

2022-23

Environmental Performance and Progress Update Report



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Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	4
Executive Summary	6
<u>Section 1: Leicestershire County Council</u>	10
Section 1a: Net Zero Council	10
Part 1: Greenhouse gas emitting activities	10
Part 2: Greenhouse Gas Report	14
Part 3: Net Zero 2030 Council Action Plan progress update	17
Section 1b: Greener Council	18
Part 4: Wider Environmental areas	18
a. Nature	18
b. Resources	20
c. Staff perception	21
d. Compliance	22
e. Risks	23
Part 5: Environmental Management System	24
a. External and internal issues relevant to the EMS	24
b. Needs and expectations of interested parties including compliance obligations and changes in political priorities/direction	25
c. Changes to statutory duties	25
d. Changes to environment legislation	26
e. Environmental risks and opportunities	26
f. Adequacy of resources	27
g. Relevant communications from interested parties	28
h. Opportunities for continual improvement	28
<u>Section 2: Leicestershire</u>	29
Part 6: Net Zero Leicestershire	29
a. Greenhouse gas emission figures for Leicestershire	29
b. Carbon Disclosure Project reporting	32
c. Net Zero 2045 progress	32
i. Net Zero 2045 Action Plan	32

Introduction

1. For 2022-23 reporting, a new report format and approach has been introduced. This is to provide a single report which gives a clear and comprehensive update on the Council's wider environmental performance, and on progress in delivering its commitments to net zero.
2. The report is divided into two main sections. Section 1 provides details of the environmental performance and progress for Leicestershire County Council, as an organisation, while Section 2 provides details of performance and progress for Leicestershire as a county, accepting that there are some areas of overlap.
3. Section 1a focuses on performance and progress in relation to the Council's commitment to net zero, in particular, on the progress of the 2030 net zero target for Council operations. Part 1 of the report provides a contextual overview of performance across a range of greenhouse gas emitting activities within the Council for 2022-23.
4. These greenhouse gas emitting activities feed into Part 2 of the report which provides a summary of the Council's Greenhouse Gas Report for 2022-23, setting out the overall figure and the key sources of emissions.
5. Part 3 of the report provides an update and a review of progress on delivering the actions within the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan.
6. Section 1b provides details on performance across a range of other environmental aspects which contribute to Leicestershire County Council becoming a greener council (Part 4). Section 1b also provides an assessment of performance against the Council's Environmental Management System for 2022-23 (Part 5).
7. In Section 2 of the report, Part 6 provides details of progress towards meeting the 2045 net zero Leicestershire target, and also progress in delivering the Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan. Firstly, Part 6a sets out the greenhouse gas emissions for Leicestershire, based on the latest figures for 2021, as provided by the Government. In addition, some contextual figures are provided setting out how the County is performing in terms of several activities that influence greenhouse gas emissions within Leicestershire.
8. Part 6b provides a summary of how the Council scored on the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Climate Scorecard.
9. Part 6c provides an update and review of progress on delivering the actions within the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan. In addition, updates on the Council's Net Zero Engagement Plan and Funding Plan are provided.
10. Part 7 provides details of performance on several other environmental aspects, such as nature, resource use and air quality. These provide some wider contextual information on progress towards creating a greener county.

11. The report finally provides a set of conclusions, firstly on performance and progress for Leicestershire County Council, secondly for Leicestershire and thirdly on additional overall conclusions that can be taken from the performance results and the progress made.
12. The report is supported by several appendices that provide more detailed or background information, that expands on the information provided in the body of the report.
13. For the 2022-23 report changes have been made to some of the key performance indicators (KPIs) used in the reporting. The main changes of note are:
 - Switching all the Council's greenhouse gas emission KPIs from carbon only (CO₂) to carbon equivalent (CO₂e), to be in alignment with the Council's Greenhouse Gas Report.
 - Switching to the 'Local Authority territorial emissions full dataset' instead of using the 'Local Authority territorial emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities dataset', to be in alignment with the figures used in the Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy.

Executive Summary

14. For 2022-23 reporting, a new report format and approach has been introduced which provides a clear and comprehensive update on the Council's wider environmental performance and on progress in delivering its commitments on net zero within a single report, as an organisation and for Leicestershire as a county.
15. In terms of Leicestershire County Council's environmental performance for 2022-23, the report shows that the Council's net greenhouse gas emissions were **9,395 tCO₂e**, a fall of **7.2%** compared to 2021-22. Emission reductions were seen across all major sources except for business travel. Emissions from fleet vehicles, which remains the second largest proportion at 29%, showed the smallest reduction of only 2.6%. Direct emissions from buildings are also a concern with only a 7% reduction on last year's figure (the second smallest change). This is due to a continued reliance on gas heating and inconsistency in the performance of the biomass boiler system. This is likely to improve in subsequent years as new parts have been fitted.
16. Overall, the Council's emissions have reduced by almost **74%** since the 2008-09 baseline year. However, while good historic progress has been made, more recently there has been a slowdown in progress, with most of the easy win actions having been taken. The Council now **needs to achieve an average of 1,342 tCO₂e per year** in order to meet its net zero target by 2030. The 2022-23 emissions reduction **fell short of this by 45%**, meaning the Council is currently off track to meet net zero by 2030.
17. In December 2022, the Council adopted the **2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan** which set out how the Council aims to achieve net zero for its own operational emissions by 2030. This report provides an update on progress in delivering the action plan and refreshes the actions where needed (Appendix D).
18. Progress has been made in delivering a number of the Council's carbon reduction actions, in particular, the completion of £3.6m in energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. In addition, the initial trial of some of the Council's hard to electrify fleet vehicles to HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel, and support and encouragement of low carbon commuting for Council staff.
19. Progress has also been made on a number of the Council's enabling actions including, the launch of the £2m Carbon Reduction Fund, embedding carbon pricing within business cases and decision making, launch of the Net Zero Leicestershire webpages, and reporting to the world's leading environmental reporting platform, the CDP.
20. The review of the 2030 action plan identified a number of **key risks** to the Council achieving net zero by 2030 including, **access to funding** and a **shortfall in staff capacity and resources**.

21. The first year of the action plan lays the foundations for some of the key actions that will support the Council's net zero by 2030 commitments, in particular, the development of the decarbonisation plans for the Council's fleet and buildings. The plans are expected to be completed in 2024 and delivery will be dependent on the approval of appropriate business cases and staff resources to enable them to be delivered.
22. The Council continues to make progress in taking action on nature with **97% of suitable Council land in better management for nature**. This is through the activities taking place on Council land such as country parks, county farms and on the roadside verges, with the Wildlife Verge Scheme winning a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Bees Needs Champion Award in July 2023.
23. The Council's recycling rate for office waste is struggling to recover after the Covid-19 pandemic, with a recycling figure of **51.2%** in 2022-23. This is mainly due to a reduction in the amount of recyclable waste being produced, most notably, a 65% reduction in the amount of waste paper, largely driven by a fall of 5.5m A4 sheets in the amount of paper used in photocopiers since 2019-20. More importantly, there has been a 30% drop in the annual amount of waste produced since 2019-20, with only **250 tonnes** of office waste produced in 2022-23.
24. In terms of **environmental compliance**, the Council is performing relatively well, with one environmental complaint upheld, one environmental incident reported, no enforcements or prosecutions, two minor non-conformities found during the external ISO14001 audit, and four minor non-conformities found during the internal environmental audit process in 2022-23.
25. At the end of 2022-23 there were two environmental high risks and eight climate change high risks. Due to limited staff capacity, it has not been possible to undertake significant work to address the **climate change risks**. Insufficient action on the climate change risks will expose the Council to the risk of harm from future extreme weather events. Work will be undertaken to see if the re-prioritisation of workload and reallocation of staff resources could enable action to be taken to reduce the risks identified.
26. In relation to the Council's **Environmental Management System (EMS)**, a number of aspects have been noted such as the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the creation of the Office of Environmental Protection, the full implications of the Environment Act 2021 and whether any further legacy EU legislation will be repealed. Also noted was the risk of the Council's financial position and the current staff capacity issues making it more difficult to achieve some of the Council's environmental targets and maintain its environmental performance.
27. Some 78 new or updated general environmental Acts, legislation, regulations, consultations, and guidance released during 2022-23 were identified as possibly relevant to the County Council. This included **new statutory duties** in relation to Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain, the strengthened biodiversity duty, Simpler Recycling reforms including mandatory

food waste collections and the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging.

28. The development and delivery of the **2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan** and the **2045 Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan** will present opportunities for improving the environmental performance of the Council and producing possible financial savings in some cases.
29. According to the latest Government data, **Leicestershire's greenhouse gas emissions** for **2021** were **4.85 MtCO₂e**. While this was an increase compared to 2020, this was due to the expected bounce back from the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2021 emissions were 3.6% lower than the 2019 pre-pandemic levels. Emissions have reduced across Leicestershire by 28% since 2005, while per capita emissions have reduced by 37% to 6.8 tCO₂e.
30. Within Leicestershire there were increases in electric vehicle charging locations, electric vehicle ownership, renewable energy generated and capacity, and most significantly, in the proportion of existing domestic properties with an energy performance certificate of C or above. The launch of the Green Living Leicestershire Warms Homes schemes, in collaboration with the district councils, which provides support to vulnerable households and those at risk of fuel poverty to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes, will have contributed to this improvement.
31. During 2022-23, the Council commenced work on preparing a report to the world's leading environmental reporting platform, the **CDP**. The submission was made in July 2023, with the Council **scoring 'B'**. This means the Council has been recognised for having an emissions inventory, having implemented a mitigation plan and for taking action to reduce emissions, alongside having an awareness of the main local risks and impacts of climate change.
32. The 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in December 2022 which sets out how the County Council intends to collaborate with others to deliver the action plan over the next 5-year period. An update of the Action Plan has been carried out and provides a commentary on progress. However, if the net zero target dates change, the Strategy and Action Plan will require refreshing to reflect any such changes.
33. Several projects have already been delivered successfully including Solar Together, the Warm Homes scheme, and the Net Zero Town and Parish Council Toolkit. In addition, the Council and partners has been successful in securing funding from Innovate UK for the Pathfinder Place project.
34. Some initial work has taken place to progress an Engagement Plan and a Funding Plan. The report includes updates on their progress and next steps.
35. In terms of the **wider environmental position** for Leicestershire, the data shows that, like the rest of England, the County's rivers are not in a very good

ecological or chemical status. Leicestershire remains in the 4th quartile¹ relative to comparative English authorities, for air pollution from fine particulate matter, while no nitrogen dioxide exceedances were recorded. The amount of household waste per household has fallen by 74.2kg in 2022-23 to 939.4kg, while recycling performance is still below the 50% target at 41.8%. Both figures were affected by the fall in green waste, due to the heat wave in the summer of 2022.

36. The key conclusions of the report are as follows:

- i) The Council is currently **not on track to meet its 2030 Council operations net zero target.**
- ii) The Council is currently **not on track to meet its 2045 County-wide net zero target.** Though the delivery of the 2045 net zero action plan has only recently started, so this more highlights the scale of the challenge than progress.
- iii) Particularly, there is a need to target action on reducing emissions from transport, domestic, industry and agriculture sources, with a focus on actions to increase electric vehicle take up, encouraging more active travel, increasing renewable energy generation, and improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- iv) There will be a **significant amount of work needed** to implement the Collection and Packaging Reforms, that contribute to meeting the **national 65% recycling target by 2035.**
- v) The **insufficiency of action on climate adaptation is a concern.**
- vi) The current **workload and staff capacity issues are a concern.**
- vii) The current **financial position of the Council is a concern** in terms of resourcing action on the environment.
- viii) There is a need to **prioritise actions on the environment** and the use of staff and financial resources. Within which there is also the need to **decide how best to allocate resources between meeting the Council's own and the County net zero targets.**
- ix) The **uncertainty regarding Government policy** on the environment and **implications of recent environmental legislation** is a concern.
- x) There is a need to be aware of the **increased public interest and scrutiny** of local authority action on the environment.

¹ The Council's performance is benchmarked against 33 English authorities which cover large, principally non-urban geographical areas. Where it is available, it is indicated which quartile Leicestershire's performance falls into. The 1st quartile is defined as performance that falls within the top 25% of relevant comparators (the best). The 4th quartile is defined as performance that falls within the bottom 25% of comparators (the worst). Quartile positions are updated annually.

Section 1: Leicestershire County Council

Section 1a: Net Zero Council

37. This section of the report provides details of the Council's performance and progress regarding its commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions for Leicestershire County Council, as an organisation by 2030.

Part 1: Greenhouse gas emitting activities

38. Part 1 of the report provides some of the contextual performance data in relation to the Council's greenhouse gas emitting activities, which contribute to the figures set out in Part 2 and the Council's Greenhouse Gas Report for 2022-23.
39. It covers performance in the following areas:
- Electricity consumption
 - Gas/Biomass consumption
 - Business mileage
 - Waste produced
 - Water consumption
 - Renewable energy generated

C2a – Electricity consumption per m² in LCC buildings

40. This KPI looks at the efficiency of electricity use in Council buildings. Only buildings that have been in the Council's portfolio for six years (currently 76 sites) are included, so changes in energy consumption should reflect actual changes in energy efficiency.
41. Some revisions and updating to the methodology were undertaken this year which has led to some changes to previous figures, although trends are similar. Note this KPI does not currently include renewable electricity generated and used on-site.
42. The electricity consumption per square metre for 2022-23 was **63.2 kWh/m²** compared to the target of 75 kWh/m², therefore ahead of target (low is good). This was an improvement on the 2021-22 figure of 77.3 kWh/m² and is in line with the long-term trend.

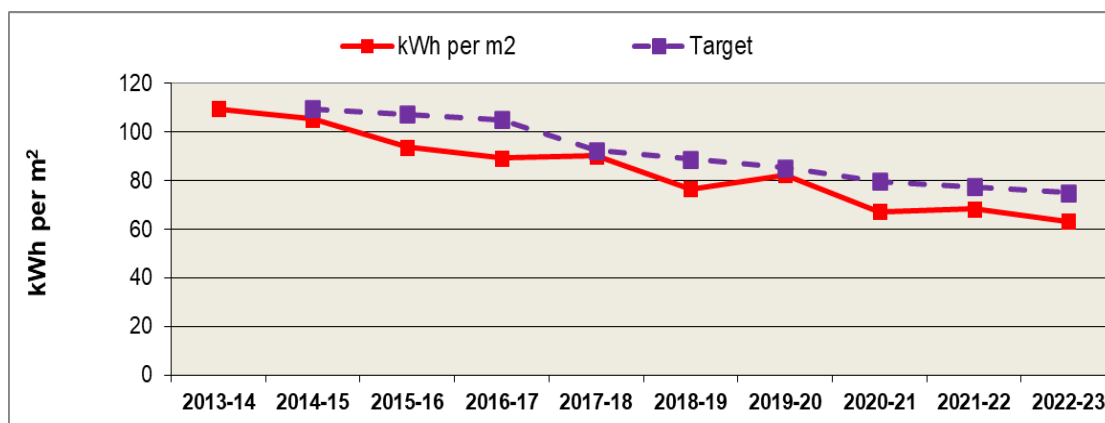


Figure 1: Electricity consumption per m² 2013-14 to 2022-23

43. This positive performance reflects lower grid electricity usage, which remains over 1GWh per year less than before the pandemic. This is believed to reflect a combination of lower building occupancy, reduction in non-seasonal ventilation, energy efficiency measures and increased solar PV output.

C2b – Gas/biomass consumption (weather corrected) per m² in LCC buildings

44. This KPI looks at heating efficiency in Council buildings. Only the buildings that have been in the Council's portfolio for six years (currently 76 sites) are included so that any annual reductions seen in both electricity and gas consumption represent genuine efficiency improvements.
45. Gas/biomass consumption per square metre for 2022-23 has reduced slightly to **155 kWh/m²** compared to the figure for 2021-22 of 156.9 kWh/m². This is still noticeably above the target of 110.1 kWh/m².
46. This reflects the fact that heating demand has not always fallen in line with milder weather. In addition, the biomass boiler was out of action during January and February 2023, meaning more reliance on gas heating. Improvements to the biomass heating system are expected to improve the position in 2023-24.

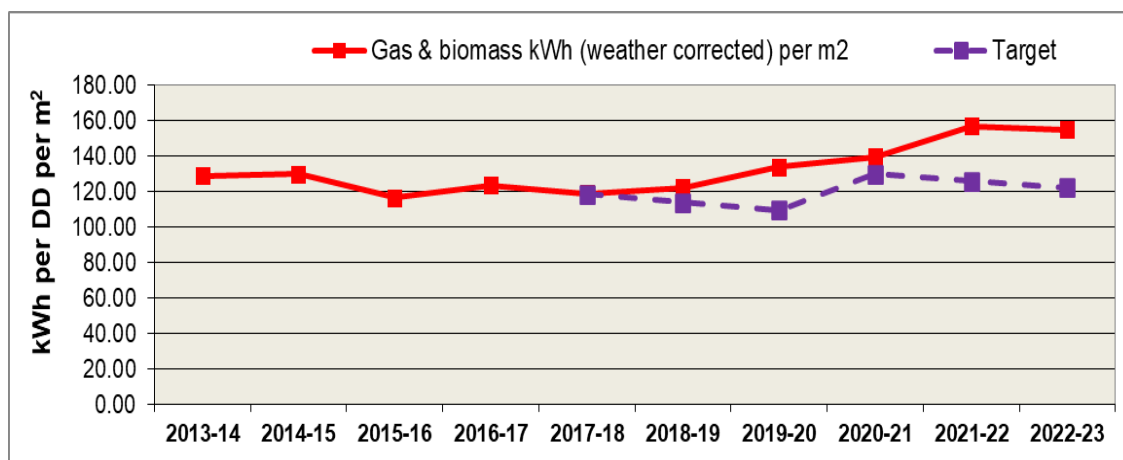


Figure 2: Gas and biomass consumption per m² 2013-14 to 2022-23

C18 - Total business mileage

47. Annual business mileage claims rose by almost **6%** in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22 with total business mileage of about **4.3m miles**. This slight rise was likely due to the ongoing bounce back following the Covid-19 pandemic as Council services continued to return to some form of normality. Note business mileage claims do not include commuting to and from work and only include mileage claimed by staff in carrying out Council business.
48. Business mileage claims are still 22% (almost 1.2m miles) less than the pre-pandemic level in 2019-20. This can largely be attributed to many Council staff taking advantage of smarter working policies, such as online and hybrid meetings, and flexible working.
49. Work is planned to take place on developing an additional KPI that sets a target for reducing emissions from business mileage in line with the net zero commitment. This should encourage both a reduction in mileage, as well as an increase in the use of lower emission vehicles. The recently introduced financial controls which will restrict non-essential spend on travel, including business mileage, are likely to reduce emissions from December 2023 onwards.

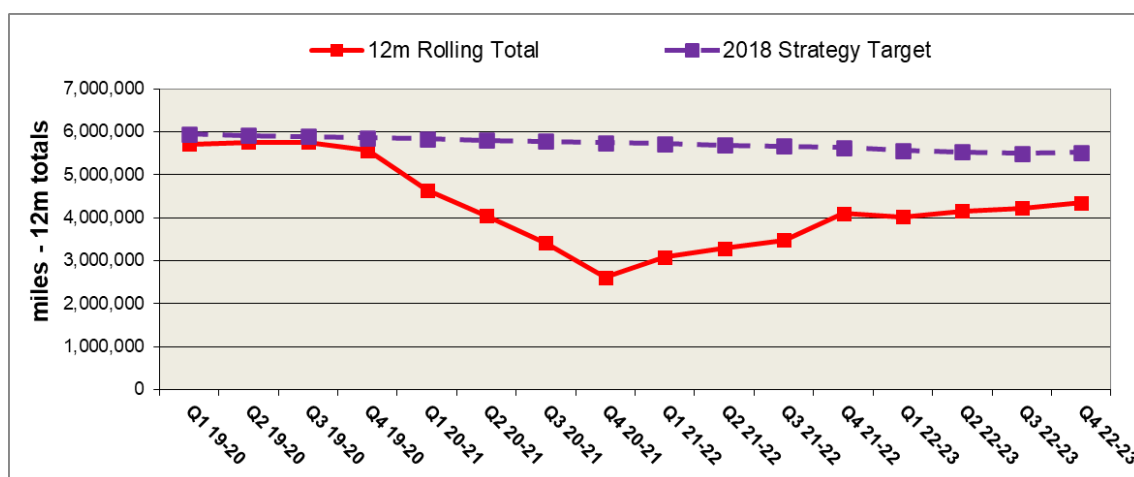


Figure 3: Rolling 12-month business mileage 2019-20 to 2022-23

LW1 - Total waste from LCC sites

50. The rolling annual total waste figure reduced by over 8% (23 tonnes) in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22. The figure of **250 tonnes** is in line with expectations as more staff returned to the office and Council service returned to a new normal. The figure follows the downward trend since 2012-13. This figure is 30% (108 tonnes) less than the pre-pandemic level in 2019-20.

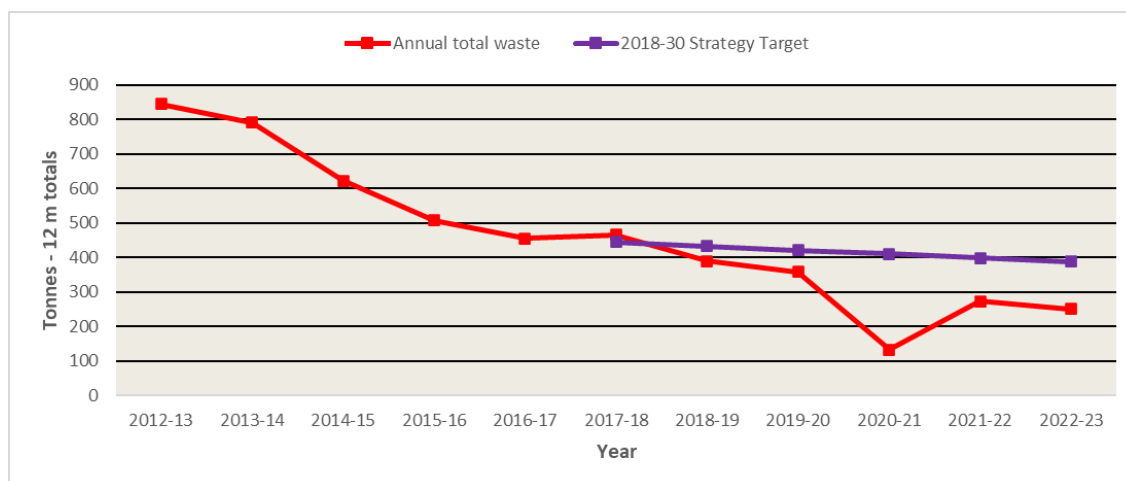


Figure 4: Annual total waste 2013-14 to 2022-23

WA1 - Total water consumption per FTE

51. The data for 2022-23 shows reported consumption of water falling to **51,593 m³** from the high of 74,046 m³ in 2021-22. This level of water usage is closer to the average for the last five years. The number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff was broadly stable, so that the water consumption per FTE member of staff fell from 15.23 m³ in 2021-22 to **10.61 m³** in 2022-23. This means that performance once again was ahead of the target of 11.2 m³ (low is good).
52. It is believed that the figure for 2021-22 was overstated due to a change in the water provider and the significant use of estimated billing. Discussions will be held with relevant parties to seek to improve the quality and reliability of readings in future.

C17a - Renewable energy generated as a percentage of consumption on County Council land and properties

53. The amount of renewable energy generated as a percentage of total energy consumed was **10.9%** at the end of 2022-23, significantly under the 27.8% target. The targets for this indicator reflect the Strategic Property Energy Strategy 2020-30, which has a target of 50% on-site renewable or zero carbon energy generation as a percentage of annual consumption at corporate Council buildings. The figure is slightly up from the 2021-22 figure of 10.3%.
54. The largest contributor to renewable energy generation is the biomass boiler at County Hall, which provides approximately three-quarters of the total renewable energy generated. During 2022-23 there was a mixed picture across the year, with higher energy production in quarter 3 offset by technical issues in quarter 4, causing two months of lost energy production. Total annual biomass generation fell from 2.2m kWh last year, to around **1.5m kWh**. During 2021-22, works took place as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to expand the biomass network and install a thermal heat store. This will enable use of the biomass boiler all year round and will significantly increase energy output once it is up and running correctly.

55. Solar energy generation at corporate sites showed a strong recovery in 2022-23 to a record **568,469 kWh**. This follows a disappointing 2021-22, when production fell to a five-year low of 413,000 kWh due to faults and upgrades. Much of the recovery is attributable to new rooftop systems at County Hall, which contributed over 150,000 kWh. As a result of further upgrades in early 2023-24, along with a new maintenance contract, additional increases in solar energy generation are expected in the future.

Part 2: Greenhouse Gas Report

56. Part 2 provides a summary of what the performance figures set out in Part 1 above, as well as the other sources of emissions, have meant for the Council's overall greenhouse gas emissions as an organisation.
57. Leicestershire County Council's net greenhouse gas emissions for 2022-23 **decreased by 7.2% (732 tCO₂e)** compared to 2021-22 to **9,395 tCO₂e**. This is equivalent of **1.93 tCO₂e per full-time equivalent employee** (0.15 tCO₂e decrease compared to 2021-22). The reduction in Council emissions is welcomed following the Covid-19 pandemic bounce back experienced in 2021-22.
58. Emission reductions have been found across all major sources, except business travel, which continues to see a bounce back in emissions following the pandemic. Emissions from fleet vehicles which remains the second largest proportion at 29% - showed the smallest reduction of only 2.6%. Direct emissions from buildings are also a concern with only a 7% reduction on last year's figure (the second smallest change). This is due to a continued reliance on gas heating and inconsistency in the performance of the biomass boiler system (this was offline due to repair work for part of the year). It is hoped that this will improve with the boiler being fully functional in future years.
59. Overall, Council emissions have now **reduced by 73.7% since the 2008-09 baseline year**. Table 1 below provides more details of the figures behind the Council's greenhouse gas emissions for 2022-23.
60. On-site renewable energy generation, including solar power and biomass heating, avoided **355 tCO₂e** of greenhouse gas emissions in 2022-23 (equivalent to 3.8% of net emission), compared to if gas and grid electricity were consumed.
61. The Council now needs to achieve an average of **1,342 tCO₂e per year** reduction to meet net zero by 2030 (77 tCO₂e more per year than in 2021-22). The 2022-23 emissions reduction rate falls short by 45% compared to the required annual average reduction needed to meet net zero by 2030 (Figure 6).
62. The Council's full 2022-23 Greenhouse Gas Report is attached to this report as **Appendix B**.

Greenhouse gas emissions data for period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 (tCO ₂ e)						
	Sector	2022-23	2021-22	% Change	Base Year 2008-09	% Change
Scope 1 – Direct emissions e.g., boilers, owned transport, air conditioning gases	Buildings	1,860	2,000	-7.0%	4,317	-56.9%
	Fleet vehicles	2,685	2,756	-2.6%	4,358	-38.4%
	Fugitive gases	60	44	35.1%	-	-
	Sub-total	4,605	4,800	-4.1%	8,675	-46.9%
Scope 2 – Energy indirect e.g., purchased electricity	Buildings	1,297	1,567	-17.3%	6,562	-80.2%
	Streetlighting and traffic signals	2,009	2,228	-9.8%	15,581	-87.1%
	Sub-total	3,306	3,795	-12.9%	22,143	-85.1%
Scope 3 – Other Indirect e.g., business travel and water supply/treatment	Business travel	1,193	1,131	5.5%	3,237	-63.1%
	Electricity transmission and distribution losses	302	336	-10.0%	1,722	-82.4%
	Water supply and treatment	17	84	-79.7%	-	-
	Waste	5	6	-9.3%	-	-
	Sub-total	1,518	1,557	-2.5%	4,959	-69.4%
Total Gross Emissions		9,428	10,152	-7.1%	35,778	-73.6%
Carbon offsets		0	0	-	0	-
Renewable energy exports		-33	-25	35.4%	0	-
Total Location-based Net Emissions		9,395	10,127	-7.2%	35,778	-73.7%
Full time equivalent (FTE) employees		4,864	4,860	0.1%	6,880	-29.3%
Intensity measure: tCO ₂ e/FTE		1.93	2.08	-7.3%	5.2	-62.8%
Renewable electricity tariff		3,306	3,795	-12.9%	-	-
Total Market-based Net Emissions		6,123	6,357	-3.7%	35,778	-82.9%
Petrol and diesel (outside of scope)		0.16	0.15	11.5%	-	-
Woodchip (outside of scope)		694	711	-2.3%	-	-

Table 1: Council 2022-23 greenhouse gas emissions, with a comparison to 2021-22 and the 2008-09 baseline year

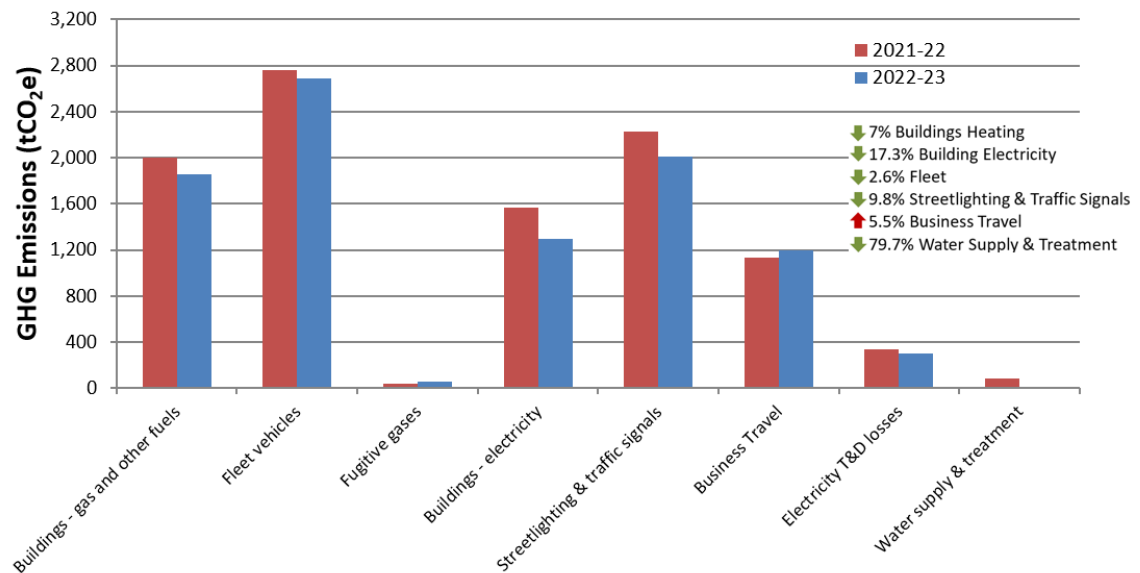


Figure 5: Council 2022-23 greenhouse gas emissions by source, compared to 2021-22

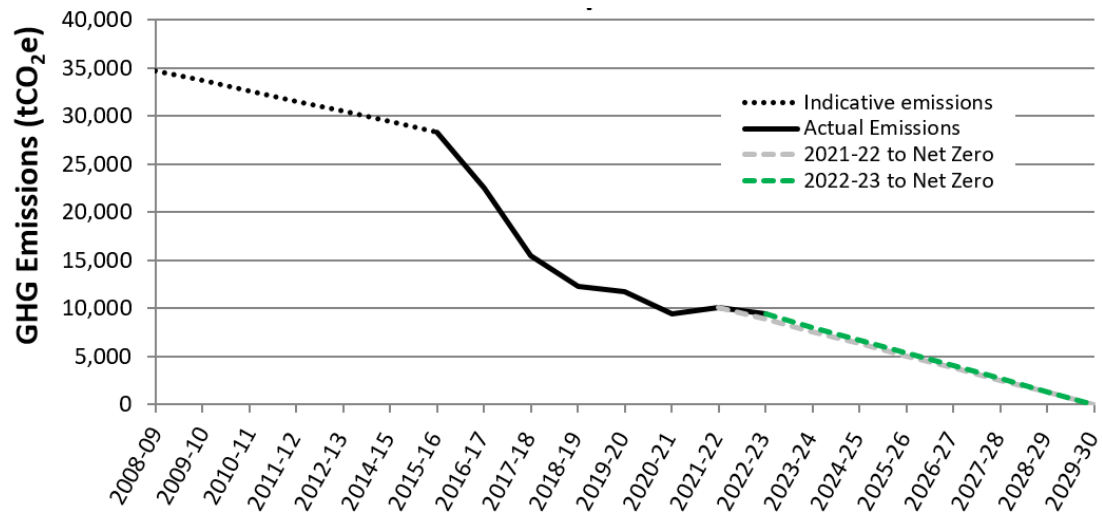


Figure 6: Council net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2030 net zero

Part 3: Net Zero Council Action Plan progress update

63. In December 2022, the County Council adopted the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan. This action plan outlines how the County Council aims to achieve net zero for its own operational emissions by 2030. Activity within the plan is separated between the main sources of emissions (estates, fleet, business travel and streetlighting) and actions needed to enable the successful delivery of net zero (i.e., finance, decision making, engagement and reporting).
64. Appendix D of this report provides a progress update and refresh of all the actions within this plan, ensuring the plan stays up to date and the Council remains informed about its progress towards delivering net zero by 2030.
65. The following actions are currently in delivery or have been completed:
- a) Carbon Reduction Actions:
 - i. Completed £4.3m energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to Beaumanor Hall, County Hall and Embankment House, £3.6m of which was funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
 - ii. Phase 1 future wind and solar feasibility study has been completed, with phase 2 being underway.
 - iii. Whole estate buildings decarbonisation plan is under development (66 surveys complete).
 - iv. Electric Vehicle Fleet Transition plan is under development.
 - v. Part HVO transition (£110,000) for hard to electrify fleet vehicles is under procurement.
 - vi. Future streetlighting dimming and trimming. Pilot project is to start in early 2024.
 - vii. Ongoing support and encouragement for low carbon commuting (e.g., bike loans, Dr Bike, Betterpoints, Cycle to Work scheme).
 - b) Enabling Actions:
 - i. Launch of the £2m Carbon Reduction Fund, including embedding carbon pricing within business cases and decision making.
 - ii. Launch of Net Zero Leicestershire webpages.
 - iii. Reported to the environmental reporting platform CDP (paragraphs 151-154 of this report).
66. The first annual progress review has identified key areas of risk and gaps to enable net zero, including:
- a) Funding to enable the delivery of the building decarbonisation and fleet Electric Vehicles transition plans at the pace and scale needed.
 - b) Limited progress on business mileage decarbonisation (13% of emissions) due to staff resources over the last 18 months.
 - c) Staff resources to support development and delivery of relevant carbon awareness/management training and practices to different levels of staff.

- d) Influencing and reducing out of scope emissions (i.e., purchase goods and services, commuting and investments) due to limited staff resources available.
 - e) Staff capacity overall, to deliver projects at the scale and speed required.
67. The first year of delivery lays the foundations for what is needed from the Council to enable net zero by 2030, including the development of two key decarbonisation plans for fleet and buildings. Once complete, the findings of these plans will advise on the required delivery approach and timescales to support the Council's 2030 commitments. However, they are dependent on the availability of significant funding to enable them to be delivered (e.g., investment in electric fleet vehicles, electric heating in buildings etc).
68. With the current resources available to the Council (both financial and staffing), delivery of these key initiatives will not be possible at the scale and speed required to enable it to meet net zero by 2030. The figures for 2022-23 emissions reductions demonstrate this - falling short by 45% compared to the required annual average reduction needed to meet net zero by 2030.

Section 1b: Greener Council

69. This section of the report sets out the Council's performance as an organisation on a range of environmental areas, as set out below. It also provides an assessment of performance against the Council's EMS.

Part 4: Wider Environmental areas

70. Part 4 of the report provides details on the Council's performance across a range of environmental areas, which are not covered in Part 1, in particular:
- a. Nature
 - b. Resources
 - c. Staff perception
 - d. Compliance
 - e. Risks

a. Nature

B3a Hectares of LCC land in better management for nature

71. At the end of 2022-23, there were **3,854 hectares** of Council land in better management for nature. This is an increase of 10 hectares compared to 2021-22. This change can be explained by any acquisitions or disposals that have happened since and the fact that the data has been updated (categories changed and GIS extents amended where discrepancies have been found).
72. This figure includes a combination of Council land including country parks, rural and urban highway verges, county farms and playing fields.

B3b % of suitable LCC land in better management for nature

73. At the end of 2022-23, **97%** of suitable Council land was in better management for nature, the same as 2021-22.

Wildlife Verges

74. At the end of 2022-23, there were a total of **69 wildlife verges** and **51 parish councils** included in the Wildlife Verge scheme. The total area of wildlife verges was **37,185m²**.
75. Up to the end of 2022-23, a total of **3,986 volunteer hours** were spent undertaking verge baseline surveys and **3,038 wildlife records** were generated.
76. In July 2023, the Wildlife Verge scheme won the Defra **Bees Needs Champion Award** under the Community Category. The award recognises and celebrates examples of exceptional initiatives undertaken by local authorities, community groups, farmers, and businesses to support pollinators.

Tree Wardens

77. In March 2023, Leicestershire celebrated **40 years** of running the Tree Warden network in the County, in partnership with the Tree Council. Currently, there are **124 Tree Wardens** in the network. There are 78 parishes and one independent organisation (Harborough Woodland) which manage volunteer Tree Wardens.
78. The role of a Tree Warden is diverse and involves maintaining trees (watering, weeding, minor tree work like coppicing); checking for pests and disease; looking for places to plant trees; encouraging schools to educate pupils about trees; interpretation of trees through guided walks; checking planning applications to identify impacts on designated; and non-designated trees.
79. The Leicestershire Network has a clear process for recruiting, supporting, and offering strategically beneficial training to its Tree Wardens, which has been replicated in other parts of the UK. Leicestershire is well regarded by the Tree Council which refers new networks for advice and best practice.
80. Tree Wardens have supported access to Treescape grants by providing evidence of the demand for trees in Leicestershire. They have also helped with data collection for Local Wildlife Sites, Ancient Trees and assessing trees for Tree Preservation Orders, as well as helping in the delivery of the Council's target to plant 700,000 trees by 2030.

b. Resources

LW2 - % Recycled from LCC sites

81. The recycling figure for 2022-23 was **51.2%**, falling from 58.7% in 2021-22. This is below the target of 64% for 2022-23. The current target is to achieve a 70% recycling rate by 2030.
82. The level of recycling performance is struggling to recover after the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the reasons for this is that there is less recyclable and compostable waste being produced. Examples of this include a 65% (47 tonnes) reduction in the amount of paper waste produced and the ceasing of the kitchen compost collection scheme, resulting in a reduction of about 20 tonnes of compostable waste. The latter is also resulting in this waste (though likely of a lesser tonnage) going into the residual waste stream. In addition, there is also anecdotal evidence of higher levels of contamination and improper use of the waste bins in County Hall since 2019-20.

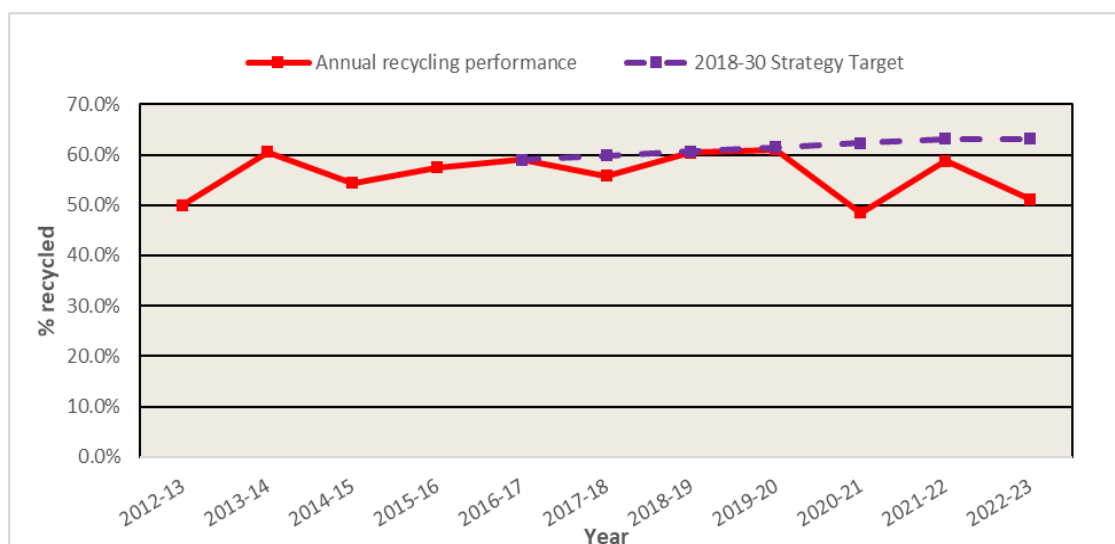


Figure 7: % waste recycled 2013-14 to 2022-23

P1a - Total office paper purchased

83. The data is received directly from the Council's primary paper supplier.
84. The amount of paper purchased at the end of 2022-23 was about **2.7m A4 sheets**. This was an increase of about 12% on 2021-22, but still significantly less than the pre-pandemic figure of 8.2m A4 Sheets.
85. This reflects the persistence of changes arising during the pandemic, including the move to digital service delivery, and working from home (now part of the Council's new ways of working). Work is and will take place to maintain the reduction in paper usage where possible. The reduction in paper use in part contributes to the fall in recycling performance, as there is less paper to recycle.

LW10 - % of recycled aggregates used in highways

86. The proportion of recycled aggregates used over 2022-23 was **89%**, an increase from 63.5% the previous year. The amount of recycled aggregate used varies from quarter to quarter, but there were two quarters where the amount of recycled aggregate used was 100%.
87. Use of recycled aggregates is affected by availability and feasibility (e.g., not suitable for base layers) and is not always the best environmental option when processing, logistics and energy use are factored in. However, use of recycled aggregates in certain schemes can significantly reduce transportation and waste costs, and therefore, it is encouraged where suitable and locally available.

c. Staff perception

E1 - Proportion of staff supporting the statement “I believe the Council is doing enough to reduce its impact on the environment” and E2 - Proportion of staff agreeing with the statement “I understand how I can contribute to green issues at work”

88. As part of a refresh of the mandatory Environmental Awareness E-Learning training in 2017-18, a survey was included in the module to gather data for this KPI.
89. Of the staff that completed the survey in 2022-23, **90%** agreed that the Council was doing enough to reduce its impact on the environment and **94%** agreed they understood how they can contribute to green issues at work.
90. While these results are positive, a slight downward trend has been observed. This may reflect the new ways of working and the fact that many staff are working from home, so feel less able to contribute to green issues in the workplace. In addition, with most staff working from home, there is less scope for staff engagement. The results may also reflect an increased public awareness and concern about the environment, and a recognition that more and urgent action needs to be taken.
91. The staff behavioural change scheme Go Green has been revamped and improved as Greener Together. As part of the new scheme, initiatives will be undertaken to support staff, tenants and building users to reduce the Council’s environmental impact. As the scheme is rolled out through information provision, training, and opportunities for staff to learn and work together on reducing the Council’s environmental impacts, it is hoped that it will address this decline.

d. Compliance

M1 - Environmental complaints

92. There was **one** environmental complaint upheld during 2022-23 compared to three in 2021-22. The complaint related to blocked drain works that had not been completed. The works have subsequently been undertaken.

M2 - Environmental incidents

93. There was **one** environmental incident reported in 2022-23. This related to a fire at the former Birkett House School. This caused some fire damage asbestos contamination, which was removed by HSE licensed asbestos contractors and monitored by accredited consultants, under the control of Council Operational Property Services.

M5 - Environmental enforcements/prosecutions

94. There were no enforcement notices or prosecutions logged in 2022-23.

External and Internal Audit results

95. External audits are carried out annually by BM Trada to ISO14001 EMS Standard, with a full re-certification audit every three years. A full re-certification audit is due in 2024.
96. An external ISO14001 EMS recertification audit was carried out in February 2023. **Two minor non-conformities** were found at Beaumanor Hall, relating to an out-of-date environmental risk register and an out-of-date environmental checklist. Corrective action has since been taken on both non-conformities.
97. Only those Council services externally certified to ISO14001 are subject to external audits. Namely, Strategic and Operational Property Services – County Hall operations and Beaumanor Hall operations; Central Print Services; Countryside Services and the Environment Policy and Strategy team. Internal audits may be carried out on any service but are focussed on those previously identified as potentially having high environmental risks.
98. A set of internal audits was carried out during 2022-23 as part of a rolling 3-year programme. These covered Hard Facilities Management, Multi-Agency Travellers Unit, Beaumanor Hall and Bosworth Battlefield. **No major non-conformities** were recorded. **One minor non-conformity** was recorded at **Beaumanor Hall** relating to the availability of pesticide training records. **Three minor non-conformities** were recorded at **Bosworth Battlefield** in relation to non-availability of keys for utility enclosure on site, printer paper not conforming with the Council's Timber Products Policy and a piece of electrical equipment incorrectly disposed of in the general waste bin. A total of 19 observations (potential opportunities for improvement) were recorded across all the service areas.

e. Risks

i) Environment Risk Register

M3 - Environmental risks scoring >15

99. At the end of 2022-23, there were a total of **two** environmental risks scoring 15 or more. These environmental risks relate to areas where the Council is not meeting legal requirements or Council policy is significantly failing to address Environment Strategy objectives.

100. The remaining risks sit within the Environment and Transport Department (previously three risks, now two) and are summarised as follows:

- a) Biodiversity considerations not sufficiently taken into account in Highways mowing regimes (**one risk**).

Urban verge trials are continuing and expanding, but still make up only a small proportion (less than 1%) of the verge network. These are being used to inform possible changes to mowing regimes. There is an increasing public interest in having wildlife verges, but further systematic change is needed. This risk will continue to be reviewed to determine if sufficient progress has been made to reduce this risk.

- b) Operational risks at Recycling Household Waste Sites (**one risk**). The risk relates to inadequate access to waste disposal outlets due to infrastructure closures.

Since the end of 2022-23, a new long-term contract for residual waste treatment and disposal has come online. This change has reduced the risk score, meaning this is no longer a high risk.

101. The previous high risk in relation to compliance with the Cleaner Vehicle Regulations has been reduced to a medium risk due to the steps that have been taken by the Fleet team to procure more environmentally friendly vehicles, and the fact that the enforcement risk is low.

ii) Climate Change Risk Register

R1 - Outstanding actions on climate change risk register

102. There are **eight high risks** on the climate change register following the completion during 2021-22 of a review and assessment of the risks to the Council from climate change. The identified risks relate primarily to highways and property assets, business continuity and flood risk.

103. Due to capacity issues within the Environment Policy and Strategy team, it has not been possible to undertake significant work to address these risks. Work will be undertaken to see how re-prioritisation of workload and reallocation of staff resources could enable action to be taken to reduce the risks identified.

Part 5: Environmental Management System

104. Part 5 of the report provides an update on a range of aspects in relation to the Council's EMS. Many of these aspects relate to requirements within the ISO14001 standard, for which some service areas in the Council are certified to. It covers the following:

- a. External and internal issues relevant to the EMS;
- b. Needs and expectations of interested parties;
- c. Changes to statutory duties;
- d. Changes to environment legislation;
- e. Environmental risks and opportunities;
- f. Adequacy of resources;
- g. Relevant communications from interested parties;
- h. Opportunities for continual improvement.

a. External and internal issues relevant to the EMS

105. A number of uncertainties persist such as the implications of the creation of the Office of Environmental Protection, the detail of the regulations and guidance that are to follow the Environment Act 2021 and whether any further legacy EU legislation will be repealed.

106. Key recent Government policies and draft legislation, which may affect the environment and be relevant to the EMS and/or Council services, include:

- Environment Act 2021 and subsequent regulations;
- Environmental Improvement Plan 2023;
- Retained EU Law Act;
- Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill;
- UK Chemicals Strategy.

107. Recent and current Government consultations on environmental policy, which may be relevant to the EMS and/or Council services, include:

- Consultation on the draft Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024;
- New approach to environmental assessments;
- Draft Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (England) Regulations 2023;
- Amendments to the persistent organic pollutants regulation;
- Review of Net Zero: call for evidence;
- Landfill tax grant scheme: call for evidence;
- Household waste recycling centres: DIY waste disposal charges and booking systems;
- Environment Act 2021: environmental targets;
- Nature recovery green paper;
- Review of the Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance.

108. During 2022-23, work was completed on the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan, which sets out how the Council plans to achieve net zero as an authority by 2030. In addition, work was also completed on developing the 2045 Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan which sets out how the County could achieve net zero by 2045. Both were approved by the County Council in December 2022.

b. Needs and expectations of interested parties, including compliance obligations and changes in political priorities/direction

109. The 2021-22 report identified some concerns about the Government's pledge to its various environmental policies and commitments following the changes in the Government in October 2022. While there has been some positive action, particularly in relation to the Environment Act 2021 and action in relation to nature, there has also been, especially in recent months a rowing back on the pace of action in relation to net zero, moves to more sustainable transport solutions through support for public transport but also a signalling of more support for driving through the launch of the "Plan for Drivers", improvements in the management of waste and improving water quality.
110. The Council Strategic Property team require new environmental data from the Environment Policy and Strategy team on energy usage and cost to support its annual report for the Corporate Asset Management Plan.
111. The rise in inflation over the last two years is increasing costs and putting pressure on the budgets of the Council and residents. This is making it more difficult to take action on the environment and progress identified projects. This situation is further exacerbated by the difficult financial position that the County Council finds itself in, like many councils across the country. This will mean that tough decisions have to be made about how the Council spends its resources to deliver its statutory duties and priorities.
112. During 2022-23, the Council responded to data and information requests from Climate Emergency UK as part of their scoring of councils on the action they are taking on climate change. The results of this scoring were released in October 2023, with Leicestershire County Council achieving a score of 46%. This was the fourth highest score for a county council in the UK. The average county council score was 35% and the highest county council score was 53%. More information on the scores can be found in this link:
<https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/county/>

c. Changes to statutory duties

113. The Environment Act 2021 and subsequent regulations resulted in changes to the Council's statutory duties in relation to the environment. The Act introduced a requirement that local authorities within England should produce a **Local Nature Recovery Strategy**.
114. During 2022-23, Leicestershire County Council was appointed as the provisional 'responsible authority' for developing a strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland. Subsequently, in June 2023, the County Council

was appointed as the 'responsible authority'. For more information on what a Local Nature Recovery Strategy is and what is taking place locally follow this link: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/local-nature-recovery-strategy/what-a-local-nature-recovery-strategy-is>

115. In addition, the Environment Act 2021 also introduced a requirement that all planning permissions granted in England (with a few exceptions) will have to deliver **10% Biodiversity Net Gain** from January 2024. This placed a new statutory duty on local planning authorities, including the County Council, to support the delivery and administration of this new requirement.
116. Furthermore, the Environment Act 2021 also introduced a **strengthened legal duty for public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity** and new **biodiversity reporting requirements** for local authorities.
117. In addition, the Environment Act 2021 introduced several new statutory duties relating to waste which are due to come into effect over the coming years. These were concerning the Simpler Recycling reforms including **mandatory food waste collections**, which is due to come into force in 2025 for businesses and non-household municipal premises and in 2026 for households, the **Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging** which is due to come into force in 2025 and a **Deposit Return Scheme** for drink containers which comes into force from October 2025.

d. Changes to environment legislation

118. There were a range of new or updated general environmental Acts, legislation, regulations, consultations, and guidance released during 2022-23, with **78** identified as possibly being relevant to the County Council. A full list can be found in **Appendix C** of this report.
119. The main areas included were in relation to **waste, natural environment, and energy performance of buildings**. Of most significance to the County Council were the regulations coming out of the **Environment Act 2021** in relation to new national environmental targets, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Biodiversity Net Gain, the Government's updated Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, and new guidance on the managing of waste containing persistent organic pollutants.
120. The Environment Policy and Strategy team have access to a specialised Environmental Legislation Information and Register Service, which provides a database, alerts and training on energy and environmental law and regulations. The supplier also provides a regular quarterly update of the Council's legislation register, including notification of new potentially relevant legislation.

e. Environmental risks and opportunities

121. During 2021-22, a comprehensive review and assessment of the risks to the Council from climate change was carried out. This assessment identified eight high risks and 56 medium risks from climate change on Council services, with

the report putting forward seven recommendations. Since then, three of the recommendations have been completed as part of the process of approving the report.

122. Due to limited staff capacity and the need to progress other priorities, it has not been possible to make significant progress on the other recommendations. Some work has taken place on defining what would be involved in developing an area wide climate adaptation and resilience strategy, and discussions have taken place with neighbouring authorities and partners. More recently, some research support has been secured from De Montfort University to assist with work in this area.
123. The Government will soon be releasing guidance to local authorities on climate adaptation reporting, including how to undertake a climate change risk assessment and to develop an action plan.
124. Insufficient action on the climate change risks will expose the Council to the risk of harm from future extreme weather events. Work will be undertaken to see how re-prioritisation of workload and reallocation of staff resources could enable action to be taken to reduce the risks identified.
125. The new ways of working and the financial pressures on the Council are making it more difficult to achieve some of the Council's environmental targets. This is particularly the case for the 2030 and 2045 net zero targets as well as the target to achieve 70% recycling of the Council's office waste by 2030.
126. On the other hand, the new ways of working are helping some of the Council's other environmental targets, in particular those in relation to electricity consumption, business mileage, paper use, and total office waste produced.
127. There is a combined risk and opportunity in relation to the increased public awareness of and activism on environmental issues, particularly with the increasing concern about climate change and the loss of nature. This could provide an opportunity in terms of the public support for the Council in taking action on the environment but could also be a risk in terms of greater public scrutiny and expectations of the scale and nature of any actions taken.

f. Adequacy of resources

128. During 2022-23, there was a vacancy in the Environment Policy and Strategy team until September 2022. The vacancy and the need for the new member of staff to be trained up and get acquainted with their role had an impact on the team's capacity. Vacancies in the Waste Data team also meant they were unable to process the environmental data meaning this task was undertaken by the Environment Policy and Strategy team further effecting the team's capacity. This resulted in a need to prioritise workload and to stop or reduce activity in some areas.
129. During 2022-23, the post of Carbon Reduction Team Manager was vacant which resulted in the Senior Carbon Reduction Officer taking on some elements

of the Team Manager role in addition to their current job while a recruitment exercise was carried out. This resulted in capacity issues within this small team and the need to prioritise workload and to stop or reduce activity in some areas.

130. More broadly across the Council, difficulties with retaining and recruiting staff as well as increased workloads have put pressure on some teams to maintain service levels and ensure continued positive environmental performance.

g. Relevant communications from interested parties

131. No relevant communications were received.

h. Opportunities for continual improvement (EMS, including opportunities for improved integration with other business processes or environmental performance)

132. The development of the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan and the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan, both adopted in December 2022, present opportunities for improving the environmental performance of the Council and producing possible financial savings in some cases.
133. Access to the legislation update service that was procured in 2020-21 continues to support the ongoing work to improve the robustness and effectiveness of the EMS.
134. Work continues on implementing the new environmental sustainability performance monitoring and reporting software, with a view to replacing large elements of the current spreadsheet-based system. The new Rio system will eventually provide a more effective and stable system for monitoring the Council's environmental performance.
135. Work is ongoing with colleagues to better understand the impact of severe weather events on the Council and the County by improving the use of existing Council data from sources such as flooding, property and highways. This work will inform updates of the Climate Change Risk Registers as well as the planned high risk service areas climate adaptation action plans.
136. The Climate Change Risk Review and Assessment report and the recommendations therein provide an opportunity to improve how the Council responds to the threats from the environment in the form of the impacts from climate change.

Section 2: Leicestershire

Part 6: Net Zero Leicestershire

137. Part 6 of the report provides details of how Leicestershire is performing as a county in relation to the Council's commitment to work with others to achieve net zero by 2045 for the County area. Data is presented based on the figures provided by the Government for 2021 on the levels of greenhouse gas emissions attributed to Leicestershire, as well as other contextual data on how Leicestershire is performing in relation to activities that can contribute to reducing the County's emissions.

a. Greenhouse Gas Emission Figures for Leicestershire

138. Using the latest available Government datasets², Leicestershire's emissions during 2021 were **4.85 MtCO₂e**. Figure 8 below provides a breakdown of these emissions into eight key sources and demonstrates transport emissions contribute the greatest proportion (38%) of Leicestershire emissions, followed by domestic (22%), industry (18%), agriculture (12%), waste management (5%), commercial (3%), public sector (3%) and land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) helped remove, by carbon sequestration, 1% of emissions.

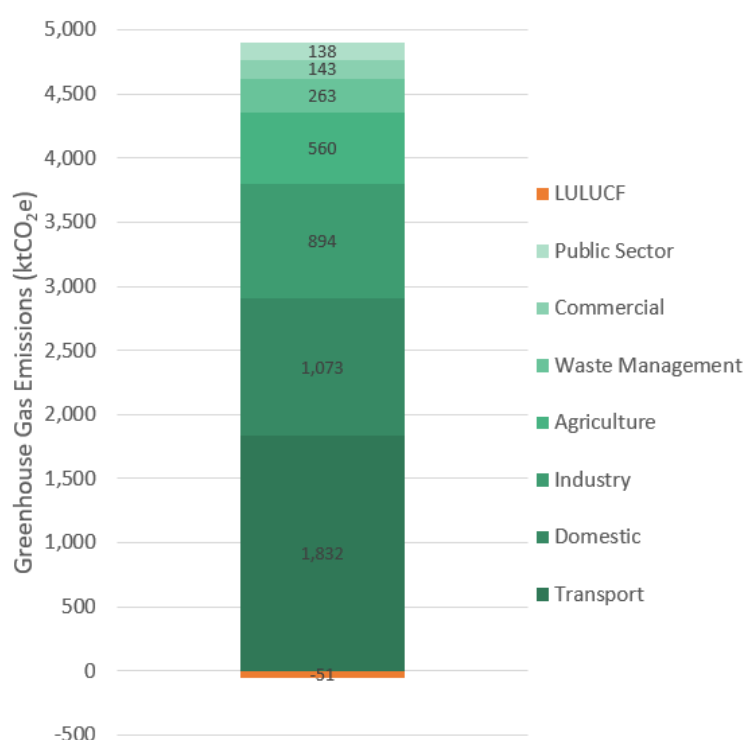


Figure 8: Leicestershire's 2021 greenhouse gas emissions by source

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2021>

139. Since 2005, greenhouse gas emissions across Leicestershire have reduced by 28%, meanwhile per capita emissions have reduced by 37% to 6.8 tCO₂e. Emissions in 2021 increased for the first time since 2012, which was expected because of the significant impact on emissions of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, which led to a bounce back in emissions during 2021. Despite the increase, emissions remain **3.6% lower** than the Net Zero Leicestershire 2019 baseline year (pre-pandemic levels) and the average change in emissions over the last five years is a 1.8% reduction per year.

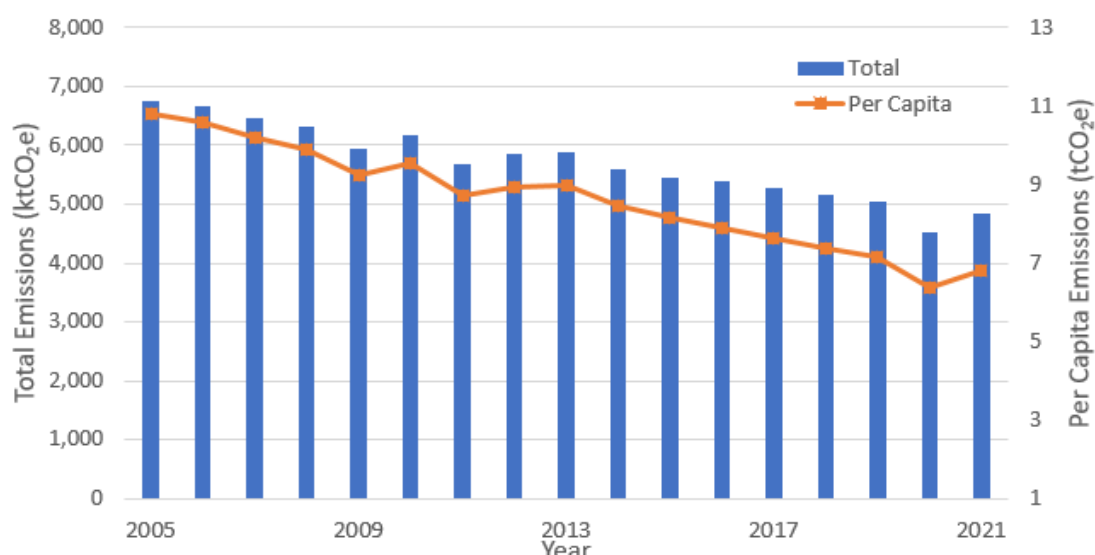


Figure 9: Leicestershire's total and per capita greenhouse gas emissions 2005 to 2021

140. The following paragraphs provide other contextual data on how Leicestershire is performing in relation to activities that can contribute to reducing the County's emissions.

Electric vehicle charging locations per 100,000 population

141. At the end of 2022-23, there were **41.1 electric vehicles charging locations per 100,000 population** in Leicestershire. This was an increase from the 33.5 figure for 2021-22. However, Leicestershire still sits within the **4th quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.
142. Following a successful bid to the Government for funding to deliver an initial 100 public electric vehicle chargepoints across all seven districts through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot, the County Council continues to work proactively with Midlands Connect and a number of other local authorities to bid for further LEVI funding. This would bring hundreds of additional public electric vehicle chargepoints to Leicestershire, to help meet the needs of the growing electric vehicle market. The locations of these chargepoints have not yet been identified and the County Council will now look to gather information about charging requirements across the County and develop a suitable delivery plan.

143. To this end, during October and November 2023, the County Council carried out a County-wide electric vehicle consultation survey, together with an Interactive Chargepoint Map, providing an opportunity for current and future electric vehicle owners to share information about their charging habits and potential charging concerns, and place markers on a map in locations where they would like to see a chargepoint.
144. The results of the survey will allow the Council to better understand charging requirements and start to plan a network of chargepoints that works for Leicestershire communities.

Electric vehicle ownership rate per 10,000 population

145. At the end of 2022-23, the electric vehicle ownership rate was **154.1 per 10,000 population** in Leicestershire. This was a significant increase of about 60% compared to the figure of 96 for 2021-22. Leicestershire sits in the **3rd quartile** relative to comparative English authorities. Local figures show that 32% of the electric vehicles owned in Leicestershire are in Harborough District (while containing 13.7% of the County's population) while only 5% are in Oadby and Wigston (while containing 8% of the County's population). These results are highlighting an uneven distribution of electric vehicle ownership across the County.

Renewable electricity generated in the area (MWh)

146. The latest available figures (2022) show that **355,263 MWh** of renewable electricity was generated in Leicestershire. This was more than the figure for 2021 of 326,437 MWh. Leicestershire sits in the **3rd quartile** relative to comparative English authorities for 2022.

Renewable electricity capacity in the area (MW)

147. The latest available figures (2022) show that the renewable electricity capacity for Leicestershire was **340.2 MW**. This was a slight increase from 2021 when the figure was 333.4 MW. Leicestershire sits in the **3rd quartile** relative to comparative English authorities. The Council has limited influence over County-wide renewable energy capacity, which tends to change in response to Government incentive schemes and the wider energy market.

% Domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate rating C+ (new properties)

148. At the end of 2022-23, **97.7% of new properties** in Leicestershire had an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C or greater. This was in line with the previous year's figure. Leicestershire sits in the **1st quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.

% Domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate rating C+ (existing properties)

149. At the end of 2022-23, **52.6% of existing properties** in Leicestershire had an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C or greater. This was an increase on the figure for 2021-22 of 41.4%. Leicestershire sits in the **1st quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.
150. The Council launched “Green Living Leicestershire” in partnership with the district councils, which supports vulnerable households and those in or at risk of fuel poverty to reduce their bills by installing cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, solar panels, air source heat pumps and other energy efficiency measures. The Council also worked with Solar Together to provide residents with the opportunity to reduce their energy costs by investing in solar panels. Between March 2021-22 and March 2022-23 there was a 27% increase in the energy efficiency of existing homes in Leicestershire (those with an Energy Performance Certificate C+ rating).

b. Carbon Disclosure Project Reporting

151. During 2022-23, the Council commenced work on submitting a report to CDP for the first time, with the submission being made in July 2023.
152. As the world’s leading environmental reporting platform, CDP enables the Council to publicly disclose Leicestershire’s climate change mitigation and adaptation risks, plans, actions, and impact. Leicestershire’s disclosure is evaluated by CDP to help identify gaps, benchmark its performance against peers and find areas of opportunity to help deliver its environmental commitments.
153. Through reporting to CDP, Leicestershire is helping to inform policy and decision making far beyond the County boundary, including within the United Nations, the IPCC, World Health Organisation, and the World Bank, helping to shape national and international climate policy and initiatives.
154. Leicestershire County Council’s progress towards climate mitigation and adaptation was scored as being at Management Level, scoring a B. This means the Council has been recognised for having an emissions inventory, implemented a mitigation plan and is taking action to reduce emissions, alongside having an awareness of the main local risks and impacts of climate change. The Council’s 2023 disclosure is available through the CDP Open Data Portal (<https://data.cdp.net/>).

c. Net Zero 2045 progress

i) Net Zero 2045 Action Plan

155. In December 2022, the County Council adopted the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan. These documents outline how the County Council intends to work with others to achieve the net zero target for

Leicestershire by 2045. The Net Zero Action Plan was developed to demonstrate how the Council can work with others to deliver this target over the next five years.

156. Tackling climate change for the County is too big a job for any one organisation, therefore, the County Council aims to encourage a team effort with its partners and stand as a community leader in the fight to reduce global warming.
157. Appendix E of this report provides a list of all actions within the plan and an update on each of these actions including the current delivery status of the action and whether it is on track or due to start at a later point within the 5-year plan. Many actions are only deliverable with others such as partner organisations. Such actions are labelled with 'Ask' or 'Influence' from a County Council perspective. Updates have been sought from partner organisations where possible to help update and refresh these actions as necessary.
158. Since the Action Plan was adopted in December 2022, there have been staff capacity issues within the Carbon Reduction team which has put a strain on the team's ability to drive forward actions within the plan. However, work has progressed well in some areas.
159. Several actions have been successfully progressed, including the Solar Together project (Action B34, Appendix E), which in 2022 saw 460 solar panels installations across the County, saving an estimated 7,385 tCO₂e over the next 25 years. The solar panels were purchased as part of a group buying initiative and cost 27% less than typical market prices. The project created a total contribution to renewable energy production of 1.6MW in Leicestershire through £4.3m of investment.
160. In addition, the Warm Homes scheme delivered £2.5m of Sustainable Warmth funding to 250 households across the County. The scheme was also successful in a further funding bid to deliver £6m of Home Upgrade Grant funding to off-gas households through to March 2025. The impact of the promotion of national funding and the consistent delivery of multi-million-pound energy efficiency schemes locally has had a demonstrable impact on the number of homes now meeting an above average Energy Performance Certificate rating of band C or higher in the County, having accelerated over the period of delivery from a rolling average of 29% in June 2019 to 53% in June 2023 (GOV.UK Live Tables 2023).
161. The Warm Homes service is currently working to develop a County-wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to national Energy Company Obligation funding (through to March 2026) and the Great British Insulation Scheme to low-income households. A comprehensive Warm Homes advice booklet has been created to circulate in community and health settings, which has been well received. It is updated annually and published on the energy grants webpages www.leicestershire.gov.uk/home-energy-grants.

162. The Green Living Leicestershire group launched the Net Zero Parish and Town Toolkit in July 2023 to enable local parish and town councils to act on carbon reduction through information and training (Action C16, Appendix E). The parish toolkit includes case studies of community action for others to learn from and replicate.
163. To support the delivery of the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan with partners, the County Council led a funding bid to the Innovate UK fund as part of the Pathfinder Places initiative. The County Council and partners were successful in early 2023 in phase 1 of this funding and received £64,000 for investigation into the barriers to progressing net zero activity in the County. This money was used to pay for expert consultants 'Energy Systems Catapult' to investigate these barriers and the key requirements for the County in collaborating to deliver net zero. Key findings included the need for an effective governance structure to drive activity forward and support delivery of the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan.
164. In September 2023, the Carbon Reduction team subsequently led partners through a second larger round of funding, which required significant staff resources to develop the bid. This funding bid was announced as successful on 30 November 2023 and will provide the Council and its partners with £2.56m of funding to support net zero activity across Leicestershire. The project will commence from 1 February 2024 and last for 21 months. It will deliver four distinct work packages which will be delivered across a consortium of partners including National Grid, Energy Systems Catapult, the Universities Partnership and local experts Green Fox Energy. These work packages will include:
- a) Development of a stakeholder governance model to support net zero delivery for the County;
 - b) Development and delivery of a County-wide decarbonisation pathway plan;
 - c) Establishment of new community energy projects and support for the delivery of community energy organisations within each district (Actions B23-B25, Appendix E);
 - d) Development and delivery of a net zero advisory service to support County businesses and organisations to act.

ii) Engagement Plan

165. The 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan identifies development of an Engagement Plan as a key priority. The purpose of this plan is to create meaningful engagement with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in order to educate and inspire change to support Net Zero Leicestershire.
166. This would be achieved through the following objectives:
- a) Providing science-based climate change information and education.
 - b) Sharing the range of actions that individuals and organisations can take to support Net Zero Leicestershire.
 - c) Motivating others to act by promoting the co-benefits of climate action.

- d) Gaining a better understanding of climate action that is underway and any barriers to delivery or uptake.
 - e) Supporting others to shape just and inclusive climate policy.
167. The Carbon Reduction team have started work on shaping the engagement activity including setting up of an internal focus group to undertake a stakeholder mapping exercise as well as assessing possible engagement opportunities.
168. As part of the next steps, support would be sought from the Council's Engagement team to further shape the engagement plan. This will consider the stakeholder mapping work, and plan the engagement activities going forward, within the resources available. This plan will also need to consider and engage with the work of the Pathfinder Places project (as described in paragraph 163-16 of this report) and ensure any communication activity is complimentary and does not duplicate efforts.
169. Further work on the Net Zero Engagement Plan has been paused to allow the Pathfinder Places project to develop further and ensure comms activity complements and supports the work of the project. In addition, given the Council's difficult financial position and the proposal to reconsider net zero commitments, planned future engagement activity will need to be tailored to the resources available.

iii) Funding Plan

170. A priority action in the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan is the production of a Funding Plan. The Funding Plan would inform the Council of different sources of funding and finance for the delivery of the Leicestershire 2045 Net Zero Action Plan. It would also explore a range of solutions and planning for how the Council can successfully secure and encourage ongoing funding and investment to deliver its net zero commitments.
171. The aim of the Funding Plan is 'To increase the deliverability of the Net Zero Action Plan by maximising funding and investment into the County for net zero delivery.'
172. The key objectives of the draft funding plan are as follows:
- a) Identify financial requirements for key priority areas needing investment, to help support the delivery of the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan.
 - b) To explore different funding and financing sources to help the delivery of 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan, using both tried and tested approaches which are being delivered successfully by the Council and other local authorities, as well as innovative approaches which could be developed and adopted.
 - c) To identify the required resources (including any necessary verification standards e.g., Woodland Carbon Code) and steps needed to attract or deliver different funding and financing mechanisms.

- d) Produce clear actions for how the Council and Net Zero Leicestershire stakeholders will deliver the Funding Plan within the 3-year period.

173. The Chief Executive's Department is leading on the development of the Funding Plan, where existing and potential approaches to funding are being researched and explored. The next stage will involve reviewing and appraising each approach, before developing an action plan for taking forward preferred options. Acknowledging the level of specialist staff resource available, progressing this work will require the commissioning of specialist consultancy support. Taking forward the next stages will need to be considered in the context of other priorities and any changes to the net zero commitments.

Part 7: Greener County

174. Part 7 of the report includes details of performance across several environmental aspects for Leicestershire, namely:

- a) Nature
- b) Resources
- c) Air quality
- d) Public perception

175. These are intended to provide a picture of the wider environmental situation across the County, in addition to that set out above in relation to greenhouse gas emissions.

a. Nature

% of Leicestershire rivers (excluding Leicester) in good ecological status

176. The latest available figures (2019) show that the **9.4%** of Leicestershire rivers (excluding Leicester) were **in good ecological status**. The figure for England was 14%; therefore, Leicestershire's rivers are in a poorer ecological status than the England average. This was an improvement for Leicestershire compared to the previously available figure from 2016 when just 0.67% of the County's rivers had good ecological status.

% of Leicestershire rivers (excluding Leicester) in good chemical status

177. The latest available figures (2019) show that the **0%** of Leicestershire's rivers (excluding Leicester) were **in good chemical status**. This reflected the figure for England which also showed that no rivers in England had a good chemical status. This was a significant decline for Leicestershire compared to the previously available figure from 2016 when 99.6% of the County's rivers had good chemical status.

178. It should be noted that the main reason for this significant decline is that for the 2019 assessment there were new substances added to the assessment list and new standards were developed for substances in aquatic wildlife. This resulted

in a more sensitive and accurate assessment of the chemical status of England's rivers.

A Tree for Every Person – Number of trees planted

179. At the end of 2022-23, there were a total of **248,342 trees planted** (equivalent to 71 hectares) in Leicestershire, since July 2021, under the Tree for Every Person initiative, which aims to plant 700,000 trees by 2030. A total of **192,708 trees** (20 hectares) were recorded as planted during 2022-23. As of December 2023, there were 356,011 trees recorded as planted, the equivalent of 244 hectares.

b. Resources

HW1 – KG of household waste per household

180. During 2022-23, the amount of household waste per household in Leicestershire fell to **939.4kg**; a fall of 74.2kg compared to 2021-22.
181. It is believed that some of this drop can be attributed to the significant hot spell during 2022, which resulted in lower than usual green waste being collected. In addition, the continuing trend in less newspapers and magazines and packaging light weighting and use of substituted packaging is resulting in a reduction in household waste tonnage.

HW2 - % Household waste reused, recycled, and composted

182. The annual household waste recycling figure was **41.8%** for 2022-23. This is below the 50% recycling target which is in line with the Waste Framework Directive. Recycling performance reduced by 1.8% compared to the previous year.
183. Recycling performance was also affected by the fall in green waste, the continuing trend in less newspapers and magazines and packaging light weighting and the use of substituted packaging and possibly by the cost-of-living crises, which can result in changes to purchasing habits.
184. The Leicestershire Waste Partnership reviewed and adopted the **Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy** during 2022-23. The Strategy includes a range of initiatives to reduce waste sent to landfill and to promote waste prevention, reuse, and recycling. It includes a commitment to reduce waste to landfill to less than 5% by 2025, well in advance of the national target of 10% by 2035. The Strategy also includes a pledge to 'put in place collection systems to contribute towards the achievement of the national 65% recycling target by 2035'.
185. Recent Government announcements on three packaging reforms (a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Simpler Recycling) are being introduced with the intention to reduce waste and increase recycling within the UK.

Annual percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill

186. At the end of 2022-23, **23.7%** of Leicestershire's municipal waste was sent to landfill. This was less than in 2021-22 when the figure was 25.3%. Leicestershire sits in the **4th quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.
187. The new energy from waste contract started in April 2023 and this will result in the amount of municipal waste being sent to landfill falling significantly further in 2023-24.

Total fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population

188. The latest available figures are for 2021-22 and they show that there were **5.6 fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population in Leicestershire**. This was down from the recent high of 8.6 in 2020-21. Leicestershire sits in the **1st quartile** relative to comparative English authorities. Overall, the trend has been relatively static since 2017-18.

c. Air quality

PM2.5 Air pollution – fine particulate matter

189. The latest available figures (2022) show that the amount of PM2.5 was **7.7 µg/m³**. This was the same as the figure for 2021. Leicestershire sits in the **4th quartile** relative to comparative English authorities. Overall, the trend is downwards since 2017 when the figure was 9.7 µg/m³, however, there has been a slight increase since a low of **7µg/m³** in 2020.

NO₂ exceedances in Leicestershire

190. The latest available figures (2021) show that there were **no NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide) exceedances** in Leicestershire. This was a reduction from 2020 when there were two exceedances. Overall, the trend is downwards since 2017 when the figure was 11 exceedances.

d. Public perception

% of residents who feel protecting the environment is important

191. Taken from the Community Insight Survey, the figure for 2022-23 was **94%**. This was a slight drop from 2021-22 when the figure was 98.4%.

% of residents who think the Council should do more to help protect the environment

192. Taken from the Community Insight Survey, the figure for 2022-23 was **67.3%**. This was a slight rise from 2021-22 when the figure was 60.3%.

Conclusions

a. Leicestershire County Council

193. The following key conclusions for Leicestershire County Council have been identified:

- i) While emissions have continued to reduce by almost 74% since the 2008-09 baseline, the County Council needs to continue to achieve an average reduction of 1,342 tCO₂e per year to meet the 2030 net zero target. However, the reduction in emissions for 2022-23 fell 45% short of what is needed. This shows that the Council is not currently on track to meet its 2030 net zero target.
- ii) While generation of renewable energy on Council sites is not currently on target, there is an expectation that there will be an increase going forward, as the repaired and new solar panel arrays and the improvements to the biomass boiler take effect.
- iii) The new ways of working are overall helping to reduce the Council's environmental impact, though some of the environmental impacts will have been shunted to the homes of staff.
- iv) While some good activity is taking place on biodiversity such as tree planting and the wildlife verge scheme, the need to demonstrate how the Council is meeting the new strengthened biodiversity duty, will highlight if there is more to do going forward.

b. Leicestershire

194. The following key conclusions for Leicestershire have been identified:

- i) The Council is currently not on track to achieve the net zero 2045 target, but action in this area is in the early stages and will need ongoing review. At the moment, this highlights the scale of the challenge more than lack of progress.
- ii) Particularly, there is a need to target action on reducing transport, domestic, industry and agriculture emissions, with a focus on actions to increase electric vehicle take up, encouraging more active travel, increasing renewable energy generation, and improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- iii) Significant amount of work was needed to engage with partners on the delivery of projects within the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan.
- iv) There are concerns about the water quality of the County's rivers.

- v) There will be a significant amount of work needed to implement the collection and packaging reforms, that contribute to meeting the national 65% recycling target by 2035.

c. Overall

195. The following additional overall key conclusions have been identified:

- i) The insufficiency of action on climate adaptation is a concern.
- ii) The current workload and staff capacity issues are a concern.
- iii) The current financial position of the Council is a concern in terms of resourcing action on the environment.
- iv) There is a need to prioritise actions on the environment and the use of staff and financial resources. As part of doing this, there is also a need to decide how best to allocate resources between meeting the Council's own and the wider County net zero targets.
- v) The uncertainty regarding Government policy on the environment and implications of recent environmental legislation is a concern.
- vi) There is increasing public interest and scrutiny of local authority action on the environment.

Appendix A – Environmental Performance Summary Dashboard




Performance Summary			
Report for 2022-23 Year End			
KPI	Your Rating	Trend	
Carbon / Energy			
C2a	Elec consumption per M2 in LCC buildings	GREEN	improving
C2b	Gas consumption per m2 in LCC buildings	RED	improving
C17a	Renewable energy generated as a % of energy consumed	RED	worsening
C18	Total business miles claimed	GREEN	worsening
C20	Greenhouse gas emissions from Leicestershire (all sources)	AMBER	worsening
C20a	Greenhouse gas emissions from Leicestershire (all sources by sector)	AMBER	worsening
C21	Greenhouse gas emissions from Leicestershire (all sources) per capita	AMBER	worsening
R1	Outstanding actions on climate change risk register	RED	no change
Waste			
LW1	Total waste from LCC sites (tonnes)	GREEN	improving
LW2	% recycled from LCC sites	RED	worsening
HW1	Total household waste per household	no target	improving
HW2	% household waste reused, recycled & composted	RED	worsening
LW10	% recycled aggregates used in highways	No target	worsening
Resources			
P1a	Total office paper purchased (A4 sheets)	GREEN	improving
WA1	Potable water consumed per fte	GREEN	improving
Staff engagement			
E1	Staff agreeing - council doing enough for environment	AMBER	worsening
E2	Staff understanding how to contribute to green issues	AMBER	improving
Quality and compliance			
M1	Environmental complaints upheld	no rating	improving
M2	Environmental incidents	no rating	worsening
M3	Environmental risks scoring >15	RED	no change
M5	Environmental enforcement/prosecutions	GREEN	no change











Appendix B: Leicestershire County Council Greenhouse Gas Report

Read the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2022-2023

Appendix C: List of new and updated environmental Acts, legislation, regulations, consultations, and guidance 2022-23

(Source: Barbour Consolidated)

Key					
	Updated		New		Not in force

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
		Environmental Outcomes Reports: a new approach to environmental assessment	20 March 2023	Environment / Legal
	SI 2023/159	Countryside Stewardship (England) (Amendment) Regulations SI 2023/159	16 March 2023	Property
		Draft Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (England) Regulations 2023	15 March 2023	Waste
		UK GOV - Bans on F gas in new products and equipment: current and future	10 March 2023	Property / Environment
		UK GOV - Calculate the carbon dioxide equivalent quantity of an F gas	10 March 2023	Environment
		Amendments to the persistent organic pollutants (POPs) regulation	03 March 2023	Waste
	SI 2021/839	Occupational Pension Schemes (Climate Change Governance and Reporting) Regulations SI 2021/839	01 March 2023	Pensions
		Climate Change Act 2008	01 March 2023	Environment
	SI 2023/96	Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations SI 2023/96	16 February 2023	Public Health
	SI 2023/93	Environmental Targets (Water) (England) Regulations SI 2023/93	16 February 2023	Environment

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
●	SI 2023/90	Environmental Targets (Woodland and Trees Outside Woodland) (England) Regulations SI 2023/90	16 February 2023	Forestry / Environment
●	SI 2023/92	Environmental Targets (Residual Waste) (England) Regulations SI 2023/92	16 February 2023	Waste
▲		S2 waste exemption: storing waste in a secure place	15 February 2023	Waste / Highways
▲		S1 waste exemption: store waste in secure containers	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		T4 waste exemption: preparatory treatments, such as, baling, sorting, shredding	15 February 2023	Waste / Property
▲		UK GOV - Manage waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		Storing food waste: RPS 269	15 February 2023	Property / Waste
▲		UK GOV - Risk assessments for your environmental permit	15 February 2023	Property / Environment
▲		Accepting, classifying and disposing of household packaging waste: RPS 234	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		Temporary storage of waste sandbags after a flood	15 February 2023	Highways
▲		Storing and treating asphalt waste	15 February 2023	Highways
▲		Legal operator and competence	15 February 2023	Various

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
		requirements: environmental permits		
▲		Recycling waste spectacles	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		Storing waste aerosol containers	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		Storing fly-tipped waste and waste from trash screens and litter bins	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		Disposing of trees and plants affected by disease or pests: RPS 71	15 February 2023	Forestry / Property
▲		Storing waste bitumen at depots for recovery elsewhere	15 February 2023	Highways
▲		Storing dead animals collected from highways and public areas	15 February 2023	Property
▲		Storing waste plasterboard	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		How to stop invasive non-native plants from spreading	15 February 2023	Property
▲		Fire prevention plans: environmental permits	15 February 2023	Property
▲		Collect and treat waste from different sites within the same premises: RPS 224	15 February 2023	Property
▲		Replacing the use of 'not otherwise specified' waste codes	15 February 2023	Waste
■		A guide to Display Energy Certificates and advisory reports for public buildings	09 February 2023	Property

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
●		Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	31 January 2023	Environment
▲	SI 2001/1701	Noise Emission in the Environment by Equipment for use Outdoors Regulations SI 2001/1701	20 January 2023	Highways
▲		UK GOV - Packaging waste: producer responsibilities	01 January 2023	Waste
▲	SI 2007/871	Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations SI 2007/871	01 January 2023	Waste
▲		Tree felling licence: when you need to apply	01 January 2023	Forestry
●	SI 2022/1336	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (No. 3) Order SI 2022/1336	21 December 2022	Property
●		UK GOV - Manage waste containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	20 December 2022	Waste
●		UK GOV - Reusing upholstered domestic seating containing POPs	20 December 2022	Waste
●		UK GOV - Identify and classify waste containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	20 December 2022	Waste
▲		Shredding waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs: RPS 264	20 December 2022	Waste
●	SI 2022/1293	Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations SI 2022/1293	20 December 2022	Waste

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
▲	SI 2020/1358	Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations SI 2020/1358	20 December 2022	Waste
●		Temporary storage of waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs: RPS 265	19 December 2022	Waste
●	SI 2022/1292	Air Quality (Designation of Relevant Public Authorities) (England) Regulations SI 2022/1292	19 December 2022	Public Health
▲	Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill		19 December 2022	Environment
▲	Forestry Act 1967		16 December 2022	Forestry
●	SI 2022/1266	Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 5 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations SI 2022/1266	16 December 2022	Various
▲		Invasive non-native (alien) animal species: rules in England and Wales	12 December 2022	Property
●	SI 2022/1222	Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations SI 2022/1222	06 December 2022	Waste
●	Carbon Emissions (Buildings) Bill		25 November 2022	Property / Environment
●	Clean Air (Human Rights) Bill		22 November 2022	Public Health
●	Draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 2022		16 November 2022	Environment

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
●	Draft Climate Change (Targeted Greenhouse Gases) Order 2022		16 November 2022	Environment
●	SI 2022/733	Occupational Pension Schemes (Climate Change Governance and Reporting) (Amendment, Modification and Transitional Provision) Regulations SI 2022/733	19 October 2022	Pensions
▲	SI 2017/1012	A guide to display energy certificates and advisory reports for public buildings	17 October 2022	Property
●		Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations SI 2017/1012	13 October 2022	Property / Environment
●	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981		13 October 2022	Property / Environment
●	SI 2022/988	Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 4) Regulations SI 2022/988	07 October 2022	Various
■	Review of Net Zero: call for evidence		03 October 2022	Environment
●		Invasive non-native (alien) plant species: rules in England and Wales	26 September 2022	Property
■	Landfill tax grant scheme: call for evidence		21 July 2022	Waste
●		Landfill and deposit for recovery: aftercare and permit surrender	18 July 2022	Planning
■	Consultation on Extending the UK REACH Submission Deadlines		07 July 2022	Environment / Health & Safety
●		UK REACH: rationale for priorities in 2022 to 2023	30 June 2022	Environment / Health & Safety

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
●		UK REACH Candidate List	10 June 2022	Environment / Health & Safety
●	SI 2022/518	Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations SI 2022/518	25 May 2022	Various
●		Taking stock: protecting, restoring and improving the environment in England - report	12 May 2022	Environment
■	Environment Act 2021: environmental targets		09 May 2022	Various
●		Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice (accessible version)	09 May 2022	Waste
●		Waste operations and installations: assessing and scoring environmental permit compliance	29 April 2022	Waste
●		The Environment Agency (Environmental Permitting and Abstraction Licensing) (England) Charging Scheme 2022	14 April 2022	Various
■	Household waste recycling centres: DIY waste disposal charges and booking systems		11 April 2022	Waste
●	SI 2022/413	Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations SI 2022/413	07 April 2022	Property
●		19 August 2020: Environment Bill - environmental targets	01 April 2022	Various

Appendix D: 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan update

Carbon Reduction Projects

Key:

Project Stage

- In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
- In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)
- In delivery (executing plan agreed at design)
- Completed (work has been finished)

RAG rating

- Green - action delivery on track/to agreed timelines (may be agreed to start at a later date)
- Orange - some delivery off track/timelines, further work to be completed
- Red - significantly off track/timelines, or may no longer be possible

Action ID	Project Description	Estimated Completion	Project stage	RAG	December 2023 Update
Workstream: Estates					
COM1.1	Beaumanor Hall PSDS: Installation of heat pumps	Mar-22	Completed	Green	Successfully installed and now generating carbon savings.
COM1.2	County Hall PSDS: LED Lighting upgrade, solar PV installation, BMS optimisation, district heat connections and thermal store	Mar-22	Completed	Green	Successfully installed and now generating carbon savings.
COM1.3	Embankment House PSDS: LED lighting upgrade, solar PV installation, BMS optimisation	Mar-22	Completed	Green	Successfully installed and now generating carbon savings.
COM1.4	Phase 1 Wind and Solar Feasibility Study to investigate future wind and solar farm development potential on council land	May-23	Completed	Green	Phase 1 assessed and shortlisted potential sites for renewable energy, phase 2 now underway (see DEL1.4).
COM1.5	Energy efficiency surveys carried out across 61 council buildings to inform the Decarbonisation of Buildings Plan	Oct-23	Completed	Green	Energy surveys will now inform condition and energy reports for each building, which will identify energy efficiency, heating & lighting improvements, these will further inform a prioritised decarbonisation plan for the whole council estate (see DEL1.3).
Workstream: Fleet					
DEL1.1	HVO Fuel Transition: Switch from diesel to hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as approved by DMT (Jan 23) to growth awarded (£100k) and maximise carbon benefits on difficult to transition to electric vehicles, in Waste and Highways.	Mar-24	Delivery	Orange	Currently under procurement and expected to be in place by end of 2023-24 financial year. Estimated completion date revised from March 2023 to March 2024 due to procurement challenges.
DEL1.2	Production of a EV Fleet Transition Plan, to include EV infrastructure and vehicle replacement for all small and light fleet vehicles.	Jan-24	Delivery	Orange	Delivery timescale extended to allow for a robust review of the like for like EV replacement vehicles, needed to inform the infrastructure assessment.
Workstream: Estates					
DEL1.3	Production of a Buildings Decarbonisation Plan, covering 61 gas heated operational controlled properties energy efficiency, heating and lighting improvements	Mar-24	Delivery	Green	Individual building surveys will inform the estate wide decarbonisation plan, drafts in January and finalised in March 2024.
DEL1.4	Phase 2 wind & Solar Feasibility - Investigate future wind and solar farm development potential on 3 council sites	Mar-24	Delivery	Green	Phase 2 underway with more indepth assessments and site visits, expected to be complete by the end of 2023-24.

DEL1.5	Quorn Solar Farm: Build and use solar energy from the farm for council operations	Nov-25	Delivery		Procurement for a energy performance contractor currently underway, with estimated approval to Cabinet in summer 2024. Estimated completion date revised due to complexities in the procurement process.
Workstream: Streetlighting and Traffic Signals					
DEL1.6	Carryout the 18 month dimming streetlights to 30% intensity trial	Jun-25	Delivery		In December Cabinet approved the proposal to trial dimming streetlights to 30% intensity from 20:00 hours for an 18 month period, starting in January 2024.
Workstream: Business Mileage					
DES4.2	Production of a Business Mileage Decarbonisation Plan: to include identification of appropriate solutions and implementation of a travel hierarchy.	TBC	Design		Preliminary data analysis conducted to better understand high mileage teams and individuals. Next step will be discussions with teams identified to better understand their need for business mileage and explore potential solutions. Progress has been delayed due to staff capacity and resource, planned to be progressed from April 2024.

Carbon Projects (Discovery)

Key:

Project Stage

- In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
- In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)
- In delivery (executing plan agreed at design)
- Completed (work has been finished)

Carbon Saving: L = <1%, M = 1-3%, H = >3% of the council's greenhouse gas emissions

Cost: L = <£100k, M = £100k-£250k, H = £250k+

Financial Saving/Income: L = <£50k pa, M = £50k-£200k pa, H = £200k+ pa

Action ID	Project Description	Carbon Saving Potential	Cost	Financial Saving/Income	Priority	December 2023 Update
Workstream: Estates						
DIS1.2	Deliver the Decarbonisation of Buildings Plan (DBP) to: decarbonise heating in council operated buildings (e.g. heat pumps)	H	H	L	H	Awaiting the development of the DBP, expected commencement 2024-25.
DIS1.3	Deliver the DBP to: Improve the energy efficiency of all council operated buildings (e.g. wall insulation)	H	H	M	H	Awaiting the development of the DBP, expected commencement 2024-25.
DIS1.5	Upgrade external lighting to LED in council car parks and on the outside of buildings	L	M	L	L	Potential pipeline project.
DIS1.6	Deliver the DBP to: Upgrade and improve efficiency of air conditioning in council operated buildings	L	M	L	L	Awaiting the development of the DBP, expected commencement 2024-25.
DIS1.7	Investigate opportunities to maximise rooftop solar power generation	L	M	H	H	Ongoing process.
Workstream: Fleet						
DIS2.1	Deliver the Fleet EV Transition Plan: transition all appropriate small and light vehicles to electric.	H	H	H	H	Awaiting the development of the EV Fleet Transition Plan, expected commencement 2024-25.
DIS2.2	Investigate centralised fuel management and subsequent benefits for implementing other projects	L	M	M	M	Potential pipeline project.
DIS2.3	Alternative fuel switch for heavy commercial vehicles	M	H	L	M	Potential pipeline project.
Workstream: Business Travel						
DIS4.1	Implement a travel hierarchy to decarbonise business mileage, to include smarter working, active travel, EV pool cars, car share, EV lease car	H	M	H	H	Awaiting the development of the Decarbonisation of Business Mileage Plan.
Workstream: Carbon Removal						
DIS5.1	Prepare opportunities for local carbon sequestration on the council's estate, inseting within the council's value chain and other carbon removal practices and techniques.	M	H	L	L	Potential pipeline project to help address residual carbon emissions.

Enabling Actions

Key:

Project Stage

- In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
- In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)
- In delivery (executing plan agreed at design)

RAG rating

- Green - action delivery on track/to agreed timelines (may be agreed to start at a later date)
- Orange - some delivery off track/timelines, further work to be completed
- Red - significantly off track/timelines, or may no longer be possible.

Action ID	Project Description	Timescale	Project stage	RAG	December 2023 Update
Workstream: Finance					
F1.1	Track and monitor the financial cost and savings of the Carbon Reduction Programme	Ongoing	Delivery	Green	Carried out within Discover, Design and Deliver project monitoring, alongside key plans under development for electric vehicle transition and buildings decarbonisation.
F1.2	Investigate innovative and alternative funding sources to drive forward carbon reduction projects	2022-23	Design	Green	In progress, forms part of the Net Zero Leicestershire Funding Plan, the aim of which is to inform the council of different funding opportunities and resource requirements for the delivery of Net Zero Leicestershire.
F1.3	Where possible, continue to generate financial income and savings through delivering carbon reduction	Ongoing	Delivery	Green	Recently completed projects including streetlighting dimming and trimming, and public sector decarbonisation led to significant financial savings. Though it should be noted key future projects required to meet net zero (e.g. heating decarbonisation) could increase running costs due to switches in the type of energy used.
F1.4	Financially support council carbon reduction projects through the £2 million recycling fund and monitor its impact	Ongoing	Delivery	Green	The Carbon Fund was launched internally in Autumn 2023. Action description and timescale updated to reflect ongoing delivery.
F1.5	Trial assigning a financial value to carbon, to help inform decisions and business cases	2022-23	Completed	Green	Completed through embedding carbon pricing within the business case template and process for applying to the £2 million carbon fund. Action will be archived.
F1.6	Explore the approaches recommended by the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures on governance, strategy, risk management and targets.	2024-25	Discovery	Red	Potential pipeline project, expected to begin to be explored within the Net Zero Leicestershire Funding Plan.
Workstream: Management & Governance					
MG1.1	Review and develop a new governance structure for monitoring progress with implementation of the Carbon Reduction Programme action plan	Sep-22	Completed	Green	Highlight reports for delivery groups taken to Carbon Reduction Programme Steering Group every 2 months, Senior Responsible Officer is the Head of Environment and Waste Commissioning. Action to be archived.
Workstream: Decision Making and Procurement					
DM1.1	Integrate the carbon impact of projects into Transformation Unit business case templates	2022-23	Completed	Green	Completed through embedding carbon pricing within the business case template and process for applying to the £2 million carbon reduction fund. Action to be archived.
DM1.2	Pilot working with key suppliers to reduce emissions of high emissions contracts and meet environmental goals	2024-25	Discovery	Green	Timescale updated to reflect planned strengthening of the environment within the council's Procurement Strategy
DM1.3	Investigate common suppliers with partners and potential actions to reduce carbon	2024-25	Discovery	Green	Timescale updated to reflect planned strengthening of the environment within the council's Procurement Strategy, alongside existing work to develop a governance framework for Net Zero Leicestershire.
DM1.4	Strengthen environmental needs within the Procurement Strategy, to integrate council sustainability specifications and requirements into supplier contracts and the procurement process	2024-25	Discovery	Green	Expected update to the Procurement Strategy expected in 2024-25, and can be informed by DM1.2 and DM1.7.
DM1.5	Investigate incorporating net zero requirements into project approval and spend control forms	TBC	Discovery	Yellow	Current spend controls are in place to support the council's financial position additional spend controls to support carbon reduction are on hold.

DM1.6	Investigate incorporating carbon impacts of key decisions into Democratic Services report templates and guidance	2024-25	Discovery		Environmental implications must be included if reports relate to a project classified as a major project, i.e. it is over the value of £250,000 or is corporately significant. An Environmental Implications Tool is provided for reports to use.
DM1.7	Design and collate responses to a supplier questionnaire on the environment, to gather insight into supplier commitments, actions and progress in supporting net zero ambitions.	2023-24	Delivery		Survey is currently in design and expected to be sent out and responses analyzed by April 2024.
Workstream: Learning & Development					
LD1.1	Facilitate a net zero community of practice with regular opportunities to explore best practice in carbon management for key staff	Ongoing	Delivery		Embedded within delivery groups of the Carbon Reduction Programme and production of highlight reports for Carbon Reduction Steering Group.
LD1.2	Incorporate net zero into mandatory Environmental Awareness e-learning	2024-25	Discovery		Delayed due to staff capacity to 2024-25.
LD1.3	Incorporate net zero into the new Environment Management System e-learning training course for key staff	2024-25	Discovery		Delayed due to staff capacity to 2024-25.
LD1.4	Investigate creating a dedicated net zero e-learning, detailing more in-depth information on climate change, council/county emissions & actions and staff actions	2024-25	Discovery		Action to be picked up by the proposed Organisational Development Group for the Environment Strategy. Currently paused due to staff capacity. Priority given to CE1.3 and LD1.2.
LD1.5	Investigate specific and professional carbon reduction training and development needs and opportunities e.g. Carbon Literacy Training	2023-24	Design		Investigations underway for IEMA Corporate Partnership and Carbon Literacy Training. Action proposed to be undertaken by the Organisational Development Group for the Environment Strategy - progress of this group has been paused due to staff capacity. Change to timescale to reflect forward plan of activity.
LD1.6	Develop a business case for net zero corporate learning and development support	2023-24 2024-25	Design		Investigations underway for IEMA Corporate Partnership and Carbon Literacy Training. Action proposed to be undertaken by an Organisational Development Group for the Environment Strategy - progress has been paused due to staff capacity. Change to timescale to reflect forward plan of activity.
Workstream: Communications & Engagement					
CE1.1	Ensure net zero has a regular presence on the council's Yammer pages	Ongoing	Completed		Successfully communicated information regarding the launch of Net Zero Leicestershire, Go Green in 2023 Campaign, Greener Together launch, Couch to Carbon Zero, COP27, Great Big Green Week. Action to be archived & captured as ongoing under Greener Together (CE1.7).
CE1.2	Provide regular representation of Net Zero Leicestershire in the Environment Bulletin	Ongoing	Completed		Net zero related articles included within quarterly Environment Bulletin. Average number of staff views per article is 580. Action to be archived & captured as ongoing under Greener Together (CE1.7)
CE1.3	Create a net zero information hub and resources for staff on the Intranet	2023-24 2024-25	Design		Action incorporated within forward plan of Greener Together and pages are currently being designed. Timescale delayed to reflect forward plan.
CE1.4	Develop a net zero information hub on the council's website	2022-23	Completed		Completed in 2022, kept up to date and available here: https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/net-zero . Action to be archived.
CE1.5	Create a net zero carbon email address and promote it as the main contact for matters relating to Net Zero Leicestershire	2022-23	Completed		Completed, email address is netzero@leics.gov.uk. Action to be archived.
CE1.6	Embed key net zero guidance, principles and training opportunities across the council, through the Organisational Development Working Group for the Environment Strategy	2024-25	Design		Action updated to reflect the change from Ways of Working to Organisational Development, project stage changed from delivery to design - Action proposed to be undertaken by the Organisational Development Group for the Environment Strategy - progress of this group has been paused due to staff capacity.
CE1.7	Ensure net zero and climate action has a firm foundation within Greener Together, encouraging and empowering staff to take action, and provide opportunities for learning and development.	Ongoing	Delivery		The newly launched Greener Together Programme aims to make the council a greener organisation by involving all staff, those we share our buildings with, and suppliers. Change to timescale to reflect ongoing commitment to engage staff on net zero.
Workstream: Out of Scope Emissions					

AS1.1	Improve data collection, understanding and reporting of out of scope emissions (e.g. wider scope 3 emissions) to inform appropriate actions the council can take to support their reduction	Ongoing	Delivery		This action remains ongoing due to the complexity in measuring and monitoring many out of scope emissions, however the council continue to work to understand its wider scope 3 emissions impact – for example 'working from home' emissions analysis using government conversion factors.
AS1.2	Work towards providing a portfolio of low carbon leased assets (e.g. renewable installations and improved energy efficiency)	Ongoing	Delivery		This is part of an ongoing programme of work.
AS1.3	Work with tenants to reduce the carbon footprint of leased assets (e.g. follow the council's net zero principles and behaviours)	Ongoing	Discovery		To be progressed
AS1.4	Support the shift of council investments towards clean, green and sustainable portfolios to support the low carbon economy	Ongoing	Delivery		The council has facilitated Section 106 developer contributions to fund the development of 2 carbon neutral schools within the county, alongside launched its £2 million fund for carbon reduction across the council's own operations. Additionally, the Invest in Leicestershire Programme, is funding the development of Quorn Solar Farm.
AS1.5	Encourage and support staff where possible to commute to work by a low carbon method of transport (e.g. active travel, public transport, EV vehicles and charge points)	Ongoing	Delivery		Various projects are underway to support this, including: provision of 23 EV chargepoints across council sites, Gold Level Cycle Friendly Employer: providing bike loans, Dr Bike events, promoting Betterpoints and improvements to the Cycle to Work scheme. The Councils salary sacrifice scheme makes EV's more affordable for staff and supports this choice of vehicle for commuting.
AS1.6	Encourage smarter and more efficient working practices across the council e.g. hybrid working, meeting/site visit planning, virtual meetings	Ongoing	Completed		The council encourages staff to work flexibly, offering a range of workplaces and technologies to best meet service and customer needs, alongside supporting wellbeing - implemented through the Ways of Working Programme.
Workstream: Performance & Monitoring					
PM1.1	Monitor and publish an annual greenhouse gas report for the council's own operational emissions and progress towards net zero 2030	Ongoing	Completed		Completed for 2022-23 financial year.
PM1.2	Conduct an annual review of the Carbon Reduction Programme action plan – to include new, updated and completed actions	Ongoing	Completed		Completed for 2022-23 financial year.
PM1.3	Review the requirements and prepare to report to the Carbon Disclosure Project	Ongoing	Completed		Successful submission during summer 2023, the outcome of which was released in November giving LCC a score of B.

Appendix E: 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan update

Transport

Updates to this sheet are shown in red with original text as 'stricken text'

Key:

Current Project Stage

- In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
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RAG rating

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Action ID	Objective	Action	LIC Role	Who may be involved	Timeline	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Sustainability Score	Project stage	RAG	December 2023 Update
Policy and Strategy											
T1	A0	Develop a vision and strategy for decarbonised transport for Leicestershire in the new Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4).	Lead	Transport Partners Business Residents	S	M	4/10	18	Design		The Council is developing Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4), gathering evidence and planning initial engagement. Carbon savings are now classified as medium, recognising the county's rural nature and challenges including car use, especially given the Government's current emphasis on road travel and limited support for electric vehicles.
T2	A0	Continue to engage with the public and stakeholders to get a better understanding of their needs and aspirations regarding regarding transport improvements and infrastructure opportunities.	Lead	Transport Partners Business Residents	S	L	M	18	Delivery		The Transport Strategy & Policy Team has ongoing dialogue with the public and stakeholders to help shape transport policy for Leicestershire.
T3	A0	Work with others to investigate models and trials to quantify the carbon impact of policy decisions and scheme design.	Ask	Midlands Connect MMA	S, I, M	L	L	7.5	Design		The Transport Strategy & Policy Team has ongoing dialogue with partners such as Midlands Connect to support this action.
T4	A0	Identify opportunities for research into transport technology and local development projects.	Ask	Universities Enterprise Cities LLEP Midlands Connect	M, L	H	H	6.5	Design		MMA's partnership with Leicestershire and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LEEP), Farnborough, Midlands Red Zero Hub, and Midlands Connect is advancing, with identification of various projects.
T5	A0	Support planning policies for development that reduce the need to travel for essential services and promote walking, cycling and public transport.	Ask	Diaries	M	L	H	18	Delivery		The Council reviews new development plans and provides travel packs with information on walking, cycling and car sharing to new residents/employees, aligning with planning obligations.
T6	A0	Revise the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide to incorporate environmental and net zero carbon objectives sustainability .	Lead	Designers Diaries	M	L	M	12	Design		Material pallets are being developed that integrate environmental, sustainability and carbon criteria. The delivery approach for green infrastructure in the Leicesters Highway Design Guide is also being reviewed.
T7	A0	National government policy and England funding allocations for support the delivery of capital schemes and promotional activity to decarbonise transport and to identify its role.	Influence	Leicestershire City LLEP Midlands Connect Transport for East Midlands ASSET	S	L	H	17	Delivery		Initiatives in progress for both design and delivery.
Action cost and reducing mileage											
T8	1, 2	Implement the actions identified in Deliver to Cycling and Walking Strategy, in line with national policy and funding, to enable Leicestershire to become a county where walking and cycling are safe, accessible and obvious choices for short journeys and a natural part of longer journeys.	Lead	Diaries Leicestershire City Designers Public transport providers	S	H	H	8	Delivery		Initiatives in progress for both design and delivery, contingent on funding. The Cycling and Walking Strategy action plan update can be found here .
T9	1, 2	Identify and build key walking and cycling infrastructure in line with national policy and funding.	Lead	Diaries	S	H	M	6	Design		Initiatives in progress where possible, however, contingent on funding.
T10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Continue to deliver sustainable travel planning advice and support to businesses and residents through the Choose How You Move campaigns.	Lead	Business Diaries Health partners Residents Leicestershire City Schools	S	M	M	12	Delivery		The Council has been conducting behavioural change campaigns, with a branding refresh planned. The Schools Street campaign is active and encouraging low carbon methods of transport for the school run such as walking and using scooters.
T11	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Work with local employers to encourage remote and flexible working to reduce the need for business travel and commuting.	Ask	Business Diaries Health partners LLEP	M	L	L	8	Delivery		The Council has been working with partners to aid businesses in flexible working policies and offering alternative transport options such as e-bikes and bus vouchers.
T12	A0	Work with partners to promote sustainable travel and transport choices with their staff, customers, suppliers, residents and service users.	Ask	All partners Business LLEP	M	M	M	8	Delivery		There is continuous collaboration with partners regarding sustainable transport through events, travel planning, and general promotion via social media and local media.
T13	3	Work with local employers to develop shared office space and work hubs.	Ask	Business Diaries	M, L	H	M	5	Discovery		Initiatives in progress are expected to move forward in coming phases.
T14	3	Encourage businesses to educate drivers in fuel efficient driving and other fuel efficiency strategies such as route planning, vehicle maintenance etc.	Ask	LLEP Energy Saving Trust Business	M	M	M	8	Delivery		The Council aids journey planning through the 'Choose How You Move' website.
Public Transport											
T15	2, 4	Improve public transport through the delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan for Leicestershire in line with national policy and funding.	Lead	Public Transport providers	S	H	M/N	7.5	Design		The Council has a target to ensure all buses used on the Leicestershire registered local bus network will meet Euro 6 standards by March 2025.
T16	2, 4	Trial modern IT enabled, dynamically created Demand Responsive Transport service to improve passenger transport offer in rural communities, improving rural mobility.	Lead	Residents Public Transport providers	M	H	M	4	Delivery		Roi Connect pilot for rural Leicestershire was launched October 2022 allowing residents to book journeys via an app or call centre.
T17	2, 4	Subject to appropriate regulation, facilitate new rail services and other rail improvements (e.g. electrification), including exploring schemes such as the Northern Line.	Ask	DfT Diaries Neighbouring Authorities LLEP Midlands Connect Transport for East Midlands Great British Rail	M	H	H	6	MMA - Delivery baseline - Design Network North - Discovery		The Council has actively supported Midland Main Line electrification for lower carbon trains. A business case for hushon line Passenger services to provide further alternatives for car travel is also being developed. LLEP working closely with partners such as Midlands Connect on rail schemes that are emerging following the recent Network North announcement.

T18	5	Develop a strategy for increasing the uptake of ultra-low-emission electric vehicles infrastructure.	Lead	Midlands Connect Business Residents Districts	S	M	H	18	Design	The Council is adopting an EV Strategy by late summer 2024, supported by Local Electronic Vehicle Infrastructure Funding (LEVI).
T19	5, 6	Work with others to plan for ultra low emission vehicles and alternative fuelling infrastructure at a regional level.	Ask	Midlands Connect Neighbouring authorities Districts	S/M	H	M	5	Discovery	The Council continues to deliver the LEVI funded projects to support electric vehicle use and infrastructure. Also supportive of the Midlands Connect work into alternative fuelling.
T20	5	Develop and adopt policy to support the uptake of electric vehicles and highway planning policy to promote the deployment of charging infrastructure.	Lead	Districts	S	L	M	18	Design	This work is in development as part of the Leicestershire Highways Design Guide and electric vehicle infrastructure strategy.
T21	5	Collect and collate information on demand for public charging in Leicestershire from residents.	Lead	Districts Residents Business	S	L	L	9	Delivery	This work is underway - a countywide electric vehicle survey was launched in October 2023.
T22	5	Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing c. 500 on street charge points and seek opportunities to secure further LEVI funding to install further public charging points across the county.	Ask	Midlands Connect Neighbouring Authorities Districts Residents Business WFO	S	M	M	12	Delivery	There has been ongoing collaboration with Midlands Connect and Local Authorities to identify ChargePoint locations and procure operators as part of the LEVI project.
T23	5	Increase public charge point infrastructure at Leicestershire County Council sites e.g. country parks.	Lead	District Councils Energy Saving Trust	Mid	M	L	6	Discovery	Current fleet transition work will guide new charging point locations. The LEVI project will also support securing providers for charge point infrastructure.
T24	5	Deliver the FLEX-O project to develop a business case for charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLP	S	H	M	6	Delivery	A plan is in development to install an EV charging hub in each district. Tilton car club has been launched with plans for four more in development.
T25	5	Work with partners to consider options for joint procurement of low emission vehicles and refuelling infrastructure.	Ask	Districts Health partners Energy Saving Trust	Mid	H	H	9	Discovery	Fleet vehicles joint procurement project is in discovery. This aligns with waste management plans for new vehicles, but the timeline has been adjusted.
T26	5	National investment in the electricity supply network to reduce the cost of connections to the grid linked to electric vehicle charge point infrastructure.	Influence	WFO Ofgem ADNPT Districts	S	L	L	9	Delivery	LCC actively participates in the National Grid Electricity Future series ensuring county representation. Ofgem's creation of new Regional Energy Planning roles will support local energy planning, with the Distribution Network Operator covering upgrades from April 2023.
T27	5	Investigate opportunities to provide incentives for green number plate vehicles. (could this be merged with T18/T19)	Ask	Districts	M	M	L	6	Discovery	Scheduled for further action at a later point.
T28	5	National framework for charge point suppliers to provide consistent, simple payment options and support interoperability across networks.	Influence	ADNPT Government Business - charge point operators	S	L	M	6	Design	The Government's October 2023 legislation guarantees transparent and comparable prices for consumers using charge points. A significant portion of new charge points will be contactless. It will also ensure providers open up their data so drivers can easily find an available chargepoint.
T29	5	Investigate and support opportunities to deploy EV car clubs in Leicestershire.	Ask	Districts Local Councils HGV Residents	S	H	M	6	Delivery	Tilton on the Hill Electric Car Club was launched in August 2023 with plans for 4 more in development. This initiative is being supported by local experts Green Fox Community Energy.
Freight										
T30	6	Investigate opportunities for reducing the impact of long-haul freight road mileage such as shift to rail freight.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLP	M/L	M	LM/H	8	Discovery	LCC has supported Midlands Connect on rail and HGV alternative fuels. Carbon savings have been changed from medium to high as Leicestershire is a through route for much road freight, therefore transfer to rail/alternative fuels would create a big reduction in linked county emissions.
T31	5, 6	Investigate opportunities for low emission alternatives for freight and logistics.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLP	M/L	M	L	8	Discovery	EMA's partnership with Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, Freeport, Midlands Net Zero Hub, and Midlands Connect is advancing, with identification of various projects.
T32	5, 6	Support national investment and policy to enable the transition of freight movements to low carbon alternatives with less impact on the environment, including through a new Freight Energy Forum.	Influence	LLP Midlands Connect Midlands Net Zero Hub	S/M	L	H	22.5	Delivery	LCC persistently lobbies for better rail freight links post HS2 cancellation. The East Midlands Freeport focuses on airport projects including increasing rail freight capacity, and exploring East Midlands Airport decarbonisation. There is also ongoing investigations with regional partners into hydrogen use in HGVs.
T33	5, 6	Work with others in the H2GV project to develop a business case for use of Hydrogen in HGVs, apply for funding to pilot the project, disseminate knowledge and seek to develop local demand and supply chains.	Ask	H2GV/Midlands project group	S/M	H	H	7.5	Discovery	H2GV/Midlands funding bid was unsuccessful; there is potential for future development linked to two prior actions T31 and T32.
T34	1, 2, 5, 6	Investigate opportunities for reducing the impact of local delivery hubs and alternative 'last mile' delivery e.g. cargo bikes.	Ask	Local Councils District Councils Leicester City Council LLP	M / L	M	L	8	Discovery	Potential pilot project being considered, lead partner yet to be identified.

Buildings and Energy

Updates to this sheet are shown in red with original text in strikethrough

Key:
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 - In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
 - In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)
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RAG rating
 - Green - action delivery on track/to agreed timelines (may be agreed to start at a later date)
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Action ID	Objectives	Action	LCR Role	Who may be involved	Timescale	Cost to Implementation	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project stage	RAG	December 2023 Update
Engagement											
B1	1, 2, 3	Provide information and materials to educate and engage residents in behaviour change, energy efficiency, low carbon sources of heating and renewable energy	Lead	Low carbon Industry Government Cheshire	S	L	M	18	Design	Orange	Leicestershire's Warm Home service is launching a Home Energy Retrofit Offer (HERO) project, funded by Midlands Heat Zero Hub, to offer personalised energy and retrofit advice, targeting hard-to-reach individuals and properties, starting winter 2023-2024.
B2	1, 2, 3	Continue to provide information, advice and signposting to households at risk of fuel poverty through First Contact Plus and Warm Homes Teams	Lead	Cheshire Midlands Heat Zero Hub	S	L	L	9	Delivery	Green	The Warm Homes service continues its ongoing commitment, delivering projects that enhance energy efficiency locally. Over the past three years, projects like the £2.5m Sustainable Warmth Competition Funding, benefiting 250 households have been delivered. The ongoing £6m Home Upgrade Grant Funding aims to improve off-gas households EPC ratings by an average of 2 bands by March 2025. These efforts have significantly increased homes meeting or exceeding band C, rising from 29% in June 2019 to 53% in June 2023. The Warm Homes service is currently working to develop a county-wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to national Energy Company Obligation Funding (through to March 2024) and the Great British Insulation Scheme to low income households.
B3	1, 3, 6	Engage with commercial building owners to share best practice on building retrofit and low carbon solutions including energy storage and renewables	Lead	Low carbon Industry Midlands Heat Zero Hub Government	S/M	L	M	15	Discovery	Orange	The County Council is advancing work on retrofitting its buildings with low-carbon solutions, building internal expertise in this area.
B4	1, 3	Continue to deliver and expand smart metering programmes and introduce opportunities for new smart structures which support flexible energy solutions	Influence	www.DIGITAL Energy Companies	S	L	M	18	Discovery	Orange	In response to evolving Government positions, Leicestershire County Council remains proactive. In 2023 several energy providers faced flux for missing smart meter installation targets. The Government's objective is to achieve 80% smart meter coverage in homes by the end of 2025.
Retrofit											
B5	1, 3, 6	Apply for future funding to support building retrofit for homes and other buildings	Lead	Cheshire Midlands Heat Zero Hub	M	L	H	18	Delivery	Green	The Warm Homes Team secure funding, ensuring continued support for energy efficient initiatives - see actions B1 and B2 above.
B6	1, 3, 6	Improve and extend the funding programmes for clean heat and energy efficiency	Influence	www.DIGITAL	S	L	H	27	Discovery	Orange	The County Council remains responsive to Government changes, recently adapting to the gas boiler ban shift and plans to secure increased grants for air source heat pumps.
B7	1, 3, 6	Deliver the Sustainable Warmth programme for Leicestershire to increase the energy performance of homes across the county, reducing emissions and fuel poverty	Lead	Cheshire Midlands Heat Zero Hub	S	L	M	18	Completed	Green	The Warm Homes Team has successfully delivered £2.5m of Sustainable Warmth Competition Funding to enhance energy efficiency in 250 households. Leveraging Better Care Fund support from district councils efficiently reduced spending risks and maximised the main grant's impact. The expanded from off-gas properties allocation facilitated additional delivery to on-gas properties. The Home Upgrade Grant now offers further support to non mains gas heated homes, utilising a mapping tool for targeted outreach in deprived areas and to households with low EPC ratings.
B8	1, 3, 6	Secure funding to deliver retrofit programmes to social housing, increasing the energy performance of homes across the county and reducing emissions	Ask	Cheshire Social Housing Providers	S	L	M	18	Delivery	Green	The Green Living Leicestershire collaboration has secured £6.6m for the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2, targeting non-mains gas heated homes until March 2025.
B9	2	Promote ECO funding, including utilisation of UK Flex mechanism	Ask	Cheshire	S	L	M	18	Design	Orange	The Warm Homes service aims to improve access to national funding through a county-wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism, widening access to National Energy Company Obligation Funding and the Great British Insulation Scheme for low-income households, to be implemented from winter 2023/24.
B10	2	Enforce private rented and non-domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards regulations	Ask	Cheshire	S	M	M	12	Design	Green	Continual progress is noted.
B11	3	Promote and encourage the uptake of government incentives for low carbon technologies including the Renewable Heat Incentive, Heat Pump Incentive	Lead	Government Residents Cheshire	S	L	M	18	Delivery	Green	The Warm Homes service connects residents to various initiatives, offering advice on energy efficiency, grants and self-finance options. It is recognised that more could be done to directly engage households and this is the aim of the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator scheme which is in development (previously in action B1). In addition, the service has launched a newsletter to provide updates on energy policy and initiative supporting energy efficiency improvements.
B12	2, 3	Deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation of heat projects to a range of buildings including schools and education, health sector, public sector and business premises	Ask	Cheshire LEAP Authorities (HCS)	S/M/A	H	H	7.5	Discovery	Orange	District councils are developing plans for their buildings, focusing on energy efficiency measures. Work has not started in this area as yet, timeframe moved to M/A due to limited resources available at present.
B13	1, 3, 4, 6	Explore opportunities for the hydrogen replacement programme to support net zero targets through retrofit, low carbon development, increased renewable energy generation and decarbonisation flagship developments	Lead	Left blank in published action plan	M	H	M	4	Discovery	Orange	To be progressed - medium term timeframe.
B14	2	Develop a new programme of business support for energy efficiency and carbon reduction to build on the success of Green Rate and Zebra pilot	Ask	Leicestershire City Council LEAP (HCS) Cheshire	S	M	H	18	Discovery	Orange	The Pathfinder places project (launching in February 2024) will build on existing initiatives, including an advisory service for businesses.
B15	2	Work collaboratively to deliver efficiencies or fuel switching to industrial processes	Ask	Business Universities	M / L	H	H	4.5	Discovery	Orange	To be progressed - changed action to long term. The East Midlands Hydrogen Group is exploring hydrogen technology for significant energy users with the potential for collaborative work across partner organisations.
B16	2, 3	Improve the understanding of energy efficiency in the buildings housing stock available in Leicestershire to support energy improvements	Ask	Cheshire	S/M	M	L	6	Design	Green	District councils await new Government information for the development of a housing stock condition survey tool, emphasising the importance of EPC data.
B17	1, 3, 4, 6	Provide support to develop retrofit and renewable energy skills chains and skills	Influence	www.DIGITAL	S / M	L	L	7.5	Discovery	Orange	Regional funding was launched in December to support a 'net zero building retrofit skills' pilot programme. LCC's Economic Development Team are developing a questionnaire to go out to employers to investigate what they want in terms of retrofit skills.
Policy and Strategy											
B18	1, 6	Implement national planning policy and building standards that support net zero, including a high level of energy efficiency and renewable energy developments	Influence	DLHC	S/M	L	H	27	Design	Orange	The County Council continues to influence and seek alignment with national planning policy

019	4, 6	Develop consistent local planning policies to support the net zero transition using an evidenced-based approach to infrastructure, buildings and homes (including embodied carbon in new builds).	Ask	Districts Leicestershire City LLP	S / M	M	H	15	Design	The County Council continues to seek to influence and comment on Local Plan policies as they progress.
020	4, 6	Develop a vision and key principles for green growth and sustainable development in Leicestershire. Work with partners and the County Planning Authority to adopt and integrate the vision into policies to protect and enhance the environment and support net zero.	Lead	Districts Leicestershire City LLP	S	M	L	6	Discovery	Initiatives are planned to be progressed through various teams, from influencing national planning policy to reviewing The Strategic Growth Plan.
021	4, 6	Review and update the Strategic Growth Plan to ensure it supports the transition to net zero carbon.	Ask	Districts Leicestershire City LLP	S/M	M/H	L/H	6	Discovery	Reviews to updates to The Strategic Growth Plan will involve discussions and agreements with all partners.
022	2, 6	Explore opportunities for developer contributions to support net zero infrastructure and carbon reduction projects in the context of the County Council Planning Obligations Policy.	Lead	Districts	S	M	M	12	Discovery	District Councils guide developers to consider the environment in their developments including net-zero targets, carbon reduction and Biodiversity Net Gain. Leicestershire County Council's Planning Obligations Policy ensures comprehensive funds for sustainable, carbon neutral infrastructure, particularly new schools. This policy (which is under review) targets maximum utilization of the bus pass/voucher scheme to promote mode shift.
023	All	Investigate options for developing a Local Area Energy Plan including decarbonised heating and low carbon energy, working with key partners.	Lead	Unwired Leicestershire City Public Sector Universities Business Hubs	S	H	H	9	Design	The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support this initiative.
024	3, 5, 6	Undertake research including heat mapping and identification of potential locations for energy projects, and secure funding to test innovative technologies to reduce carbon.	Ask	Universities Government Midlands Net Zero Hub	S / M	M	M	10	Design	The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support local area energy planning.
025	3	Provide support with identifying potential locations for low carbon heat networks across the county.	Influence	HNDU	S / M	M	L	5	Design	The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support local area energy planning.
026	2, 3	Review the MNZD commissioned District Heating findings and consider opportunities for delivery in Leicestershire.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub	M	M	M	8	Design	A study launched by the Council explores links between waste heat and horticulture, with next steps currently being drafted.
027	3	Explore opportunities and plan for hydrogen infrastructure.	Ask	Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub LLP EBA	M / L	M	L	9	Discovery	Local hydrogen infrastructure development is still in its infancy - further work needed to consider this at a regional level.
028	All	Continue to support the Local Electricity Bill. UPDATE	Influence	Parliament	S	L	L	9	Discovery	The Energy Act recently received Royal Assent - LCC will review this and its influence on Leicestershire's Net Zero targets.
029	2, 3, 6	Provide an evidence base for new business models and financing options for low carbon technologies including heat as a service models.	Influence	4666 DESNZ	S / M	L	L	7.5	Discovery	To be progressed
030	All	Rebalance environmental levies between electricity and gas bills.	Influence	OFGEM	S	L	L	9	Discovery	To be progressed
031	All	Consider carbon pricing and its role in achieving net zero.	Influence	4666 DESNZ OFGEM LGA	S / M	L	L	7.5	Design	Leicestershire County Council has integrated a carbon price into business rates and decisions for the 2030 Carbon Reduction Programme, signing with Government fleets.
032	All	Deliver the Air Quality Partnership Action Plan to support carbon reduction.	Ask	Air Quality Partnership National Highway	S	M	L	6	Design	The Air Quality Partnership is active - further work will be progressed to align its action plan to support carbon reduction.
Renewable Energy and Infrastructure										
033	6	Work collaboratively to increase renewable energy generation and storage through innovative business models, sourcing of investment and technical solutions.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub LLP Districts Investors Universities	S / M	H	H	7.5	Design	Leicestershire County Council's Solar Wind feasibility study advances to phase 2, examining three sites in detail for potential investment. This action will also be supported by the work of the Pathfinder Places project.
034	6	Deliver the Solar Together Leicestershire group buying project to support households to install solar photovoltaics and battery storage.	Ask	Districts i-Charger	S	L	M	27	Delivery	Solar Together 2022 concludes with 460 installations, saving 7,385 tCO2e at prices 27% lower than typical market costs. Solar Together 2023-24 is underway through Green Living Leicestershire.
035	2, 3, 6	Provide support for community energy including investment and business models.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub LLP Government Investors	S / M	L	M	15	Design	Funding to support Community Energy establishment and development is included in the Pathfinder funding, commencing work from February 2024.
036	5	Complete research to support investment in the electricity network in Leicestershire to deliver the capacity required for electrification of heat, transport and connection of generation assets.	Ask	4666 NOZD National Grid Ofgem	M / L	L	L	4.5	Discovery	Leicestershire County Council actively participates in the National Grid Electricity Futures series, ensuring county representation and contributing to future planning.
037	5, 6	Promote and incentivise flexible energy and demand side management and facilitate increased energy storage capacity.	Ask	4666 NOZD National Grid Ofgem	L	L	M	6	Discovery	Octopus Energy offers saver sessions for customers to trial flexible energy use in the home. Battery Box has approached the County Council, requesting the use of their land for battery storage options, currently under consideration.
038	5, 6	Create fair and consistent markets and regulatory frameworks for low carbon generation and storage.	Influence	4666 DESNZ OFGEM	M	L	H	18	Discovery	Leicestershire County Council commits to supporting consultation exercises for improved competition in renewables as they arise.

Business and Economy

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Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timeline	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project Status	RAG	December 2023 Update
Policy and Strategy											
E1	1, 2, 4, 6	Deliver the Economic Growth Strategy and ensure economic plans and programmes support the net zero transition.	Adv	LLEP Leicester City Universities Chamber	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery	Green	Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) is actively implementing the Innovation strand, including initiatives like the Zellar platform offering 100 free licenses to businesses. Through this 134 tonnes of CO2e have been saved and £15.1k in energy costs.
E2	1, 2, 4	Develop a Digital Strategy and consider the role of digital technology and skills in delivering net zero targets, including smart metering, artificial intelligence, weather modelling, smart grids, 5G rollout, enabling flexible working solutions etc.	Lead	LLEP	S	L	M	10	Design	Green	The County Council has developed a Digital Strategy pending updated mapping of 'hot spots'. This strategy awaits political approval and an associated action plan.
E3	1, 2, 4	Develop an inward Investment Strategy which considers low carbon goods and services.	Lead	Leicester City LLEP	S	L	L	9	Discovery	Orange	To be progressed
E4	1, 2, 4	Develop the Freeport around East Midlands Airport integrating low carbon solutions and pilots.	Lead	Freeport partners	M	L	L	6	Delivery	Green	The East Midlands Airport Green Futures Initiative has been launched, featuring projects to decarbonise the airport and surrounding area. Notably, the airport now has two net-zero buildings.
E5	2, 4	Develop a pipeline of projects to enable raising of capital and innovative investment models, linking to development of the Net Zero Funding Strategy and specific opportunities such as the Leveling Up agenda and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	Lead	Districts LLEP	S/M	L	M	15	Delivery	Green	LCC's Economic Growth Team collaborates with districts to influence the use of The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Some districts incorporate green initiatives with Rural Prosperity Fund grants. Hinckley and Bosworth DC has allocated funding for green initiatives and plans are underway.
E6	4	Provide consistent policy which stimulates growth in the low carbon goods and services sector.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6	Discovery	Orange	Leicestershire County Council is committed to responding to government consultations when they arise.
Business Support											
E7	1	Provide support to businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and develop low carbon goods and services through the Growth Hub provision.	Adv	LLEP Growth Hub Leicester City Chamber Business	S/M	H	H	7.5	Design	Green	The Growth Hub is under review amid the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership transition. Although grants are unavailable, the Growth Hub is promoting the UKSPF funded Leicestershire Business Advice Service (LBAS). Ongoing webinars and programmes like 'Made Smarter' support innovation, and some Leicestershire companies have been successful at this. The successful Pathfinder Places bid will also provide support to businesses through a new advisory service.
E8	1	Explore opportunities for business training, education and events.	Adv	Chamber/ Growth Hub LLEP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Design	Green	East Midlands Chamber hosts various green events, while a green skills document and action plan produced by Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and Leicestershire County Council are awaiting approval.
E9	1	Evaluate the Zellar platform pilot and determine next steps.	Adv	LLEP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery	Green	A successful pilot project assists businesses in calculating their Carbon Footprint, with upcoming steps focused on encouraging businesses to utilise platforms like Zellar for digital assistance.
E10	1, 2, 4, 6	Support businesses to reduce costs and mitigate against energy price rises, and ensure continued growth and job creation within the renewable energy sector, through generation of on site renewable energy and development of joint ventures for large scale local energy projects.	Adv	Midlands Net Zero Hub Government	M	H	H	6	Design	Green	Partners are progressing this work and elements will be supported by the Advisory Service which will be developed as part of the Pathfinder Places project.
E11	1	Support landowners and land managers to access economic support including the Environmental Land Management Scheme, and Biodiversity Net Gain opportunities.	Lead	LPA's LLEP RNG LLEP	M	M	M	8	Design	Orange	Leicestershire County Council has been raising awareness of potential Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) sites for credits when enquiries come in, and supporting queries on specific planning applications. This work will be progressed further at a later date.
E12	1, 5	Promote green tourism and green business opportunities in the county and review the tourism growth plan to support net zero ambitions and opportunities.	Lead		S/M	M	M	10	Design	Green	The Council has been collaborating with the National Forest to explore a countryside scheme for businesses. Funding is secured to deliver a low-carbon toolkit for businesses in 2023-24.
E13	1, 4	Promote best practice through case studies and communications.	Lead	LLEP	M	L	L	8	Delivery	Green	Continuous efforts are made by LCC and the LLEP through weekly e-bulletins, the Growth Hub and social media channels.
E14	1, 2	Consider options for low carbon business to business mentoring, peer support and knowledge share.	Adv	LLEP Leicester City Districts Chamber	M	M	L	2	Design	Green	The LLEP is progressing work in this area including webinars and events for businesses to collaborate.
E15	2	Enable innovation through innovation pilots and dissemination of knowledge.	Influence	RIS Innovate UK ETN	S	M	L	6	Delivery	Green	The Leicestershire Innovation Festival 2023, the largest to date, showcased 20 events. The upcoming Feb 2024 edition will focus on supporting business to reduce carbon emissions.

626	1	Work with others to gather evidence on the large greenhouse gas emitters in Leicestershire.	Ask	LEEP University Leicester City	S	M	M	12	Delivery		The LEEP has supported a feasibility study examining carbon emissions around the airport and worked with the East Midlands Freepoint to identify opportunities to reduce carbon - a baseline report will be shared in December 2023. Further studies, in collaboration with A study with Charnwood Enterprise Zone aims identify carbon emissions in this area and secure funding for emissions mitigation and energy-efficient building improvements.
627	2	Seek opportunities to increase SME incubation, business development provision and consider how to optimise links between R&D funding and investment in industry to attract venture capital, start-up entrepreneurs and investors to grow a larger and dynamic start-up community.	Ask	DistRICTS LEEP	L	M	L	2	Delivery		LEEP invested £54m under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in high-profile projects, forging links between research and development funding and industry investment. Projects included collaborations with Universities in the county.
Supply Chains											
628	1	Work with supply chains to reduce carbon and increase the offering of low carbon goods and services.	Ask	Districts University Business	S/M	M	H	15	Discovery		Work to be progressed at a later point, but early discussions being held by District partners.
629	All	Consider how council investments can support the net zero transition, including development of a Net Zero Climate Strategy.	Lead	Leicestershire LEP Council/Board	S	L	M	18	Delivery		Leicestershire County Council has completed the Net Zero Climate Strategy, next steps are being considered.
630	2	Promote circular economy principles to industry to decouple economic growth from the consumption of finite resources.	Ask	LEEP University	M/L	M	M	6	Delivery		LEEP Growth Hub have begun to hold and partner in sustainability for business events. In addition the LEEP has been working with partners such as LCC and Oxford University to explore in more detail the circular economy through such projects as 'Bean Meal'.
631	3, 4	Support the delivery of zero carbon new builds and energy efficiency retrofit by building the supply chain for local skilled labour, low carbon products and retrofit skills, including securing funding for delivery programmes and considering social value requirements in procurement exercises.	Lead	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LEEP Developer Business	S/M	L	M	15	Delivery		The Economic Growth Team collaborates with LEEP, Districts, and City on retrofit initiatives. Initiative begins with upskilling council staff and involve partnerships with colleges and training providers to identify courses and stimulate employer demand.
632	2	Support industrial innovation in renewable energy technology through research and pilots.	Ask	CRIST University	L	H	M	2	Design		Freeport Investment at Loughborough University enhances programmes linked to hydrogen and renewables.
633	4, 5	Consider approaches to maximising natural capital in the county, with economic benefits, including growth in visitor economy, creation of forestry and land management jobs, and sale of carbon credits.	Lead	National Forest, Woodland Trust LWWT Land owners and managers LEEP NNU LEEP	M	M	M	8	Discovery		The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) may identify potential opportunities to maximise natural capital within the county. 'Visit Leicestershire's' sustainable tourism initiatives will boost the green growth of the visitor economy. The National Forest is also developing plans to support sustainable tourism.
634	1, 2, 4	Support the delivery of low carbon transport by promoting and expanding existing advanced manufacturing facilities and research organisations.	Ask	Industry Business University	L	M	M	4	Delivery		Leicestershire County Council collaborates with MIRA Enterprise Zone to develop low-carbon transport options.
635	2, 6	Build the hydrogen value chain in the county including hydrogen skills, production, distribution and demand, particularly within the logistics sector, including participation in the Huber project, launch of the Inquest hydrogen skills tool and pilot on the success of existing projects such as.	Ask	HSA University Midlands Net Zero Hub Midlands Connect	S/M	M	M	10	Discovery		East Midlands hydrogen group, recently formed, will spearhead regional activities.
636	6	Work with partners to investigate and support the delivery of scalable carbon capture and storage technologies.	Ask	University Districts Business Energy Companies	M	H	M	4	Discovery		Current activities align with the mitigation hierarchy. Leicestershire County Council is not currently involved in carbon capture and storage development but actively monitor national progress in this field.
637	1, 2, 4	Use of Enterprise Zones to support low carbon sector industry and business clusters and increase R&D capacity in the county through securing investment and delivery of pilot projects.	Ask	LEEP University	L	H	L	5	Design		Leicestershire County Council collaborates with Charnwood Campus Enterprise Zone and Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park to boost research and development capacity. Projects currently in progress.
638	1, 2	Incentivise the low carbon economy through financial mechanisms such as VAT and other tax relief, enhanced capital allowances etc.	Influence	Government	S	L	M	18	Delivery		LEEP, through the broader Local Enterprise Partnership network, uses its influence to advocate for this matter with the Government.
Skills											
639	3	Develop a skills strategy, addressing the skills shortages and weaknesses in training provision identified in the Midlands Energy Hub Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services Market insight study, and promoting innovation and diversity in training and delivery.	Ask	LEEP University FE Colleges	S	M	M	12	Design		LEEP and Leicestershire County Council collaboratively produced a Green Skills Document with a proposed action plan. Projects are in the design stage.
640	3	Work with partners to raise awareness of green jobs with school age children.	Ask	LEEP Green Hub Business	M	L	L	6	Delivery		LEEP develops materials for the Careers and Enterprise Company. Leicestershire County Council supports the promotion within the County Council and across the county.
641	3	Work with partners to promote green courses and increase availability of different courses.	Ask	FE Colleges	M	L	L	6	Design		Leicestershire County Council actively participates in the development of Department of Education funded Green Skills Bootcamps for the area. This also links with the Green Skills Document (Action E29).
642	3, 4	Continue to provide funding for skills and product development and long-term programmes of delivery.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council actively prepares for potential external funding opportunities to support these activities.

Resources and Waste

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Waste											
R1	5, 2	Complete the review and adoption of Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy	Ask	Districts	M	H	H	4	Complete	Green	Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy was adopted in April 2023
R2	5, 2	Develop an action plan to deliver the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy	Ask	Districts	M	M	L	4	Delivery	Green	A comprehensive Action Plan to guide our initiatives has been developed.
R3	ADDITION	Introduce food waste collection subject to a conditional requirement by R1 March 2024 as per Government policy 'Simpler Recycling' , subject to a conditional requirement for funding and resources including procurement of assets to improve capacity to treat collected food waste therefore contributing to carbon emissions reduction	Ask	Leicestershire Waste Partnership Districts	L	H	M	2	Discovery	Orange	Leicestershire County Council is currently waiting for the Government to confirm funding and timelines.
R4	5, 2	Continue to support residents to reduce food waste through national campaigns such as "Love Food Hate Waste"	Lead	Districts Government VCs	S	M	L	4	Delivery	Green	Leicestershire County Council supported Food Waste Action Week, and offered residents the opportunity to take part in a food waste prevention recipe competition. We continue to promote Love Food Hate Waste via social media and deliver training to volunteers to upskill them to deliver food waste prevention messages to residents.
R5	5, 2	Continue to support residents to implement home composting through provision of advice and guidance	Lead	Districts VCs	S	L	L	4	Delivery	Green	Over 500 subsidised home compost bins have been sold during 2022/23, reducing green waste to landfill. The Council has been supporting Compost Awareness Week and providing ongoing assistance via Master Composter Volunteers.
R6	5, 2	Continue to deliver a programme of initiatives to increase reuse and prevent waste from arising	Ask	Districts VCs	M	L	L	4	Delivery	Green	The Council continues to promote reuse initiatives, subsidising classes on repair, and setting up collection points for reusable medical equipment at recycling sites.
R7	5, 2	Continue to encourage residents to recycle right and reduce contamination in kerbside recycling	Lead	Districts	S	L	L	4	Delivery	Green	Our contamination campaign continues, guiding residents on how and what to recycle through diverse advertising channels. The Council actively supports and promotes the national Recycle Week campaign.
R8	5, 2	Continue to deliver a volunteer scheme to support and encourage residents to make positive behavioural changes	Lead		S	L	L	4	Delivery	Green	Leicestershire County Council welcomed and trained new Master Composters, celebrated achievements with Environmental Action Volunteers, and initiated research on volunteering barriers.
Materials											
R9	5	Explore the opportunities for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan to support the move to a circular economy	Lead	Districts Business	S	L	L	4	Delivery	Green	The recent review of the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (LMWLP) has shown that the plan remains flexible in its approach to recycling and re-use and that the policies and strategic objectives will support circular economy principles including waste management and carbon reduction. The LMWLP continues to deliver sustainable minerals and waste development in line with policy.
R10	5	Implement policy which seeks to eliminate single use materials	Influence	Government	S	L	L	4	Delivery	Green	LCC responds to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
R11	5	Support national resource reduction campaigns such as "BeWell" and "Fong for the Foodbox"	Ask	Districts Business	M	L	L	4	Delivery	Green	The Council actively supports relevant national campaigns.
Food											
R12	5	Deliver the Sustainable Food Plan to reduce the carbon impact of food production, distribution and food waste	Ask	Sustainable Food Partnership	S	H	H	4	Discovery	Green	Leicestershire County Council has been leveraging insights from Oxford's 'Beef Meek' project (completed Oct 24) to inform and enhance Leicestershire initiatives.
R13	5	Explore options for local procurement of sustainable food for Local Authority and schools catering to increase demand and circulate supply chains	Lead	Business	M	L	M	12	Design	Orange	A sustainable procurement report has been completed for a project reliant on the Leicestershire Traded Services school meal service continued delivery.
R14	5	Support residents to grow their own food and buy local seasonal produce through the provision of advice and signposting	Ask	Sustainable Food Partnership Districts	S	L	L	4	Design	Green	Leicestershire County Council (LCC) supported efforts to Districts and Boroughs, with messaging through 'Good Food Leicestershire'. School programmes delivered by 'Food For Life' focus on local, seasonal and homegrown produce.
Water											
R15	4	Ensure a sustainable and resilient supply of water through leak reduction, customer education, provision of water efficiency measures, smart metering	Ask	Water Companies	S	L	M	18	Discovery	Orange	Work to be progressed at a later date.
R16	4	Introduce more stringent water efficiency targets in national policy and regulations	Influence	Government	M	L	L	4	Discovery	Green	LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
R17	4	Consider water consumption in local plans including provision for water efficiency metrics in new developments	Ask	Districts	WIP	L	L	7.5	Discovery	Orange	The Leicestershire Planning Officer Forum Initiates efforts to integrate net zero and environment into local plans. Adjusted to long term status pending changes in Local Planning guidance by the Government.
R18	4	Support residents and businesses to reduce water consumption through provision of advice and signposting	Ask	Districts VCs Water companies (e.g. STW/WM)	WIP	L	L	4	Discovery	Orange	This action has been updated to a long term approach due to current resource limitations. Engagement with water companies pending.
R19	4	Introduce water efficiency product labelling	Influence	Government	L	L	L	4	Discovery	Green	LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise

Communities

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Engagement											
C1	A1	Develop a Leicestershire Climate Pact for organisations, businesses and residents to join and pledge action.	Lead	All partners Business Residents	S	L	L	9	Delivery	Green	Launched in February 2023, the Pact has been supported by 27 organisations to date.
C2	A1	Develop an engagement plan to facilitate an ongoing two-way conversation on climate change action to understand and respond to community experience.	Lead	Districts and local councils Health partners Businesses Residents Education Universities	S	L	M	18	Design	Orange	An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This work has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places work and ensure cross activity is aligned.
C3	3, 4	Deliver public and stakeholder engagement that is representative and inclusive to develop and deliver a just transition to net zero with widespread public participation.	Lead	Districts Universities	S	L	L	9	Design	Orange	An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This work has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places work and ensure cross activity is aligned.
C4	3, 4	Explore options for innovative community governance, including a Citizens Panel, Youth Convention and Challenge Group.	Lead	Residents VCS	S	M	L	9	Discovery	Green	This initiative is now part of the Pathfinder Places project. A strand of this project aims to provide opportunities for community governance.
C5	A1	Develop a coordinated and integrated information campaign to help residents make environmentally sustainable choices for their homes, travel and consumption.	Lead	Districts and local councils Health partners Businesses Residents Education Universities	S	L	L	9	Discovery	Orange	Building on the engagement plan development, the Carbon Reduction Team is exploring options for future activities with ongoing research. This work will be dependent on staff resources available to deliver initiatives.
C6	1	Explore opportunities to increase training, education and events, including carbon literacy.	Ask	Districts VCS Education Universities	M	L	L	4	Discovery	Orange	Building on the engagement plan development, the Carbon Reduction Team is exploring options for future activities with ongoing research. This work will be dependent on staff resources available to deliver initiatives.
C7	A1	Provide information and training to the County Council's Environmental Action Volunteers to support net zero.	Lead	MAK	S	L	L	9	Discovery	Orange	While progress is underway, providing appropriate and necessary training to volunteers has faced some challenges, with staff actively working to overcome these hurdles.
C8	4	Integrate net zero into linked consultation and engagement activity to test public attitudes and experience.	Lead		M	L	L	9	Delivery	Green	Leicestershire County Council has secured funding through the Net Zero Innovation Fund to engage disengaged members of the public on Net Zero matters. Ongoing activities use creative techniques like artwork and games.
C9	1, 2, 5	Develop targeted campaigns and opportunities to involve young people in shaping climate action, including working closely with schools.	Lead	Volvo Network LSP Careers Hub Youth Council Children in Care Council Education Youth groups	S	L	L	9	Discovery	Orange	LCC's Carbon Reduction team is currently researching engagement activities, with a particular focus on children and young people. It is planned that work can be delivered in the next financial year but the scale of delivery will be dependent on staff resources available.
C10	A1	Work with Public Health services e.g. Local Area Coordinators, community recovery, green social prescribing, Warm Homes, Road Road (Leicestershire) to maximise the opportunities to promote climate action with co-benefits for health.	Lead	Health partners	S	L	L	9	Discovery	Green	Efforts are underway to align with public health campaigns, with officers in discussion to collaborate on events and literature.
C11	2, 5	Develop tools and guidance to support communities to reduce carbon.	Ask	Universities Districts	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery	Green	The Green Living Leicestershire collaboration worked together to develop the Parish, Town Councils and Local Groups Net Zero toolkit which was launched in July 2023. Further work to promote this is being developed. LCC Communities team are supporting local groups such as the Melton Environmental Network to develop and deliver environmental schemes and projects in their community.
C12	2, 5	Production of national campaigns and toolkits to support consistent messages and promote personal action.	Influence	Government VCS	S	L	L	9	Discovery	Green	LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
Enabling Action											
C13	5	Support community action to reduce carbon through the SHRE Environment Grants programme.	Lead		S	M	M	12	Delivery	Red	The SHRE environment grants scheme will conclude at the end of 2023/24, following a decision by the Council.
C14	5	Explore opportunities for community sector organisations to support on net zero activities.	Lead	VCS	S/M	L	L	7.5	Discovery	Green	Progress on this matter will be continued by via the communities team/ funding manager in 2024/25.
C15	5	Investigate funding opportunities to increase the capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector for net zero in Leicestershire, for example, the National Lottery Climate Action Fund.	Lead	National Lottery	M	L	L	4	Discovery	Green	The Pathfinder Places project will support community energy groups.
C16	1, 2, 5	Enable local Parish and Town councils to act on carbon reduction through information and training.	Ask	Local Councils	S	L	L	9	Delivery	Green	The Parish and Town Councils and Communities Net Zero toolkit was launched in July 2023. Further work to promote this is being developed. The toolkit supports Parish Councils to develop action plans for their Parish.
C17	1, 2, 5	Share best practice case studies of community action and disseminate useful information.	Lead	Districts VCS	M	L	L	9	Delivery	Green	The 'Net Zero Toolkit for Parish, Town Councils and Community Groups' is now published, featuring various case studies of community actions. The Communities Network hosted a net zero series during 2023-24 to share best practice, knowledge and information.
C18	2	Improved product labelling to help consumers identify green / climate friendly options.	Influence	Government	M	L	M	12	Discovery	Green	LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
C19	2	Share information on local businesses to encourage residents to "shop local".	Ask	Districts Growth Hub LSP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery	Green	Ongoing work includes a mapping exercise with the rural partnership of local shops and facilities. The Market Towns Subgroup champions 'shop local' by organising events to boost footfall.
C20	2	Harness the purchasing power of individuals, business and communities to stimulate and grow green supply chains.	Influence	All partners	M	L	M	12	Delivery	Green	Solar Together 2022 has concluded, contributing 1.6MW to renewable energy production in Leicestershire, attracting £4.3 million in investment. The 2023-24 scheme is currently underway.
C21	2	Explore incentive schemes to facilitate behaviour change.	Ask	Districts	M/L	L	L	4.5	Discovery	Green	To be progressed at a future point, medium/long timescales

Nature and Land Use

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N1	AB	Develop a Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire in line with government guidance when available	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest LWWT Neighbouring authorities and Local Councils Leicester City Land owners and managers VCSE Natural England Environment Agency	S/M	M	L	5	Design	Green	Leicestershire County Council is actively working on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) project plan, consolidating data for a comprehensive draft
N2	AB	Publish national guidance and best practice on Nature Recovery Strategies	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9	Delivery	Green	Government guidance has been published on the LCC website. Further guidance will be published/made available as it is released by the government.
N3	1	Complete further research to develop a comprehensive baseline evidence base of the state of nature and carbon storage for Leicestershire	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest LWWT	S/M	M	L	5	Discovery	Green	Leicestershire County Council is advancing research as part of developing the LNRS, ensuring quality dependent on available resources and data.
N4	1	Build on the work of the Leicester and Leicestershire Natural Capital Strategy Assessment to develop opportunity mapping and create a natural capital investment plan to support net zero carbon.	Ask	GLP Districts LWWT National Forest	M/L	M	L	8	Discovery	Orange	The LNRS will shape an opportunity map, considering biodiversity goals. Delays are due to awaiting government updates; Green Futures EMA project and Enterprise zones projects are encouraging biodiversity schemes as a means of reducing emissions and improving biodiversity.
N5	AB	Implement the Action for Nature Delivery Plan and seek to identify carbon storage benefits where appropriate, particularly on the council's own estate.	Lead	Tenants	S	H	M	6	Delivery	Orange	Some progress being made, but being restricted by limited resources and LCC staff capacity issues.
N6	AB	Develop and implement Biodiversity Net Gain policy and approach for Leicestershire.	Lead	Districts	S	M	L		Discovery	Green	LCC's 2023 focus has been on the preparing and expanding the Ecology and Biodiversity Team ready for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) implementation in 2024. External working group discussions begin in early 2024 for a coordinated BNG policy.
N7	AB	Explore opportunities for the council to be a biodiversity and carbon offset provider.	Lead	Lead	S/M	M	L	5	Discovery	Orange	Leicestershire County Council land has been explored to use for BNG offsetting, both in relation to its own developments and for sale to other developers. Initiatives to act as a carbon offset provider are to be explored further at a later date.
N8	1	Bid for funding to develop the evidence base for ecosystem services including carbon sequestration.	Lead	LWWT Districts National Forest	M	L	L	6	Discovery	Green	To be progressed at a future point, medium/long timeframes
N9	2, 3	Restate wet woodlands and other carbon rich habitats on council sites and promote case studies.	Lead		S	H	L	8	Discovery	Orange	To be progressed.
N10	2, 3	Deliver natural flood risk management schemes which support nature and offer carbon storage benefits where appropriate.	Lead	Environment Agency Landowners and Managers	S	H	L	8	Delivery	Green	The Council is implementing flood risk management initiatives such as projects in Beedon on the Hill, along with four additional projects in the pipeline. A bid for natural flood risk management projects on the Mease has been submitted.
N11	4	Promote natural flood risk management to landowners, highlighting the wider benefits for the local area.	Ask	VCSE Environment Agency	M	L	L	6	Design	Orange	LCC Flood Team are working with Trent Rivers Trust and landowners to deliver natural flood risk management works; and promote natural flood risk management and sustainable farming. New webpage developed to support this which will be online in early 2024.
N12	2, 3	Deliver the County Council's tree strategy and commitment to plant 700,000 trees by 2040.	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest Residents	S/M	M	M	30	Delivery	Green	LCC's tree planting initiative has planted over 350,000 trees to date (Dec 2023).
N13	1	Complete the Value of Trees project and consider rollout of toolkits.	Lead	ADAPT	S	L	L	9	Delivery	Green	The value of trees toolkit has been completed and the pilot has been set for this planting season.
N14	1	Continue work to quantify the carbon storage benefits of planted versus naturally regenerated woodland.	Ask	Forestry Research Council	S	M	L	6	Design	Orange	To be progressed.
N15	4	Investigate natural negative emissions processes e.g. biochar.	Ask	Universities	M/L	M	L	8	Discovery	Green	To be progressed at a future point, medium/long timeframes
Land Management and Use											

N16	4	Provide information and support to landowners and tenants wishing to maximise the benefits of land assets for public goods such as biodiversity, carbon reduction and climate resilience.	Ask	NFU Natural England LEP Districts	S/M	L	M	15	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council provides a newsletter to farm tenants which covers support and advice on land assets. UNIS work may spark further activity in this space, dependant on staff capacity.
N17	1	Explore opportunities to gain a better understanding of the carbon and nature benefits of local food procurement and improved land management and how to measure and monitor improvements, particularly on the council's own farms.	Lead	Tenants	S/M	L	L	3.5	Discovery		The Council's report on sustainable procurement for Leicestershire Traded Services has been delivered, with ongoing work to implement the findings in the discovery phase.
N18	1	Invest in additional research to improve understanding of carbon impact of different land management.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9	Discovery		To be progressed
N19	2, 3	Develop a single council policy to reflect the multiple objectives for land use and the need to ensure 'additionality' is gained for nature, particularly where several benefits are to be claimed e.g. biodiversity net gain, climate resilience, carbon storage.	Lead		M	L	L	6	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council is set to develop a policy to fulfil our biodiversity duty in 2024.
N20	All	Consider nature and land use in local plans and requirements for developers e.g. Street trees, preservation and creation of green spaces, prioritisation of brownfield sites for development and land for energy generation assets.	Ask	Districts	S/M	L	M	15	Design		Leicestershire County Council actively engages with districts on appropriate nature and land use in Local Plans. The National Planning Policy Framework is currently under review.

Cross Cutting Actions

Updates to this sheet are shown in red with original text as 'strikethrough'

Key:
Current Project Stage
 - In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
 - In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)
 - In delivery (executing plan agreed at design)
 - Completed (work has been finished)

RAG rating
 - Green - action delivery on track/to agreed timelines (may be agreed to start at a later date)
 - Orange - some delivery off track/timelines, further work to be completed
 - Red - significantly off track/timelines, or may no longer be possible

Leadership	Project status	RAG	Update
1. Achieve net zero carbon emissions for the council's operations by 2030 by delivering the Council's 2030 Carbon Reduction Programme.	Delivery	Orange	The LCC Greenhouse Gas Report for 2022/23 now being finalised to reflect emissions. Results show LCC is not on projected track to meet target for this year - 45% behind.
2. Assess the emissions from the council's supply chain and investments and develop a prioritised action plan for carbon reduction, including working with our supply chain to reduce carbon emissions and developing tools and guidance to integrate carbon impact into procurement decisions.	Design	Orange	LCC is currently working to redevelop our procurement strategy to include and strengthen environmental controls, once this is in place we can progress this action.
3. Strive to provide easy to understand climate information to educate and inform stakeholders, businesses and individuals about the need to act with urgency.	Design	Orange	An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This plan has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places project and ensure comms activity is aligned. Recent engagement work includes delivery of a Net Zero Parish Toolkit and discovery work to engage with schools and young people.
Collaboration			
1. Develop and promote a Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact to inspire other organisations and individuals to join the council in setting targets and delivering climate action.	Delivery	Green	Pact launched in February 2023, 26 organisations signed up to date. Further promotion of the Pact planned for the coming months.
2. Develop a partnership and engagement plan which considers the role of stakeholders and individuals and how they can be encouraged and supported to take action.	Design	Green	An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This plan has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places project and ensure comms activity is aligned.
3. Work with others to engage with national government to call for urgent action to deliver net zero carbon, including a clear framework and the resources required to define and support the role of local authorities in tackling the climate emergency.	Delivery	Green	LCC respond to Government consultations or similar, as and when they arise
Research and Innovation			
1. Work with partners, particularly knowledge-based institutions to support research, development and demonstration of low and zero carbon technologies.	Delivery	Green	LCC is part of the Universities Civic Agreement, who we have worked with to successfully bid for money from Innovate UK to deliver the Pathfinder Places project. LCC is also a collaborative partner for Green Living Leicestershire, where the County and District/Borough Councils have collaboratively delivered various low carbon projects. This includes Solar Together which in 2022 contributed 1.6MW to renewable energy production in Leicestershire, attracting £4.3 million in investment.
2. Take an evidence-based approach to assessing options and decision making to support the net zero transition.	Design	Green	Internal governance at Leicestershire County Council is being developed to support the 2045 Net Zero target. In terms of Leicestershire stakeholders the successful Pathfinder Places bids for both phase 1 and 2 will provide funds to research and develop an effective governance structure for Leicestershire's Net Zero commitments.
3. Support the development and deployment of carbon capture and storage approaches.	Discovery	Red	Current activity follows the mitigation hierarchy prioritising carbon reduction over carbon capture, therefore LCC is not currently engaged with CCS development.
Funding			
1. Produce a funding plan for net zero, considering and taking maximum advantage of the diverse range of grant, finance, investment and other innovative models to deliver action.	Design	Orange	Net Zero Leicestershire Funding Plan is in development to explore a range of funding and finance options to deliver net zero. Next steps will be to produce a deliverable plan, linking funding mechanisms to priority actions of the Leicestershire Net Zero Action Plan.
2. Prioritise projects with multiple benefits, that save money and/or provide income.	Discovery	Orange	To be developed at a later stage
3. Consider the impact of delivering action on residents and ensure that solutions are affordable and fair for all.	Discovery	Orange	To be developed at a later stage - Equalities impact process will be used

Appendix F – Environmental Performance Infographic

The latest version of the 2022-23 Environmental Performance Summary Infographic can be found on the following link:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/Environmental-Performance-2022-2023-summary.pdf>