



Taking Action on Climate Change

**"Making Warwick District a great place to live, work and visit
– and carbon neutral by 2030"**

Executive Summary

Abstract

Warwick District Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019 and made a commitment to reducing carbon emissions across the Council's own estate and influencing climate action planning, mitigation and adaptation across Warwick District. Development of a Climate Emergency Action Programme is the first step to formalizing an approach over the next decade, which can bring social, environmental and economic benefits to the communities and businesses across Warwick District and place Warwick District Council in the forefront of addressing climate change.



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Executive Summary

A Climate Emergency Action Programme (CEAP)

1. Warwick District Council (WDC) has committed to reducing its own organizational carbon footprint to a net zero target by 2025. This translates to a reduction of 2,948 tonnes CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) over 5 years from April 2020 (ref: One Carbon World).
2. WDC sees an opportunity to be an influencer of change within Warwick District and plans to support local communities, organisations and businesses in the implementation of measures designed to reduce the CO₂e footprint from its current (2018-19) level of 1,060,131 tonnes CO₂e (ref: SCATTER analysis) to net zero by 2030.
3. This Report is in the form of a Climate Emergency Action Programme to address these two declarations and contains a Carbon Management Plan for the Council's own estate and a Climate Emergency Action Roadmap for Warwick District.
4. The Climate Action Programme acknowledges the effectiveness of current carbon reduction activities being undertaken by the Council both within its own estate and across the District. The Programme must also address adaptation and mitigation and identify the Council's role in their delivery.
5. Measures to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council and District and adapt service delivery to address the impacts of extreme weather events will significantly reduce financial risk and generate very real savings to the public finances in the future as well as delivering on corporate responsibilities to the environment and to communities.
6. It will be critical to widen the engagement with the Warwick district community (individuals, residential, commercial, and institutional) to raise awareness of the need to respond to the Climate Emergency and to encourage commitment and ownership of the challenge.

A Carbon Management Plan for the Council

7. A Carbon Management Plan (Work Package 2) has been designed to reduce the Council's own carbon footprint (2,948 tonnes ref: One Carbon World) to net zero over 5 years with costs measures and actions, energy saving and carbon reduction outcomes based on currently available data and assessment tools.

8. Considerable efforts have already been made within the Council to cut energy costs and reduce the Council's carbon emissions. However, to meet the net zero target by 2025 a more concentrated programme of activity and investment is required.
9. In order to track the Council's own carbon management performance, the Council is recommended to approve the preparation of an annual 'budget' for its own carbon performance in parallel with annual reporting on its financial budget.

A Climate Emergency Action Roadmap for Warwick District

10. A Climate Emergency Action Roadmap (Work Package 3) for Warwick District has been prepared to identify the scale of the challenge, suggest key areas of carbon reduction and indicate areas of WDC responsibility and influence.
11. A successful carbon reduction pathway for Warwick District will rely upon successful engagement of a wide range of stakeholders and developing the understanding of the benefits and co-benefits of taking climate action on all sectors of the community.
12. Led by evidence based transformational actions, the Climate Emergency Action Programme should reflect the Council's aspiration and ambition for Warwick District and work with local communities, institutions and businesses to set realistic carbon and energy saving targets and develop a carbon budget. A regular monitoring system will allow for continuous improvement.
13. It is extremely important to demonstrate that addressing climate change can improve lives in ways that matter to residents. Climate change will likely amplify inequality and disproportionately affect the most vulnerable. Leadership will be crucial to success.
14. In order to meet the declared climate emergency targets, it will be important to implement energy, buildings and transport technical solutions whilst actively addressing the need for behavioural change within the District's business, institutional and residential communities.

Resourcing a Climate Emergency Action Programme

15. To meet its own net zero carbon targets by 2025, the Council should ensure sufficient internal resources are provided to design, manage and implement the various carbon reduction measures across the full range of Council services.

16. To meet the net zero carbon target of 2030 for Warwick District, it will require a strategic director with the responsibility to engage and build cooperation with local organisations and businesses, and lead a Climate Emergency Action Team.
17. Adopting a sustainable procurement strategy will be essential to ensure that the Council's projects and contracts align closely with the carbon management plan and contribute to CO₂e reduction targets. A formal review of the current strategy, policies and processes would support carbon monitoring and performance across the Council's activities.

Financing carbon reduction measures

18. Implementing carbon reduction actions and measures will have a significant cost as well as many benefits (social, economic, environmental). Sourcing of funding to deliver the Climate Emergency Action Programme for the Council's own estate and to support / encourage the transition across Warwick District will require careful but deliberate allocation of funds. These will be from a combination of Council budgets, from energy savings and from external grants.

Starting the Journey

19. This Climate Emergency Action Programme Report signifies the start of the journey. It represents the Council's commitment to deliver what is possible through direct action. It also reflects the opportunity for the Council to influence and encourage other stakeholder groups to join up and work together and develop and implement solutions that address the real challenge of climate change.

Moving Forward

Work Package 1 – CEAP Programme Establishment

The development of a more detailed and longer-term plan will be one of the outputs of the Climate Emergency Action Programme (CEAP) delivery team within the Council and including partner / stakeholder organisations. Early investment will need to be made to ensure there is awareness of the importance of addressing climate change both within the Council and across Warwick District. To establish an effective programme data collection and reporting systems will need to be in place.

It is understood that it is the Council's intention to acknowledge the importance of this work through the appointment of a Strategic Director for Climate Change to lead the planning and development of the Climate Emergency Action Programme. The Director will be supported by a Climate Emergency Action Team comprising a group of committed individuals and organisations as well as key Council members and officers.

Early stage workstreams:

- Establish Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions monitoring and reporting systems (for the Council and District)
- Establish the data set and models using Scatter Phase 2 (from March 2020)
- Identify key stakeholders and establish a Climate Action Programme Team and Technical Advice Board
- Establish the Climate Emergency Action Programme and review plans and targets on a regular basis
- Identify workstreams, stakeholders and partners
- Approve the preparation of an annual 'budget' for carbon performance in parallel with established systems for annual reporting on the Council's financial budget.
- Consider the communication strategies to be used with special focus upon the Warwick District plan
- Develop proposals for a Citizens' Assembly as a means of engaging and consulting local residents
- Establish a Climate Action Fund to support measures which address carbon reduction, adaptation, mitigation, fuel poverty and social equality

Work Package 2 – Carbon Management Plan for the Council

Council Workstreams – to target net zero by 2025

Energy efficiency (non-domestic)

- Carry out energy audits across the whole Council non-residential property portfolio and implement low cost / no cost carbon reduction measures e.g. public buildings; car parks
- Review sub-metering installations as part of an improved energy monitoring strategy
- Source 100 per cent of all electricity purchased by the Council via a ‘green tariff’
- Expand the energy awareness campaign amongst council staff and contractors to reduce energy use
- Consider voltage optimization technology to reduce energy consumption
- Reduce energy losses by retro-fit technologies and use of more energy efficient building fabric
- Examine installation of low emission heating for key public buildings e.g. heat pumps; heat network
- Convert rural pathways lighting columns and other public spaces to LED e.g. car parks
- Identify suitable locations for solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on council owned buildings

Transport

- Upgrade the whole council fleet to hybrid (HEV) or full battery electric vehicles (BEV)
- Add to the Council’s own estate EV charging infrastructure
- Examine the business case for Vehicle-to-Grid EV charging to reduce energy bills
- Increase the use of EV staff pool car(s) to reduce grey business mileage costs
- Extend sustainable travel incentives for staff including a car share scheme
- Expand opportunities for flexible working

Waste

- Measure waste produced by the Council operations so that it can be reduced and managed
- Reduce printing and paper waste through increase in digital systems and services
- Introduce low emission transport specifications into new waste collection contracts
- Consider how the Council can assist contractors to move to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles through ensuring depots have sufficient power supply and charging infrastructure

Water

- Install water saving technology within all commercial buildings within the Warwick District Council portfolio. This could include water outlet rationalisation adaptors to taps and showers and water pressure regulating systems
- Explore the potential for rain water harvesting systems and treatment

- Inform and encourage all Council staff to reduce water usage by adopting an awareness campaign

Procurement

- Strengthen sustainable procurement policies to purchase/lease energy efficient materials, services and technologies
- Incorporate carbon reduction requirements into new tender contracts including electric vehicles (EVs)
- Ensure new build and refurbishment contracts meet high sustainability standards set by the Council and adhere to these during construction
- Ensure contracted out service proposals e.g. leisure centre operations; cleaning services, include and deliver high levels of sustainability and demonstrate commitment to carbon reduction

Biodiversity / greenspaces

- Phase out peat use, redesign mowing regimes and support adaptation measures such as tree planting for carbon sequestration and 'cooling-off' benefits
- Use Council owned land to increase biodiversity and carry out tree planting
- Continue to work with Environment Agency, WCC, business organisations and community groups to develop flood mitigation measures and tree planting schemes across the district
- Ensure that the Local Plan sets developments and land use standards that reduce carbon and increase sustainability

Work Package 3 – Warwick District Climate Emergency Action Roadmap

The Council does not have direct control over most of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) throughout the District. However, the Council is in a key position to enable and influence communities, businesses, institutions and individuals, raise awareness of carbon and other GHG emissions and identify what they can do collectively to mitigate against climate change. The Council can also enable and incentivise such actions and initiatives using Council budgets and / or external grants and loans. The role and influence of planning policy should not be underestimated in realising net zero carbon ambitions for the District by 2030.

The key sector priorities for action are transport (particularly in the shorter term the reduction of private use petrol and diesel cars), and the reduction of gas usage for space heating in both domestic and non-domestic buildings.

Warwick District Workstreams

Project Establishment – the Climate Emergency Programme Team should:

- Develop the District's Climate Emergency Action Plan and costings for a 10-year programme to meet net zero targets. The roadmap for the District presented in WP3 is intended as an initial input into the planning work to be undertaken by the Climate Emergency Action Programme team once appointed.
- Adopt SCATTER Phase 2 once it is released and identify other data sources to link actions to carbon reductions year on year, to confirm priority of measures, to prepare emissions budgets and to adjust reduction targets.
- Establish budgets and secure funding for the programme delivery
- Identify availability of Section 106 and CIL (IFS) along with external grants and loans to match fund carbon neutral initiatives and sustainable transport solutions
- Establish a responsive local monitoring, forecasting and reporting method for GHG emissions enabling collation of data and emissions reporting across the District. This needs to cover energy use and account for changes in land use from activities like tree planting. The impact of the Local Plan needs to be accounted for both in terms of transport and housing.

Influence of Planning

In the coming decade, Warwick will have to improve the efficiency of all its buildings to reduce the demand for energy. Low carbon and/or renewable heating, energy reduction and an increase in the adoption of energy efficiency technologies in both commercial and domestic buildings will be required. Actions could be to:

- Ensure that the planning system, led by the Local Plan, sets developments and land use standards aimed at reducing carbon emissions and building sustainable communities
- The population of the District is likely to increase over the next 10 years, the Local Plan has an important role to play in minimizing the impact on emissions of that increase but in transport and housing
- Develop a spatial strategy that minimises the need to travel by placing new developments in locations that are accessible to services by sustainable modes of transport and/or ensures new developments integrate a wide range services
- Plan ahead for large scale infrastructure investments e.g. new transport hubs and interchanges; green power generation sites – moving radically away from trying to address congestion in the traditional ways
- Develop and implement policies that will deliver improved net zero carbon building standards - subject to national policy
- Consider how town centres can develop as a focus for communities – for leisure, work and retail – and ensure these are accessible by means other than the private car
- Ensure that green open spaces and cycle / pedestrian pathways are part of the design of new housing and regeneration development

- Ensure carbon reduction features and BREEAM standards are included in major development schemes
- Encourage innovation and green design through supplementary planning documentation (SPD)

Transition to Low Emission Transport

In 2017, nearly a third of Warwick's total CO2 emissions (32.9%) came from transport and mostly road transport from cars, vans, lorries and buses. Action is needed to reduce car journeys, increase cycling and walking, and improve public transport and more low emission vehicles. Such action will achieve better air quality, mobility and health for citizens. Actions could be to:

- Encourage the shift from petrol and diesel cars to electric vehicles (EVs) thereby reducing emissions from commuting and short journey use
- Expand the network of electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints across the Warwick district as part of a county-wide scheme
- Encourage taxi fleet conversion to EVs – using external grant schemes to support additional costs of vehicle purchasing, and working with WCC to provide suitable re-charging points
- Promote modal transport shifts from the use of cars to cycling, walking and public transport through increase of safe routes and encouraging work-based changing facilities where locations permit
- Engage local employers and encourage the introduction and investment in Green Travel Plans promoting low emission commuting schemes, best practice and remote working / home working.
- Work with WCC, local businesses and other organisations e.g. Transport for West Midlands; Sustrans; Chiltern Railways on a Sustainable Transport Strategy for the District and region which would have wider and more integrated transport emission benefits
- Require buses and taxis to be low emission/alternative fuel by 2030
- Examine differential parking charges for low emission vehicles in council car parks

Improve Council owned housing

As a responsible landlord, the Council will need to invest in council homes to enable tenants to reduce their energy bills, have warmer homes and lower their carbon footprint. Actions could be to:

- Review all Council homes to identify current standards and provide funding to expand the property retrofit programme needed to bring councils homes to the required EPC level 'C' by 2030 (Fuel Poverty Act FPA)
- Examine the business case and other benefits of going beyond FPA requirements on all the Council's residential portfolio i.e. achieving EPC 'B' or higher
- Extend the Council's pilot scheme to test alternative construction methods for new low energy council homes

- All new council housing to be built to the highest energy standards (EPC 'A' or 'B')
- Consider the installation of solar PV on council owned homes following a roof and energy usage survey
- Complete a Fuel Poverty Action Plan; identify the measures that might alleviate fuel poverty by 2030

Manage Energy Use – Households

In the coming decade, Warwick District will have to improve the efficiency of all buildings to reduce the demand for energy and convert to low carbon and/or renewable heating. Actions could be to:

- Invest in community engagement campaigns which will encourage and target carbon emission reduction e.g. gas heating – with particular focus upon 'hard-to-heat' properties
- Early priorities will be to reduce household emissions resulting from gas heating through building efficiency improvements and switching to green energy
- Facilitate and incentivise energy efficiency measures to households in fuel poverty
- Extend energy advice campaigns to reduce household energy consumption and energy costs
- Provide a Climate Action Fund designed to incentivise and 'pump prime' initiatives, and develop feasibility studies, pilot schemes and campaigns that encourage energy efficiency and carbon reduction actions amongst residential communities and individual households.

Develop Business and Economic Opportunity

Warwick District is already an attractive location for business relocation and inward investment. The Council could promote the District as a new hub for low carbon technology and service industries – representing an economic growth opportunity. Actions could be to:

- Continue to encourage and expand inward investment and relocation of innovative low carbon technology enterprises engaged in the low carbon energy, transport and construction sectors
- Work with businesses and corporate organisations to initiate and share Circular Economy initiatives
- Ensure that business infrastructure is resilient to the risks of Climate Change

Manage Energy Use – Commercial and Institutional

Action will be needed to become more energy efficient and significantly expand local low carbon sources of energy with the capacity to store energy and encourage new energy generating technologies. Actions could be to:

- Encourage commercial and institutional organisations to develop their own carbon reduction action plans and share their work with other high energy users.
- Encourage a collective approach to reducing energy use and generating renewable energy
- Develop a district-wide Net Zero Campaign based on energy efficiency
- Explore the feasibility of suitable alternatives to natural gas heating and establish pilot and demonstration schemes
- Provide a Climate Action Fund designed to incentivise and ‘pump prime’ initiatives, feasibility studies, pilot schemes and campaigns that encourage energy efficiency and carbon reduction actions amongst businesses

Include Adaptation

Forward planning rather than reacting to extreme weather events as they occur is essential. This process of adjusting to changes in climate should be part of any long-term business strategy by WDC to implement adaptation policies alongside carbon reduction work. Actions could be to:

- Ensure that forward planning within the Council and across the district is the norm rather than as a reaction to extreme weather events as they occur.
- Encourage businesses, institutions and community organisations to include adaptation measures within their long-term business strategy alongside carbon reduction activities and investments.
- Prepare case studies of best practice from within and outside of Warwick district.

Build Local Strategic and Delivery Partnerships

The carbon footprint can only be reduced to net zero by 2030 by a concerted effort by many stakeholders and partners across the District. WDC is in a strong position to lead, coordinate and influence. Actions could be to:

- Build effective partnerships with private and commercial stakeholder groups to design and deliver a district-wide carbon reduction plan
- Engage and collaborate with regional and national organisations to deliver low carbon initiatives
- Encourage the involvement of community groups and individuals through the establishment of a Citizens Assembly
- Acknowledge the role that the younger generation can play in raising awareness and stimulating action around climate change through cooperation with educational institutions, youth groups and the Youth Parliament

Lobby Government

The Council should also work alongside other councils and organisations to lobby government for more resource and powers to enable delivery of climate action programmes, and include the following messages:

- Government should set the highest priority to addressing Climate Change and fund accordingly
- Climate change impact should be at the heart of government policy, regulation and investment
- Government should set high standards for upgrade of existing homes and the building of new homes, with special focus upon social housing
- Increase financial incentives that encourage people to adopt renewable technologies – especially for low income households
- Statutory reporting of carbon emissions within the public sector should be re-introduced
- Support energy efficiency, renewable energy, power supply innovation and ensure that there is strategic grid enforcement procedures in place
- Support a national funding incentive scheme for householders to enable them to install renewable energy measures and energy efficiency measures
- Deliver a major commitment and investment to encourage a modal shift in transport to include electric vehicles, sustainable public transport, cycling and walking.



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