

Carbon Reduction Projects

Action ID	Project Description	Estimated Completion	Project Stage 2024	RAG 2024	December 2024 Update
Workstream: Fleet					
DEL1.1	HVO Fuel Transition: Switch from diesel to hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as approved by DMT (Jan 23) to growth awarded (£100k) and maximise carbon benefits on difficult to transition to electric vehicles, in Waste and Highways.	Ongoing, BAU	Delivery		The council has adopted HVO fuel for part of its fleet - allocating funds to cover the additional costs, enabling the use of HVO in larger waste and highway vehicles.
DEL1.2	Production of a EV Fleet Transition Plan, to include EV infrastructure and vehicle replacement for all small and light fleet vehicles.	Jun-25	Design		The council's study on transitioning our fleet vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs) was completed in October 2024. This report assesses the required charging infrastructure. The county council will now evaluate the financial implications and timelines for next steps
Workstream: Estates					
DEL1.3	Production of a Buildings Decarbonisation Plan, covering 61 gas heated operational controlled properties energy efficiency, heating and lighting improvements	Mar-24	Completed		The Buildings and Heat Decarbonisation Plan were completed in March 2024. Energy efficiency and building condition surveys of 62 council buildings, funded by Phase 4 of the Low Carbon Skills Fund, are being used to apply for further funding, with decisions on the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund due by May 2025
DEL1.4	Phase 2 wind & Solar Feasibility - Investigate future wind and solar farm development potential on 3 council sites	Mar-24	Cancelled		Phase 2 of the wind and solar feasibility study has been cancelled and will not proceed. This decision was made after careful consideration of current priorities and resources.
DEL1.5	Quorn Solar Farm: Build and use solar energy from the farm for council operations	Nov-25	Cancelled		The Quorn Farm site will be sold to a private developer, who plans to construct a solar farm on the location.
Workstream: Streetlighting and Traffic Signals					
DEL1.6	Carryout the 18 month dimming streetlights to 30% intensity trial	Jun-25	Delivery		The Council is conducting an 18 month trial to dim streetlights to 30% intensity. The dimming was initiated in January 2024. compared to 2023, this has resulted in a savings of 1,336,166 kWh which equates to 277 tCO ₂ e.
Workstream: Business Mileage					
DES4.2	Production of a Business Mileage Decarbonisation Plan: to include identification of appropriate solutions and implementation of a travel hierarchy.	Dec-25	Design		High mileage teams have been identified and the council is actively engaging with managers to plan various interventions. Progress has been delayed as staff resources have been prioritised for reporting tasks during the summer.

Carbon Reduction Projects (Discovery)

Action ID	Project Description	Carbon Saving Potential	Cost	Financial Saving/Income	Priority	Project Stage 2024	RAG 2024	December 2024 Update
Workstream: Estates								
DIS1.2	Deliver the Decarbonisation of Buildings Plan (DBP) to: decarbonise heating in council operated buildings (e.g. heat pumps)	H	H	L	H	Delivery		The Buildings Decarbonisation Plan was completed in March 2024. The council's energy team is currently finalising applications for submission to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund, with decisions expected in May 2025
DIS1.3	Deliver the DBP to: Improve the energy efficiency of all council operated buildings (e.g. wall insulation)	H	H	M	H	Delivery		The Council is implementing the Buildings Decarbonisation Plan to enhance energy efficiency in all council operated buildings. This has now become part of our standard operations. We have submitted a bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund and expect to learn the outcome in May 2025
DIS1.5	Upgrade external lighting to LED in council car parks and on the outside of buildings	L	M	L	L	Discovery		The upgrade of external lighting to LED in council car parks and around buildings is currently in the discovery phase.
DIS1.6	Deliver the DBP to: Upgrade and improve efficiency of air conditioning in council operated buildings	L	M	L	L	Discovery		The upgrade and efficiency improvements for air conditioning in council-operated buildings are still in the discovery phase
DIS1.7	Investigate opportunities to maximise rooftop solar power generation	L	M	H	H	Design		The council is exploring opportunities to maximize rooftop solar power generation. In-house assessments are being carried out to identify properties best suited for solar installation. A rollout is planned for next year, depending on available funding
Workstream: Fleet								
DIS2.1	Deliver the Fleet EV Transition Plan: transition all appropriate small and light vehicles to electric.	H	H	H	H	Discovery		An electric vehicle (EV) study was commissioned, with the final report received in October 2024. The study examines the transition of the Council's fleet to EVs and the necessary charging infrastructure. The County Council will now review the financial requirements and timelines, and determine the next steps.
DIS2.2	Investigate centralised fuel management and subsequent benefits for implementing other projects	L	M	M	M	Discovery		To be progressed at a later date.
DIS2.3	Alternative fuel switch for heavy commercial vehicles	M	H	L	M	Delivery		The council has introduced HVO fuel for part of its fleet, including many larger waste vehicles and some highways vehicles. While HVO fuel is more expensive than diesel, the council has allocated additional funds to cover the difference, supporting this transition to a cleaner fuel option
Workstream: Business Travel								
DIS4.1	Implement a travel hierarchy to decarbonise business mileage, to include smarter working, active travel, EV pool cars, car share, EV lease car	H	M	H	H	Discovery		A travel hierarchy to decarbonise business mileage will be implemented once the Decarbonisation of Business Mileage Plan is developed
Workstream: Carbon Removal								
DIS5.1	Prepare opportunities for local carbon sequestration on the council's estate, inseting within the council's value chain and other carbon removal practices and techniques.	M	H	L	L	Discovery		Preliminary research has explored various providers and their feasibility, alongside discussions with other Local Authorities to gather advice and insights. Some delivery elements of the Leicestershire CAN project may address residual carbon emissions, subject to further development as the project progresses

Enabling Actions

Action ID	Project Description	Timescale	Project Stage 2024	RAG 2024	December 2024 Update
Workstream: Finance					
F1.1	Track and monitor the financial cost and savings of the Carbon Reduction Programme	Ongoing	Delivery	Green	The financial cost and savings of the carbon reduction programme as carried out within general project monitoring alongside the development of key plans such as the electric vehicle transition and building decarbonisation strategies.
F1.2	Investigate innovative and alternative funding sources to drive forward carbon reduction projects	Ongoing	Design	Yellow	Progress on the net zero funding plan has been delayed due to resource constraints. Staff continue to explore funding opportunities, such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
F1.3	Where possible, continue to generate financial income and savings through delivering carbon reduction	Ongoing	Delivery	Yellow	Completed projects, including streetlighting dimming and public sector decarbonisation, have delivered significant cost savings. However, key upcoming projects, such as heating decarbonisation, may result initially in higher operating costs due to changes in energy sources
F1.4	Financially support council carbon reduction projects through the £2 million recycling fund and monitor its impact	Ongoing	Design	Yellow	The Carbon Fund was paused in February 2024 to reassess its use in light of financial challenges. It is currently being reviewed for potential uses to support net-zero initiatives.
F1.6	Explore the approaches recommended by the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures on governance, strategy, risk management and targets.	TBC	Discovery	Red	A future project will explore implementing recommendations from the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures, focusing on governance, strategy, risk management, and target-setting for carbon reduction.
Workstream: Decision Making and Procurement					
DM1.2	Pilot working with key suppliers to reduce emissions of high emissions contracts and meet environmental goals	TBC	Discovery	Yellow	A future project will involve collaborating with key suppliers to reduce emissions from high-carbon contracts; subject to staff capacity
DM1.3	Investigate common suppliers with partners and potential actions to reduce carbon	TBC	Discovery	Yellow	Common suppliers with partners will be investigated as part of a future project, subject to staff capacity
DM1.4	Strengthen environmental needs within the Procurement Strategy, to integrate council sustainability specifications and requirements into supplier contracts and the procurement process	TBC	Discovery	Yellow	Future work will focus on enhancing the council's Procurement Strategy to embed stronger sustainability requirements in supplier contracts and integrate net-zero principles into procurement processes.
DM1.5	Investigate incorporating net zero requirements into project approval and spend control forms	TBC	Discovery	Red	A potential future project is being considered to incorporate carbon impact assessments into council project approval forms. This will help ensure environmental considerations are part of key decisions. This is subject to staff capacity
DM1.6	Investigate incorporating carbon impacts of key decisions into Democratic Services report templates and guidance	TBC	Discovery	Red	A potential future project will incorporate carbon impacts into Democratic Services reports, subject to staff capacity.
DM1.7	Design and collate responses to a supplier questionnaire on the environment, to gather insight into supplier commitments, actions and progress in supporting net zero ambitions.	2023-24	Discovery	Yellow	Plans are in place to create a supplier questionnaire to gather insights into their environmental actions, commitments, and progress toward supporting net-zero goals.
Workstream: Learning & Development					
LD1.1	Facilitate a net zero community of practice with regular opportunities to explore best practice in carbon management for key staff	2025-26	Design	Yellow	The council is currently reviewing its internal governance structure with aims to further embed carbon into service delivery and development
LD1.2	Incorporate net zero into mandatory Environmental Awareness e-learning	2025-26	Design	Green	A new Environmental Learning Area is currently being developed, consisting of individual modules on specific topics. These will include a greater focus on
LD1.3	Incorporate net zero into the new Environment Management System e-learning training course for key staff	2024-25	Discovery	Yellow	A short course on EMS will be incorporated into the Environmental Learning area when it has been developed.
LD1.4	Investigate creating a dedicated net zero e-learning, detailing more in-depth information on climate change, council/county emissions & actions and staff actions	2025-26	Design	Green	A new Environmental Learning Area is currently being developed, consisting of individual modules on specific topics. These will include a greater focus on the Net Zero strategies for Council and County
LD1.5	Investigate specific and professional carbon reduction training and development needs and opportunities e.g. Carbon Literacy Training	TBC	Discovery	Red	The council has investigated training opportunities, such as Carbon Literacy Training and an IEMA Corporate Partnership, but these have been paused due to staff capacity constraints.
LD1.6	Develop a business case for net zero corporate learning and development support	TBC	Discovery	Red	The council has investigated training opportunities, such as Carbon Literacy Training and an IEMA Corporate Partnership, but these have been paused due to staff capacity constraints.
Workstream: Communications & Engagement					
CE1.3	Create a net zero information hub and resources for staff on the Intranet	TBC	Discovery	Red	Plans to create a dedicated net zero information hub for staff on the intranet are currently paused due to limited staff resources.

CE1.6	Embed key net zero guidance, principles and training opportunities across the council, through the Organisational Development Working Group for the Environment Strategy	TBC	Discovery		Plan to further embed key net zero guidance, principles and training opportunities across the council have been paused due to staff capacity.
CE1.7	Ensure net zero and climate action has a firm foundation within Greener Together, encouraging and empowering staff to take action, and provide opportunities for learning and development.	Ongoing	Delivery		The council's Greener Together programme now incorporates net-zero principles, encouraging and empowering staff to take climate action while providing opportunities for learning and engagement.
Workstream: Out of Scope Emissions					
AS1.1	Improve data collection, understanding and reporting of out of scope emissions (e.g. wider scope 3 emissions) to inform appropriate actions the council can take to support their reduction	Ongoing	Design		Efforts to measure and understand wider scope 3 emissions (e.g., those outside direct control) are ongoing, with further work being considered to improve data collection, reporting, and reduction strategies.
AS1.2	Work towards providing a portfolio of low carbon leased assets (e.g. renewable installations and improved energy efficiency)	Ongoing	Delivery		Work is underway to provide low-carbon leased assets, such as renewable energy installations and energy efficiency improvements.
AS1.3	Work with tenants to reduce the carbon footprint of leased assets (e.g. follow the council's net zero principles and behaviours)	Ongoing	Discovery		This initiative is ongoing, and the council utilises a net zero carbon checklist to guide our efforts.
AS1.4	Support the shift of council investments towards clean, green and sustainable portfolios to support the low carbon economy	Ongoing	Discovery		The council currently uses a net zero carbon checklist to guide efforts when collaborating with tenants
AS1.5	Encourage and support staff where possible to commute to work by a low carbon method of transport (e.g. active travel, public transport, EV vehicles and charge points)	Ongoing	Delivery		Various projects are underway to support this, including: led walks and national campaign days which are delivered throughout the year, Gold Level Cycle Friendly Employer: providing bike loans, Dr Bike events, promoting Betterpoints and improvements to the Cycle to Work scheme. The Councils salary sacrifice scheme makes EV's more affordable for staff and supports this choice of vehicle for commuting.

Carbon Reduction Projects (Completed)

Action ID	Project Description	Estimated Completion	Project stage 2024	RAG 2024	December 2024 Update
Workstream: Estates					
COM1.1	Beaumanor Hall PSDS: Installation of heat pumps	Mar-22	Completed		Successfully installed and now generating carbon savings.
COM1.2	County Hall PSDS: LED Lighting upgrade, solar PV installation, BMS optimisation, district heat connections and thermal store	Mar-22	Completed		Successfully installed and now generating carbon savings.
COM1.3	Embankment House PSDS: LED lighting upgrade, solar PV installation, BMS optimisation	Mar-22	Completed		Successfully installed and now generating carbon savings.
COM1.4	Phase 1 Wind and Solar Feasibility Study to investigate future wind and solar farm development potential on council land	May-23	Completed		Phase 1 assessed and shortlisted potential sites for renewable energy, phase 2 now underway (see DEL1.4).
COM1.5	Energy efficiency surveys carried out across 61 council buildings to inform the Decarbonisation of Buildings Plan	Oct-23	Completed		Energy surveys will now inform condition and energy reports for each building, which will identify energy efficiency, heating & lighting improvements, these will further inform a prioritised decarbonisation plan for the whole council estate (see DEL1.3).
Workstream: Finance					
F1.5	Trial assigning a financial value to carbon, to help inform decisions and business cases	2022-23	Completed		Completed through embedding carbon pricing within the business case template and process for applying to the £2 million carbon fund.
Workstream: Management & Governance					
MG1.1	Review and develop a new governance structure for monitoring progress with implementation of the Carbon Reduction Programme action plan	Sep-22	Completed		Highlight reports for delivery groups taken to Carbon Reduction Programme Steering Group every 2 months, Senior Responsible Officer is the Head of Environment and Waste Commissioning.
Workstream: Decision Making and Procurement					
DM1.1	Integrate the carbon impact of projects into Transformation Unit business case templates	2022-23	Completed		Completed through embedding carbon pricing within the business case template and process for applying to the £2 million carbon reduction fund.
Workstream: Communications & Engagement					
CE1.1	Ensure net zero has a regular presence on the council's Yammer pages	Ongoing	Completed		Successfully communicated information regarding the launch of Net Zero Leicestershire, Go Green in 2023 Campaign, Greener Together launch, Couch to Carbon Zero, COP27, Great Big Green Week. Action to be archived & captured as ongoing under Greener Together (CE1.7).
CE1.2	Provide regular representation of Net Zero Leicestershire in the Environment Bulletin	Ongoing	Completed		Net zero related articles included within quarterly Environment Bulletin. Average number of staff views per article is 580. Action to be archived & captured as ongoing under Greener Together (CE1.7)
CE1.4	Develop a net zero information hub on the council's website	2022-23	Completed		Completed in 2022, kept up to date and available here: https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/net-zero .
CE1.5	Create a net zero carbon email address and promote it as the main contact for matters relating to Net Zero Leicestershire	2022-23	Completed		Completed, email address is netzero@leics.gov.uk.
Workstream: Out of Scope Emissions					
AS1.6	Encourage smarter and more efficient working practices across the council e.g. hybrid working, meeting/site visit planning, virtual meetings	Ongoing	Completed		The council encourages staff to work flexibly, offering a range of workplaces and technologies to best meet service and customer needs, alongside supporting wellbeing - implemented through the Ways of Working Programme.
Workstream: Performance & Monitoring					
PM1.1	Monitor and publish an annual greenhouse gas report for the council's own operational emissions and progress towards net zero 2035.	Ongoing	Completed		Completed for 2023-24 financial year.
PM1.2	Conduct an annual review of the Carbon Reduction Programme action plan – to include new, updated and completed actions	Ongoing	Completed		Completed for 2023-24 financial year.
PM1.3	Review the requirements and prepare to report to the Carbon Disclosure Project	Ongoing	Completed		Successful submission during summer 2023, the outcome of which was released in November giving LCC a score of B. Result of 2024 submission is awaited.

This page is intentionally left blank