the area to encourage, support and enable others to reduce their carbon emissions	All	An area we directly control	All	All	TBC		
Appoint a Climate Emergency Project Manager to oversee the CE Strategy delivery and Action Plan implementation	All	An area we directly control	All	All	TBC		
Ensure a programme of robust reporting on progress internally and externally (data dashboard)	All	An area we directly control	All	All	TBC		
Assess all major council projects for their impacts on carbon emissions	All	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council and partners	All	TBC		
'Carbon proof' all future strategies and policies and ensure mitigations	All	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council and partners	All	TBC		
Continuous development of the Council's sustainable procurement policies and practices	All	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council and contractors	All	TBC		
Support flexible working and home working to reduce the carbon footprint of our workforce	Reduction	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council	S1	M	Productivity gains Public health outcomes	
Continue to provide/promote schemes such as 'cycle to work' and 'Travelwest challenge' to encourage sustainable transport choices by our workforce	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can directly control or can influence through our contracts or through funding/support/policy	North Somerset Council, community groups and partners	S1	M	Air quality improvements Public health outcomes	
Calculate and then rapidly reduce the council's use of single-use plastic	Reduction	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council	S1	L	Reduced waste	
Ensure all the council's electricity supply is provided by 100% renewably generated sources	Reduction	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council and contractors	S2	M	Supports investment in technology	
Review our estate to investigate means of increasing energy efficiency to heating, lighting and cooling systems	Reduction	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council and contractors	S1	H	Capital investment in estate Lower energy costs	

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Action	Method	Influence	Stakeholders	Scope	Tonnage	Other benefits	Deliverability
Investigate the business case for acquiring or funding renewable energy installations in North Somerset	Avoidance	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council and contractors	S1	H	Supports investment in technology Security of own supply	
Replace streetlighting with low energy LED units	Reduction	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council and contractors	S2	H	More resilient infrastructure Lower energy costs	
Renew our ageing fleet with fully electric vehicles and charging facilities	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can directly control or can influence through our contracts or through funding/support/policy	North Somerset Council, partners and contractors	S1	M	Supports investment in technology Air quality improvements	
Work with our contractors and service providers to support them in reducing their carbon footprint, take advantage of renewable energy sources, consider an electric fleet, and reduce their use of single-use plastic	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	North Somerset Council, partners and contractors	S1	H	Supports investment in technology	
An energy efficient built environment							
Aim for all our new homes to be zero carbon or net carbon plus	Reduction	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council, partners and contractors	S1	H	Air quality improvements Reduced carbon	
Aim for all our own new commercial space to be zero carbon or net carbon plus	Avoidance	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council, partners and contractors	S1	H	Lower energy costs for occupants	
Where possible, specify precision manufactured buildings for homes, community and commercial space	Avoidance Mitigation	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council, partners and contractors	S1	H	Reduced wastage Less time on site Drives new skills	
Aim to focus new mixed-use development on brownfield land, in town centres with public transport and proximity to major employment hubs	Avoidance Reduction Mitigation	An area we can directly control or can influence locally and nationally	North Somerset Council, partners and central government	S3	H	Critical mass for transport and community infrastructure Protect habitats Affordable housing	
Work with schools and other stakeholders to ensure their estate is energy efficient and install renewable energy sources	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	North Somerset Council and partners	S2	H	Supports investment in technology Security of own supply	
Develop planning policy to actively support community led housing, self-build and custom build housing and consider use of council land to enable this	Reduction	An area we can directly control or can influence locally and nationally	North Somerset Council, partners and central government	S1	L	Diversify housing delivery models	
Replenish our carbon stores							
Develop and implement our Green Infrastructure Strategy	Mitigation Storage	An area we can directly control	North Somerset Council, partners and contractors	S1	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity	
Identify Council land suitable for rewilding with aim of reducing amenity grass by 20%	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council	S1	H	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity	
Identify landscape scale tree planting opportunities to deliver nature recovery networks especially woodland creation and linking woodlands	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council, partners and contractors	S1	H	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity	
Identify Council land suitable for changing grass cutting regime to encourage biodiversity	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council, partners and contractors	S1	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity	
Encourage and support our residents to create wildflower gardens through schemes such as the 'Blue Heart'	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council, community groups and residents	S1	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity	

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Action	Method	Influence	Stakeholders	Scope	Tonnage	Other benefits	Deliverability
Adapting to climate change							
Ask Government to rapidly review the impacts which achieving net-zero will have across society and put in place effective measures to ensure that we have a fair transition to a net-zero country where the most vulnerable groups are supported	Adaption	An area we can ask for help nationally	North Somerset Council and central government	N/A	N/A		
Ensure a resilient infrastructure in North Somerset including retrofitting our built environment where necessary	Adaption	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council, partners and central government	N/A	N/A		
Ensure that work around our flood defences considers climate change and any local and regional effects	Adaption	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council, partners and central government	N/A	N/A		
Ensure North Somerset's Emergency Management Plan is robust and resourced	Adaption	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council	N/A	N/A		
Renewable energy generation							
Explore the development of strategy that discourages investment in fossil fuels and promotes renewable energy generation	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council	S3	H	Investment in new technology Public engagement	
Pass a motion declaring North Somerset a Frack Free Zone to discourage the exploration and production of shale gas	Avoidance	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council	S3	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement	
Encourage our partners and stakeholders to procure electricity supply from 100% renewably generated sources	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	North Somerset Council, partners and contractors	S3	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement	
Encourage our residents to consider 100% renewable energy and support access to grant funding where possible	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through support	North Somerset Council, community groups and residents	S3	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement	
Reduce emissions from transport							
Continue to drive project delivery to shift from private car use	Avoidance	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	North Somerset Council, partners and central government	S3	H	Air quality improvements Access to employment Opportunities for investment	
Develop policies that actively encourage the demand for and delivery of connected public transport	Reduction	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	North Somerset Council, partners and central government	S3	M	Public health outcomes Ease congestion Air quality improvements	
Develop and secure funding for projects to grow the walking and cycling network across the district	Avoidance	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	North Somerset Council, partners and central government	S1	M	Public health outcomes Ease congestion Air quality improvements	
Implement our project to deliver an electric charging hub in Portishead	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council	S1	M	Air quality improvements Investment in new technology	
Require all schools to deliver travel plans which maximise the number of students walking, cycling or travelling sustainably to school.	Reduction Mitigation	An area we can influence or ask for help and support locally	North Somerset Council and education providers	S1	M	Air quality improvements Public health outcomes Public engagement	

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Action	Method	Influence	Stakeholders	Scope	Tonnage	Other benefits	Deliverability
Consider reviewing parking planning guidance note to set maximum parking levels and reduce the number of spaces delivered for new development.	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council	S1	M	Air quality improvements	
Encourage resident parking schemes, car sharing schemes and walking and cycling to support	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control and/or influence through support	North Somerset Council, community groups and residents	S1	M	Air quality improvements	
Encourage our residents to consider their transport choices	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through support	North Somerset Council, community groups and residents	S1	M	Air quality improvements Public health outcomes	
Repair, reuse, reduce and recycle							
Zero kerbside waste to landfill with an increasing percentage recycled and the remainder used as energy from waste	Avoidance	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council and contractors	S3	H	Managing international impacts Ecological diversity	
Consider our green waste collection to encourage composting and rewilding	Reduction	An area we directly control	North Somerset Council and contractors	S3	M	Financial savings	
Increase the percentage of improved reuse areas to be negotiated with contractors and encourage third sector involvement, such as Changing Lives in Clevedon	Avoidance	An area we can directly control or can influence through our contracts or through funding/support/policy	North Somerset Council and contractors	S1	M	Resident engagement	
Encourage our residents to reuse, repair and recycle	Reduction	An area we can influence through support	North Somerset Council, community groups and residents	S1	M	Resident engagement	
Sign-post community groups to expertise and funding	Mitigation	An area we can influence through support	North Somerset Council and community groups	S1	L	Community engagement	