Climate Change Strategy

January 2023 – DRAFT

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Foreword

A message from the Leader of the council

Foreword

Climate change is one of the greatest threats we are face. Our geography in Wyre means we are at particular risk from rising sea levels and more unusual and intense storms. It is vital that we all work together to reduce our carbon emissions in a responsible and sustainable way and prepare ourselves for the increased risks we now facing.

As the Leader of Wyre Council, and a father to two young children, tackling climate change is high on my agenda – we need to protect our children's future. In July 2019, we declared a Climate Emergency and make a unanimous, cross-party commitment to cut our emissions.

This strategy outlines how we plan to tackle climate change by reducing our emissions, both internally and in collaboration with key stakeholders within the community. We have broken this down into eight objectives that we plan to target, including buildings, transport, our council processes, planning, biodiversity, engagement, waste and adaptation. Each of these brings their own challenges as well as multiple positive outcomes that benefit the area, such as cleaner air, warmer homes and greener jobs.

I am proud of the work we have already achieved in reducing our carbon footprint by 17% since 2018. This includes £3m of redevelopment and investment at Fleetwood Market, installing heat pumps and solar panels for renewable energy, as well as a new roof and many other insulation measures. The council have agreed to transition our fleet over to new HVO biofuel, which will help to make significant reductions estimated at up to 30% of our carbon footprint. We have also been named as the first Carbon Literate authority in Lancashire, following the roll out of Carbon Literacy training to our staff to educate them on the basics of climate change and what they can do in their roles to make a difference.

Within the community, we have invested in nature-based solutions to prevent local flooding in St Michael's on Wyre and Churchtown, and work is well underway on a £40m Wyre Beach Management Scheme to protect thousands of homes from coastal flooding.

I am hopeful that we can transition away from fossil fuels to a better low carbon future for Wyre, but we need help to make this happen. Where we are limited in our powers as a borough council, we look to the government, Lancashire County Council and our key stakeholders for funding and assistance. We also rely on our individuals, communities and businesses to get involved in cutting emissions where they can so we can build a better future together.

Councillor Michael Vincent
Leader of the Council

Introduction

What we want this document to achieve

Introduction

"If we don't act now, it'll be too late."

David Attenborough

Climate change is our greatest threat. The use of dirty fossil fuel energy has been releasing heat-trapping gases into our atmosphere, forming a thick blanket of pollution around the earth. This is causing our planet to rapidly overheat, impacting our weather systems and causing irreversible damage.

The coastal, low-lying nature of our borough means we are at significant risk of flooding from more regular and intense storms, with approximately 11,000 Wyre homes vulnerable to sea level rise[1].

As a council, we declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 - committing to urgent action to reduce our emissions within Wyre and protect our community from the threats caused by climate change (Appendix 1).

What we want to achieve

As part of our commitment, we have created this Climate Change Strategy to outline how we plan to reduce our levels of pollution locally and prepare ourselves and the community for the negative impacts of climate change, along with those that are already happening.

What is included in the strategy

The strategy highlights the main risks we face from the changing climate within Wyre, including the costs to our community, our local wildlife and impacts on our council services. We also outline the opportunities we have for reducing our pollution through a variety of ways, as well as the positive outcomes of doing so; by creating jobs, improving our lifestyles and contributing to Sustainable Development Goals.

Our action plans

We have created eight objectives that will help us to tackle climate change among the main areas we can influence as a council. Separate action plans for each objective outline how we plan to achieve them.

1. **Buildings**
   Retrofit and decarbonise buildings and heating systems.
2. **Transport**
   Support decarbonised, safe and sustainable transport.
3. **Net zero council**
   Embed climate action across council governance and financial decision-making.
4. **Planning**
   Use our planning powers to plan for a low carbon and climate resilient future.
5. **Biodiversity**
   Protect and increase biodiversity.
6. **Engagement**
   Collaborate, educate and engage with others to take climate action.
7. **Waste**
   Reduce waste, support a circular economy and sustainable food production.
8. **Adaptation**
   Adapt to our changing climate.

How you can help

As your council, it is our duty to rapidly reduce our levels of pollution and do all we can to protect the community from the risks of the changing climate. We have already made good progress towards our target, but we have a long way to go and cannot achieve this alone. For this to be a success across the whole borough, we need to work together with residents, businesses, communities and stakeholders to fight against pollution, preserve our environment and create a cleaner, safer home for all.

Our changing climate

The context of climate change

Our changing climate

What is climate change?

The UK has a temperate climate. This means we generally get cool, wet winters and warm, wet summers. We rarely experience hot or cold temperatures, droughts or tropical storms like other climates around the world.

The world's climate has naturally fluctuated throughout history. However, the widespread burning of dirty fossil fuels across the world has created a blanket of pollution in the atmosphere, causing the planet to heat up faster than ever recorded. As the earth overheats, our weather systems are thrown out of sync and our usual climates shift, leading to devastating impacts. This is climate change.

Only by rapidly reducing our use of polluting fossil fuels can we ease the worst of these risks.

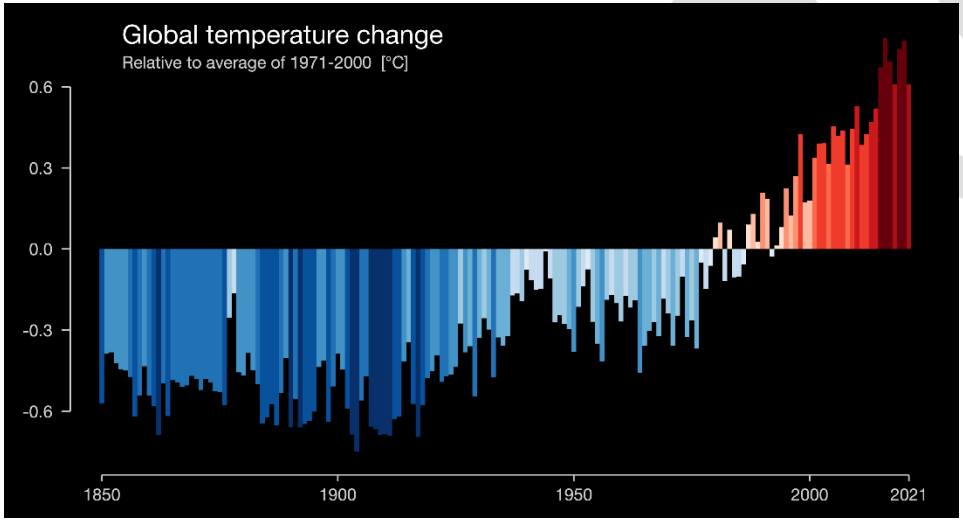


Figure 1: Global temperature increases since the industrial revolution.[2]

Greenhouse gases

Since the industrial revolution began in the UK in the 1700s, humans have been polluting our planet by burning fossil fuels to create energy. This has released vast amounts of polluting greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. These gases are named this way because they act like a greenhouse, by trapping heat from the sun. This causes the planet to overheat and threaten our livelihoods.

The more of these polluting gases we release, the more the earth warms up, causing more problems for people and the environment.

The four main greenhouse gases and their sources are:

- Carbon dioxide (CO_2), released mainly from burning oil, coal and gas, deforestation and cement production.
- Methane (CH_4), emitted by cows and decaying food waste.
- Nitrous oxide (NO_2), released from the overuse of fertilisers.
- Fluorinated gases (F-gases), from refrigeration and aerosols.

We group these greenhouse gases together to measure our **carbon footprint** – which tells us how much we contribute to the planet overheating.

Impacts of climate change

If we don't stop polluting, many things we depend upon are at risk:

- As our atmosphere gets hotter, our usual weather patterns see big differences including; more frequent, intense and unavoidable extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, droughts, heavy rainfall and flash flooding.
- Our sea levels are rising as our oceans overheat, expand and ice caps melt. This puts coastal communities, low-lying areas and even entire countries at risk, creating thousands of climate-refugees.
- Unnatural increases in water temperatures threaten marine wildlife, arctic ecosystems and are causing irreversible damage to crucially important coral reefs.
- Together, these impacts are causing vast social and economic damage as we struggle to cope with the effects of extreme weather on our homes and vital infrastructure (buildings, roads and power supplies), rising food costs and shortages from crop failures at home and abroad, water shortages during droughts, high heating bills, poor air quality and more climate-refugees as places become unsafe to live.
- Unfairly, the biggest impacts are being felt by the poorest and most vulnerable populations, despite polluting the least.

"Field Fire" by Marc Gilbert, used under CC0 1.0 DEED / Cropped from original.

"Drought, Holden Wood Reservoir, Haslingden Grane" by Robert Wade, used under CC BY-SA 2.0 DEED / Cropped from original.

Locked-in impacts

Even if we were to suddenly halt all our emissions, the amount of pollution that we have already released into the atmosphere mean that some impacts of climate change are already **locked in.** As a result, by 2050, it is predicted that the UK will still see 59% more winter rainfall and once-a-century sea level events becoming a yearly occurrence by 2100[3].

We must drastically cut our levels of pollution to reduce the severity of these impacts before it is too late to make a difference for now and the future.

Targets

Global target

Recognising the rapid rise in temperatures and the severe impacts these are causing on the planet, countries across the world signed the Paris Agreement to limit further global temperature rise to “well below 2°C” and to aim for a maximum rise of only 1.5°C.

Put simply, this means that if we only allow earth to warm up by 1.5°C, rather than 2°C, 3°C,4°C, etc, it helps to limit the worst impacts of climate change, so we can have a better, safer and more prosperous future.

However, the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report highlighted that unless there are immediate large-scale reductions in polluting emissions, limiting global warming to safe levels, will be beyond reach[4]. Instead, the world is currently on track towards a catastrophic average 4°C rise.

"COP26 President - Alok Sharma" by Bank of England, used under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED / Cropped from original.

UK target

In 2008, the Climate Change Act was introduced in the UK - the first legally binding climate change mitigation target set by any country. This commits the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, based on 1990 levels. It also includes a series of five-year carbon budgets for total greenhouse gas emissions, which cannot be exceeded, in order to meet the reduction target of net zero.

Wyre target

The council aims to reduce our emissions by at least 78% by 2035, before achieving net zero by 2050, committing to support and work with all other relevant agencies to achieve net zero emissions for Wyre borough within the same timescale.

What is net zero?

Reducing our emissions to absolute zero is not currently possible with the technology available to us. Instead, a target of ‘net’ zero emissions ensures we achieve a **balance** of emissions between:

- Emissions that are still added into the atmosphere from activities that cannot be fully decarbonised yet, such as air travel.
- Removal of emissions from the atmosphere from activities such as tree planting, peatland enhancement or carbon capture technologies.

However, it is crucial that we reduce emissions to as low as possible before relying on as yet uncertain technologies for capturing emissions, to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

National legalisation:

- The UK's Net Zero Strategy sets out how the UK will deliver on its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050, outlining measures to transition to a green and sustainable future, help businesses and consumers to move to clean power and reduce Britain's reliance on important fossil fuels by boosting clean energy. This includes measures to support local authorities to implement low carbon actions locally.

- In 2023, the Environmental Improvement Plan was created to build upon the statutory targets within the Environment Act 2021. This includes a plan on how to best work with landowners, communities and businesses to support nature restoration and reduce pollution.

Local legislation:

- Local authorities are committed to a statutory Biodiversity Duty, meaning we must consider what we can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, agree policies and specific objectives based on this, and deliver these locally.

- Emerging legislation will require councils to request Biodiversity Net Gain on all future developments, ensuring these have an overall positive rather than negative ecological impact.

- In Wyre we follow a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) which covers Lancashire, with 47 other LNRS across England. These determine priorities and actions for achieving local nature recovery.

- Each local authority has adopted a Local Plan to guide decisions on future development. Within section 19(1A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, it is required that local planning authorities incorporate "policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaption to, climate change".

Risks to Wyre

How will climate change affect us?

Risks to Wyre

Climate change is often associated with the image of a polar bear on a melting ice cap – which may make the climate emergency seem like a distant threat. However, in reality the impacts are far closer to home, as households in Wyre are some of the most at risk of rising sea levels in the UK[1].

Key trends

In Wyre and across the UK, the risks of climate change are listed in five key trends:

Rainfall and flooding

A warmer atmosphere can hold more water, meaning we will experience heavier downpours and more flooding. As a borough defined by the River Wyre, some of our communities including St Michael's on Wyre and Churchtown are already frequently affected by flooding, which is likely to worsen with climate change. Other low-lying areas and those with paved impermeable surfaces and fewer trees or vegetation to intercept rainfall, will also be affected by surface water flooding, where current infrastructure cannot cope with increasing rainfall.

Sea level rise

Melting ice caps and thermal expansion cause sea levels to rise. This is a particular worry for Wyre, as a coastal borough with low-lying flood plains, a large river estuary and communities living all along the coastline. Wyre is identified as one of ten UK local authorities with the most properties at risk of sea level rise[1].

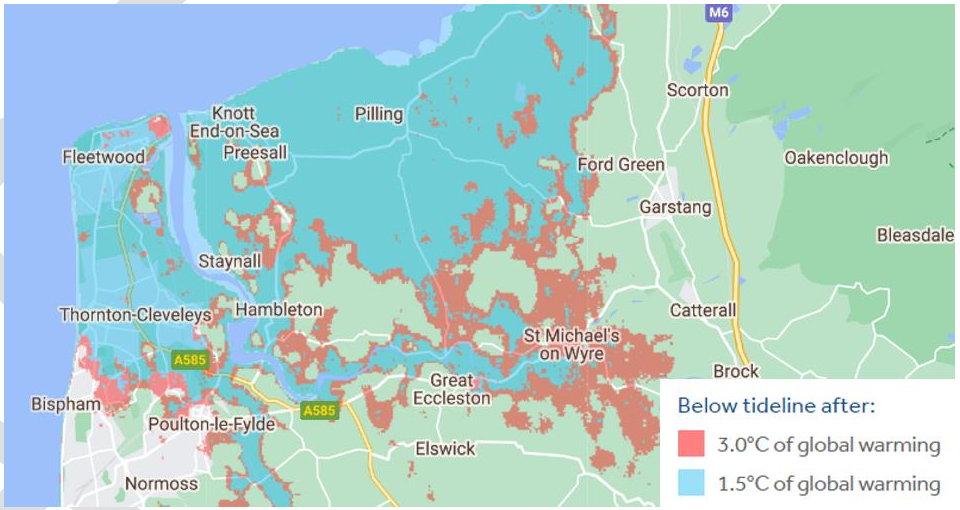


Figure 2: Potential sea level rise related to degrees of global warming in Wyre, not including current coastal defences[5].

"Rainfall patterns are changing, causing more frequent flooding, and while we continue to protect and prepare coastal communities from rising sea levels, it is inevitable that at some point some of our communities will have to move back from the coast."

Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency

Extreme heat

Dangerous heatwaves will become more common, affecting our food and water supplies. Populated areas around the UK will be affected by the urban heat island effect, where temperatures are even higher within built-up surroundings without naturally cooling green spaces. A lack of air conditioning and infrastructure able to cope with extreme heat will further impair our struggle to adapt.

More people will be affected by heatstroke and high UV exposure which will increase the risk of skin cancer. Our oldest and youngest residents, who struggle to regulate their own temperature, are most at risk. This is particularly significant to Wyre as the number of people aged 65 and over locally has increased by 16.8% within a ten-year timeframe (2011-2021)[6].

Drought and water scarcity

Rising temperatures will also lead to more regular and prolonged droughts and water scarcity. Despite our coastal location, Wyre is not excluded from drought conditions. Without careful management to increase water storage within our green spaces and encourage natural cooling, water will quickly evaporate during heatwaves and dry our habitats, damaging our fragile ecosystems. This increases the risk of crop failures within our local farming community, as well as food security from droughts elsewhere across the world where our food is grown and exported, threatening our health and livelihoods.

Diseases

Global temperature rises will also lead to a shift in biodiversity, allowing invasive species such as mosquitoes to travel further from their native habitat. This increases the risk of more tropical diseases and pandemics among the UK population. Changes in temperature, humidity and rainfall also increase the risk of transmission, which will escalate the pressure on our healthcare system.

The level of pollution already released into the atmosphere means that some of these trends are already occurring across the UK. This will only intensify in the future if we do nothing.

Only by rapidly reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and cutting our levels of pollution can we lessen the severity of these risks. In the meantime, we must ensure our communities are prepared for the worsening effects of climate change.

The cost to our community

Economic costs

The increase of these trends will have huge economic costs particularly for our agricultural sector and properties along the coastline in Wyre. Whilst significant investment will be required to move away from a fossil fuel-based system to low-carbon technologies, inaction on climate change will have much greater costs. Severe weather events and rising sea levels will cause costly damage to critical infrastructure, as well as affect supply chains for goods and food production, costing billions of pounds to the UK.

The cost-of-living crisis is also challenging how we respond to climate change. This is often viewed as a separate issue. However, ultimately both challenges have the same root cause – a reliance on fossil fuels. Phasing out oil and gas would reduce energy bills and improve energy security, as well as significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Research indicates that failing to act on climate change not only locks the country into higher energy prices in the medium term, but it will also have a long-term impact on the cost of living[7].

Social costs

The impacts of climate change will also have immense social costs, as it affects our homes, health, education and employment. Cold and heat-related illnesses, increased risk of disease, water scarcity and health conditions from air pollution will put greater strains on public services including the National Health Service. In addition to our physical health, the impact of losing loved ones, potential damage to our property and uncertainty about the future will also affect our mental health.

Who will be most impacted?

Climate change does not affect everyone equally and, whilst we may all be in the same storm, we are not all in the same boat. These impacts will particularly affect the most vulnerable residents in our community, including the elderly, people with disabilities, isolated adults with poor access to key services such as healthcare and affordable transport, ethnic minority groups, pregnant women, babies and young children, and outdoor workers. This is also exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis and ongoing affects from COVID-19, which will have limited many people's capacity to make the necessary changes to adapt to a changing climate.

As Wyre is home to the highest number of residents aged over 65 and 75 in Lancashire[6], together with an ageing population more generally across the UK, this brings a host of different challenges related to healthcare, safety and mobility, that may affect the council's approach to climate adaptation in future.

Of those most affected, climate change will have the greatest impact on future generations. Whilst young people will have contributed the least to climate change, they will bear the burden of the severe impacts during their lifetimes. Involving young people in decision-making to help shape the future they grow up in, is therefore key to this strategy.

Ecological emergency

Alongside the impacts of climate change, we are also experiencing an ecological emergency, which is intrinsically linked to the climate crisis. The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world[8] and nearly 1 in 6 species are at risk of extinction in Great Britain[9]. Both climate change and human activities are destroying vital habitat and causing biodiversity loss, which in turn accelerates climate change and its effects. To address these challenges, we need to change the way we manage our landscape to protect wildlife.

Nature underpins our livelihoods, providing us with vital ecosystem services including food, oxygen, water, protection from flooding, a stable economy and our health and wellbeing. As a rural farming borough, our food production and security rely upon nature, in the form of healthy soils, with plenty of invertebrates for pollination, supported by native wildflowers, fresh water and a stable climate.

Climate change is already dramatically impacting our wildlife by:

- Spring and summer occurring earlier each year, meaning animals are increasingly out of sync with each other and food sources are unavailable when animals need it.
- Temperature change causing species ranges to shift northwards, limiting the habitat of many important pollinators like our butterflies and bumblebees. This also brings risk of spreading harmful pests and diseases such as Asian hornets and ash dieback that will affect our native species.
- Extreme summer heatwaves forcing our trees and plants into false autumn, shedding their leaves as a sign of tremendous stress to try and conserve water, whilst younger trees without established roots die off.
- Increased frequency of severe flooding, droughts and wildfires causing prolonged loss of habitat, which our wildlife is unable to cope with.

The importance of Wyre's landscapes

Wyre borough is a heavily modified landscape. Despite this, we are lucky to be home to a wide range of fantastic natural landscapes, including sand dunes, saltmarshes, grasslands, meadows, peatlands, moorlands and woodlands, which all contain many key species of flora and fauna.

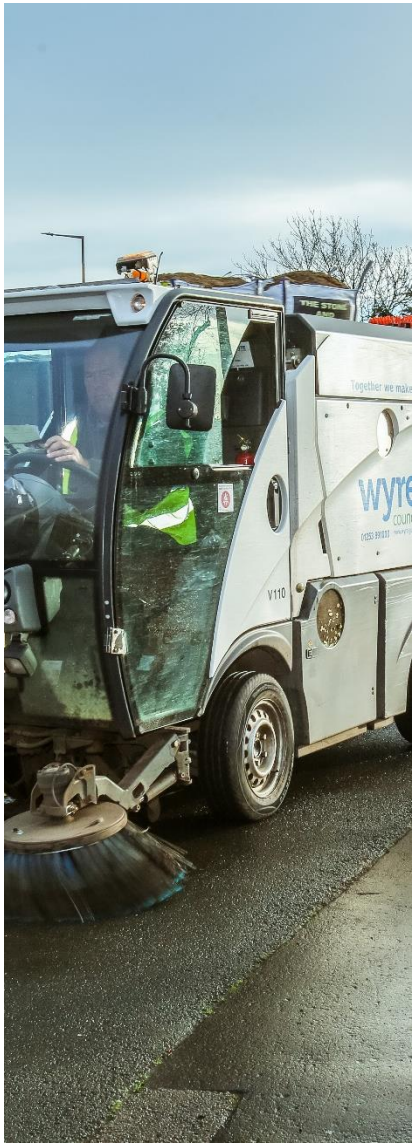
Protecting nature and recovering these vital habitats helps to both prevent further climate change and reduce its impact. This is because these habitats act as vital carbon sinks to draw down and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, actively preventing climate change. They also offer crucial natural protection to shield us against extreme heat, rainfall and rising sea levels.

We regard these habitats as our valuable blue and green infrastructure that we must enhance and maintain through a range of natural flood management, tree planting, peat restoration and other schemes. Not only does this avoid costly large-scale engineering projects but provides a wealth of tangible benefits for society and key ecosystems at the same time. Addressing the climate and ecological emergencies together can solve these dual problems.

Impacts on our council services

The impacts of climate change are also likely to cause knock-on effects upon our council services, including:

Service Area	Potential Impacts
Emergency planning	- Increase in extreme weather events leading to a greater need for emergency planning. - Greater use of council buildings for community shelter (including the provision of warm and cool spaces).
Spatial Planning	- Planning applications will need to plan for shortage of water in summers and excess in winters. - Designs will need to incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation measures.
Built environment	- Risk of subsidence from increased rainfall and wet ground conditions. - Increase in dangerous trees and other structures from storms, flooding, weakened foundations. - Buildings will require retrofitting to adapt to temperatures extremes. - Wet weather will lead to increases in dampness, mould and poor working conditions.
Public buildings	- Buildings will require retrofit to contend with heatwaves and increased rainfall and storm events, including shading and better water storage.
Public car parks	- Increased rainfall onto impermeable car park surfaces leading to surface water flooding. - Lack of shade during heatwave event increasing nearby temperatures.
Grounds maintenance	- Increased growing season will require revised grass mowing patterns. - Different planting schemes will be needed to account for drought conditions in summer and wetter winters. - Shifting species ranges for wildlife and introduction of new species may require different site management. - Need to plan for increased water management on open spaces. - Grounds maintenance workers may suffer heat stress and require different working hours outside of the heat.
Environmental health	- Food poisoning cases are likely to increase owing to warmer conditions. - Increase in flooding and public health impacts. - Increase in dust conditions requiring hosing down of areas during droughts and heatwaves.
Community safety	- Warmer summers may lead to large groups of people being outside in the evenings, with potential neighbourhood nuisance issues. - Warmer summers may lead to more outdoor swimming in reservoirs and other dangerous places, increasing community risk.
Waste services	- Waste collection and street cleansing teams may suffer heat stress from high temperatures. - Amendments in working practices may be required in response to extreme working conditions.
Business support	- Businesses will need assistance to adapt to new markets.
Tourism	- Higher temperatures will change tourism patterns.



Opportunities for Wyre

Positive outcomes from creating a sustainable borough

Opportunities for Wyre

Whilst tackling climate change presents many challenges, it also provides a unique opportunity to shift away from our dependency on dirty, expensive and polluting fossil fuels – switching instead to safer, cleaner energy that provides a host of community, health, business and environmental benefits for all.

Our vision

As a council, our vision is that Wyre is a place where everyone can prosper. We want everyone in Wyre to have access to jobs and share the benefits of economic growth; live in thriving, safe, more environmentally sustainable and welcoming communities; and be healthier and independent for longer.

Taking action on climate change is key to achieving the four main priorities that support this vision:

Our priorities	Links to climate action
People and communities	Enables residents live happier, healthier and safer lives from the risks of climate change.
Growth and prosperity	Encourages a thriving local economy and town centres as we upskill our workforce and support local producers.
Place and climate	Ensures Wyre is a cleaner, greener and more sustainable place.
Innovative and customer focused	Demonstrates that we are innovative and forward thinking, putting the needs of our residents first.

Positive outcomes of climate action

In addition to limiting the threat of climate change, there are many other positive outcomes – also known as co-benefits – that we also gain from reducing our emissions. These actions help us to achieve our vision for a sustainable future for Wyre, involving:

- Quiet, safe streets for children to play.
- Warm efficient homes.
- An upskilled workforce with greener jobs and a thriving local economy.
- Healthy residents and strong communities that are resilient to the effects of climate change.
- Reduced inequalities.

This table gives an example of the positive outcomes we create from implementing different climate actions.

Climate action	Positive outcomes
Upskilling workers in green industries - such as cleaner, cheaper and local renewable energy generation.	- Creation and retention of jobs - Diversification of industry - Development and reduction in cost of low carbon technologies - Boosted local economy
Retrofitting homes - by improving energy efficiency and upgrading to renewables, making them warmer and less dependent on dirty expensive energy.	- Reduced energy bills - Increased energy security and independence - Warmer, healthier homes - Alleviation of fuel poverty - Less demand on healthcare services
Enhancing biodiversity - through planting trees, wildflowers and preserving areas of peat and mossland to store polluting carbon and reduce the risks of flooding and heatwaves.	- Increased biodiversity - Slowing the flow of water to protect against flood risk - Shading and cooling during extreme heat - Cleaner air and water quality - Greater water security - Better mental wellbeing and access to nature
Changing our food habits - to eat healthier diets with more locally sourced seasonal vegetables, more alternatives to meat and dairy and less food waste.	- Healthier diets - Less demand on healthcare services - Supporting local farmers and producers - Resilient local economy - Reduced waste
Changing the way we travel - by switching to cleaner and safer travelling options.	- Creation of jobs to support this transition - Cleaner air quality - Quieter, safer streets - More active, outdoor lifestyles - Fitter, healthier residents - Improved mental wellbeing - Less demand on healthcare services

Wyre's potential

Whilst Wyre faces monumental challenges from climate change, it also has great potential for climate action across the borough, including:

- Increased carbon storage within our natural landscapes, such as peatland, grasslands, saltmarsh and via our trees and hedgerows.
- We benefit from our farming community, who provide local sources of food and have potential to combat climate change whilst generating profits via new government Environmental Land Management schemes.
- Natural flood protection along our coastline through saltmarsh enhancement as well as on our uplands and green spaces within the borough.
- Opportunities for increased water storage within our natural habitats to reduce water stress during prolonged droughts.
- Potential for renewable energy generation, via solar farms, wind farms, or harnessing the power of the sea via tidal energy, which can be utilised for community benefit.
- Close-knit, strong communities across Wyre who are key to enabling climate action and improving their local area.

A just transition

Achieving our climate change targets within the UK will involve tangible impacts on people's lives, as 60% of emissions reductions will need to come from societal change[10]. Polluting industries that extract or use fossil fuels will need to change or even disappear, which could have a knock-on impact on the lives of workers and communities, when the climate change crisis is already worsening existing inequalities.

It is therefore crucial that we achieve a 'just transition'. This means moving to an environmentally sustainable economy without leaving anyone behind, particularly those most vulnerable. As local areas are reshaped, we will collaborate with workers, employers and other stakeholders to support those in carbon intensive industries to transition into low carbon sectors and ensure no one is unfairly disadvantaged by climate action.

Sustainable Development Goals

The actions within this strategy are all designed to achieve our eight objectives, which also contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were developed in 2015 as an urgent call to all countries, aiming to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. The target to reach the SDGs is 2030, which requires a collective global effort to achieve success.

Altogether there are 17 goals, covering topics such as health, education, biodiversity, economic growth, clean energy, tackling inequalities and creating sustainable communities, alongside climate action. Taking urgent action to combat climate change is an essential part of achieving these goals.

How we contribute to climate change

Measuring our current emissions

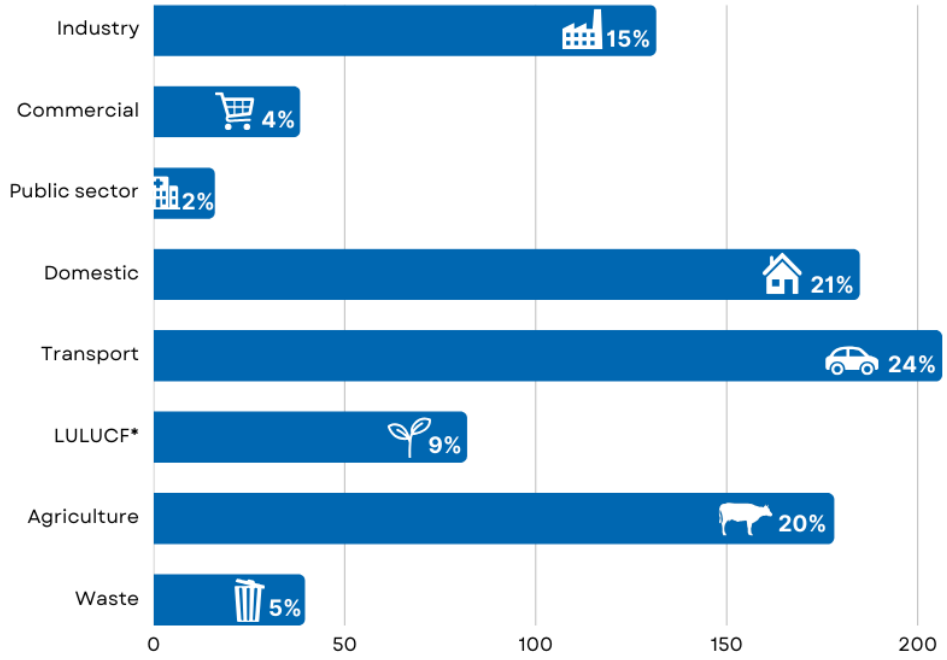
How we contribute to climate change

Borough emissions

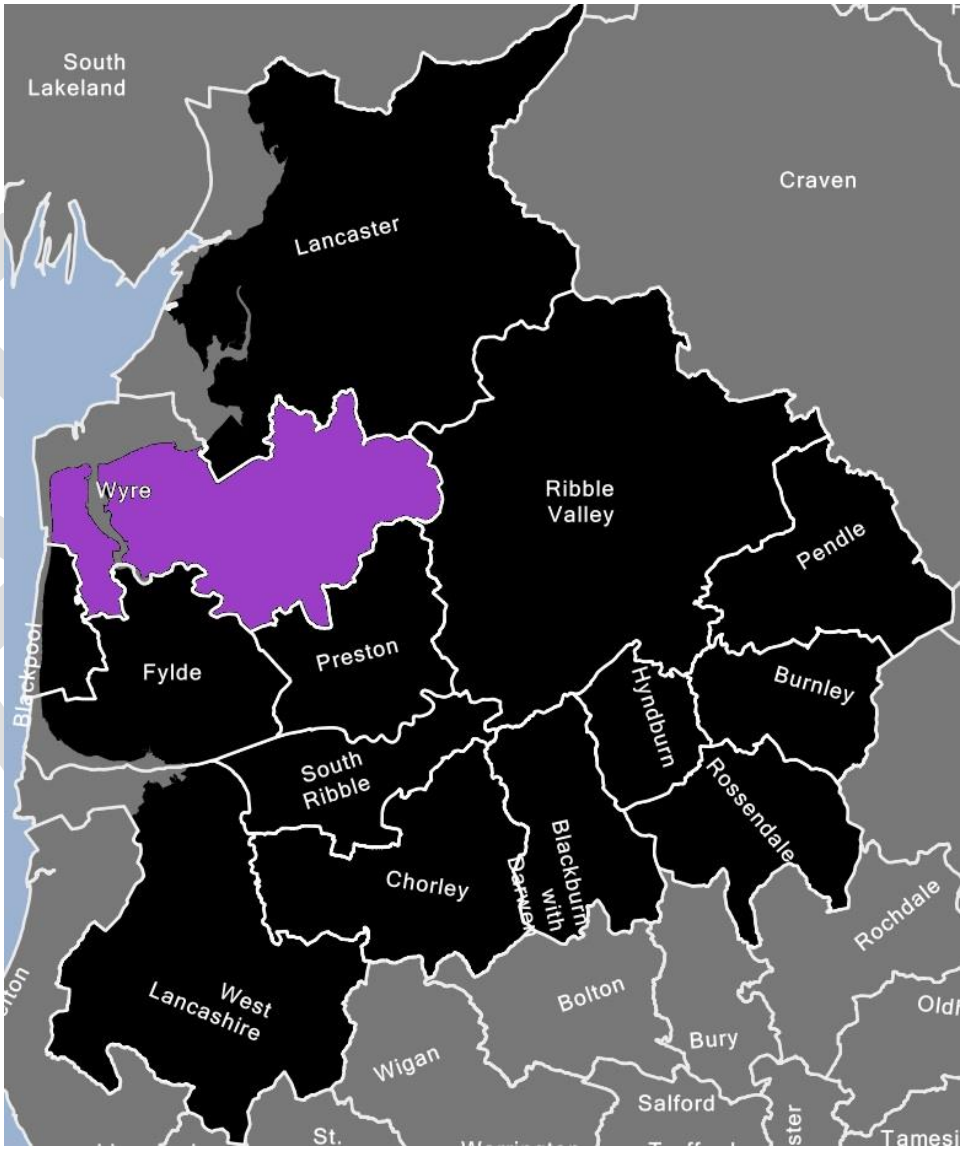
Emissions that are generated within the borough of Wyre are calculated by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, who produce yearly emission estimates for each local authority boundary across the UK[11]. Although this information is published annually, there is a 2-year time lag whilst the data is analysed.

In 2021, the borough of Wyre as a whole produced 876 kilotonnes of CO_2e emissions.

The borough's emissions are released from eight main sources:



* LULUCF stands for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry



Local Authority Area Emissions ($ktCO_2$)	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ribble Valley	1,185.1	1,178.2	1,076.9	1,159.4
Lancaster	1,127.5	1,095.4	999.3	1,073.1
West Lancashire	1,096.3	1,085.0	1,019.6	1,061.0
Wyre	**931.8**	**886.7**	**833.8**	**876.0**
Preston	958.8	922.0	841.4	871.7
Chorley	787.7	771.0	677.0	733.3
Blackburn with Darwen	685.6	710.2	662.8	653.2
South Ribble	733.3	902.6	637.6	647.6
Fylde	660.9	636.5	587.4	605.9
Blackpool	537.5	524.7	464.1	500.0
Pendle	513.8	494.0	443.1	466.8
Rossendale	493.7	475.2	434.2	460.4
Hyndburn	447.3	453.6	404.6	443.0
Burnley	462.8	474.3	411.9	434.2
Lancashire Area Total	**10,622.0**	**10,609.5**	**9,493.7**	**9,985.5**

Compared with the 14 local authority areas within Lancashire, Wyre has the 4th largest carbon footprint in the county. This is largely attributed to our location as a rural borough:

- Our sparse geography means that we produce a high proportion of emissions from minor and A road transport to travel around the borough, particularly where there is limited public transport. A proportion of emissions from the M6 motorway are also attributed to Wyre where it intersects our borough.
- A large proportion of domestic emissions are generated from the use of gas to heat our homes, which is a polluting fossil fuel. This is higher in areas without a gas grid connection who rely on directly burning oil.
- Home to a large farming community, agricultural emissions from Wyre's cropland and livestock account for a large proportion of the borough's footprint. These figures are particularly high as farming practices generally emit harmful greenhouse gases including methane from cows and nitrous oxide from fertilisers.

Wyre Council emissions

As a council, we are responsible for reducing the emissions we generate from our own operations, as well as leading on emission reductions across the different sectors within the borough.

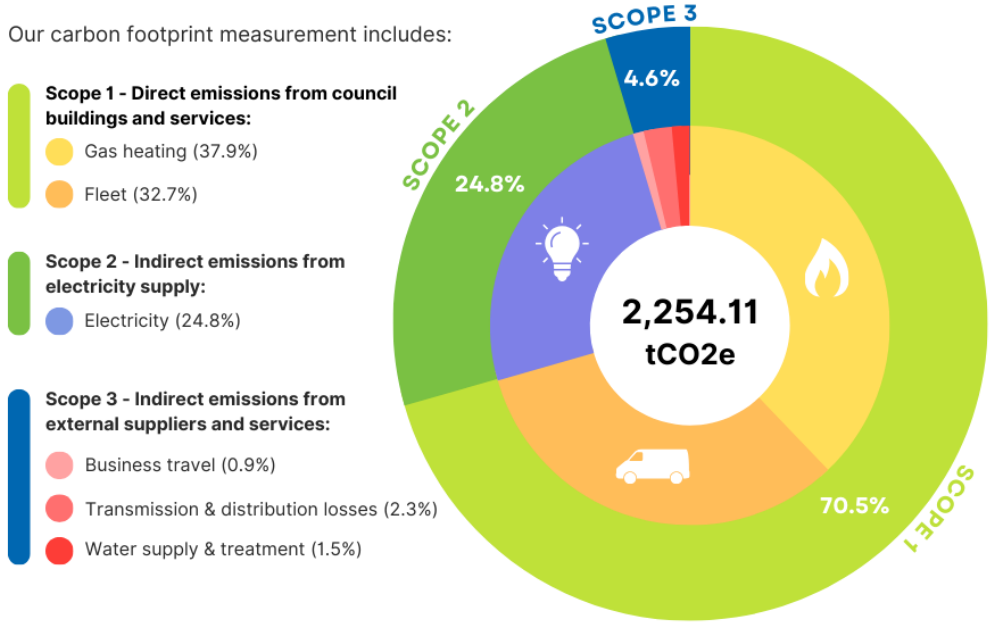
Calculating our emissions

Our emissions are calculated using the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool[12] and cover Scopes 1, 2 and 3 from the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. We have measured the following emission sources, to allow for comparison with our original baseline calculated in 2018/19:

Scopes	Explanation	Included Sources
1	**Direct emissions** from sources owned by the council	- Gas heating - Vehicle fleet
2	**Indirect emissions** from owned assets	- Electricity use
3	**Indirect emissions** from council activities that are not owned/controlled by the council	- Business travel - Transmission and distribution losses - Water supply & treatment

In the 2022/23 financial year, Wyre Council produced 2,254.11 tonnes of CO_2e emissions. Our main sources of emissions are from our:

1. Gas heating (37.9%)
2. Vehicle fleet (32.7%)
3. Electricity use (24.8%)



In addition to our carbon footprint, we continue to measure more emission sources within the council as tools and calculations improve. These include areas such as staff commuting, waste, fuel and material use. Whilst these additional sources are not included within our final total for consistency, they help us to gain a more accurate picture of our overall carbon footprint and allow us to target areas for emissions reduction internally, through interventions such as hybrid working and cycle to work schemes.

Our carbon budget

As part of our Climate Emergency declaration, we have committed to a target to reduce our emissions by at least 78% by 2035, before achieving net zero by 2050. To do this, we must stick within an overall carbon budget. This means limiting the amount of emissions we produce each year, ensuring we don't 'overspend' our emissions budget, until we achieve net zero target. By adhering to the carbon budget, we can limit the negative impacts of climate change to people, the environment and the economy.

Council carbon budget

Based on the council's baseline emissions from the 2018/19 financial year, we have 31,411 tonnes of CO_2e emissions remaining in our carbon budget until 2050.

To meet our interim target by 2035, we must stay within the green area on this graph – representing our carbon budget. This means reducing our emissions on a cumulative basis, decreasing incrementally by at least 4.6% each year from 2018 until we reach 78% in 2035. We then have a final 15 years to reduce any remaining emissions to net zero for 2050.

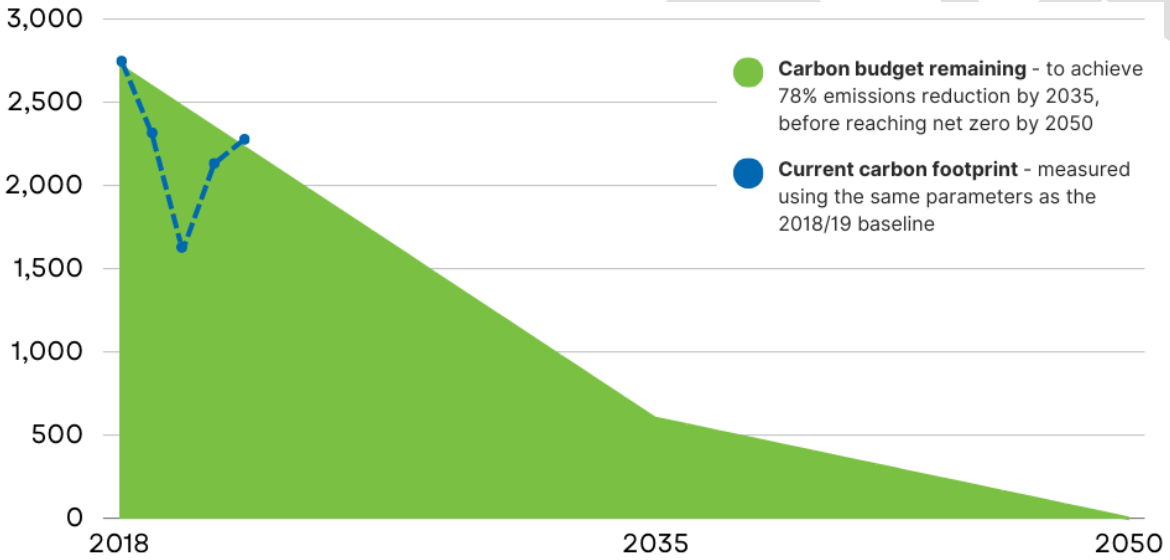


Figure 3: Limit of emissions that can be released each year to stay within our council carbon budget, alongside our current carbon footprint (tCO_2e).

Using the same parameters as our 2018/19 baseline, the council's carbon footprint has dropped by 17%, just 1% away from our target figure for 2021/22.

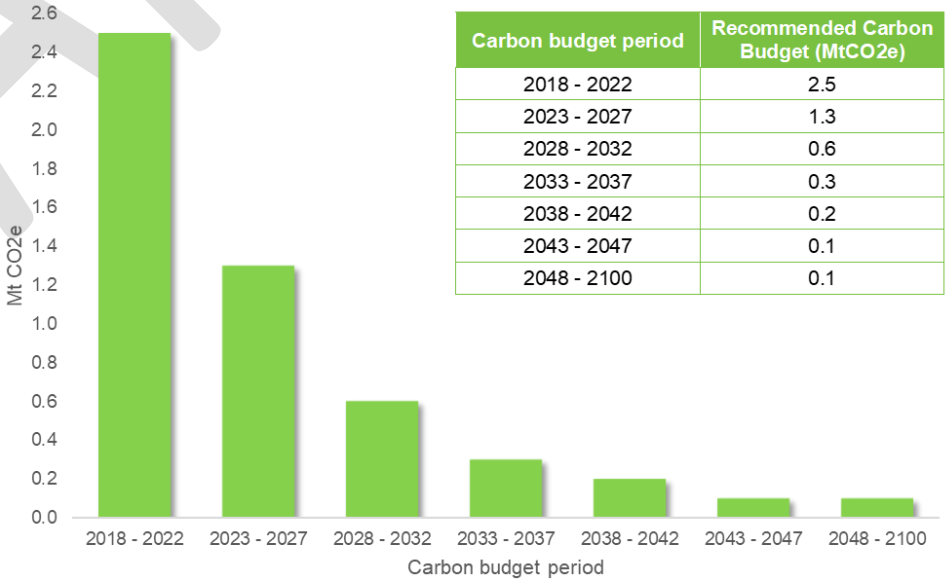
We have stayed largely within our budget, mainly due to a significant drop in emissions during the pandemic whilst our leisure centres and other key sites were closed, although emissions have steadily increased since reopening.

Borough carbon budget

Based on the United Nations Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to “well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C”, UK emission reduction targets have been calculated across UK local authorities[13].

In order to make our fair contribution towards the Paris Agreement, Wyre borough as a whole must stay within a maximum emissions budget of 3.8 million tonnes CO_2e between 2020 and 2100. This means consistently reducing borough emissions by 13.2% each year until the end of the century.

However, based on emission levels when the study was completed in 2017, Wyre borough will exceed its entire recommended budget within 3 years from 2024. It is therefore crucial that we work together across Wyre to help influence an immediate and rapid programme of decarbonisation.



Carbon budget period	Recommended Carbon Budget (MtCO2e)
2018 - 2022	2.5
2023 - 2027	1.3
2028 - 2032	0.6
2033 - 2037	0.3
2038 - 2042	0.2
2043 - 2047	0.1
2048 - 2100	0.1

Figure 4: Recommended carbon emissions budget ($MtCO_2e$) for the borough, from 2018 to 2100.

Delivering our plan

How we will achieve our target

Delivering our plan

Objectives

To achieve our target, we have identified eight key objectives for both our council and the wider area:

1. **Buildings**
   Retrofit and decarbonise buildings and heating systems.
2. **Transport**
   Support decarbonised, safe and sustainable transport.
3. **Net zero council**
   Embed climate action across council governance and financial decision-making.
4. **Planning**
   Use our planning powers to plan for a low carbon and climate resilient future.
5. **Biodiversity**
   Protect and increase biodiversity.
6. **Engagement**
   Collaborate, educate and engage with others to take climate action.
7. **Waste**
   Reduce waste, support a circular economy and sustainable food production.
8. **Adaptation**
   Adapt to our changing climate.

These objectives were chosen to best reflect the main areas that local authorities can influence to reduce emissions internally and across the local area. They target key sources of emissions, such as buildings, transport and waste; opportunities to reduce carbon and mitigate against climate impacts by enhancing our biodiversity; and the need to adapt and plan for our changing climate. They also align closely with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Each objective contains a detailed action plan which together will help us to achieve our overall target. These are outlined below with a summary of the current work in each area, any barriers we need help to overcome and opportunities each objective brings.

Challenges we face

Tackling climate change is an enormous challenge, which we cannot hope to achieve alone. Whilst the risks of inaction are far higher, we want to be transparent in highlighting what we can and cannot control.

The main challenges we face in implementing these actions are outlined below. More specific barriers are incorporated within each action plan, with a column stating what else needs to happen, to draw attention to any additional funding, resources or legislation required to meet each action.

Finance

We have estimated the costs of actions where possible and highlighted what else needs to happen externally for these to succeed. As exact costs are likely to vary, estimated costs have been split into four categories, as shown in the table below.

Estimated cost	Meaning
£	Up to £10,000
££	Between £10,000 and £100,000
£££	Between £100,000 and £1 million
££££	Over £1 million

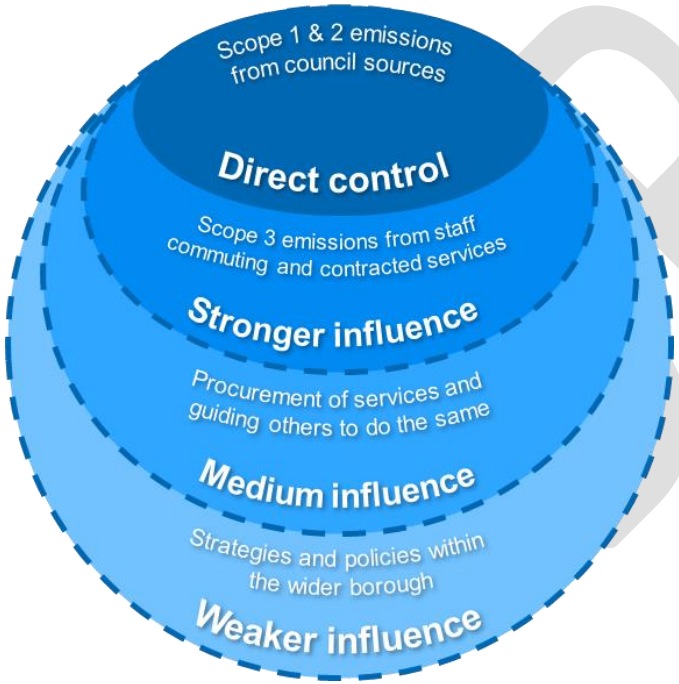
However, whilst we will endeavour to fund actions where we can through internal budgeting, financing these action plans will be a significant challenge. Tackling climate change requires work at all levels of the council and across the wider borough. As highlighted above, our budgetary constraints and limitations in our powers as a borough council mean we cannot hope to fund these actions ourselves. We are therefore reliant on external grant funding opportunities and utilising the strong partnerships with Lancashire County Council and our key stakeholders to achieve our target.

Legislation

As a borough council, we are restricted in what we can do by current government legislation. For instance, national planning policy limits our current powers to encourage new development to be low carbon. Until new national policies are put in place to tackle climate change, we are limited in what we can achieve.

Our spheres of influence

Spheres of influence represent the levels of control we have over emissions reduction for the council and the wider area. Our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, primarily from our vehicle fleet, and gas and electricity usage in our council buildings, are easier to target as they are within our direct control. We have a stronger influence on our staff and contracted services, and a medium influence on our procurement of services and contractors.



As a borough council, we have a weaker influence on reducing emissions within the wider borough. This is because we have fewer powers than Lancashire County Council, who are responsible for services we do not cover, such as public transport, highways, schools and libraries and disposal of the waste we collect.

Nevertheless, local authorities have the potential to influence around a third of UK emissions, through our policies, practices and partnerships[14]. We will therefore be realistic about what we can and cannot achieve as a council and group our actions based on our spheres of influence. Where we have weaker influence, we will raise this as a specific challenge within our action plans and endeavour to work with partners, key stakeholders and the wider community to get the help we need to achieve our collective target of net zero.

Recognising our differing levels of control across emissions within the wider area, we have grouped actions into our main areas of influence for each objective. This arranges actions into those we can directly control and those that we can influence using the different tools at our disposal, such as via policy or engagement using our social media platforms.

Area of Influence	Meaning
Direct control	Reducing emissions from our own activities, including our buildings, staff activities, council commissioning and procurement
Place-shaping	Using policies to help shape new developments, regeneration plans, green infrastructure and economic development.
Showcasing	Bringing people together to create effective partnerships and to demonstrate and reward good practice in the community.
Engaging	Communicating locally to encourage and motivate behaviour change, educate others and raise awareness on climate change impacts and opportunities, and provide leadership.
Partnerships	Working with key stakeholders to achieve a joint goal.

Including your voice

As a strategy for the whole of Wyre, it is vital that we include your voice as residents, businesses, young people, communities and stakeholders. Over the last few years multiple surveys have been run to voice your opinions, including those regarding climate change, which have helped to shape this strategy.

Local resident's views on climate change survey, 2021

In 2021, a survey on local resident's views on climate change in Wyre sought to understand local knowledge, perceptions, views on individual actions and invite suggestions for the council to implement.

"My main motivation is to reduce pollution, protect the environment and reduce carbon emissions so that future generations will not be too adversely affected by the effects of climate change."

Of those who took part in the survey, respondents considered their knowledge on the topic was moderately broad, with limited scepticism about the causes of climate change. They indicated that their main motivation for changing their behaviours was the concern for future generations, followed by health and saving money.

Within the last 5 years, respondents found that climate change had already impacted the local area with increased flooding from rainfall, less biodiversity and worsening weather. They also noted other changes including milder winters, stranger behaviours from plants that are flowering or fruiting twice a year, longer dry spells and droughts effecting crops.

"It's not just drought, we seem to be a lot wetter and have had to take flood prevention measures in Fleetwood to stop ingress into our house after downpours."

It was widely supported that the council should introduce measures that encourage people to adopt environmentally friendly behaviour, rather than leaving it to individuals and businesses to adapt their own behaviour. Of these measures, respondents widely supported setting tougher environmental standards for new developments, planting more trees and plants, introducing more recycling options and renewable energy generation.

Over half of the actions individually suggested in the survey have been incorporated into the action plans. The remaining actions were either unsuitable, fell outside of the influence of the council, or require further exploration.

Life in Wyre residents survey, 2022

Within the most recent Life in Wyre residents survey, respondents were asked how strongly they would support or oppose a range of different actions that the council might take to address climate change. The most popular measures, supported by over three-quarters of respondents were:

- Offering schemes for residents to install renewable energy (84% strongly support / tend to support).
- Supporting renewable energy generation, e.g., solar power (83%).
- Offering advice for reducing bills and improving home energy efficiency (79%).
- Safer walking and cycling routes (78%).
- Setting tougher environmental standards for newer developments (77%).

Future voices

Including the voices of young people in Wyre is crucial, as the actions we take today directly impact upon future generations. Everyone under the age of 18 has the right to be involved in decision making processes that involve them. We will therefore work with youth councils, schools, colleges and other organisations to capture their opinions and aim to involve them in decision-making.

Keeping you in the loop

We plan to regularly communicate and consult with the public on our climate change work and any key strategy updates. This will help us to understand local opinion and bring you with us on our low carbon journey. The resulting recommendations will help inform our future work.

See our website for suggested actions for individuals, communities, businesses and schools to get involved in tackling climate change.

Successes so far

Previously, we had separate council and borough action plans for climate change. This provided the basis for us to achieve the following successes internally and in partnership with key stakeholders across the wider borough:

Achievements within our **internal operations**	Successfully awarded £1m for a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme at Fleetwood Market, in addition to £2m council investment, to cover a whole building retrofit and installation of solar panels, a new roof and air source heat pumps.
	Certified as the first Lancashire local authority to become a Bronze level Carbon Literate Organisation following ongoing staff training, including senior leaders.
	Purchased four electric vans and an electric car for our authority fleet and optimised all fleet vehicle routes.
	Secured Phase 4 Low Carbon Skills Fund of £177,728.00 to create Heat Decarbonisation Plans and detailed designs for Council buildings that use gas.
	Improved the sustainable management of our own green spaces, including meadow creation and implementation of natural flood management measures.
	Encouraged sustainable staff commuting, via a cycle to work scheme, secure cycle storage and discounted bus and tram travel.
	Introduced an internal decision-making tool to identify any climate change impacts for projects and reports and mitigate any negative effects.
	Installed pool covers within our leisure centres to minimise energy waste and identified other key areas for ongoing improvement.
Achievements across the **wider borough**	Successfully secured £1.3m for a Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme to improve social housing stock in Wyre and engaged residents on other energy saving and retrofitting schemes via the Cosy Home in Lancashire partnership.
	Planted approximately 16,760 trees as of early 2024, bringing us 67% towards our target to plant 25,000 trees by 2025.
	Installed electric vehicle charging points on nine of our council car parks, in addition to four dedicated taxi charging locations.
	Invested in the Wyre Catchment Natural Flood Management project, a government pilot scheme working with local farmers to slow and intercept flood water upstream to Wyre.
	Established the ‘Our Future Coasts’ innovation project in partnership with the government, to use nature-based solutions along the coast to restore our saltmarshes and protect communities from flooding.
	Supported Wyre Rivers Trust and Dynamic Dunescapes projects to improve local biodiversity and achieved Green Flag awards for five of our parks and green spaces.
	Introduced a ‘Sustainability and Low Carbon theme’ to each town centre regeneration framework, highlighting key projects for each area.
	Continued to engage with schools and volunteers with climate change and conservation activities, including Young Wyre in Bloom.

Leading the plan

The strategy and action plans will be delivered by both council staff and key stakeholders across the borough, coordinated by the climate change team.

Internal delivery

Each council service area will hold responsibility for specific actions, led by their Heads of Service. An officer working group will collaborate internally to support and drive progress on the action plans.

Carbon Literacy training will be provided for both staff members and councillors, to ensure a strong understanding of the climate crisis. This is vital for cross-party and departmental collaboration to deliver our action plan. We are already a Bronze level Carbon Literate Organisation and we are actively working on progressing our certification.

A councillor Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee will monitor the strategy progress and explore the potential to incorporate further measures into action plans.

Links to our other work

Climate action must lie at the heart of all council strategies to deliver the scale of urgent emissions reduction. Key documents that will feed into the climate change strategy include:

- Council Plan
- Local Plan review
- Asset Management Strategy
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Wyre Urban Core Flood Management Strategy

Key stakeholders

For the plan to succeed, collaboration will be needed with a range of stakeholders across the borough and the surrounding area. This includes partnerships with:

- Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Blackpool Wyre and Fylde CVS
- Cosy Homes in Lancashire
- North and Western Lancashire & East Lancashire Chambers of Commerce
- Environment Agency
- Fylde Coast Economic Prosperity Board
- Lancashire County Council
- Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Landowners
- National Farmers Union (North West Region)
- National Highways
- Natural England
- North West Net Zero Hub
- Regenda Homes
- The North West Coastal Group
- Town Centre Partnership Boards
- Town and Parish Councils
- Transport service operators
- Schools and Colleges
- United Utilities
- Volunteers
- Wildlife and Rivers Trusts
- Wyre Flood Forum
- Wyre Rivers Trust
- Wyred Up business network
- YMCA leisure centres in Wyre

Additionally, collaborative partnerships and commitments will be sought with different sectors including voluntary, educational, health, faith organisations, businesses (both large and SMEs) and other anchor institutions within Wyre. This ensures these actions tie into a holistic strategy of climate action across Wyre.

Creating our targets

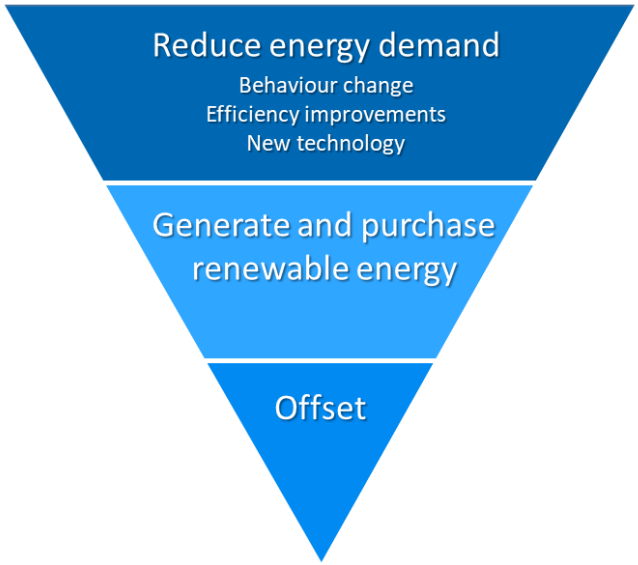
The actions set out below are written as SMART targets, which ensures that they are:

- Specific rather than generalised actions
- Measurable with different performance indicators for each action
- Achievable within the constraints of the council
- Relevant to our target
- Time-bound with specific timescales given per action

Prioritising actions

Overall, actions will follow a hierarchy which prioritises mitigation measures before offsetting. This aims to rapidly bring down emissions from the council and the borough, staying within our carbon budget and achieving our interim target of a 78% emissions reduction by 2035.

Whilst important, actions to offset emissions will be used as a last resort, to account for any remaining emissions that cannot be reduced. Put simply – when a bath is overflowing, you must turn off the taps before trying to mop up the water.



A note on offsetting

Although it is often discussed, offsetting is still largely in development and cannot yet be relied upon for effective emissions reduction.

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology cannot yet operate at the scale needed for significant impact, and Carbon Credits for tree planting schemes are not yet reliable or guaranteed in the long term.

Where we plan to offset, we will focus this within the local area to provide both wildlife and community benefits in the form of natural flood management and community energy projects.

Monitoring our progress

The action plans within this strategy are live documents, which will be reviewed and updated annually by the climate change team to reflect emerging technologies, guidance, best practice and policies.

The officer working group will discuss progress and drive forward climate action. This will include a review of actions by our councillor Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee. Actions will be measured via different performance indicators for each action. Discontinued or amended actions will be kept in an actions log, to keep track of changes.

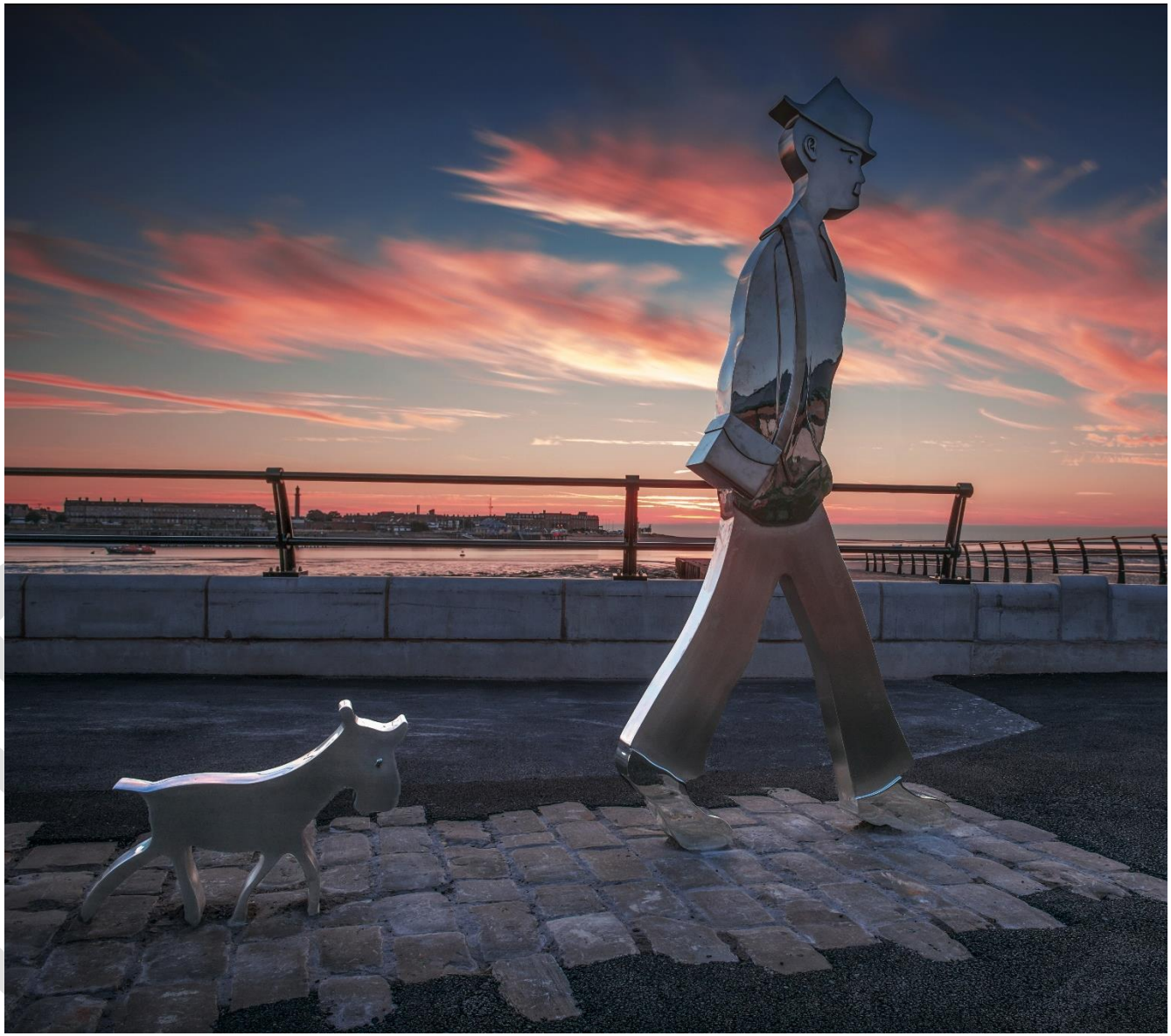


Photo credit: A Carr.

Our action plans

Eight action plans to meet our key objectives

Our action plans

Within this section, we outline separate action plans to meet our eight key objectives for both the council and wider borough:

1. **Buildings**
   Retrofit and decarbonise buildings and heating systems.
2. **Transport**
   Support decarbonised, safe and sustainable transport.
3. **Net zero council**
   Embed climate action across council governance and financial decision-making.
4. **Planning**
   Use our planning powers to plan for a low carbon and climate resilient future.
5. **Biodiversity**
   Protect and increase biodiversity.
6. **Engagement**
   Collaborate, educate and engage with others to take climate action.
7. **Waste**
   Reduce waste, support a circular economy and sustainable food production.
8. **Adaptation**
   Adapt to our changing climate.

Objective 1: Buildings

Retrofit and decarbonise buildings and heating systems.

One of the largest sources of emissions in the UK comes from our poorly insulated and drafty homes, which are typically heated by fossil fuel gas. Across Wyre, a large proportion of homes are not connected to the gas grid and are instead heated by oil or liquid petroleum gas (LPG), which are not only expensive but highly polluting.

Retrofitting homes and buildings to include better insulation, draft-proofing and renewable heating systems can significantly reduce emissions alongside a range of positive outcomes, including warmer homes, reduced heating bills and a boost to jobs in the sector.

Current progress

As one of our main sources of emissions, and a high cost to the council in fuel bills, we have been focusing on identifying ways to improve the efficiency of our council buildings and plan for full retrofit projects where possible.

So far, we have been successfully awarded £1m from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to carry out significant work at our historic Fleetwood Market. With additional finance from the council, Heritage Action Zone and UK Shared Prosperity Funding, we have completed a whole building retrofit with new windows, doors and a brand-new roof to improve energy efficiency. We have also installed solar panels and air source heat pumps to heat the building sustainably, alongside other building improvements for traders and visitors to enjoy.

In addition to our improvement work at Fleetwood Market, we have been awarded £177,728 from the Government's Low Carbon Skills Fund to help us plan for decarbonising our remaining council buildings. Using specialist consultants, this funding will help us to understand more about our current buildings and what we need to do to improve their efficiency and switch to renewable heating systems. This will prepare us for future funding bids to carry out the costly improvements, which will provide significant carbon and cost savings.

Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL)

Our partnership with Cosy Homes in Lancashire is helping residents across the borough to improve their home energy efficiency. Their website provides a one-stop shop for local residents to learn more about different energy saving measures, apply for funding for eligible properties or access free insulation to reduce heating bills and make our homes cosy.

Challenges to overcome:

- High upfront cost of retrofitting and installing renewable heating systems as a barrier for residents.
- Capacity of the current electricity grid to manage demand for renewable energy installations.
- Limited council influence over houses already built within the borough, aside from enforcing energy efficiency standards among private landlords.
- Current skills shortage among the workforce and supply chain issues for suitable materials.
- Level of education and awareness for homeowners on energy efficiency measures and renewable heating alternatives.
- National building regulations limiting planning decisions that favour energy efficiency and renewable energy in new homes.
- Lack of guidance and legislation from the Government regarding a heat strategy for the UK.

Positive outcomes:

- Significant emissions reduction.
- Warmer, more efficient homes and buildings.
- Fewer cold and damp-related illnesses and social referrals to the NHS.
- Cheaper energy bills.
- Reduced levels of fuel poverty.
- An increase in local jobs and opportunities to upskilling workers in retrofitting and renewable installations.
- Potential income from renewable energy generation.

1.	What we will do	How we will do it	When we will do it	How will we measure it	Current progress	What else needs to happen	Estimated costs	Who will ensure this happens
1.A: Direct control								
1.A1	Ensure the council's electricity supply is powered by renewable energy.	Review electricity supply to council offices, leisure centres and leased buildings where the council pays the energy tariff. Switch remaining sites on brown energy to renewable energy supply.	When contracts are up for renewal a renewable supply will be procured where feasible and economically viable.	Energy supply contracts.	The majority of the council sites are already supplied with renewable energy. Remaining sites powered by brown energy include the leisure centres and swimming pools, unmetered supply points and CCTV systems. These will be reviewed when contracts are up for renewal in 2025.		£££ Costs are uncertain and cannot be determined until pricing is requested when contracts are up for renewal.	**Procurement**, Assets and Development Projects and Climate Change teams.
1.A2	Audit and seek grant funding to carry out significant retrofit work to council buildings and leisure centres to make them low carbon.	**Audit** buildings to identify energy waste, estimate costs and savings for low carbon retrofit, including: - Creating on-site renewable energy. - Whole building retrofitting, including heat pump installations. - Extensive insulation of walls and floors. - Replacing gas boilers or installing a combined heating system.	Audits of key sites completed by end of financial year 2023/24.	Audits and heat decarbonisation plans for main council buildings and leisure centres. Results to be included within our Asset Management Strategy.	Successfully awarded a £177,728 grant from the government Low Carbon Skills Fund to procure consultants to survey and create detailed designs for decarbonising council assets heated by gas. Plans will be completed by March 2024.	Expertise from external consultants.	£££ £177,728 to create decarbonisation plans and detailed designs for council assets heated by gas. A similar figure will be expected for our remaining sites.	**Assets and Development Projects**, Procurement, Finance and Climate Change teams.
		Retrofit key council buildings and leisure centres, prioritising buildings that have the highest energy consumption.	Plan to be made immediately after completed audit work, end of financial year 2024/25 (this does not include the retrofit works to take place).	Number of retrofit projects which have received funding.	Awarded a £1m grant from the government Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to install energy efficiency measures and alternative heating solutions for Fleetwood Market. Project.	Significant external investment will be required to fund retrofit works. Government grant funding schemes required.	££££ This is currently being costed for council-owned assets heated by gas. Forecasts will be available by March 2024.	**Assets and Development Projects**, Procurement, Finance and Climate Change teams.

1.A3	Work with tenants to improve EPC ratings of leased assets.	Compile a list of the council's key leased assets and work with tenants to identify and implement measures to improve energy efficiency.	End of financial year 2023/24.	Audits completed for key leased sites.	All EPCs have been updated and any works required are being considered.	Cooperation with tenants.	Costs to be confirmed once audits complete.	**Assets and Development Projects,** Legal and Climate Change teams.
		Identify "trigger points" such as lease breaks and planned refurbishments, where we can encourage retrofits to take place and guidance provided.	Ongoing as lease breaks will occur at different times. All to have received advice by end of financial year 2025/26.	All sites to achieve an EPC rating in line with government guidelines and to implement additional efficiency measures where feasible and economically viable.				
		Explore the use and viability of green leases for our leased assets.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Working group in place.		Cooperation with tenants.		**Assets and Development Projects** and Climate Change Teams.
1.A4	Ensure all council-owned amenity lighting is energy efficient.	Switch all remaining inefficient lighting to LEDs. Review where we are providing amenity lighting and duration to identify potential savings.	End of financial year 2024/25.	All council-owned amenity lighting switched to LEDs.	Currently 50% of council owned amenity lighting is LED.			**Assets and Development Projects**, Engineering and Caretakers teams.
1.B: Showcasing								
1.B1	Arrange information sessions on community renewable energy projects for groups such as residents, parish and town councils.	Collaborate with partners such as Community Energy England and the North West Net Zero hub to provide information to interested parties. Highlight local successes and opportunities.	Twice annually.	Two sessions minimum per year.		Collaboration with stakeholders and successful community energy project holders.	£	**Climate Change team**, Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities and Communications teams.
1.B2	Showcase successful council building retrofit examples to local businesses.	Create case studies of council retrofit examples to share lessons among local businesses and other Local Authorities.	Fleetwood Market case study to be compiled by end of financial year 2024/25, to allow for the site to be operational for a year.	Case studies available online.				Climate Change team.
1.C: Place-shaping								

1.C1	Enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for homes in the private rented sector.	Issuing enforcement notices and fines for landlords renting out homes with an EPC rating of E or lower.	Ongoing – government deadline 2030.	Number of notices/fines enforced		Government support.		Housing Services.
1.D: Engaging								
1.D1	Provide advice to residents on home retrofitting and energy efficiency.	Provision of guidance on the council website.	Ongoing.	Advice available on website.	Advice and signposting on home energy efficiency and retrofitting is available on the climate change section of the website.			**Climate Change team,** Housing Services, Care and Repair and Communications teams.
		Events and roadshows with energy advice and an opportunity for the public to ask questions.	Yearly roadshows and events.	Number of roadshows and events per year.	The Climate Change team attend multiple events throughout the year to raise awareness of climate actions.	Support from partnerships such as Cosy Homes in Lancashire.		
		Train frontline workers surveying homes to give advice on energy efficiency and signpost to appropriate avenues for support.	All training to be completed by end of financial year 2024/25.	Number of frontline workers trained.		External training.	£	
1.E: Partnerships								
1.E1	Work with Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) to promote energy efficiency improvements.	Provide help and assistance through CHiL on accessing grants, providing advice on more fuel-efficient heating and insulating homes.	Ongoing.	Number of energy saving measures installed by CHiL in Wyre.		Ongoing provision of the Household Support Fund by the Government.		**Housing Services**, Climate Change team and Lancashire County Council.
		Promotion of CHiL through targeted mailings and promotional activity for their initiatives.	Ongoing.	Number of energy saving measures installed by CHiL in Wyre.	CHiL representatives regularly attend council events throughout the year to help promote energy efficiency improvements.	Ongoing provision of the Household Support Fund by the Government.		**Housing Services,** Communications**,** Climate Change team and Lancashire County Council.

1.E2	Work with communities to support community renewable energy projects.	Provide funding or other support to facilitate community energy projects where appropriate and economically viable.	As and when communities decide to move forward with a scheme.	Increase number of community energy schemes in Wyre. Amount of support given by the council.	We are currently supporting a community group in Calder Vale to explore renewable energy alternatives.	Government support and external grants.	Costs dependant on scheme.	Climate Change team.
1.E3	Explore schemes to allow residents to purchase renewable energy cheaply, through collective buying.	Research and partner with nearby councils to support a Solar Together project or equivalent.	Enter into a scheme by end of financial year 2025/26.	Signup threshold achieved by residents across Wyre, signing up to collective energy scheme.		Support from nearby Local Authorities to achieve threshold for the scheme.		**Climate Change team** and Lancashire Local Authorities.
1.E4	Evaluate capacity for renewable energy.	Commission a joint Local Area Energy Plan or similar review to assess the capacity for renewable energy infrastructure across the Fylde Coast.	Complete by end of financial year 2029/30.	Creation of Local Area Energy Plan or similar local review of energy capacity.		Government support, funding and external expertise.	~~£~~~~£~~~~£~~~~£~~	**Climate Change team** and Fylde Coast Local Authorities.

Objective 2: Transport

Support decarbonised, safe and sustainable transport.

Across Wyre, current transport methods cause a significant amount of polluting emissions within the borough. This is also true for the council, as our vehicle fleet is one of the top three contributors to our internal carbon footprint.

Reducing emissions from transport in Wyre is a particular challenge, as residents are limited in public transport options. Demand for individual car-ownership is also increasing across the UK, particularly for heavily polluting SUVs. Not only does this increase emissions, but it congests our roads, reduces our safety and directly pollutes the air we breathe.

As a borough council, we are not responsible for transport in Wyre. However, we can use our influence to work with key stakeholders such as Lancashire County Council (LCC) and Blackpool Transport to support our residents with better public and active transport alternatives. We can also lead by example in addressing the emissions from our own fleet and waste collection vehicles.

Current progress

Internally, our vehicle fleet accounts for one of the largest sources of emissions within the council. We are tackling this through a phased replacement of our fleet to Electric Vehicles (EVs), with four electric vans and one electric car already in place so far. However, this is a costly process, particularly for our larger waste collection vehicles. Until a more financially viable solution is available, we have fitted electric bin lifts to improve efficiency and agreed to switch to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) biofuel to reduce our emissions in the meantime.

Driving the move from fossil fuelled transport

In Autumn 2023, the council agreed to swap diesel for Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as the primary fuel source for our vehicle fleet – cutting a massive 30% from our carbon footprint.

HVO is made from fats and vegetable oils, which undergoes a process called hydrogenation to create a biofuel that we can use to power vehicles. No engine changes are needed and the HVO we use is palm oil free, so it is simple to make the change.

Whilst this is more expensive than diesel, it is a great alternative until electricity grid connections improve and EV technology becomes more affordable for our larger waste collection vehicles.

We are also taking into account the emissions produced from our staff commutes. Since introducing hybrid working, commuting emissions have dropped by a third. We also offer a Cycle to Work scheme, a secure bike rack at our Civic Centre and discounted bus and tram travel to encourage staff to use sustainable travel.

Within the borough we have installed EV charging points on our main council car parks, to facilitate residents and visitors in the switch towards more sustainable cars. Whilst new homes are required by current planning policy to include EV charging points, we have also been assisting with the development of Lancashire County Council's EV strategy to support the transition across the wider area.

Among wider transport plans, we jointly offer the Fleetwood to Knott End ferry with LCC, enabling residents to avoid car travel. We are working with LCC to develop Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, and we are a stakeholder in the National Rail project to explore reinstating the Poulton to Fleetwood railway line – improving transport links, boosting employment and tourism, access to further education for young people and enable the regeneration of the area.

Challenges to overcome:

- We are not the direct transport authority for the area. However, we can use planning powers to influence the connectivity of future development, work in partnership to facilitate improvements and engage with residents to encourage sustainable and active transport.
- The rural nature of Wyre means it is challenging to provide cost-effective sustainable transport options to the whole area.
- Changing travel behaviours alongside rising demand for private cars and SUVs.
- High upfront cost of electric vehicles, particularly larger wagons, and embedded emissions from manufacturing new electric batteries (although significantly less than petrol and diesel vehicles).
- High cost of alternative biofuel for council owned vehicles.
- The M6 motorway intersects part of the borough, contributing to the area's emissions.

Positive outcomes:

- Increasing levels of active travel through connected networks leads to healthier, more active residents and less pressure on public health services.
- Fewer polluting petrol and diesel cars allows for improved air quality and quieter, safer streets for children to play in.
- Potential money savings from using sustainable transport.

2.	What we will do	How we will do it	When we will do it	How will we measure it	Current progress	What else needs to happen	Estimated costs	Who will ensure this happens
2.A: Direct control								
2.A1	Reduce emissions from council vehicles.	Where there is service review or significant changes, route optimisation will be considered for fleet vehicles.	Annual review of fuel usage.	Review fuel usage and estimated annual mileage of electric vehicles and compare annually.	Our waste collection service Veolia have already optimised vehicle routes for maximum efficiency.			**Transport Maintenance**, Waste Collection, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Teams.
		Transition of diesel council vehicles to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) biofuel.	Start of financial year 2024/25.	Number of vehicles using HVO or alternative fuel source.	The council agreed in September 2023 to transition our vehicle fleet to HVO in spring 2024.			**Transport Maintenance**.
		Phased vehicle replacement following an evaluation of the best option to reduce emissions, including purchase of EVs, use of alternative fuel type, or removal of unnecessary vehicles.	Annual review of fleet. Individual review when vehicles require replacement.	Reduction in carbon footprint.	The council currently have four electric vans and one electric car.	Budget considerations for all vehicles.		**Transport Maintenance.**
2.A2	Reduce emissions from business travel.	Creation of a Green Travel policy to encourage sustainable business travel.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Policy created.				Human Resources and **Climate Change teams**.
2.A3	Reduce emissions from staff commuting.	Promote the staff cycle to work and discounted public transport schemes.	Annual promotion to staff throughout the year.	Number of staff using the cycle to work scheme. Number of staff using the discounted transport scheme.				**Communications** and Climate Change teams.
		Review current commuting practices and identify areas to improve upon.	Staff survey every two years. Regular meetings to explore interventions.	Reduction in staff emissions calculated by annual survey.	A staff commuting survey was conducted in 2022 providing a baseline for commuting emissions.			**Climate Change team**.
		Facilitate hybrid working by requiring all meetings to have an online option where possible.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Creation of sustainable working guidance.	A Hybrid Working Policy is in place, allowing staff members to work flexibly from any location.			**Human Resources** and Climate Change team.

2.A4	Reduce unnecessary vehicle idling.	Review vehicle tracking software to identify idling time by vehicle type. Work with drivers to understand reasons for idling and introduce measures to reduce this.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Reduction in vehicle idling times.				**Transport Maintenance** and Procurement teams.
2.B: Place-shaping								
2.B1	Reduce transport-related emissions by encouraging sustainable development.	Through the Local Plan prioritise development in locations close to high quality places, spaces and services to reduce the number and length of car journeys for all residents and ensure future developments are well-connected to bus routes and safe walking, cycling and wheeling networks.	End of financial year 2026/27.	Percentage of new dwellings approved within 1km of key services. Percentage and number of dwellings built within 1km of a bus stop. Number of developments receiving planning permission with a travel plan. Number of developments in walking/cycling/wheeling networks.	We have adopted an up-to-date Local Plan which has allocated sites in sustainable locations. Access to sustainable transport options will be a key consideration to the new Local Plan review.	Government regulations to support sustainable development.	~~£~~~~£~~~~£~~~~£~~	**Planning**.
2.B2	Encourage and support the increased use of EV and low emission vehicles.	Licencing Committee to review the Taxi Licensing Policy to consider updating the vehicle standards relating to age of vehicle fleet and emissions.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Number of taxis registered as EVs or low emission vehicles. All taxis will be within the age limit unless granted an exception.	Current Taxi Licencing Policy requires new or replacement vehicles to meet Euro 4 (petrol) or Euro 6 (diesel) emissions standards and encourages hybrid or EVs when purchasing new vehicles.	Government legislation to require stronger licencing standards.		**Licensing,** Environmental Health and Community Safety and Climate Change teams.
		Installation of public EV charging points on appropriate council-owned land and car parks.	Ongoing.	Number of EV charging points available on council-owned land and car parks.	23 charging points have been installed on nine council car parks. An additional 4 sites have been installed for the taxi industry.	External funding and grid capacity.	Funding provided by The Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV).	Engineering.
		Encourage town and parish councils, businesses and communities to opportunities for	Information available on website by end of financial year 2023/24.	Number of publicly available EV charging points in Wyre.	Two charging points have so far been installed in Hambleton and Great Eccleston.			**Climate Change** and Communications teams.

		installing EV charging points on their land.						
2.B3	Monitor and work to improve air quality across the borough.	Monitor air quality data across the borough, implement any actions necessary to improve.	Annually.	Air quality monitoring and compliance.	Part way through this year's monitoring data and will be reporting to DEFRA on last year's results.		£	**Environmental Health and Community Safety**.
2.C: Engaging								
2.C1	Support the community to use active travel.	Build upon the success of the Wyre Wheels cycling programme for people with learning difficulties and physical impairments.	Weekly scheme throughout spring and summer.	Number of people participating in scheme.			£	**Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities** and Communications teams.
		Work with the community to offer cycling repair workshops.	Weekly scheme throughout spring and summer, to be implemented in financial year 2024/25.	Number of people participating in scheme.			£	**Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities**.
2.D: Partnerships								
2.D1	Work in partnership to reduce travel and transport related emissions.	Support Lancashire County Council to deliver transport decarbonisation measures and encourage people to utilise existing transport systems. Contribute to development of the Lancashire EV Strategy.	Ongoing.	Number of workshops and forums attended.		Lancashire County Council support.		**Engineering.**
		Support the Government and key stakeholders in progress to reopen of the Poulton to Fleetwood railway line.	Ongoing.	Involvement in scheme development.		Government support.		**Management Board.**
2.D2	Encourage active travel and reduced car use.	Support the development of the Wyre Way cycle loop and the Lancashire Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plans with Lancashire County Council.	Ongoing.	Length of total and new dedicated pedestrian and cycle routes created in Wyre.	Work has commenced on the LCWIP. A draft plan is being prepared and two public consultations have taken place.	Government and Lancashire County Council support.	£££	**Planning,** Economic Development and Engineering teams.
		Work with partners to deliver Wyre's Moving More Strategy.	Ongoing.	Number of people engaging in the Moving More scheme.			££	**Leisure, healthy Lifestyles and Communities team.**

2.D3	Explore supporting a shared transport scheme for communities across the borough.	Explore the feasibility of car sharing schemes, community car clubs, other schemes to substitute individual car ownership and support those that already exist across Wyre.	End of financial year 2025/26.	Engagement with key stakeholders.		External grant funding.		Climate Change and **Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities teams.**

Objective 3: Net zero council

Embed climate action across council governance and financial decision-making.

Our Climate Emergency declaration committed the council to delivering a range of actions to support emissions reduction both internally and across the wider borough. This is a huge undertaking, which can only be truly achieved by shifting our mindset as a council. If we are to effectively coordinate the rapid emissions reduction we need, climate change needs to be at the heart of our decision-making.

This means looking inwardly at our policies, strategies and processes to identify how we might be contributing to climate change and make improvements. This includes considering emissions within all decision-making, project design, procurement of services and carrying out our day-to-day operations.

Current progress

We are already making strong progress in raising the profile of climate change among staff in the council and within key processes. Place and Climate is one of four key priorities within the 2024 Council Plan, facilitated by a yearly council budget for climate action.

An internal Climate Change Impact Assessment tool is in place to help staff determine the potential impacts of proposed decisions or projects and put in place any necessary measures to prevent a negative outcome. In addition to legal and financial implications, all council reports now require a mandatory summary of any climate change implications.

Carbon Literate Organisation Bronze

Our staff are also engaging in comprehensive Carbon Literacy training sessions to understand more about climate change and what they can do to make a difference at home and in the workplace.

Participants have included directors, senior managers and a range of staff members within the council. As the first Carbon Literate Organisation in Lancashire, we plan to build upon our bronze level achievement by training more staff and councillors to embed a low carbon culture.

Challenges to overcome:

- Lack of government regulation, funding and support, particularly as the actions within this strategy cannot be funded by the council alone.
- Capacity and resource constraints for accessing available grant funding.
- Behaviour change required among staff and councillors to enable a low carbon culture.

Positive outcomes:

- Innovative measures that improve the efficiency of council services.
- Potential financial savings and income generation.
- A cascade of positive impacts to the local area among Carbon Literate staff through committed pledge actions.
- Better understanding of wasted energy within the council, where to improve and save money.

The first Carbon Literate Organisation in Lancashire

In 2021, we became one of over 5,000 organisations registered as Carbon Literate. This is because we began engaging our directors, senior managers and members of staff in Carbon Literacy training days.

This is a one-day course designed to raise awareness of the science of climate change, as well as the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities. Most importantly, participants are empowered with knowledge of potential solutions and actions we can take in response to the climate crisis, both individually and within the workplace.

At the end of the training, learners commit to two pledges to reduce emissions within their roles and areas of influence in the council. Following successful assessment, staff are certified as Carbon Literate.

This is a crucial step towards creating a low carbon culture within the council and enabling staff to identify and make positive changes within their own roles.

3.	What we will do	How we will do it	When we will do it	How will we measure it	Current progress	What else needs to happen	Estimated costs	Who will ensure this happens
3.A: Direct control								
3.A1	Carbon footprint measurement.	Report yearly on the council and borough carbon footprints and identify high emission sources to target for reductions.	Annual summary report.	Council analysis using LGA Carbon Accounting Tool. Borough data from the department for Energy Security and Net Zero.	Using the same parameters as our 2018/19 baseline, the council's carbon footprint has dropped by 17%, just 1% away from our target figure for 2021/22.	Government targets and measuring guidelines for Local Authorities.		**Climate Change team**.
3.A2	Ensure climate change is at the heart of every council decision.	Introduce a climate change impact assessment to accompany reports and decision-making within the council.	End of financial year 2023/24.	Inclusion of climate change statement in all council reports. Annual review of assessment tool scoring.	The council's report structure has been updated to include a mandatory statement on any climate impacts. A climate change decision making tool has been adopted by the council and used internally to assist council officers with projects and decisions.			**Climate Change team**.
		Ensure spending officers consider local and sustainable alternatives in their purchase process if applicable.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Updated guidance available.	We are investigating rationalising our supplier base to consider sustainable sourced products and consolidating deliveries to reduce emissions from transport.			**Procurement**, Spending Officers and Finance teams.
3.A3	Ensure our net zero target is embedded in our Mid Term Financial Plan (MTFP).	Climate action will be clearly listed as one of the council's core budget priorities across the borough.	To be included at next review of MTFP.	Inclusion within the MTFP.			To be confirmed.	**Corporate Management Team and Cabinet.**
3.A4	Embed climate action and waste reduction into the council's procurement strategy.	Review the current procurement strategy to embed guidance to support climate action. This may include reviewing a supplier sustainability statement or strategy to ensure minimal environmental impact,	End of financial year 2024/25.	Updated procurement policy.		Updated procurement legislation (due 2024).		**Procurement**.

		before being awarded a contract.						
3.A5	Staff and councillor Carbon Literacy training.	Ensure all senior management, Cabinet and member committee chairs receive Carbon Literacy Training.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Number of key leaders certified as Carbon Literate.				**Climate Change team** and Management board.
		All staff to receive Carbon Literacy training.	Existing staff to be trained by end of financial year 2025/26. Ongoing training will be available for new starters.	Number of staff certified as Carbon Literate.				
		Carry out refresher Carbon Literacy training to keep knowledge up to date and momentum in climate action.	Ongoing.	Number of staff attending refresher training.		Creation of refresher training by Carbon Literacy Project.		
		Achieve Silver level Carbon Literate Organisation award.	End of financial year 2025/26.	Carbon Literate Organisation award level achieved.				
3.A6	Explore opportunities for income sources to fund climate action.	Research potential income generation sources for climate action, such as Section 106 funding and Community Infrastructure Levy.	Annual review of opportunities.	Funding obtained.		Government support.		Finance, Legal, Planning and **Climate Change** teams.
3.A7	Consider environmental sustainability with regards to all council investments.	Look to understand the environmental sustainability pledges of partners that we invest with.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Number of environmental sustainability pledges of all the partners we invest with.				**Finance**.
3.A8	Review council-owned land and buildings to deliver potential renewable energy schemes, carbon storage, water storage, nature recovery and	Review current council-owned land, buildings and leases for potential environmental schemes and list suitable locations for further exploration.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Review complete.		Creation of a working group to move this action forward.	££ May be a higher cost dependent upon consultancy fees.	**Assets and Development Projects**, Finance, Legal, Public Realm, Parks and Open Spaces, Coast and Countryside and Climate Change teams.

	biodiversity enhancement.	Assess the viability for purchasing and investing in land for environmental schemes.	Ongoing after above review complete.	Number of environmental schemes on council-owned land.		Availability of suitable land for purchase.	£££	**Assets and Development Projects,** Finance, Parks and Open spaces, Coast and Countryside and Legal teams.
3.A9	Ensure the Climate Change Strategy actions are integrated into all Service Plans.	Integrate all relevant climate actions are incorporated into the appropriate Service Plans.	Start of financial year 2024/25.	Incorporation into Service Plans.				**Heads of Service.**
3.B: Partnerships								
3.B1	Work with Lancashire County Council's pension provider where possible to support divestment from fossil fuels within the council's pension funds.	Review the annual investments report from Lancashire County Council on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry. Council to pass a motion in support for divestment from all fossil fuels within the council's pension funds.		Review complete. Motion of support for divestment.		As the council does not have control over its own pension investments, cooperation is needed with Lancashire County Council's pension provider.		**Cabinet** and Finance.
3.B2	Work with the Fylde Coast Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) to support economic growth and attract greener investment to Wyre when projects have been made available.	Continue to support Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone and other projects as requested by the EPB.	As and when projects become available.	Dependant on project.				**Economic Development**, Climate Change team and Fylde Coast Economic Prosperity Board.

Objective 4: Planning

Use our planning powers to plan for a low carbon future.

Planning is one of our key areas of influence for climate action in the wider borough. Future decisions and development in the area are all guided by a Local Plan, which is required by government. This is a local guide to what can be built within Wyre, shaping development of housing, employment, retail, the environment and protected areas across the area.

Current progress

Wyre's current Local Plan contains a number of policies that have a climate mitigation and adaptation aspect. This includes policies that aim to create sustainable development by:

- Reducing energy demand and utilising renewable or low carbon energy sources.
- Limiting carbon consumed through the implementation and construction processes, e.g., by reusing existing on-site materials or sourcing materials locally.
- Ensuring that building design and layout has been optimised for energy efficiency whilst maintaining heat stress.
- Minimising water use and ensuring the sustainable management of water.
- Ensuring that biodiversity, green infrastructure and landscaping proposals are designed in a way that is resilience to climate change impacts now and in the future and provide adaptation benefits now.
- Reducing air pollution.

The council is required by government to review policies in the Local Plan every five years to assess whether they need updating. This process will provide the opportunity to consider afresh how spatial planning can embed climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience into new development.

The Local Plan must be supported by a robust and up to date evidence base and a consideration of climate change impacts and the planning response will be an integral part of evidence we prepare. This strategy will be updated to reflect the outcome of emerging climate change evidence prepared to support future editions of the Wyre Local Plan and to reflect the national planning policy regime extant at the time.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on new developments

BNG is a new piece of government planning legislation commencing in 2024. It requires developers to improve the biodiversity of any land being developed by at least 10% - meaning that at the end of the development, land will be in a better ecological condition than when it started.

Biodiversity is vitally important because it supports a range of habitats, species and significant ecosystems, providing us with the basics of life – clean air and water, good health and wellbeing, healthy soil for good food production, water storage, protection from extreme weather events and much more.

This tool will help us to protect and enhance the habitats within Wyre, making nature a crucial part of all future development.

Challenges to overcome:

- Need to work closely with the development industry to embed climate-change policies and actions in new development and overcome any reluctance to do so.
- Limitations imposed by national planning policy and legislation.
- Uncertainties with regard to the future direction of national planning policy.
- The risks of climate change we are designing for are not fully known and it is difficult to design for uncertainty.

Positive outcomes:

- Less fuel poverty from better built homes and improved regulation.
- Healthier residents, less pressure on NHS and other public services.
- Change in behaviour from the developers, with low carbon building practices becoming the norm.
- Better adaption and resilience to extreme weather conditions.
- Better water management and water storage.

4.	What we will do	How we will do it	When we will do it	How will we measure it	Current progress	What else needs to happen	Estimated costs	Who will ensure this happens
4.A: Direct control								
4.A1	Embed climate change as a "golden thread" running through future reviews of the Local Plan.	Review the Local Plan and embed climate change and nature recovery as a central theme.	End of financial year 2026/27.	Reviewed Local Plan which includes policies on mitigation, adaptation and resilience to address climate change in Wyre. Include policies that support biodiversity and nature recovery in Wyre.	Review underway.	National Planning policy and guidance provides strong support for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures.	~~£~~£££	**Planning** and Climate Change teams.
4.A2	Prepare planning guidance that addresses climate-related themes.	Create appropriate guidance documents for relevant areas in line with existing government policy for example: design and flooding.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Additional planning guidance on climate-related themes.			~~£~~£	**Planning** and Climate Change teams.
4.B: Place-shaping								
4.B1	Require new development proposals to show how they intend to mitigate against climate change and adapt to its impacts.	Development proposals must demonstrate through a climate change statement how they respond to climate change through appropriate design, making best use of resources and assets including incorporation of water and energy efficiency measures through construction and operational phases and reuse and recycling in construction both in selection of materials and management of residual waste.	Ongoing.	Percentage and number of proposals supported by an acceptable climate change statement.	We have adopted a local validation checklist for planning applications which requires a climate change statement to be submitted with all developments except for householder applications.	Developer support.	£	**Planning and** Climate Change teams.
4.B2	Continue to work with partners to reduce the risk of flooding to local communities.	Direct development away from land at greatest risk of flooding from all sources.	Ongoing.	Number and percentage of dwellings and other buildings permitted in flood zones 2 and 3.	Updating evidence base on flood risk.		~~£~~£	Planning.

				Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice in areas at risk of flooding.				
4.B3	Promote the sustainable management of water.	Developments to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) where possible.	Ongoing.	Number of planning permissions incorporating SuDS.				Planning.
4.B4	Review opportunities in Wyre to develop renewable energy schemes e.g., wind, solar and wave.	Support the development of new renewable energy schemes in line with the Local Plan Policy. (EP12 Renewable Energy)	Ongoing.	Number and type of renewable energy schemes approved or refused.		Government support for renewable energy through national planning policy and guidance.		Planning.
4.B5	Encourage sustainable transport measures; walking, cycling, access to public transport and low carbon options into developments.	Maximise opportunities for safe pedestrian and cycle movement and reduce car reliance, including the consideration of the needs of older people and people with disabilities.	Ongoing.	Number of applications with an acceptable transport assessment or statement.		Government, Blackpool Council and LCC support.		Planning.
		Developers contribute to the transport network enhancements, incorporating sustainable transport measures where necessary.	Ongoing.	Number and type of financial contributions secured through legal agreement.	Contributions secured to improve sustainable transport, such as upgrades to bus stops.			
4.B6	Promote the efficient use of resources in development including the use of recycled materials.	Apply Local Plan climate change policy that requires developers to make the best use of resources and assets and, minimise wastage.	Ongoing.	Percentage and number of proposals supported by an acceptable climate change statement.		Government support.		Planning.
4.B7	Protect and promote Green Infrastructure (GI) across the borough.	New residential developments required to provide green infrastructure in accordance with Local Plan Policy HP9 and its associated	Ongoing.	Amount of green infrastructure created on-site and off-site.	Guidance for applicants updated 2023. Update annually. Update GI evidence base, including publishing a Planning	Developer support.	££	**Planning**, Parks and Open Spaces teams.

		guidance for applicants.		Amount of green infrastructure lost to development. Total and number of new Green Flag status parks. Length of total and new public rights of way.	Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy, GI Audit and GI Strategy.			
4.B8	Promote the use of design to minimise energy consumption and adapt to climate change impacts including heat stress.	Development proposals must demonstrate through a climate change statement how they are to respond to climate change through appropriate design including density, siting, layout, height, scale, massing, orientation, landscaping and use of materials.	Ongoing.	Percentage and number of proposals supported by an acceptable climate change statement.				Planning.

Objective 5: Biodiversity

Protect and increase biodiversity.

"1 in 6 species are at risk of going extinct in Great Britain"

Natural History Museum

The climate and ecological emergencies are intrinsically linked. A strong, biodiverse borough is vital for both capturing emissions and protecting ourselves from the worst impacts of climate change.

Our coastal and marine environments, from the Wyre coastline all the way to Morecambe Bay, are experiencing the impacts of climate change and pollution. This interferes with the oxygen production of marine plankton, carbon sequestration and the availability of food sources for wildlife and people.

Common farming practices across the UK often include methane-producing cattle and the overuse of fertilisers, releasing harmful pollutants into the atmosphere and our waterways. As a large agricultural borough, much of our habitats in Wyre are degraded and, rather than sequestering carbon (like our forestland), our croplands and grasslands are currently generating emissions.

However, our farmers are an essential part of the rural economy and local food supply in the face of increasing extreme weather events affecting imports from overseas. In the move away from fossil fuels, we need to ensure a just transition that enables farmers to embrace new technologies, diversify crops for soil health, produce food more efficiently and be part of the solution for climate change.

Current progress

With the help of our many volunteers, we are working to improve how we manage our parks and open spaces through meadow creation, tree planting and reduced mowing schedules on our grasslands to allow for wildlife to flourish. We are transitioning to electric hand tools and have stopped using peat compost.

We are also working towards our commitment to plant 25,000 trees by 2025 – although we recognise that tree planting is certainly not the only solution to climate change. We are therefore working closely with partners across the borough to contribute towards the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, invest in the Wyre Natural Flood Management project in our uplands, and pioneer projects such as Our Future Coasts to enhance our coastal habitats and protect against sea level rise.

Across the borough, communities are closely involved in the annual Wyre in Bloom contest, including committed children in our primary, secondary and nursery schools. This aims to improve the surrounding environment through enhancing local biodiversity, such as creating wildflower meadows, wildlife ponds, composting, growing food and making space for nature. This is a great example of the strength of our community and young people, who are keen to get involved and inspire others on green gardening.

Making space for nature at King George's Playing Fields

Work is underway on a project at King Georges Playing Fields in Thornton Cleveleys to improve the site for people and nature. The playing fields are often wet and hold little value for wildlife. We are working with Wyre Rivers Trust to reduce flood risk, improve access and create valuable habitat.

We plan to restore Royles Brook, which runs through the site, and create new areas of wetland and woodland that can naturally store water in times of drought and flooding – protecting nearby residents. The wetlands also naturally filter water to remove pollutants and store carbon from the atmosphere, helping to combat climate change. As well as increasing biodiversity, including reintroducing the rare Black Poplar tree species, we will also make new wheelchair-accessible paths for people to enjoy the park.

Challenges to overcome:

- Capacity, resources and funding.
- Lack of coherent legislation, leading to a reactive approach to managing flood risk and climate change action.
- Polluters are not adequately penalised for their bad practices and government legislation is needed to support change.
- Biodiversity Net Gain delivered through the planning system is in its infancy and the precise details of its delivery are unknown at the time of writing.

Positive outcomes:

- Greater food security from improved farming techniques, less pollution, healthier soil and less reliance on foreign imports.
- Natural resilience to extreme weather events from nature-based solutions such as tree planting and peatland restoration, slowing the flow of flood water and providing water storage and shading in extreme heat.
- Natural carbon storage from trees and other habitats.
- Improved mental wellbeing from wildlife and green spaces.

5.	What we will do	How we will do it	When we will do it	How will we measure it	Current progress	What else needs to happen	Estimated costs	Who will ensure this happens
5.A: Direct control								
5.A1	Review the use of pesticides and herbicides with a view to limit use on all council owned and managed land.	Review current use and produce guidelines to limit and mitigate against the use of pesticides in parks, open spaces and on road verges in our control where appropriate. Trial and investigate alternative methods of herbicide and pesticide use.	End of financial year 2025/26.	Creation of herbicide policy and guidance for operating procedures.				**Grounds Maintenance**, Parks and Open Spaces, Climate Change and Coast and Countryside teams.
5.A2	Commit to enhancing Wyre's biodiversity on council land through a range of measures.	Enhance biodiversity and sequester carbon through regular review of existing practice, including measures such as sustainable grassland, woodland, sand dune, saltmarsh and wetland management.	Annual review of actions undertaken. Every three years when conducting the Wyre Estuary Bioblitz surveys.	Commit to a Wyre Estuary Bioblitz to record wildlife every three years. Contribute to the annual Biodiversity Strategy review.	We are currently developing the details of the 2024 Bioblitz in partnership with Wyre Rivers Trust and the Royal Society of Biology.		£	**Coast and Countryside,** Climate change team, Wyre Rivers Trust and the Royal Society of Biology.
		Creation of wildflower habitats within green spaces, reduced mowing schedules and reduced bedding plants where appropriate.	Ongoing.	Monitor existing practice. Consider biodiversity in future development works.	All main public spaces have management plans detailing mowing schedules, which are reviewed regularly.			**Parks and Open Spaces**, Public Realm, Climate Change and Coast and Countryside teams.
5.B: Showcasing								
5.B1	Showcase Wyre's natural environment through the yearly Great Outdoors programme.	Raise awareness of the value of our habitats in Wyre through a range of events and activities.	Annually.	Participation in Great Outdoors programme.	The yearly Wyre Great Outdoors programme details many events for local residents.		££	**Coast and Countryside,** Climate Change, Communications and partners.
5.C: Place-shaping								
5.C1	Ensure new developments achieve Biodiversity Net Gain.	Procure Greater Manchester Ecology Unit as advisors for the development management service.	End of financial year 2023/24.	Monitoring the approval and delivery of the amount, value and type of habitats created.	Training for senior management, officers and members. Guidance for applicants in progress.	Government guidance and regulation required.	££	Planning team.

					External ecologist in place to review planning applications. Monitoring system in progress.	Potential increase in staff capacity to offset consultancy fees.		
		Support the creation and delivery of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) by Lancashire County Council.	End of financial year 2025/26.	Policy in place.		Lancashire County Council support.	££	**Planning** and Coast and Countryside teams.
5.D: Engaging								
5.D1	Outreach activities with local community to raise awareness about the natural environment and to help increase biodiversity.	Raise awareness and understanding of climate change through activities with local colleges, schools, community groups, faith groups and town and parish councils.	Annually.	Number of outreach activities.	Over 600+ activities are available in the Great Outdoors brochure.		£	**Coast and Countryside**, Communications and our partners.
5.D2	Reduce recreational disturbance of wildlife.	Raising awareness to dog walkers and other recreational users about the impacts of disturbance on wildlife.	Continuous.	Public engagement and awareness campaigns.	Dog restriction areas are in place on our beaches during breeding bird season. We also encourage dogs to be on leads in the countryside and in some of our important public open spaces.			**Communications**, Coast and Countryside and Enforcement officers.
5.E: Partnerships								
5.E1	Create a Biodiversity Strategy in partnership with key stakeholders.	Explore with our key stakeholders and particularly the LNRS team, how we can create a Biodiversity Strategy that can help us to protect our biodiversity and enhance our landscape.	End of financial year 2025/26.	Strategy created.		Identify external resources required.	££	**Planning**, Public Realm, Climate Change and Coast and Countryside teams.
5.E2	Increase tree cover across the borough.	Achieve our goal to plant 25,000 trees by 2025.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Achieve target of 25,000 trees planted by 2025.	So far over 50% of our tree planting target has been achieved, although saplings have been affected by	Source additional suitable land for tree planting and coordinate with partners.	££	**Tree Officer**, Climate Change Team, Parks and Open Spaces, Coast and Countryside in

					extreme heat and drought conditions. Updated figures will be reported at the end of each financial.			partnership with Woodland Trust, Wyre Rivers Trust, Lancashire Local Nature Partnerships, Forestry Commission and Trees for Cities.
		Continue to implement and review tree management and maintenance plans to support our new and existing woodlands and to protect saplings from extreme weather events as they grow.	Ongoing.	Creation and implementation of tree management and maintenance plans. Monitoring of tree establishment rate.	Ongoing implementation and review of management plans.	Additional funding and resource required to deliver this action.		
5.E3	Use nature-based solutions to manage and make space for water, sequester carbon and protect against flooding on Wyre land and our coastline.	Work in partnership to implement natural solutions to mitigate against the effects of flooding.	Ongoing.	Completed projects / funding acquired per year.		Government support.	£££	**Engineering,** Coast and Countryside team, Parks and Open Spaces, Wyre Rivers Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England.
5.E4	Help landowners to improve biodiversity on farmland and reduce emissions through change in land management practices.	Advise and signpost landowners on how to apply for available grants and schemes such as the Environmental Land Management scheme to improve natural habitat on their farms.	Ongoing.	Engagement with relevant stakeholders.	Our partners are already advising farmers through the development of clusters and land manager groups.	Government support.	£	**Coast and Countryside,** Economic Development and Climate Change teams, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), National Farmers Union, Country Landowners Association & Myerscough College.
5.E5	Work with partners including the Bay wellbeing programme and Wyre Rivers Trust to protect and improve biodiversity on land, watercourses and wetlands throughout Wyre.	Continue to work with partners to enhance levels of biodiversity within Wyre.	Ongoing.	Engagement with relevant stakeholders.			£	**Coast and Countryside team**, Parks and Open Spaces, Wyre Rivers Trust, The Bay Wellbeing programme and any other relevant groups. and Wyre Rivers Trust.

Objective 6: Engagement

Collaborate and engage with others to take climate action.

Tackling climate change requires everyone's help. Urgent emission reductions are needed in all aspects of society, from policies to businesses, homes and individual actions. Collaborating and engaging with others to take climate action is therefore a key objective in this strategy.

Parish and town councils are important stakeholders within this objective, who understand their communities best and can engage residents on the council's behalf. This could be achieved through take up of local schemes such as Greening Campaigns and repair cafes. Community renewable energy schemes also have significant potential to reduce emissions from off-gas grid households. Whilst these are ultimately driven by the community, the council can support these projects to succeed.

Current progress

We already work closely with the community in many areas of the council's work. We regularly engage with volunteers at Wyre Estuary Country Park and at events like Wyre Wheels to encourage cycling, as well as delivering sessions on key topics such as recycling at schools and community events.

In 2020, through partnership with councils across the Fylde Coast, we engaged a sample of residents to understand their views about climate change. Most respondents were willing to make individual changes to reduce climate change and would most likely consider actions such as home-energy efficiency improvements. However, the perceived cost of these actions, and the worry that their individual contributions would have little effect, were the main barriers to action. Effective communication campaigns can address these barriers by sharing significant, cost-effective actions and funding sources that people can use – highlighting how, collectively, our actions can and do make an impact.

Engagement with businesses is also critical for emissions reduction. Our Economic Development team already have networks with many local businesses through the successful relaunch of Wyred Up. Ongoing partnership work with East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce is providing fully funded Chamber Low Carbon business support. This work is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and will focus on helping businesses to achieve net zero by calculating and reducing their carbon footprint, reducing costs and improving performance, upskill and train workers and more.

Climate change actions are already embedded into three of Wyre's Town Centre Regeneration Plans under carbon reduction and sustainability themes and will continue to be part of the next emerging Town Centre Regeneration Plan for Poulton.

Challenges to overcome:

- Resources, capacity and funding constraints.
- High upfront costs of more significant climate actions such as retrofitting.
- Potential misconceptions about climate change and suitable climate actions.

Positive outcomes:

- Enhanced community spirit and reduced loneliness as community groups work together to take action.
- A range of funding grants are often available specifically for communities, which can quicken the pace of action.

Celebrating Great Big Green Week

Each year, tens of thousands of people across the UK get involved in Great Big Green Week – the largest celebration of community action in tackling climate change and protecting nature in the UK. Events range from festivals to football matches, foraging and bake sales, all aiming to raise awareness of climate change, its impact on the local community and its importance to local decision makers.

Wyre Council recently hosted The Big Green Get Together at Wyre Estuary Country Park, involving climate-themed performances, a higher or lower carbon footprint game, crafts to build your own bug hotel and interactive activities with our partners the Wyre Rivers Trust and Cosy Homes in Lancashire.

Anyone can host an event and groups are welcome to run their own activity, invite the community to get involved, start exploring local climate actions and maybe learn something new.

6.	What we will do	How we will do it	When we will do it	How will we measure it	Current progress	What else needs to happen	Estimated costs	Who will ensure this happens
6.A: Direct control								
6.A1	Provide updates on council climate change progress.	Publish annual reports on climate action plan progress for the public.	Annually.	Annual report produced.				**Climate Change team.**
6.A2	Communicate with our service providers to work towards establishing decarbonisation and environmental strategies and/or policies.	Signpost advice and guidance to our service providers on changing to more sustainable working practices and monitor actions for accountability.	When selecting a service provider.	Number of service providers engaged. Number of suppliers with environmental strategies/policies.				**Procurement** and Climate Change teams.
6.A3	Create an officer working group to progress this action plan and encourage collaboration across departments.	Establish working group and arrange to meet regularly to discuss progress on climate change actions, identify issues and solutions and collate staff suggestions.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Establishment of officer working group and number of meetings.				**Climate Change team.**
6.A4	Provide an internal climate change campaign regularly to staff to stimulate climate change action in the council and at home.	Provide facts and advice to staff and an opportunity to engage and ask questions about climate change and climate change action.	Monthly.	Number of posts on internal staff hub.				**Climate Change** and Communications teams.
6.A5	Engage all staff in climate change action.	Embed climate change as a part of the job description for new starters.	For the release of any new Wyre council employment opportunities.	Number of new starters				**Human Resources**, Corporate Management and Climate Change teams.
6.A6	To work in collaboration across departments to improve data collection for the annual carbon footprint report.	Spending officers to collaborate with each other to create cost codes for items ordered so that material use data can be more representative and a more reliable carbon footprint can be	End of financial year 2024/25.	An increase in available material use data.				**Procurement** and Spending Officers.

		calculated for the council.						
6.B: Showcasing								
6.B1	Share positive climate change action examples from residents, schools, communities and businesses across the borough.	Annual column in the Wyre Voice to showcase positive climate change action to encourage behavioural change.	Annual.	Number of articles per year.		Examples from the community.		**Climate Change** and Communications teams.
6.D: Engaging								
6.D1	Provide advice on climate change actions for the public.	Ensure the climate pages on Wyre Councils website are easy to find and include information about what residents can do to reduce their carbon emissions and provide links to further support.	End of financial year 2023/24. Ongoing maintenance to ensure advice is up to date.	Actions and information available on website.	The website is regularly updated to signpost residents to how they can reduce their emissions.			**Climate Change** and Communications teams.
		Provide regular communication on social media about climate change actions.	Monthly.	Number of posts on social media.				**Communications** and Climate Change teams.
6.D2	Set up ongoing engagement for residents to influence the climate action plan.	Explore suitable methods to allow residents to influence decision making on climate action, such as via a Citizen's Assembly, a local climate action network or workshops within the community for different groups of residents.	Ongoing.	Number of consultation exercises.		Government funding support.	Up to ££ Dependent upon consultation exercise type.	**Climate Change team**.
6.D3	Ensure engagement includes residents most affected by climate change and climate action policy.	Assess the climate action plan with an equality impact assessment to identify who is most affected by climate change and climate action policies. Work to engage those most affected by	End of financial year 2024/25.	Number of consultation exercises across different neighbourhoods in Wyre.				**Climate Change** and Community Engagement teams.

		climate impacts and policies.						
6.E: Partnerships								
6.E1	Lobby the government for climate change action.	Communicate with the government to call for them to take further action, as well as for councils to receive more funding, powers and resources to take climate action.	Continuous.	Number of consultation responses and letters sent to central government.				**Councillors** and Corporate Management Team.
6.E2	Join membership of an organisation sharing best practice between councils.	Explore membership options for organisations such as UK100, ICLEI and the Carbon Disclosure Project.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Membership of an appropriate organisation.	Wyre Council is part of the Cross Government Climate Hub and the Lancashire Climate Action Network.			**Climate Change team**.
6.E3	Explore the potential to offer funding for community climate action.	Explore the creation of an annual ring-fenced grant to spend on climate action locally, either in partnership with the council or for other organisations, volunteers, or community groups.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Number of groups or organisations benefitting from grant funding.		Funding support.		**Climate Change**, Legal and Finance teams, Fylde Coast councils.
6.E4	Work with schools and other education settings to deliver climate action that young people can engage with and get involved in decision making.	Deliver engagement sessions, competitions and events with schools on climate change. Introduce eco-ambassador scheme with competitions for young people to get involved in.	Annually.	Number of schools engaged. Number of events and competitions held.		School involvement.		**Climate Change team** and neighbouring Local Authorities.
		Include young people in decision making via the youth mayor, youth climate panels, or a youth climate summit locally.	Annually.	Number of youth events.			£	**Climate Change team**.
6.E5	Work with businesses to encourage decarbonisation.	Provide free support and tailored advice to businesses in Wyre to reduce emissions through environmental audits and decarbonisation plans.	End of financial year 2025/26.	80 businesses supported; 20 businesses adopting new to the firm technologies; 50 decarbonisation plans developed.	The East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce are delivering their 'Chamber Low Carbon' project as part of the UKSPF in		££ £70k project funded by UKSPF.	**Climate Change** and Economic Development teams.

				Greenhouse gas reductions (tonnes of CO_2e).	Wyre. This launched in October 2023.			
		Explore providing funding for further support, such as Carbon Literacy training or grants to assist decarbonisation of business properties.	End of financial year 2028/29.	Number of businesses supported.	New funding portal through LCC.	Government support.	£	**Climate Change** and Economic Development teams.
		Encourage businesses to take part in green business awards, signpost towards business accreditation schemes and take part in a business pledge, commitment or promise.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Number of registrations.			£	**Climate Change** and Economic Development teams**.**
6.E6	Work with other local authorities across Lancashire and the Fylde Coast to coordinate climate action.	Collaborate with other councils to initiate climate action across the region.	Continuous.	Number of meetings that offer Lancashire wide collaboration.		Funding support.		**Climate Change team**, Lancashire climate officers, Lancashire Economic Development Directors Group, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and other relevant partners.
6.E7	Work with parish and town councils and other community groups, to encourage climate change action at a local level.	Work with groups to set up their own climate actions, such as a Greening Campaign or repair café, to engage residents on a smaller scale.	Continuous.	Number of community organisations engaging in climate action locally.		Funding support.		**Climate Change team**, Town and Parish councils and other community organisations.

Objective 7: Waste

Reduce waste, support a circular economy and sustainable food production.

Our current 'linear' system, where everyday products are made, used and disposed of, no longer works for society. Growing, making, processing and transporting goods produces a huge amount of emissions, which go to waste when we throw them into landfill. Instead, moving to a circular economy would maximise the value of products, by sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling them, so they last as long as possible and are not wasted.

Our food has a significant contribution to our carbon footprint. Food waste emits methane as it rots in landfill, which is a potent greenhouse gas and has a much higher warming effect than carbon dioxide. Beef and dairy farming also generate a high carbon footprint, owing to the methane released by cattle as they digest their food.

Although successful food product directly depends on a stable climate and good biodiversity, industrial-level farming can cause significant degradation. It is crucial that we support sustainable food production by working closely in partnership with local food producers and organisations such as Myerscough College to facilitate learning on greener practices. This also involves working within the community to encourage local food growing and support for local suppliers.

Current progress

Approximately 40% of household waste is recycled, reused and composted within Wyre. We do not currently have the equipment and facilities to collect resident food waste, which is dictated by Lancashire County Council who arrange the disposal of our waste. However, upcoming government policy will influence changes to this. Commercial waste from businesses is collected and recycled independently.

Within the community, we regularly work within schools and other groups to reduce waste and educate residents on what can and cannot be recycled. We work in partnership with local re-use charity to offer Bulky Matters – a collection and recycling service for large household items designed to divert waste from landfill whilst helping local disadvantaged people.

As a council, we can influence levels of single use plastic used within our buildings and at events on our land due to our Single Use Plastic Policy. We are also able to use our procurement powers to benefit local food suppliers.

Challenges to overcome:

- Encouraging residents to minimise waste and adopt a mindset to reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Limited government funding and support for businesses to reduce waste and recycle, as this is not collected by the council.
- Slow introduction to government changes in policy regarding food waste and other incentives such as bottle return schemes to prevent waste.
- Limited funding and restrictive policies hindering farmers ability to diversify and reduce their emissions.

Positive outcomes:

- Waste diverted from landfill, reducing methane emissions as food and organic material decomposes.
- Better health and wellbeing and reduced social isolation through community initiatives such as repair cafes that support a circular economy.
- Financial savings and opportunities for workers and unemployed people to upskill.
- Improved local economy.
- Resilient local food supply.

Supporting a circular economy with Bulky Matters

Created in partnership with local re-use charity Furniture Matters, Bulky Matters is designed to help people dispose of unwanted household items, whilst also helping disadvantaged people and the environment in the process.

The scheme supports a circular economy by diverting unwanted items away from landfill. Instead, the charity will refurbish the items and sell them at a low cost to help those in need. As part of the project, unemployed workers are also given the opportunity to join the charity to gain work experience and develop new skills.

A range of items can be collected and saved from landfill, including wooden furniture, soft furnishings, domestic appliances, kitchen items, IT/ home entertainment equipment, bicycles and miscellaneous items such as gardening tools, outdoor play equipment, musical instruments, mobility aids, indoor toys and games, wheelchairs and bric-a-brac. Visit the council website for more information or to arrange a collection.

7.	What we will do	How we will do it	When we will do it	How will we measure it	Current progress	What else needs to happen	Estimated costs	Who will ensure this happens
7.A: Direct control								
7.A1	Review our Single Use Plastic policy and ensure organisers of events adhere to the ban of single use plastics in council buildings and events on council land.	Strengthen our policy to allow a reduction in Single Use Plastics where appropriate at council facilities and in the events held by the council and those on council land. Ban the use of plastic cutlery, plates, stirrers, cups, lids and any containers made from expanded polystyrene. Prioritise suppliers with a sustainable packaging policy. Event organisers to promote commitment to sustainable products.	End of financial year 2024/25.	New single use plastic policy implemented.	A single use plastic policy is already in place at Wyre Council but needs reviewing.			Procurement, Spending Officers, Communications and **Climate Change teams**.
		Consider the installation of drinking fountains on the council estate/public spaces.	End of financial year 2028/29.	Number of drinking fountains available. Reduction in plastic bottle litter.		Funding support.	£ Costs per fountain installation.	**Public Realm** and Engineering teams.
7.A2	Review and improve recycling rates at council facilities.	Review current recycling rates and raise awareness amongst staff on correct recycling procedures.	End of financial year 2023/24.	Recycling rates.		Improved recycling stations.	£	**Assets and Development Projects**, Caretakers and Waste Management teams.
		Consider other recycling schemes in council buildings, such as TerraCycle.	End of financial year 2024/25.			Identify disposal route and promote to staff.		**Assets and Development Projects** and Caretakers teams.
7.A3	Increase percentage of waste recycled via our collection service for large bulky household items to	Ensure that residents are well informed about the bulky waste service to maximise the items collected and explore other	Annual review.	Increased recycling and diversion of bulky waste.		Support from Lancashire County Council.		**Waste Management** and Lancashire County Council.

	divert waste from landfill.	opportunities for diversion and reuse.						
7.A4	Explore the potential for council catering to be sustainably sourced.	Review current catering requirements for council events and explore the potential to swap to local sustainable alternatives.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Guidance in place.				**Climate Change** and Corporate Support teams.
7.A5	To review the current IT strategy to reflect climate change action.	To update the IT strategy or create a new strategy that demonstrates end of life or repurposing processes which will include refurbishment, reuse and recycling measures.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Strategy updated/created and available on the hub.				**IT** and Climate Change teams.
7.B: Showcasing								
7.B1	Support a local circular economy.	Explore helping to set up repair cafes or similar exchange shops to encourage sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling of existing materials and products for as long as possible.	End of financial year 2025/26.	Number of schemes set up.		External funding support.	££	**Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities**, Climate Change teams and Fylde Coast councils.
7.C: Place-shaping								
7.C1	Support local food growing.	Provide support for greater local food growing in addition to our current sites.	End of financial year 2027/28.	Number of community gardens.	We currently have 3 allotment sites and community gardens at Cottam Hall, Wyre Estuary Country Park and Memorial Park. Applications for allotments are currently oversubscribed.	Funding support and community buy-in.		**Public Realm**.
		Collaborate with LCC to support schools to grow food and engage in sustainability.	Ongoing.	Number of schools engaged with LCC.		Support from Lancashire County Council as the education authority for Wyre.		**Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities**, Climate Change and Lancashire County Council.

7.C2	Support food waste recycling.	Introduce food waste recycling.	Timescales to be confirmed through implementation of the Environment Act.	Introduction of food waste scheme.		Government clarity and support.		**Waste Management** and Communications teams.
7.D: Engaging								
7.D1	Continue to educate residents on waste minimisation.	Provide advice to residents on recycling and the waste hierarchy, online and in-person at events and roadshows.	Ongoing.	Number of online posts and events. Impact on council's waste arisings and recycling rate.	Wyre Recycles resident leaflets distributed in November 2023 provide guidance on correct recycling procedures and waste minimisation.			**Communications** and Waste Management teams.
		Support residents to reduce their food waste. Provide advice to residents on composting their food waste.	Ongoing.	Number of online posts and information.	The Wyre Recycles leaflets contain advice on food waste.			
7.D2	Influence residents to help make sustainable food choices.	Provide information to residents to encourage buying food locally and more sustainably.	Ongoing.	Number of online posts and information.	The Wyre Recycles leaflets contain advice on eating seasonal, local, 'wonky' and organic food.			**Communications** and Climate Change teams.
7.E: Partnerships								
7.E1	Support initiatives to redistribute surplus food waste to residents in partnership with businesses.	Work in partnership to redistribute surplus food within the area. Signpost residents and businesses to donate surplus food to food banks and apps such as Olio and Too Good to Go, to encourage distribution of food and reduce waste.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Number of businesses engaged.				**Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities**, Climate Change and Waste Management teams.
7.E2	Work with local farmers and key stakeholders to achieve sustainable farming and combat climate change.	Investigate the ways in which the council and partners can support farmers and land managers to best practice.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Number of farmers engaged.	Partners are currently in the process of developing a Landscape Recovery Project, which will explore more sustainable approaches to farming and resilience.			**Climate Change team**, Myerscough College, DEFRA, National Farmers Union (NFU), Country Landowners Association (CLA), Wyre Rivers Trust, Forest of Bowland AONB and others.

Objective 8: Adaptation

Adapt to our changing climate.

Even if we were to suddenly stop emitting all polluting greenhouse gases, the amount already trapped in the atmosphere means that some of the impacts of climate change are already unavoidable. Crucially for Wyre, all predicted emissions scenarios show that sea levels will continue to rise beyond this century, although the severity of this depends on how fast we can lower our current emissions[15].

Other risks such as extreme weather events, heavy rainfall, flooding, droughts and the knock-on impacts of these are already occurring. We need to adapt our infrastructure, buildings and strategies to make sure communities are able to bounce back from these events.

With the highest population of residents aged over 65 and 75 in Lancashire, our elderly residents are most likely to feel the effects of climate change, alongside with people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and anyone feeling the strain under the cost-of-living crisis. High emission businesses may also struggle as we transition away from fossil fuels. To ensure a just transition where no one is left behind, we need to offer opportunities for workers to upskill, businesses to diversify, and for communities to access the support they need.

Current progress

To combat against high levels of flood risk, we have contributed to the Wyre Natural Flood Management Scheme taking place upstream of Churchtown. This has the added benefit of improving water quality, increasing biodiversity and carbon storage whilst restoring the peatland area. For communities vulnerable to sea level rise in Cleveleys and Fleetwood, work is underway on a £40m Wyre Beach Management Scheme. We also host regular meetings of the Flood Forum, to address concerns of individuals and communities at risk.

We also have multiple Emergency Plans in place to protect our communities. As part of this strategy, all of these will be reviewed and updated to include the risks of climate change and proposals to help our residents adapt and increase resilience.

To help businesses to prepare and adapt to climate change, we are also offering fully funded business support from Chamber Low Carbon, as part of our UKSPF grant funding. This allows any business to gain free expert advice and support to transition towards a low carbon future.

Challenges to overcome:

- The impact of the cost-of-living crisis reducing the resilience of residents and businesses to cope with the impacts of climate change.
- Upfront costs and capacity for businesses to make necessary investments to adapt to a low carbon future.
- The need for Government support in policies and funding.
- Behaviour change required to adapt to climate change impacts and move towards low carbon lifestyles.

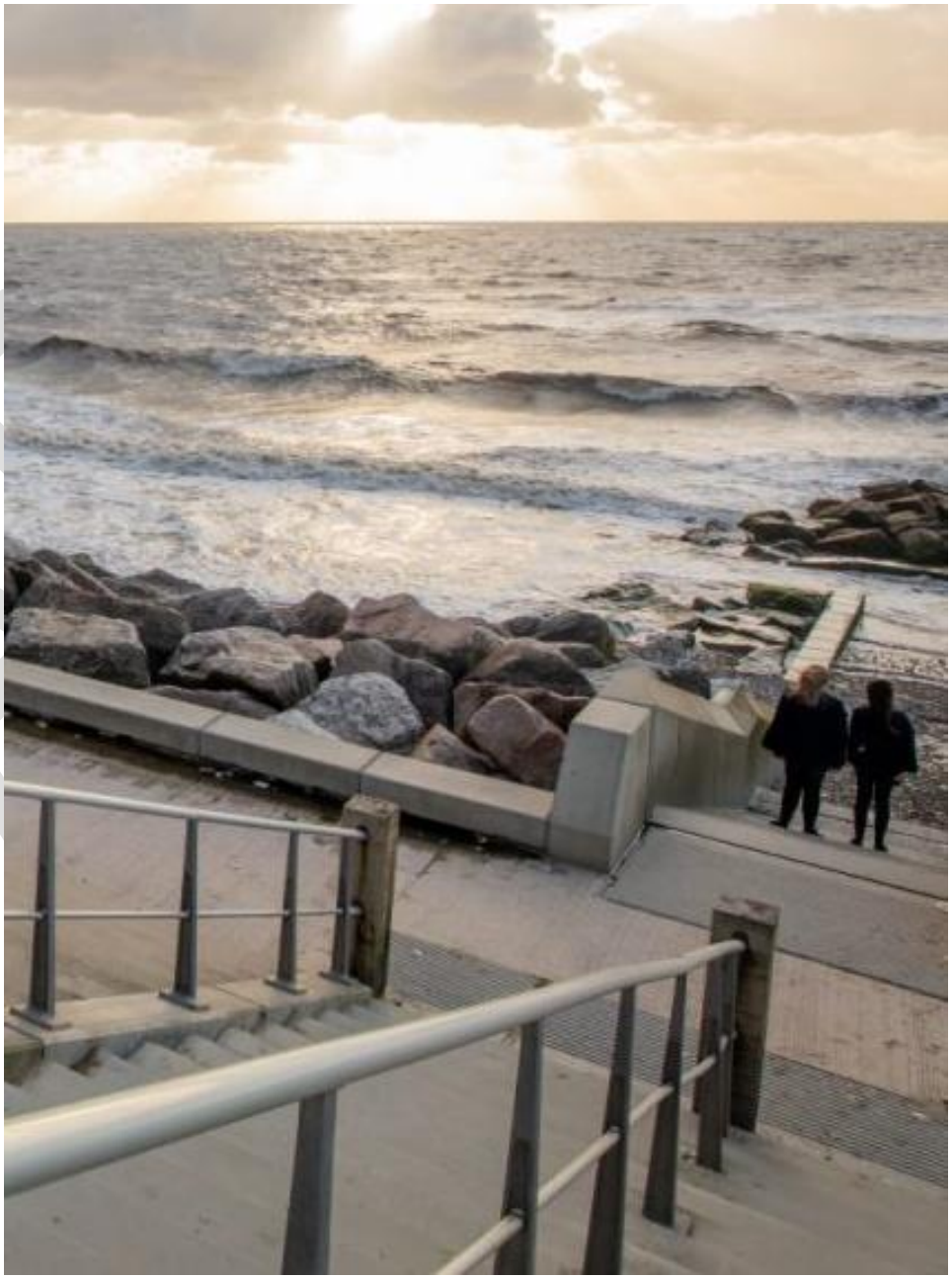
Positive outcomes:

- Safer homes from flooding, sea level rise and other climate change risks.
- Informed residents, businesses and communities who are resilient to shocks and able to bounce back from disasters and negative impacts quickly.

Protecting residents with Wyre Beach Management Scheme

The Wyre Beach Management Scheme is a major £40 million coastal defence project, following successful government grant funding. The scheme will build on the success of the Cleveleys and Rossall Coast defence schemes, helping to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion of 11,000 properties and protect key infrastructure.

The scheme will be carried out in two stages before completion in 2026. This involves the creation of a rock wall and long rock armour groynes heading out to sea. This will help to trap sand and building a high, stable beach which reduces wave height and energy during storms. This will decrease the likelihood of waves damaging or overtopping the sea defences, protecting thousands of nearby homes.



8.	What we will do	How we will do it	When we will do it	How will we measure it	Current progress	What else needs to happen	Estimated costs	Who will ensure this happens
8.A: Direct control								
8.A1	Publish a Climate Change Risk Register for Wyre.	Identify the environmental risks of climate change to the borough within our corporate or a separate climate change risk register, addressing flooding, extreme heat and other relevant climate impacts.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Published Climate Change Risk Register.				**Emergency Planning** with all plan owners.
8.A2	Review the council's adaptation and resilience measures.	Review and update Emergency Response Plans and all council plans to reflect the risks of climate change (flooding and heatwaves), measures to ensure our residents are resilient.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Reviewed documents.				**Emergency Planning** with all plan owners.
		Review and update the Severe Weather Plan.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Updated Severe Weather Plan.				**Emergency Planning** and appropriate teams.
		Undertake a review of the Wyre Rest Centre Plan for community shelter to ensure this covers climate risks.	End of financial year 2024/25.	Document produced.				**Emergency Planning** and Assets and Development Projects teams.
8.A3	Reduce impact of flooding.	Apply for funding for infrastructure improvements that will reduce flood risk.	Ongoing.	Increased number of properties protected from flooding.				**Engineering**.
8.A4	Review working hours of the council's front-line staff during extreme heat.	Review current working hours and introduce a plan for extreme heat working conditions.	September 2024.	Plan created.				**Public Realm**, Emergency Planning, and Human Resources.

8.A5	To adapt council-owned infrastructure (supply of energy, plant and machinery, car parks, industrial estates, water storage and buildings) to become resilient to climate change.	Review current council buildings and infrastructure, with a view to identify climate change risks.	End of financial year 2026/27.	Review complete.	Water butts for water storage installed at Wyre Country Estuary Park at the Riverside room.	Awareness of the health and safety implications of water storage.		**Assets and Development Projects.**
8.B: Place-shaping								
8.B1	Incorporate mitigation and adaptation measures into planning.	Introduce policies into spatial planning to adapt to climate change. For example, adapting to extreme heat.	End of financial year 2026/27.	Local Plan review complete – plan adopted.	Local plan review in progress.	Government clarity on climate change policy.	££	**Planning**.
8.B2	All new council buildings and renovations will be examples of climate resilience.	New buildings and renovation works will use sustainable materials where possible and be built to withstand the impacts of climate change, including measures such as rainwater storage, shading and cooling.	Ongoing.	New buildings and renovations include climate change impact assessment, use sustainable materials and include measures to adapt to climate change.	Renovations are currently underway to improve and decarbonise Fleetwood Market, which will be an exemplar project for Wyre.	Funding support.	£££	**Assets and Development Projects.**
8.C: Engaging								
8.C1	Improve community resilience to climate change impacts through education.	Communicate with residents online and at events across the borough about the impacts of climate change and practical ways to increase their resilience.	Ongoing.	Signposting information available on council website. Resources available for residents at council events.		Funding support.		**Climate Change,** Communications and Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities teams.
8.C2	Residents, businesses, Town and Parish Councils are aware of the Climate Change Strategy and what we aim to achieve.	Inform residents of the strategy, listen to their concerns and incorporate feedback and suggestions into the annual review of this document.	Ongoing.	Number of public consultation events for feedback on the strategy. Information available online.				**Climate Change** and Communications teams.
8.C1	Work with local business to help them to make the necessary adaptations needed for climate resilience.	Offer guidance and support for businesses to understand climate	Ongoing.	Information available on our website. Over 80 businesses helped by 2025.	The website has been updated to better signpost businesses to help them make the changes for	Funding support.		**Climate Change** and Economic Development teams.

		risks and build resilience to these.			adaptation and resilience.			
8.D: Partnerships								
8.D2	Work with local partners to upskill workers and businesses to transition to low carbon technologies.	Signpost to education and training opportunities to upskill workers in low carbon technologies.	Ongoing.	Number of businesses adapting to new low carbon technologies. Number of businesses upskilling workers.	The UKSPF 'Chamber Low Carbon' project with the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce provides funded support for businesses to upskill workers, diversify and transition to low carbon technologies.	External support from nearby education providers and partners.		**Economic Development** team, Chamber Low Carbon and local partners.

Climate emergency declaration

Appendix 1

Appendix 1: Climate emergency declaration

At the meeting of Wyre Council on 11 July 2019, it was agreed that:

The Council notes:

- That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.
- That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees centigrade, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018:
  a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5C rise, and
  b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.
- That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and we congratulate Her Majesty's Government (HMG) on being the first country to take a lead on this issue.
- That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.
- That, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions and this Council tonight declares a Climate Emergency.

The Council therefore commits to:

1. Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050*.
2. Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2050*.
3. Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2050* as far as Planning Laws allow it.
4. Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire Wyre area zero carbon within the same timescale.
5. Ensure the Council take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline.
6. Where necessary officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council contain impact assessments on Climate Change, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible.
7. Continue its already agreed policy to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee its progress towards a zero carbon emissions target.
8. Work with, influence and inspire partners across Wyre, Lancashire and the North West to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops.
9. Request that the Council and partners, take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future.

10. Continue its policy of having officers and departmental groups work on a climate change action plan which will report back to Council on a regular basis as to its progress towards a target of zero emissions by 2050*.
11. Request an annual investment report from our pensions administrators Lancashire County Council (LCC) on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry, such report to go to Cabinet who will make any appropriate observations thereon reflecting our zero carbon emissions target of 2050*.
12. Ensuring that all reports in preparation for the annual budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the financial implications of the actions the council will take to address this emergency.
13. Request the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise.
14. Continue to consider other actions within the Council's remit that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of all buildings, including housing in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net zero carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice.
15. The Council should if possible, not allow its land to be used for anything that would result in the Council not meeting the target of net zero emissions by 2050*.
16. Monitor the advice of the Local Government Association, (and where possible implement) as to what steps can be taken quickly to have the greatest possible impact on air quality, a modal shift away from **private cars**, increased take up on public transport, and ensure that every aspect of the Councils activities are sighted on the need to preserve Wyre's ecological and environmental heritage.
17. Use trees to offset carbon emissions arising from the Council's activities and therefore to instruct our officers to report back on costings for the planting of trees and the maintenance of woodlands in the Borough, which is a matter of urgency because we need to start planting trees now**.

***** On 8 July 2021, the council agreed to include an interim target to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035, before achieving net zero emissions by 2050. This aligned with the current UK government target.

** This statement relates to offsetting emissions. Trees do provide offsetting when planted in the right place, there are also other ways to achieve this, such as saltmarsh and peat restoration.

Glossary & references

Key terms used in this document

Glossary

Adaptation: Action that helps cope with and reduce the impacts of climate change. Adaptation is essential to address the 'locked-in' effects of climate change.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG): a method to contribute to the recovery of nature whilst developing land. The habitat for wildlife should be in a better state than it was before development.

Biofuel: Fuel derived from biomass (plant material and other biological matter such as animal waste and leftover cooking fat). This is a source of renewable energy, unlike fossil fuels such as petroleum, coal and natural gas.

Blue and Green Infrastructure: Natural and semi-natural landscape elements of the environment. 'Blue' elements include rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands and floodplains. 'Green' elements include trees, forests, fields, parks, gardens and so on.

Brown energy: Energy produced from non-renewable sources, such as fossil fuels.

Carbon dioxide (CO_2): One of the main greenhouse gases contributing to climate change.

Carbon budget: The threshold for the maximum amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted before global average temperatures increase to dangerous levels.

Carbon footprint: The total greenhouse gases caused by an individual, event, organisation, service, place, or product.

Carbon Literacy: A certification provided by the Carbon Literacy Project. This represents an awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.

Carbon sink: An area that absorbs and stores carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, such as a forest or peatland.

Circular economy: An approach to life and business where everything has a value and nothing is wasted. Rather than a linear economy of 'make, use, dispose' of a product, a circular economy would 'make, use, remake', with minimal/no waste produced.

Climate: The average weather conditions over a long period of time (~30 years+) in a particular location, such as tropical, temperate, or polar climates.

Climate Emergency: A situation where urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.

CO_2e: Carbon dioxide equivalent. A measurement to capture all greenhouse gas emissions from an activity.

Emissions: The release of greenhouse gases from human activities.

EV: Electric Vehicle.

Extreme weather: Weather that is unexpected, unusual, severe or unseasonal compared to average weather patterns.

Fluorinated gases (F-gases): Man-made gases used in a range of everyday products and industrial applications. Despite being used to replace ozone-depleting CFC gases, they contribute greatly to climate change.

Greenhouse gases: Gases released from human activities, which trap heat from the sun and create a 'greenhouse effect' to the earth, causing global temperatures to rise dramatically since the industrial revolution.

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO): A biofuel made from used cooking oils, animal fats from food processing and non-food grade crops. Used as a direct alternative to diesel and shown to reduce emissions by up to 90%.

Mitigation: Efforts to reduce or prevent emissions of greenhouse gases.

Net zero: Ending contributions to climate change by balancing emissions released with emissions removed from the atmosphere.

Offsetting: Activities to draw down emissions from the atmosphere, such as tree planting or enhancing other habitats that absorb carbon dioxide.

Resilience: The capacity to cope with and recover from climate-related events, such as floods and droughts.

Scopes 1, 2 and 3: Three categories of emissions. Scope 1 and 2 are emissions that are owned or controlled by an organisation, whilst Scope 3 emissions are a consequence of the activities of an organisation, but which occur from sources uncontrolled by them.

Single use plastic: Plastics designed for use only once before thrown away or recycled. They are made from fossil fuels like petroleum and can be hard to recycle.

Spheres of influence: The council's or an organisation's level of ability to influence emissions within different areas of society.

SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle): Large, typically four-wheel drive vehicles with poor fuel efficiency.

Thermal expansion: As the earth warms up, the ocean absorbs this heat and expands, causing sea level rise.

Urban heat island effect: Urban areas are generally warmer than surrounding rural landscapes, particularly in summer as unshaded roads and buildings radiate heat.

Weather: Short term changes in the atmosphere, over a period of minutes to months. This influences temperature, rain, clouds and so on.

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