

Buildings and Energy

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

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

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

Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project stage	RAG	December 2023 Update
Engagement											
B1	1, 2, 3	Provide information and materials to educate and engage residents in behaviour change, energy efficiency, low carbon sources of heating and renewable energy.	Lead	Low carbon industry Government Districts	S	L	M	18	Design	Yellow	Leicestershire's Warm Home service is launching a Home Energy Retrofit Offer (HERO) project, funded by Midlands Net Zero Hub, to offer personalised energy and retrofit advice, targeting hard-to-reach individuals and properties, starting winter 2023-2024.
B2	1, 2, 3	Continue to provide information, advice and signposting to households at risk of Fuel Poverty through First Contact Plus and Warm Homes Teams.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	S	L	L	9	Delivery	Green	The Warm Homes service continues its ongoing commitment, delivering projects that enhance energy efficiency locally. Over the past three years, projects like the £2.5m Sustainable Warmth Competition Funding, benefiting 250 households have been delivered. The ongoing £6m Home Upgrade Grant Funding aims to improve off-gas households EPC ratings by an average of 2 bands by March 2025. These efforts have significantly increased homes meeting or exceeding band C, rising from 29% in June 2019 to 53% in June 2023. The Warm Homes service is currently working to develop a county wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to national Energy Company Obligation funding (through to March 2026) and the Great British Insulation Scheme to low income households.
B3	2, 3, 6	Engage with commercial building owners to share best practice on building retrofit and low carbon solutions including energy storage and renewables.	Lead	Low carbon industry Midlands Net Zero Hub Government	S/M	L	M	15	Discovery	Yellow	The County Council is advancing work on retrofitting its buildings with low-carbon solutions, building internal expertise in this area.
B4	1, 5	Continue to deliver and expedite smart metering programmes and introduce opportunities for new tariff structures which support flexible energy solutions.	Influence	BEIS DESNZ Energy Companies	S	L	M	18	Discovery	Yellow	In response to evolving Government positions, Leicestershire County Council remains proactive. In 2022 several energy providers faced fines for missing smart meter installation targets. The Government's objective is to achieve 80% smart meter coverage in homes by the end of 2025.
Retrofit											
B5	2, 3, 6	Apply for future funding to support building retrofit for homes and other buildings.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	M	L	H	18	Delivery	Green	The Warm Homes Team secures funding, ensuring continued support for energy efficient initiatives - see actions B1 and B2 above.
B6	2, 3, 6	Improve and extend the funding programmes for clean heat and energy efficiency.	Influence	BEIS DESNZ	S	L	H	27	Discovery	Yellow	The County Council remains responsive to Government changes, recently adapting to the gas boiler ban shift and plans to secure increased grants for air source heat pumps.
B7	2, 3, 6	Deliver the Sustainable Warmth programme for Leicestershire to increase the energy performance of homes across the county, reducing emissions and fuel poverty.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	S	L	M	18	Completed	Green	The Warm Homes Team has successfully delivered £2.5m of Sustainable Warmth Competition Funding to enhance energy efficiency in 250 households. Leveraging Better Care Fund support from district councils efficiently reduced spending risks and maximised the main grant's impact. The underspend from off-gas properties allocation facilitated additional delivery to on-gas properties. The Home Upgrade Grant now offers further support to non mains gas heated homes, utilising a mapping tool for targeted outreach in deprived areas and to households with low EPC ratings.
B8	2, 3, 6	Secure funding to deliver retrofit programmes to social housing, increasing the energy performance of homes across the county and reducing emissions.	Ask	Districts Social Housing Providers	S	L	M	18	Delivery	Green	The Green Living Leicestershire collaboration has secured £6.6m for the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2, targeting non-mains-gas heated homes until March 2025.
B9	2	Promote ECO funding, including utilisation of LA Flex mechanism.	Ask	Districts	S	L	M	18	Design	Yellow	The Warm Homes service aims to improve access to national funding through a county-wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism, widening access to National Energy Company Obligation funding and the Great British Insulation Scheme for low-income households, to be implemented from winter 2023/24.
B10	2	Enforce private rented and non-domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards regulations.	Ask	Districts	S	M	M	12	Design	Green	Continual progress is noted.
B11	3	Promote and encourage the uptake of government incentives for low carbon technologies including the Renewable Heat Incentive, Heat Pump Ready etc.	Lead	Government Residents Districts	S	L	M	18	Delivery	Yellow	The Warm Homes service connects residents to various initiatives, offering advice on energy efficiency, grants and self-finance options. It is recognised that more could likely be done to directly engage households and this is the aim of the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator scheme which is in development (referenced in action B1). In addition, the service has launched a newsletter to provide updates on energy policy and initiatives supporting energy efficiency improvements.
B12	2, 3	Deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation of heat projects to a range of buildings including schools and education, health sector, public sector and business premises.	Ask	Districts LLEP Academies NHS	S/M/L	H	H	7.5	Discovery	Yellow	District councils are developing plans for their buildings, focusing on energy efficiency measures. Work has not started in this area as yet, timeframes moved to M/L due to limited resources available at present.
B13	2, 3, 4, 6	Explore opportunities for the Corporate Asset Investment Strategy Invest in Leicestershire Programme to support net zero targets through retrofit, low carbon development, increased renewable energy generation and zero-carbon flagship development	Lead	Left blank in published action plan	M	H	M	4	Discovery	Yellow	To be progressed - medium term timeframes.
B14	2	Develop a new programme of business support for energy efficiency and carbon reduction to build on the success of Green Belle and Zellar pilot	Ask	Leicester City Council LLEP Growth Hub	S	M	H	18	Discovery	Yellow	The Pathfinder places project (launching in February 2024) will build on existing initiatives, including an advisory service for businesses.
B15	2	Work collaboratively to deliver efficiencies or fuel switching to industrial processes	Ask	Businesses Universities	M / L	H	H	4.5	Discovery	Yellow	The East Midlands Hydrogen Group is exploring hydrogen technology for significant energy users with the potential for collaborative work across partner organisations.
B16	2, 3	Improve the understanding of energy efficiency in the building housing stock quality in Leicestershire to support energy improvement.	Ask	Districts	S/M	M	L	6	Design	Green	District councils await new Government information for the development of a housing stock condition survey tool, emphasising the importance of EPC data.
B17	2, 3, 4, 6	Provide support to develop retrofit and renewable energy supply chains and skills.	Influence	BEIS DESNZ	S / M	L	L	7.5	Discovery	Green	Regional funding was launched in December to support a 'net zero building retrofit skills' pilot programme. LCC's Economic Development Team are developing a questionnaire to go out to employers to investigate what they want in terms of retrofit skills.
Policy and Strategy											
B18	4, 6	Implement national planning policy and building standards that support net zero, including a high level of energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment.	Influence	DLUHC	S / M	L	H	27	Design	Yellow	The County Council continues to influence and seek alignment with national planning policy

B19	4, 6	Develop consistent local planning policies to support the net zero transition using an evidence-led approach to infrastructure, buildings and homes (including embodied carbon in new builds).	Ask	Districts Leicester City LEP	S / M	M	H	15	Design	The County Council continues to seek to influence and comment on Local Plan policies as they progress
B20	4, 6	Develop a vision and key principles for green growth and sustainable development in Leicestershire. Work with partners and as the County Planning Authority to adopt and integrate the vision into policies to protect and enhance the environment and support net zero.	Lead	Districts Leicester City LEP	S	M	L	6	Discovery	Initiatives are planned to be progressed through various teams, from influencing national planning policy to reviewing The Strategic Growth Plan.
B21	4, 6	Review and update the Strategic Growth Plan to ensure it supports the transition to net zero carbon.	Ask	Districts Leicester City LEP	S/M	M/H	L/H	6	Discovery	Reviews to update to The Strategic Growth Plan will involve discussions and agreements with all partners.
B22	2, 6	Explore opportunities for developer contributions to support net zero infrastructure and carbon reduction projects in the revision of the County Council Planning Obligations Policy.	Lead	Developers Districts	S	M	M	12	Discovery	District Councils guide developers to consider the environment in their developments including net-zero targets, carbon reduction and Biodiversity Net Gain. Leicestershire County Council's Planning Obligations Policy ensures comprehensive funds for sustainable, carbon neutral infrastructure, particularly new schools. This policy (which is under review) targets maximum utilisation of the bus pass/voucher scheme to promote mode shift.
B23	All	Investigate options for developing a Local Area Energy Plan including decarbonised heating and low carbon energy, working with key partners.	Lead	Districts Leicester City Public Sector Universities Business WPD	S	H	H	9	Design	The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support this initiative.
B24	3, 5, 6	Undertake research including heat mapping and identification of potential locations for energy projects, and secure funding to test innovative technologies to reduce carbon.	Ask	Universities Government Midlands Net Zero Hub	S / M	M	M	10	Design	The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support local area energy planning.
B25	3	Provide support with identifying potential locations for low carbon heat networks across the county.	Influence	HNDU	S / M	M	L	5	Design	The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support local area energy planning.
B26	2, 3	Review the MNZH commissioned District Eating findings and consider opportunities for delivery in Leicestershire.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub	M	M	M	8	Design	A study launched by the Council explores links between waste heat and horticulture, with next steps currently being drafted.
B27	3	Explore opportunities and plan for Hydrogen Infrastructure.	Ask	Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub LEP ERA	M / L	M	L	3	Discovery	Local hydrogen infrastructure development is still in its infancy - further works needed to consider this at a regional level.
B28	All	Continue to support the Local Electricity Bill. UPDATE	Influence	Parliament	S	L	L	9	Discovery	The Energy Act recently received Royal Assent - LCC will review this and its influence on Leicestershire's Net Zero targets.
B29	2, 3, 6	Provide an evidence base for new business models and financing options for low carbon technologies including Heat as a Service models.	Influence	BEIS DESNZ	S / M	L	L	7.5	Discovery	To be progressed
B30	All	Rebalance environmental levies between electricity and gas bills.	Influence	OFGEM	S	L	L	9	Discovery	To be progressed
B31	All	Consider carbon pricing and its role in achieving net zero.	Influence	BEIS DESNZ OFGEM LGA	S / M	L	L	7.5	Design	Leicestershire County Council has integrated a carbon price into business cases and decisions for the 2030 Carbon Reduction Programme, aligning with Government figures.
B32	All	Deliver the Air Quality Partnership Action Plan to support carbon reduction	Ask	Air Quality Partnership National Highways	S	M	L	6	Design	The Air Quality Partnership is active - further work will be progressed to align its action plan to support carbon reduction.
Renewable Energy and Infrastructure										
B33	6	Work collaboratively to increase renewable energy generation and storage through innovative business models, sourcing of investment and technical solutions.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub LEP Districts Investors Universities	S / M	H	H	7.5	Design	Leicestershire County Council's Solar Wind feasibility study advances to phase 2, examining three sites in detail for potential investment. This action will also be supported by the work of the Pathfinder Places project.
B34	6	Deliver the Solar Together Leicestershire group buying project to support householders to install solar photovoltaics and battery storage.	Ask	Districts i-Choor	S	L	M	27	Delivery	Solar Together 2022 concludes with 460 installations, saving 7,385 tCO2e at prices 27% lower than typical market costs. Solar Together 2023-24 is underway through Green Living Leicestershire.
B35	2, 3, 6	Provide support for community energy including investment and business models.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub LEP Government Investors	S / M	L	M	15	Design	Funding to support Community Energy establishment and development is included in the Pathfinder funding, commencing work from February 2024.
B36	5	Complete research to support investment in the electricity network in Leicestershire to deliver the capacity required for electrification of heat, transport and connection of generation assets.	Ask	WPD NGED National Grid Ofgem	M / L	L	L	4.5	Discovery	Leicestershire County Council actively participates in the National Grid Electricity Futures series, ensuring county representation and contributing to future planning.
B37	5, 6	Promote and incentivise flexible energy and demand side management and facilitate increased energy storage capacity.	Ask	WPD NGED National Grid Ofgem	L	L	M	6	Discovery	Octopus Energy offers saver sessions for customers to trial flexible energy use in the home. Battery Box has approached the County Council, requesting the use of their land for battery storage options, currently under consideration.
B38	5, 6	Create fair and consistent markets and regulatory frameworks for low carbon generation and storage	Influence	BEIS DESNZ OFGEM	M	L	H	18	Discovery	Leicestershire County Council commits to supporting consultation exercises for improved competition in renewables as they arise.