

Environmental Strategy: **Delivery Plan – 2022 – 2024**

A foreword by the Portfolio Holder for Environment

The enormous challenge presented by climate change and biodiversity loss are felt across the globe. At Broadland District Council we know that we cannot solve these challenges alone, but we recognise that we are in a unique position to make a significant difference.

We know we must take a lead on projects and innovations which lessen the impacts of climate change and protect our amazing natural environment, so we will work in partnership with our communities, businesses, and individual residents to safeguard, enhance and improve our District for generations to come.

Our Environmental Strategy is a living document and encompasses work which we started some time ago. This companion document, our Delivery Plan, outlines in simple terms our **commitments** to you, our **key achievements** to date, how we are going **measure success**, and the **next steps** we are going to take on our journey towards environmental excellence.



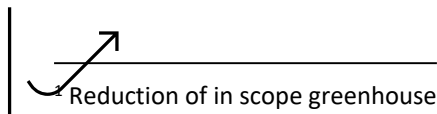
Our Commitments:

- ✓ We will put environmental considerations at the heart of delivery and, as a Council, will achieve a **net-zero carbon emission position by 2030**
- ✓ Lead the wider decarbonisation agenda within Broadland to **meet the Government's net zero 2050 target**. This will require bold and innovative action so the Council can leverage change and enable a transition to a post-carbon economy.
- ✓ **Engage, inspire, and equip** our residents, businesses, and community groups to take steps to improve their natural environments and reduce their carbon footprints.



Our key achievements to date:

- ✓ Switched our refuse collection vehicles from diesel fuels to HVO fuels – this will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by approx. 90%¹ and improve air quality
- ✓ We have measured and published our carbon emissions for the years 2018 – 2021, our footprint for 2020/21 was 1303.32 tCO₂e.
- ✓ Developed a tree planting grant scheme so that has planted over 10,000 trees since 2020



¹ Reduction of in scope greenhouse gas emissions, as currently calculated by Defra. Biofuels have net zero carbon emissions since the fuel source itself absorbs an equivalent amount of CO₂ during the growth phase as the CO₂ that is released through combustion.

How we will measure success:

- ✓ We will **publish our carbon emissions** on an annual basis
- ✓ We track the progress of each action within this delivery plan and will provide **biannual updates to the council's Environmental Excellence Panel**.
- ✓ **Update the delivery plan annually**, recognising the need to respond to changes which may occur locally, nationally, and internationally.



Our next steps:

- ✓ We will publish a **Decarbonisation Action Plan** which sets out how we will achieve net zero emissions by 2030
- ✓ Develop a '**Clean Growth and Sustainability Strategy**' - this will outline the steps we will take across the District in order to meet the Governments 2050 net zero target
- ✓ **Consult our residents, communities, and businesses** to understand how we can support community actions in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.

Delivery Plan

Net Zero 2030 Council – leading by example

Summary

- The council is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 across our scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions²
- Have switched our refuse collection vehicles to HVO fuels. This will reduce carbon emissions from the waste fleet by over 90%³, and reduce particulates.
- Mobilise a whole council approach to reducing emissions and achieving environmental excellence

What we will be doing from 2022 – 2024

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	Timescales	Lead
NzC1	Provide clear data and information regarding the actions the council is taking to reduce its carbon emissions	Establish a process for publishing carbon footprints and reporting on emission reduction trajectories.	Published in October 2022	Economic Growth
NzC2	Create a pathway to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030 across the council's estates and operations.	Publish a decarbonisation plan and net-zero 2030 route map	December 2022	Economic Growth

² Scope 1 emissions are from fuels used on site e.g. natural gas, heating oil and diesel. Scope 2 emissions are from electricity used. Scope 3 relates to indirect emissions including staff business travel, waste disposal from council offices and water use.

³ Reduction of in scope greenhouse gas emissions, as currently calculated by Defra. Biofuels have net zero carbon emissions since the fuel source itself absorbs an equivalent amount of CO₂ during the growth phase as the CO₂ that is released through combustion.

NzC3	To embed a 'whole council' approach to reducing carbon emissions by ensuring that all decisions take into consideration the issues presented by climate change	<p>For all Cabinet Members and all staff within the council's Corporate Leadership Team to attend carbon literacy training sessions.</p> <p>Run a series of carbon literacy courses open to all staff and councillors within the council - align these sessions to other staff CPD opportunities such as 'Learn-Fest'</p> <p>Develop a tool or mechanism to embed environmental consideration into council decision making processes.</p>	All Cabinet Members and CMLT will attend training in 2023	Economic Growth
NzC4	Providing low carbon travel options for council staff including sustainable travel planning, cycle to work scheme, electric pool cars and lift sharing.	<p>Provide a sustainable travel planning service for staff with a partner organisation, including lift sharing for staff based at the Horizon building.</p> <p>Provide EVCP at council offices</p> <p>Carry out feasibility and staff consultation on electric pool cars</p>	<p>October 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>October 2023</p>	Economic Growth, HR and facilities
NzC5	Reduce council emissions and improve air quality by phasing out diesel use within all council operated Refuse Collection Vehicles (RVCs).	Adoption of HVO fuels for all council operated RCVs	Implemented in April 2022	Contracts and Recycling

NzC6	All new council assets will be highly energy efficient and design standards will promote environmental excellence	All council led non-domestic projects shall meet the BREEAM 'excellent' standard	2024	Economic Growth
NzC7	Reduce scope 2 (from grid electricity) emissions from council buildings	Move to a certified renewable electricity contract for all assets	2023	Facilities
NzC8	Ensure that the procurement of good and services considers environmental impacts and assists in reducing the council's carbon emissions.	Develop a new sustainable Procurement Strategy	2023	Procurement
NzC9	Understanding the carbon offsetting options available to the council in order to deal with any residual/'to-hard-to abate emissions.	Develop an offsetting plan	January 2024	Economic Growth

Net Zero 2050 Broadland - enabling and encouraging

Summary

- To support district wide decarbonisation and a transition to low carbon technologies to meet the Government's 2050 net-zero emissions target
- Identify and actively target the sectors which release the most amount of carbon emissions
- Encourage a vibrant, clean economy which champions innovative technologies and creates a wide range of highly skilled, well-paid jobs.

What we will be doing from 2022 – 2024

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	Timescales	Lead
NzB1	Outlines the steps the council needs take to help achieve the Government's Net Zero 2050 target <i>including</i> a targeted approach to tackling the key emitting sectors with Broadland (<i>primarily the transportation sector and domestic and industrial emissions, respectively</i>)	Adopt a 'Clean Growth and Decarbonisation Strategy'	August 2023	Economic Growth
NzB2	Support the ongoing work of the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.	Attend all Norfolk Climate Change Partnership meetings and provide leadership on the Community Renewal Fund, 'Net Zero Norfolk' project.	2023	Economic Growth

NZB3	To assist our residents and communities to make the switch to electric vehicles by increasing the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) within the district.	We will install EVCP across our council owned car parks The council will work with taxi drivers to help them to meet the 2030 deadline ⁴ .	December 2023 2030	Economic Growth and Regulatory Services
NzB4	Identify and work alongside the largest emitters in Broadland to identify ways in which they can reduce their carbon emissions.	Engage with the top five largest emitters within Broadland and establish a joint approach to working towards net-zero 2050	June 2023	Economic Growth
NzB5	Support businesses to reduce their carbon emissions to align with the net zero carbon emission 2050 target.	Develop ' Net-Zero Go ' training sessions and events at Carrowbreck.	The first events held at Carrowbreck by 2023	Economic Growth
NzB6	Promote the businesses within Broadland who are taking steps to reduce their carbon emissions and encourage others to follow their lead.	Promote the Norfolk Carbon Charter to businesses.	20 businesses newly signed up by 2023	Economic Growth

⁴ In 2021 the council's licensing committee agreed that all newly licensed vehicles from 1 April 2030 will be powered without hydrocarbons (e.g. fully electric or hydrogen fuel cell).

NzB7	Improve understanding and raise awareness of climate change and environmental issues to drive positive behavioural changes.	10 sessions of carbon literacy training for town and parish councils.	2024	Economic Growth
		Monthly communications on climate awareness messages on social channels	2023	

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Warm Energy Efficient Homes

Summary

- Help residents to reduce energy demand by delivering and promoting insulation schemes.
- Assist households in fuel poverty who are struggling to pay their energy bills.
- Address energy insecurity by supporting the transition towards clean energy solutions such as air source heat pumps and solar power generation

What we will be doing from 2022 – 2024

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	Timescales	Lead
Wh1	Seek funding to continue the proactive enforcement of 'Private Rental Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards'. <i>*Current funded proactive enforcement project runs until September 2022</i>	Investigate and apply for funding to continue the proactive enforcement action on the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the private rented sector. 157 properties have been improved through the scheme from April – September 2022.	2023	Housing Standards
Wh2	Encourage residents to switch to clean energy	Delivery of a 'Green Loan' pilot scheme to support residents with the purchase and installation of solar panels Increase of residents signed up to the 'Solar Together' promotion, based on 2021 scheme.	2022 - 2023 2022 - 2023	Economic Growth and Housing Standards
Wh3	Apply for external funding to run projects to improve energy efficiency in homes	There is 2 BEIS ⁵ funded projects currently running. We aim to fully utilise all funding from these projects. We will apply for new funding streams as they open.	2024 - ongoing	Warm Homes

⁵ Government department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Wh4	Advise and support households in fuel poverty, helping them to maximise their incomes and achieve the most suitable energy tariffs and heating types.	Assist grant applicants with energy saving advice and income maximisation. Work alongside the Early Help Hub to develop a financial package for the most vulnerable residents in the district.	2024 - ongoing	Warm Homes

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Sustainable Communities

Summary

- Plan for housing and economic growth in a way which is sustainable and celebrates the unique nature of our natural environment
- Ensure our local plans take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Continue work to develop inclusive, resilient, and safe communities

What we will be doing from 2022 – 2024

Ref	Project	Outcome	Timescale	Lead
Sc1	<p>Council officers to support the development of neighbourhood and community led plans which encourage a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change by considering issues such as, flooding, water supply and biodiversity. This might be via;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of sustainable drainage systems in new developments • Rainwater conservation and re use • Enhancement of greenspace to promote greater biodiversity • Rewilding and tree planting 	5 new, or updated, neighbourhood and community plans developed by parish and town councils which consider the impacts of climate change and mitigation.	2024	Community Planning
Sc2	Celebrate buildings that have a low environmental impact e.g. PassivHaus or BREEAM standards	Publish annual case studies on most sustainable developments on the council's website	2024	Planning

Sc3	Ensure suitable greenspace and Green Infrastructure is provided to support new growth	Delivery of 9 new Green Infrastructure projects across the district	2024	Economic Growth
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Biodiversity and Greenspace

Summary

- Enhance our existing natural habitats by managing council owned greenspace in a way which encourages biodiversity to flourish
- Equip communities to improve biodiversity at a local level
- Increase biodiversity through planting trees and hedgerows, adopting a ‘right tree for the right location’ approach

What we will be doing from 2022 – 2024

Ref	Objective	Outcome	Timescale	Lead
BaG1	Plant trees to increase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Community wellbeing and engagement • carbon sequestration 	Engage with community groups, partner organisations and town and parish councils to plant 130,000 new trees within the district.	2025	Economic Growth
BaG2	Improve the biodiversity of council owned woodland and greenspace sites	Adopt a ‘Biodiversity Plan’ for council owned woodlands and green spaces	2024	Community assets
BaG3	Encourage residents within the district to think about their natural environments and to promote biodiversity action at a local level	‘ Biodiversity for Broadland ’ - ‘Biodiversity for Broadland’ - a series of events held at Broadland Country Park where residents can find out more about the habitats and species found in Broadland. This information will help residents to take action in their neighbourhoods or gardens.	5 events between 2022 - 2024	Community assets
BaG4	Work alongside suppliers to phase out the use of peat products in council owned land management.	Become a ‘peat free’ council	2023	Community assets

BaG5	Explore opportunities for nature-based solutions within Broadland considering issues such as Biodiversity Net Gain, carbon sequestration and nutrient neutrality	Develop feasibility to identify projects within Broadland which enable the delivery of biodiversity net gain, carbon sequestration and nutrient neutrality	2023	Economic Growth
BaG6	Increase area rewilded on council owned amenity land.	Increase the area managed as long meadows from 20% (2022) to 25%	2025	Community Assets

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Clean and Safe Environment

Summary

- Ensuring that our streets and communities are clean and safe
- Provide information and guidance for residents on air quality, land quality and water conservation
- Encourage conservative use of our water resources

What we will be doing from 2022 – 2024

Ref	Project	Outcome	Timescale	
CsE1	Reduce the amount of litter within the district.	Work with communities to carry out 30 community litter pick events across Broadland, co-ordinating these with a social media campaign to raise awareness of the issue which litter causes.	2023	Environmental Protection and Community assets
CsE2	Reduce occurrences of fly tipping by... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing enforcement action against waste crimes such as fly tipping, littering, graffiti, and dog fouling • increasing joint working with local stakeholders to increase intelligence to tackle environmental crime. 	A decrease in number of fly tips to under 500 incidents per year.	2023	Environmental protection
CsE3	To reduce the impact of oil spillages by proactively reaching out to oil users in vulnerable locations and providing advice on fuel security and spill prevention.	Direct advice issued to all residents and businesses who are considered to be in 'oil vulnerable' locations. Information and guidance on the council website which provides guidance on fuel security and spill prevention.	2024	Environmental protection

CsE4	To raise awareness of air quality issues and promote understanding of new legislation, such as a wood burning. To maintain 0 Air Quality Management Areas ⁶ on annual report to government.	Bi-annual social media campaigns which provide tips and information on how residents can reduce air pollution Use National 'Clean Air Days' to raise awareness in schools.	2023	Environmental protection
CsE5	Conserve water resources by promoting knowledge of rainwater re-use and conservation.	Bi-annual social media campaigns which provide tips and information on how residents can conserve water.	2023	Environmental protection
CsE6	To work alongside the planning department to ensure that all new developments consider 'clean and safe' environmental issues such as litter, air quality, water usage, land quality and fly tipping.	Environmental protection officers will provide comment, guidance and advice, where applicable, on all planning applications and will provide comments when consulted on all planning applications.	2023	Environmental protection

⁶ An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is declared for an area where the local air quality is unlikely to meet the Government's national air quality objectives.

Waste minimisation and recycling

- Strive to achieve a 60% recycling rate by 2025
- Encourage residents to reduce and reuse as much as possible
- Lead by example by becoming a single use plastic free council by 2023

Ref	Project	Outcome	Timescale	
WmR1	Address issues created by plastic waste	<p>Promoting the Refill scheme across the district to residents and businesses</p> <p>Become a single use plastic free council and publish a 'how to guide' to support other companies and organisations wishing to do the same</p> <p>Support parish/town plastic free communities in the district</p>	2023	Recycling and Economic Growth
WmR2	<p>We are striving to meet a target of 60% recycling rate by 2025</p> <p>Educate residents on the recycling system to help them to make the right recycling choices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run campaigns which increase take up of food waste and garden waste collections. • Launch initiatives on waste minimisation 	<p>Achieve a 60% recycling rate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increase participation rate of food waste collection - target 75%</i> • <i>Increase gross tonnage of garden waste collected and recycled</i> • <i>Reduce residual waste per household</i> • <i>Release App to help residents find out current information about recycling and collection services</i> 	<p>2025</p> <p>2023</p> <p>2023</p>	Recycling

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