

Dudley Council **Climate Action Plan** Phase One 2024-2027





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Foreword

The devastating consequences of climate change can be seen globally from the heatwaves experienced here in Dudley this summer to the devastating wildfires across the world. The urgent need to act on climate change is prevalent like never before.

We have a duty as caretakers of the planet to help tackle this human induced challenge and to put actions in place to help safeguard Dudley's residents, communities, businesses, and the local environment from climate change.

However, the scale of this challenge cannot be underestimated. As such, the Council has set itself an ambitious target to become carbon net zero by 2030 and to work with partners to become a net zero borough by 2041.

To become a net zero council by 2030, we have developed a comprehensive Dudley Council Climate Action Plan encompassing operations and activities across the Council.

The Action Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to refine the current actions within the plan and to develop new actions.

Alongside delivery of the Climate Action Plan, the Council will be supporting stakeholders and partners to develop a borough-wide climate change action plan for Dudley.



Cllr Dr Clinton, PhD
Cabinet Lead Climate Change



Introduction

Human induced climate change, from the burning of fossil fuels has led to average global temperatures rising by at least 1.1°C since 1880. Much of this warming has occurred during the past four decades with the past decade (2013 – 2023) experiencing the highest temperatures since records began.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated that global warming should be limited to 1.5°C, to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

Rising global temperatures have resulted in more frequent and severe droughts, storms, and heat waves and melting glaciers and warming oceans leading to rising sea levels.

Sustainability West Midlands have used current UK climate change trends to identify the main climate risks for the region. The report, Summary of Climate Change Impacts in West Midlands, highlights several direct risks based on UK Climate Projections to 2100. For Dudley these include heatwaves, droughts, and surface water flooding. The impacts arising from these extremes of weather include increased water scarcity, food production issues, effects on health and wellbeing, as well as damage to infrastructure.

The report also highlights several indirect risks, including:

- Coastal flooding causing a potential influx of residents moving to the region.
- Global food scarcity as crop yields fall internationally.
- Potential for increased international conflict because of resource scarcity.

In response, national and local governments, businesses and educational establishments across the globe have called for a Climate Emergency.

Dudley Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2020. As part of the declaration Dudley Council has committed to:

- Encourage partners to acknowledge the Climate Emergency and to take steps to achieve a carbon net zero footprint
- Exploring opportunities for investment in green businesses and to support green business growth.

Following the declaration, the Council committed to become a carbon net zero council by 2030 and a net zero borough by 2041.

The Dudley Council Climate Action Plan sets out the initial actions for the Council to become net zero by 2030.

Policy Background

The Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change which came into effect in 2016. 195 different countries and states, including the UK have signed up to the treaty.

Its overarching goal is to limit the increase in the global average temperature to 1.5°C and ideally to keep it below 2°C to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment Order) 2019

The Act establishes a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 100% by 2050 compared with 1990 levels.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In 2015, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all UN members, including the UK, to mobilise efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. They address a range of needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

The Dudley Council Climate Action Plan seeks to embody the ambition of the SDGs. All actions in the plan have been developed considering both their impact on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the wider benefits for Dudley. For more information about the goals visit <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

Co - benefits

There are many associated economic, social, and environmental benefits to reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change.

Examples of these co-benefits include:

- cleaner air
- the creation of green jobs
- improved public health and wellbeing
- creation and enhancement of biodiversity
- accessible and multi-functional green spaces



Case study

An example of co-benefits in practice is the Brockmoor Net Zero Neighbourhood project, a landmark scheme for the region funded by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to combat climate change and reduce household energy use to help tackle fuel poverty.

The WMCA has awarded Dudley Council £1.65m for the scheme, which will see low energy retrofits take place in 50 homes in Brockmoor, as well as wider improvements to the neighbourhood such as new green spaces and transport links.

Eventually up to 300 homes in the area, a mix of both privately owned and social housing properties, will benefit from the Net Zero Neighbourhood scheme.

Homes will undergo 'deep retrofit' using cutting-edge insulation with options for solar panels and low carbon heating systems. Other measures being considered on a neighbourhood-wide scale include LED street lighting, new pocket parks, community food growing initiatives, playgrounds, green roofs, electric vehicle street charging points and sustainable drainage systems.

These initiatives will create a low carbon community that will subsequently offer financial benefits through energy savings, green benefits for both people and wildlife, educational and learning opportunities, green skills as well as jobs creation.



Emissions Data

One of the ways that organisations' greenhouse gas emissions are measured and assessed is through three scopes. The scopes are from the Greenhouse Gas Protocol¹, which is a greenhouse gas accounting standard.

Scope 1 emissions are those emissions that the council makes directly.

Scope 1 examples:

- Building onsite energy use (e.g. space heating)
- Building refrigerants (e.g. in air conditioning units)
- Council vehicles fuel consumed by owned and leased vehicles.

Scope 2 emissions are those emissions the council makes indirectly, such as buying energy.

Scope 2 examples:

- Purchased electricity, heating & cooling for own use.

Scope 3 emissions are sources of emissions that are external to the council, such as those across the supply chain.

Dudley Council has worked with the Midlands Net Zero Hub to calculate the Council's carbon footprint, which the Council will use as a baseline to report on our organisational emissions from 2024/25.

Scope 3² reporting will be included once methodologies for measurement have been developed. This is because Scope 3 emissions are harder to measure as they are outside the council's direct control. In addition, Scope 3 reporting is relatively new, and methodologies are still emerging to allow for robust measurement.

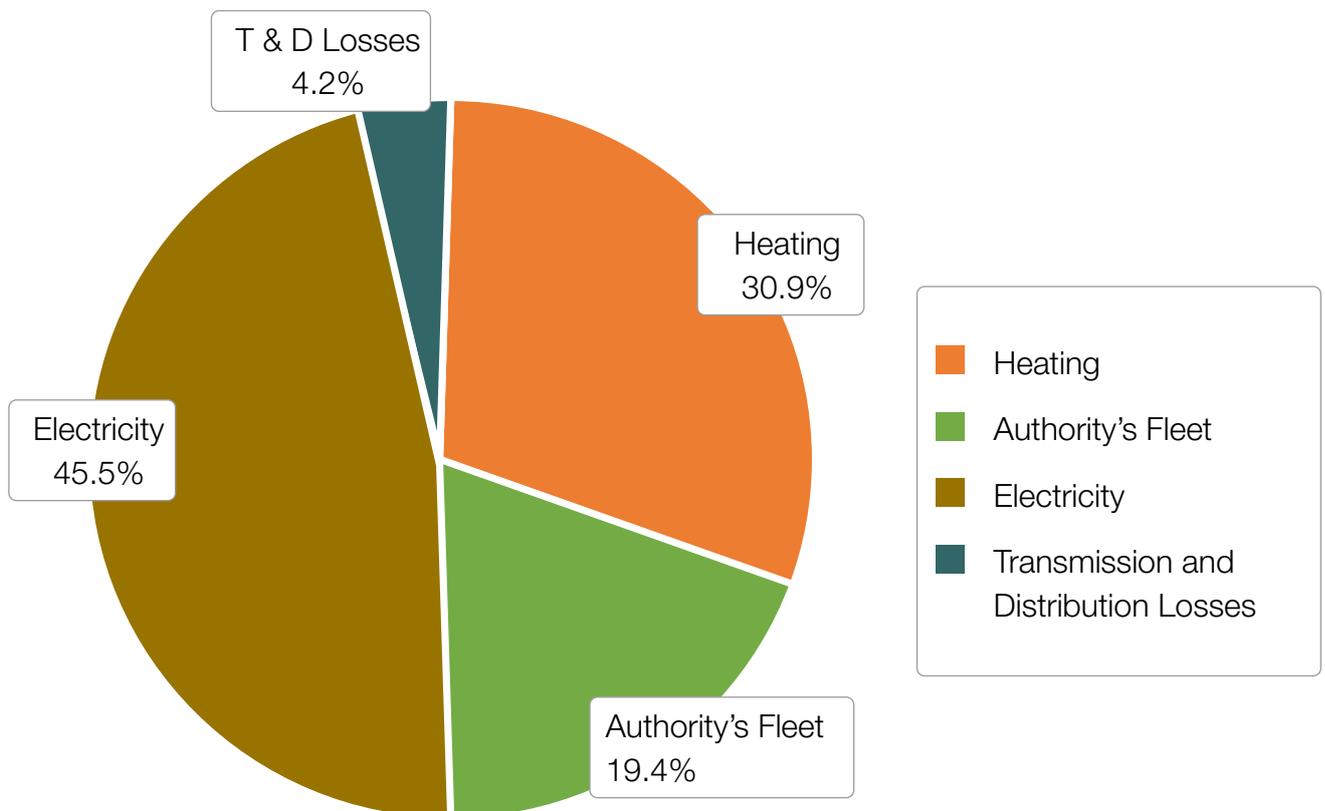
1 <https://ghgprotocol.org/>

2 Emissions are all other indirect emissions other than electricity.

Emissions Data

The Council generated 13,209.85 tonnes of carbon from our buildings and activities in the baseline year from April 2022 to March 2023.

Scope	Emissions Type	Emissions (tCO2e)	Percentage of Total Emissions
Scope 1	Heating	4,081.53	30.9%
	Authority's Fleet	2,561.00	19.4%
Scope 2	Electricity	6,016.90	45.5%
	Transmission and Distribution Losses	550.41	4.2%
Total Emissions		13,209.85	100%



Council actions towards net zero by 2030

We have already delivered either in part or in full the following actions:

- 100% green energy purchased for the council estate
- 50 EV charging points to be installed across the borough by April 2024
- 23 fossil fuel-based machinery replaced with electric machinery, such as leaf blowers and hedge cutters
- Purchased 3 electric quad bikes for street scene operations to replace petrol quad bikes
- 100 public recycling waste bins installed
- Trialling electric footway mechanical sweepers
- Undertaking a programme to change 30,000 streetlights to LED
- 90% of streets lights at Lister Road Depot are LED
- More than 60% of Dudley borough schools have a 20mph scheme in their locality with many others having traffic calming measures in place
- 416 solar panels installed on the roof of Duncan Edwards Leisure Centre, saving 23 tonnes of CO2 a year
- The council has committed £1 million towards an Energy Development Fund to invest in renewable energy projects with a pay back of 7.5 years or less
- First council in the region to secure funding for a Net Zero Neighbourhoods pilot that will see 300 homes be sustainably retrofitted including loft, cavity and solid wall insulation, solar PV schemes, electric vehicle street charging points, community food growing initiatives and nature-based solutions such as green roofs

The following corporate sites retrofitted:

Himley Hall

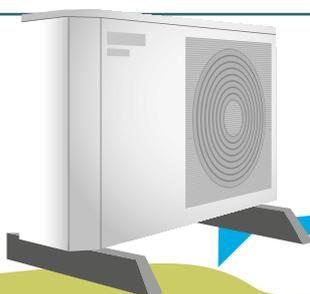
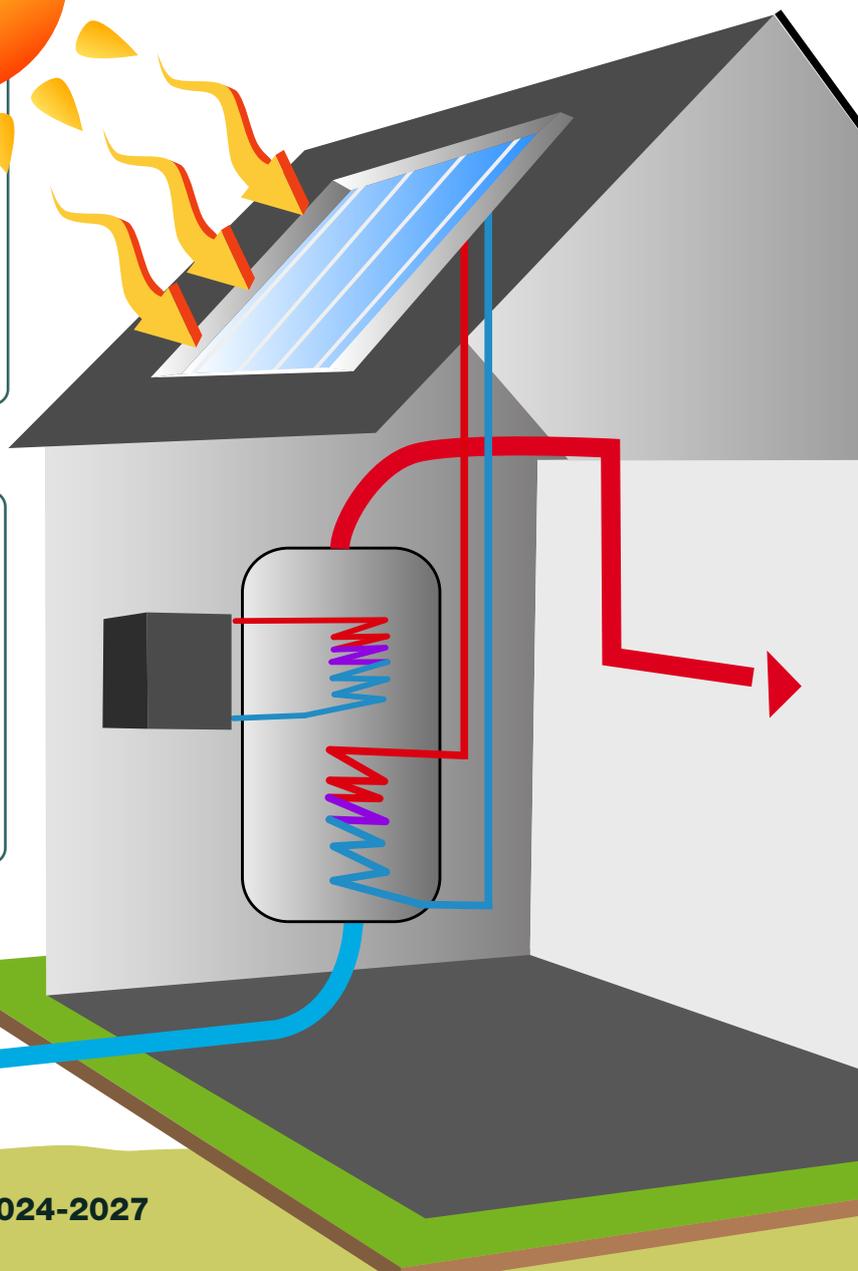
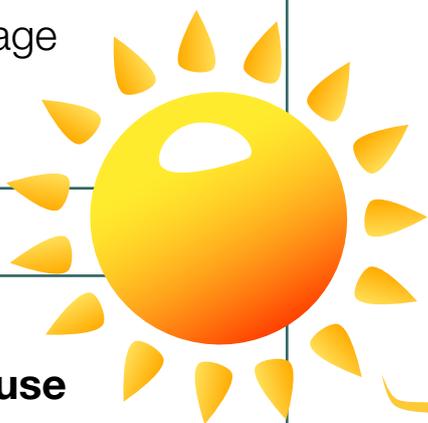
Air Source Heat Pump
LED Lighting Upgrade
Solar PV
Battery Storage
Heat Meter

Council House

Air Source Heat Pump
Heat Meter

Stourbridge Library

Air Source Heat Pump
LED Lighting Upgrade
Heat Meter



Off-setting

Achieving our net zero 2030 goal will require ambitious action at scale across all council operations and activities. However, to ensure we can maximise our impact, the action plan will aim to prioritise actions that eliminate emissions, followed by those that reduce or substitute emissions. Offsetting, for example, through habitat creation schemes or carbon capture, will only be used as a last resort where all other reasonable options have been explored.

We first want to understand our baseline carbon footprint and undertake actions to reduce this footprint, including via carbon literacy training, the 'greening' of strategies and renewable technologies.

Dudley Council cannot offset its way to net zero without first tackling energy consumption and actioning plans to reduce the Council's carbon baseline before offsetting that which cannot be reduced eg hard to decarbonise sectors like transport/HGVs.

Enabling climate action

Council-wide interviews with officers in key service areas have underpinned the development of the actions in this plan, supporting the objective 'Our climate commitment is creating a sustainable borough on its way to net zero carbon emissions, improved air quality, reduced fuel poverty and outstanding waste and recycling services' set out in Forging a Future for All – Dudley Borough Vision 2030 <https://www.dudleyboroughvision2030.org.uk/home>.

Engagement & Consultation

The Dudley Council Climate Action Plan has also been informed by the 'Your Borough, Your Future' public consultation, undertaken by the Council between 18 October – 18 November 2022. The consultation sought to understand residents' views on what the council can do and what individuals would be willing to do, to address the challenges of climate change.

Feedback from the survey indicated the following top five priorities for the Council in tackling climate change:

1. Recycling more by improving recycling services
2. Encouraging wildlife in parks and green spaces
3. Dedicating resources to tackle littering and fly tipping in the borough
4. Using low emission or electric bin lorries to improve local air quality
5. Using council buildings for renewable energy generation

Broader feedback reflected the need for the Council to:

- Work with partners to facilitate installation of home insulation to a high standard
- Improve public transport
- Campaigns to help educate and provide examples of ways to help improve our environment



Dudley Council Climate Action Plan

The phase 1 action plan is for three years from 2024 – 2027.

The actions for the plan are under 6 themes of:

- Theme 1: Community and Business
- Theme 2: Transport and Active Travel
- Theme 3: Energy
- Theme 4: Waste and Fleet
- Theme 5: Land Use and Biodiversity
- Theme 6: Enabling Actions (these actions support delivery of individual actions, such as communications, fundraising and partnership working)

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Key

The rows in blue are actions which enable a borough-wide carbon reduction

The rows in pink are actions which enable carbon reduction for council operations

Action	Financial year for Delivery			Carbon Saving Potential Low: <1% reduction in council emissions Medium: 2-5% reduction in council emissions High: 5-10% reduction in council emissions Enabling - borough wide reduction	Council Service Area Delivering Action
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
Theme 1: Community and Business					
Establish a Climate Youth Council for the Borough		X		Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Work with external stakeholders to develop and set up a Dudley Climate Partnership to bring together the public sector, businesses and community groups to share knowledge, network and collaborate on the development of a borough climate action plan to reach net zero by 2041		X		Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change

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Commission Oxford Innovation Service (OIS) to develop and deliver an information, advice and account management service for Dudley SME's as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund's (SPF) regional business support programme, including providing advice on carbon net zero and engaging with a target of 650 SME's in Dudley over the next 18 months		X		Enabling	Economic Growth and Skills
Theme 2: Transport and Active Travel					
Increase active travel provision around the borough			X	Enabling	Transport and Highway Services
Implement a borough-wide strategy for EV infrastructure			X	Enabling	Transport and Highway Services
Explore options for setting up a public e-bike hire scheme for the Borough			X	Enabling	Transport and Highway Services
Promote the council's bike scheme to staff	X			Low	Communications and Public Affairs
Explore options to procure a multi partner electric vehicle framework and deploy across car parks in Dudley			X	Enabling	Transport and Highway Services

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Explore the development of a salary sacrifice scheme for council employees to purchase/lease EV vehicles			X	Enabling	People and Inclusion
Undertake a review of the Council's commuting and business travel policy and develop a policy on sustainable business travel	X			Medium	People and Inclusion
Set up a car sharing club for council staff			X	Low	People and Inclusion
Theme 3: Energy					
Input to the Combined Authority's Local Area Energy Planning project and seek funds for potential pilot schemes within Dudley Borough		X		Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Explore options to install a private wire from the Energy from Waste Plant to power the council's corporate estate			X	High	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
30,000 streetlights converted to LED bulbs by 2025		X		Medium	Transport and Highway Services
Develop a decarbonisation plan for the corporate estate alongside the office accommodation strategy – to include property decarbonisation, energy efficiency measures and expanding the energy management system		X		High	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change

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Theme 4: Waste and Fleet					
Develop a Waste Strategy to maximise recycling and reduce waste including the collection of food waste			X	Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Explore the option to replace existing diesel fuelled bin lorries with Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs)			X	Medium	Waste and Fleet Operations
Extend the Textec kerbside offer to include additional items such as sofas		X		Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Explore the possibility of collecting small WEEE and batteries in the kerbside collection		X		Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Textile banks to be made available in various locations across Dudley		X		Enabling	Waste and Fleet Operations
Dudley Council to be a Plastic Free Council by 2030			X	n/a	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Cut the Council's paper waste by going paperless in addition to reducing the number of photocopiers provided in office buildings			X	Low / Medium	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change /Technology Systems and Services

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Theme 5: Land Use and Biodiversity					
Plan and deliver biodiversity enhancements on council owned land – (i) maintain and undertake restoration on Dudley Nature Reserves (ii) create opportunities on other green spaces for creation and enhancement of priority habitats including trees and woodlands, grassland and wetlands	X	X	X	Medium / High	Street, Green Care and Amenity Services
Finalise production of a Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan to support delivery of the Council's carbon net zero ambition		X		Enabling	Economic Growth and Skills
Develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy		X		Enabling	Street, Green Care and Amenity Services
Produce a tree and woodland strategy for Dudley Borough to ensure tree coverage on council-owned land is maintained and increased		X		Medium / High	Street, Green Care and Amenity Services
Develop and deliver a Council Climate Adaptation Plan			X	n/a	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change

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Produce new planning policy to support retrofitting of energy efficiency measures in heritage buildings as part of the draft Local Plan process		X		Enabling	Planning
Through the development of the new Draft Local Plan, develop policy that supports the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change and promotes opportunities to maximise carbon sequestration		X		Enabling	Planning
Request developers to undertake a Sustainability Checklist as part of the planning application process		X		Enabling	Planning
Produce a set of local planning policies that ensure that all new development, both residential and non-residential, follow the principles of the energy hierarchy and minimise energy demand through fabric energy efficiency measures and then meet all residual energy demand via renewable energy technologies		X		Enabling	Planning

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Theme 6: Enabling Actions (including communications and funding)					
Investigate green finance options for a Community Municipal Investment Scheme		X		Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change and Finance
Develop and deliver an external and internal corporate communications and engagement plan for the climate emergency	X			Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Develop a long-term fundraising strategy to support investment in delivery of the council's net zero ambitions			X	Medium - High	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change and Finance
Develop and maintain a funding tracker to provide management information about current funding opportunities to support delivery of projects in the action plan	X			Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Roll out carbon literacy training to council employees starting with senior decision makers to achieve Bronze accreditation for the Council from the Carbon Literacy Trust, this is to ensure any carbon reduction measures can be understood and fully implemented by staff.	X			Low - Medium	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change

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Alongside carbon literacy training for senior officers and members, develop in-house online climate change training suitable for all council staff		X		Low - Medium	People and Inclusion and Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Undertake a carbon footprint analysis for the council to develop a carbon budget baseline to reach carbon net zero by 2030.	X			Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Provide guidance on carbon reduction measures for council service areas to decarbonise their service delivery via sustainable service/business planning processes		X		Medium - High	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Prepare a council Environment Policy to reflect the Council's climate and environment aims	X			n/a	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Develop a guidance note on incorporating the UN SDGs into Cabinet reports	X			n/a	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change

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Produce a sustainable events policy that emphasises minimisation of waste and encouragement of more sustainable options. This will be supported with guidance on sustainability best practice, options and suggestions for events that are held across the borough	X			Medium	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Develop Sustainable Procurement Guidance and set a 10% minimum social value percentage into the procurement process for new contracts		X		High	Procurement and Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Lobby West Midlands Pension Fund to reduce the carbon footprint of pension fund investments over time	X			Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change
Produce guidance and advice for staff to reduce their carbon footprint whilst homeworking	X			Enabling	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change/People and Inclusion
Develop a series of priority lobbying actions to influence national Government policy and funding in support of delivery of the Council's climate action plan		X		High	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change

Finance and funding

The full costs of achieving net zero emissions across Council operations and activities by 2030 are currently unknown.

Further information on the costs associated with specific actions will need to be developed over the plan lifecycle. However, significant additional resources will need to be identified and secured to support our immediate, medium, and long-term climate response.

Funding Sources identified and/or allocated by the Council	Source
£1 million funding for an Energy Development Fund to invest in renewable energy projects with a 7.5 year payback or less	Dudley MBC budget
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)	Government funding
Ongoing review of new and innovative funding sources (e.g. green bonds, crowdfunding etc)	Private investment / public funds
Lobbying for external funding and support	Central government

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

We will undertake an annual monitoring process to evaluate the progress of the Dudley Council Climate Action Plan. Actions will be reviewed, and new ones added as part of this process. An annual report will be produced which will be published on the climate page of the Council's website to ensure transparency.

The plan is intended to be a live document and will develop as we continue to increase our understanding of emission sources and the most effective ways to reduce them.

The Dudley Council Climate Action Plan will be fully reviewed after three years.

Governance

The delivery of the action plan will be overseen by the council's Climate and Sustainability Board at Director/Heads of Service level and internal officer groups.