

Climate Local Commitment 2015-16

Climate Local Bedford: Our commitments and actions

Bedford Borough Council signed the Climate Local Commitment on **26th October 2012** in recognition of the important role that local authorities have in tackling climate change.

In signing the Commitment we pledged to set locally-owned and determined targets and actions on both mitigation and adaptation and publish these within six months.

The table below sets out our priorities, commitments and the actions will undertake to deliver them. We will monitor our performance against these actions and report regularly on our progress. We will also regularly refresh this list of actions to ensure they are up-to-date and reflect local priorities.

Mitigation: Low Carbon Pathways

In order to create an 'energy smart' low carbon future we make the following commitments:

Commitment: We will assess our success in achieving the aspirational target of 40% by 2015 and develop a strategy to reduce the Council's carbon emissions further.		
Justification: The UK's Climate Change Act places responsibility on local authorities to reduce carbon emissions. The Council has set itself a target to reduce its carbon emissions; leading by example to mitigate climate change.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will undertake a review of the success towards achieving the aspirational 40% carbon reduction target and of the Carbon Management Plan with a view to proposing a new strategy and target for energy/ carbon reduction.	Review undertaken and new strategy and target developed.	March 2016
We will implement Tranche 2 of the RE:FIT scheme which will include 17 buildings.	Measures installed in buildings identified for RE:FIT scheme.	March 2016
We will promote the installation of renewable energy generating technology in schools and Council buildings.	Increase in the total number of renewable energy installations installed in schools and Council buildings.	Ongoing
We will continue to promote the Climate Change Fund to schools.	Climate Change Fund spent for 2015/16.	March 2016

We will encourage schools to register with Eco-Schools.	Increase in the number of schools registered with Eco-Schools.	Ongoing
We will promote the efficient use of energy and water by Council staff through the continued development of the awareness raising campaign and the Energy Champion network.	2 awareness campaigns linked to national environmental campaigns carried out each year. Energy Champions recruited for all departments and significant locations.	Ongoing

Commitment: We will aim to reduce the water usage across all Council buildings by 20% by March 2017 (this will also reduce the carbon footprint from water usage) and reduce wastewater across all Council buildings by 20% by March 2017.		
Justification: The East of England is the driest region in the country and the Council seeks to conserve the region's water resources.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will promote and advise the public, schools and council staff to reduce water consumption.	Increase in publications regarding water efficiency and reduction in water consumption	March 2016
Implement the Water Strategy to reduce the councils water consumption	20% reduction in water and waste water in council buildings	March 2017

Commitment: We will promote and encourage engagement with energy saving schemes and will seek to develop relationships with partners to support the development of these schemes to maintain and improve the condition of all existing housing.

Justification: The Council's House Condition Survey (2011) identified energy saving measures as the major issue facing the housing stock of the Borough. Since the Council has no housing stock, the activity of the Council is concentrated on promoting and encouraging owners and tenants of private housing within the Borough to adopt energy saving measures.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will promote the carbon reduction and financial benefits of reducing energy consumption by improving energy efficiency of homes through the installation of insulation measures.	Increase in total number of energy efficiency measures (loft and cavity wall installation).	Ongoing
We will promote the Government's home energy efficiency schemes including the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) to the homeowners and private tenants of the Borough to encourage the improvement in the energy efficiency of homes.	No. of Energy Companies Obligation measures (loft and cavity wall insulation, boilers) carried out by ECO obligation (Carbon Saving Target - CSO, Carbon Savings Community - CSCO, Affordable Warmth - HHCRO) in Bedford Borough.	Ongoing

Commitment: We will promote householder and community action on reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions in the Borough.		
Justification: Community action on reducing carbon emissions is important in order to reduce Bedford Borough's carbon emissions estimate from 5.7 tonnes of CO ₂ per capita (2.0 tonnes of CO ₂ from domestic emissions, data from DECC statistics: 'Emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities 2013').		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will work with residents, households and communities of the Borough to promote energy conserving behaviour through events and schemes.	DECC statistics: Emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities	Ongoing
We will raise awareness of the carbon reduction and financial benefits (Feed In Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive) of installing renewable energy generating technology to householders of the Borough, to encourage small scale installations.	DECC quarterly sub-regional statistics: Increase in total number of domestic renewable energy generating installations (receiving the FIT) in Bedford Borough.	Ongoing
We will continue to support community groups to install carbon reducing measures at community buildings through the Mayor's Climate Change Fund.	Climate Change Fund allocated.	31 st March 2016

Commitment: We will work with households in the Borough to reduce reduce the levels of fuel poverty in the Borough.		
Justification: It is estimated that 10.1% of Bedford Borough's households are fuel poor (2013 DECC statistics).		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will continue to deliver 'Winter Warmth' talks to groups vulnerable to the cold, and arrange Fuel Poverty training for front-line staff to raise awareness of how to stay warm in winter and the support available to residents.	Number of talks delivered and training arranged.	Ongoing
We will update and implement the Affordable Warmth Strategy Action Plan with local partners.	Action Plan updated.	September 2015

Commitment: We will minimise waste sent to landfill from the council, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste collection operations and aim to recycle 60% of the Borough's waste by 2020.		
Justification: Dealing with waste more sustainably is an important way of reducing the Borough's greenhouse gas emissions.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will promote the reduction of waste within the Council and continue to encourage the recycling of all materials possible.	No. of campaigns undertaken.	2020
We will continue to optimise collection vehicle	All routes optimised at least once	2020

routes to improve the efficiency and time taken to make waste collection and passenger transport journeys.	every 6 months.	
We will continue to develop new recycling schemes, undertake improvements to current collection schemes and promotional activities to encourage residents to recycle 60% of their waste.	% of waste recycled.	2020

Commitment: Promote the use of sustainable procurement within the Council		
Justification: To achieve value for money and carbon savings through procurement		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Review and update the Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy to encourage low energy and more sustainable purchasing options and also promotion of local purchasing where possible.	% tenders (for appropriate goods and services) where environmental considerations are included in the contract award. % spend with the local providers. % spend with SMEs	Ongoing – Measure on a quarterly basis commencing Oct 2015
Implement the Social Value Act assessment matrix, which includes an Environmental section covering: controlled consumption, biodiversity, carbon reduction and	% tenders (for appropriate goods and services) where social value benefits are included in the contract	Ongoing – Measure on a quarterly basis commencing Oct 2015

sustainability, and apply to all new Council procurements to reduce the impact on the environment.	award.	
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Commitment: We will promote greener travel behaviours and encourage use of more sustainable modes of transport within the council and wider community.		
Justification: Supports multiple corporate objectives to support our local economy, reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, reduce congestion, and improve health and road safety.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will produce a Cycle Delivery Plan to set out the range of improvements	Draft version produced in liaison with Public Health	September 2015
We will promote walking and cycling through investment and infrastructure.	Continue investment in walking and cycling infrastructure. Agree procedures for CIL to fund the strategic cycle network	Ongoing Completed April 2015
We will complete the Bedford Urban Cycle Network Plan.	Ensure that all routes are legal and viable Have the plan adopted and published in maps and on website by Council	Completed April 2015 April 2016

<p>We will develop and sign the urban cycle network leading to completion of the routes included in the Bedford Urban Cycle Network Plan.</p>	<p>Signing Schedules for all routes completed</p> <p>3 of 30 strategic routes signed.</p>	<p>April 2016</p> <p>April 2016</p>
<p>We will monitor the number of walking and cycling journeys to the Town Centre and on the rest of the cycle network via automatic cycle counters</p>	<p>Number of people Walking and Cycling to the Town Centre in Bedford Inner Cordon Counts</p> <p>Restoration of continuous monitoring from automatic cycle counts</p>	<p>April 2016</p> <p>April 2016</p>
<p>We will support the development of local electric vehicle charging point infrastructure.</p> <p>We will actively collate in-house knowledge of the system performance of the existing Electric vehicle infrastructure</p> <p>We will ensure that all Council owned infrastructure is integrated into primary highways maintenance practices.</p>	<p>No further new posts have been installed since the last update.</p> <p>Usage figures for Bedford Borough posts installed under the Plugged in Places project are regularly collected. There is evidence of shifts of usage towards other posts. Usage is still limited overall and so just one new and regular user can shift patterns of usage across the system.</p> <p>The process of incorporating the EV infrastructure into the highway asset is underway.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

We will work proactively with partners to understand and respond to demand for electric vehicle use by developing a system to meet these needs as part of a broader multi-modal transport offer.	A key aspiration is to create new links with local EV car dealers and with the local EV using community. Small scale workshop approaches to gather user experience are being discussed with partners.	On going
Participants in events and regular programmes run by Sports Development will be advised to contact others to set up car sharing where possible.	A question within selected post event/programme feedback form will request information on travel arrangements.	On going

Commitment: We will support the sustainable development process by continuing work with internal and external partners to ensure new developments are accessible by sustainable modes of transport.		
Justification: To ensure transport remains considered in Planning Policies and to encourage developers to;		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) build in locations that encourage walking, cycling and Public Transport 2) include infrastructure to encourage walking, cycling and Public Transport 		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Review the functions of the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) with key BBC partners in the context of its potential to assist in the delivery of sustainable economic growth and quality of life benefits.	Undertake key conversations with key partners within the authority. Publish reviews as appropriate of progress on Climate Local/LTP3 Actions to align with Climate local reporting and significant committee	Ongoing

	cycles.	
We will ensure that high quality cycle parking standards are applied in new developments	Parking Standards for Sustainable Communities: Design and Good Practice CPD	Adopted Sept 2014
Transport Assessments are now an integrated requirement of planning applications and are assessed within the planning system. Transport Policy and Highways Development Control will continue to provide Sustainable Transport advice and comments on Transport Assessments and Travel Plans when required by the planning process.	Evidenced continuous improvement of procedures to ensure the quality of Transport Assessments and Travel Plans such that data and information collated inform wider transport data systems and models. Contribution towards highways and transport schemes.	Ongoing Ongoing

Commitment: We will identify opportunities to reduce the carbon emissions from our transport fleet.		
Justification: Reducing the carbon emissions from the fleet will also reduce fuel consumption, save money and reduce air pollution in the Borough.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will complete route-optimisation projects to improve the efficiency and time taken to make	All routes optimised.	Ongoing

passenger transport journeys.		
We will promote fuel efficient driving techniques among staff using vehicle telematics to measure and inform how the vehicle fleet is being driven, and how efficiency can be improved.	All Environment Directorate vehicles are now fitted with tracker software; this now provides data which is being used to investigate and improve driving techniques, in liaison with drivers and their supervisors.	Ongoing
We will purchase and invest in greener vehicles across the Council's fleet where this makes good business logic e.g. electric vehicles, electric bins lifts for refuse collection vehicles.	An environment specification is part of all tender analysis	Ongoing

Commitment: Promote energy efficiency and a low carbon community through the planning system.		
Justification: We need to ensure that the planning system identifies and maximises opportunities to reduce carbon emissions from development.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Adopt planning policies that actively encourage renewable and decentralised energy generation.	Allocations & Designations Plan adopted (policy AD1). Consider scope for similar policies in new Local Plan.	July 2013 Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016.

Use planning policy to require developers to build homes and other buildings with high energy standards.	Allocations & Designations Plan adopted (policy AD1). Consider scope for similar policies in new Local Plan.	July 2013 Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016.
Encourage developers to build homes with low embodied energy.	Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.	Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016
Establish policies that encourage developers to build in locations that will encourage walking, cycling and public transport use.	Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.	Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016.
Establish policies that help support low carbon heating networks.	Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.	Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016.
Use s106 or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to promote low carbon communities.	Allocations & Designations Plan adopted (policy AD1).	July 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016.
Promote installation of infrastructure required for low carbon vehicles.	Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.	Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016.
Continue to enforce Building Regulation energy standards.	Building Regulation standards.	Ongoing

Commitment: Explore opportunities for reducing carbon emissions through the natural environment.		
Justification: We need to ensure that the planning system identifies and maximises opportunities to reduce carbon emissions from development.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Identify opportunities to improve green space and connectivity between sites to promote walking and cycling and that contribute to the emerging Bedford Green Wheel (BGW) network.	<p>Allocations & Designations Plan adopted (policies AD24, AD26, AD27, AD38, and AD41).</p> <p>Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.</p> <p>Distance of new links available and user surveys.</p>	<p>July 2013</p> <p>Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016.</p> <p>BGW completion by 2018</p>

Commitment: We will work towards carbon emission reductions across the activities/outcomes of the work of the Economic Development Service.		
Justification: Industry and construction are major generators of carbon emissions.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Support growth of low carbon industry sector through local growth and inward investment (NB. priority in Bedford Economic Development	Number of low carbon sector local businesses growing and inward investments in low carbon sector.	2014/15 onwards

Strategy).	Target: 3 pa.	
Support local buying of goods and services.	Support initiatives encouraging the local buying and selling of goods and services. Target: 5 pa.	2014/15 onwards
Support low carbon business growth programmes.	Number of Bedford businesses taking up places on such programmes. Target: 15 pa.	2014/15 onwards
Support Bedfordshire Local Nature Partnership's agenda/activities	Support for Partnership meetings/ events. Target: 75% attendance. Influence Partnership policy to effect carbon emission reductions. Target: Significant policy development influence.	2014/15 onwards
Support membership of Green Business Network and event attendance.	Bedford Borough business membership level and event attendance. Target: Increase both.	2014/15 onwards
Include low carbon elements in town centre regeneration schemes.	Schemes including low carbon elements. Target: 100% (building works, lighting schemes etc.).	2014/15 onwards

Adaptation: Climate Resilience

In order to adapt to the risks and opportunities that our changing climate will present, we make the following commitment(s):

Commitment: We will develop our understanding of the Council's vulnerability to the impacts of extreme weather and climate change.		
Justification: An understanding of the risks, vulnerability and opportunities will help the Council to improve the resilience of its land, property and services.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will work to improve the resilience of the Council to the impacts of extreme weather by dealing with the risks identified in the Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) and the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA 2012) and making the most of the opportunities.	Use of the policies and proposals detailed in the National Adaptation Programme and the support provided by the Climate Ready Support Service to improve resilience to climate change.	Ongoing
We will continue to give presentations on climate change risks to Council staff, for example at Risk Management Workshops to raise awareness of adaptation actions to improve staff preparedness for providing business continuity during severe weather events.	Number of presentations delivered.	2015/16

Commitment: We will raise awareness of the need for communities of the Borough to improve their resilience to the impacts of extreme weather as a result of a changing climate and help them to do so.

Justification: The Council is well placed to play a central role in supporting residents of the Borough to become more resilient to future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities of a changing climate.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will raise the awareness of Borough residents and businesses of the impacts, risks and opportunities identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA 2012) and the need for climate change adaptation to increase resilience to a changing climate.	Recommendations included on the <u>Councils website</u> and at events to raise awareness and encourage action.	Ongoing
We will raise the awareness of Borough residents of the benefits of installing water saving measures and adopting water efficient behaviours to encourage more efficient use of water thereby helping to reduce water stress and alleviate the problems caused by drought.	Number of water saving measures distributed.	Ongoing

Commitment: We will promote the uptake of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) within the Borough.		
Justification: Traditional drainage has limited capacity and will result in surface water flooding during high rainfall events. Sustainable drainage systems will increase resilience and support adaptation to climate change and the predicted increase in severe weather.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Develop a policy and design guide for Sustainable Drainage Systems.	Published SuDS Design Guide and Policy.	March 2016
Develop internal skills and expertise to support the new role the Lead Local Flood Authority has as Statutory Consultee for Surface Water Drainage.	Implementation of procedures and processes for new role as Statutory Consultee. Completion of training of relevant internal staff.	March 2016

Commitment: We will promote community awareness, knowledge and education on flood resilience to improve the resilience of our communities to future climate impacts (in particular flooding).		
Justification: Improving public understanding of risk was a recommendation in Pitt Review. More information, greater understanding of risk allows communities to become more resilient.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Identify communities at greatest risk from flooding.	Engage with the communities and provide knowledge and information especially when flooding is on the	March 2016

	news or when the rivers are high.	
Undertake community awareness and engagement campaign for local at-risk communities to improve understanding of risk and personal resilience to flooding.	Joint presentation/village exhibition to communities with EA to promote setting up a Community Emergency Response Flood Groups within the relevant communities. Information published on council website	March 2016
We will work with Environment Agency to encourage the uptake of property level protection.	Engage with at risk communities to promote the property level protections scheme.	March 2016

Commitment: We will improve our understanding of local risk and determine methods to protect our communities from the impacts of severe weather (i.e. flooding).		
Justification: Improved understanding leads to sustainable action.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
We will develop a strategy with all partners on how to manage flooding from local sources (surface water, ground water and ordinary water courses).	Publish a draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.	November 2015

Commitment: Build resilience into the Local Plan.		
Justification: We need to ensure that future development is designed to respond to changing climate impacts.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Ensure that new developments avoid areas prone to flooding where possible; or in instances where development in the floodplain is necessary, that it is safe for its lifetime, resilient and does not increase flood risk elsewhere.	Planning permissions granted.	Annually
Establish policies to reduce water use in new and existing buildings.	Allocations & Designations Plan adopted (policy AD1). Consider scope for similar policies in new Local Plan.	July 2013 Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016.
Establish policies that support sustainable drainage systems.	Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.	Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016.
Establish policies that support green and blue infrastructure and promote green space and biodiversity.	Allocations & Designations Plan adopted (policy AD24 – AD28). Consider scope for similar policies in new Local Plan.	July 2013 Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016.
Continue to enforce Building Regulation water consumption standards.	Building Regulation standards.	Ongoing

Commitment: Promote the resilience of natural systems.		
Justification: We need to ensure that the wherever possible the natural environment is not vulnerable to changing climate impacts.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
With reference to the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), establish policies to protect and enhance biodiversity sites, habitats and species.	Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.	Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016
With reference to the Borough's Green Infrastructure Plan (2009), establish policies to support the provision and management of accessible, multifunctional green infrastructure.	Allocations & Designations Plan adopted (policy AD24 – AD28). Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.	July 2013 Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016
Ensure that habitat diversity and function within development sites is maintained or compensated for.	Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.	Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016
Specify types of development that may be appropriate in local Nature Improvement Areas to support and enhance biodiversity and habitats.	Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.	Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016
Promote the use of trees and vegetation that prevent rapid run off and therefore protect areas from flooding.	Consider scope for policy in new Local Plan.	Commenced 2013. Draft Plan expected 2016

Commitment: Ensure our estate including parks and recreation facilities are well-adapted to the changing climate.		
Justification: Our parks are valued and fully accessible assets but many, especially those in urban areas, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change as urban areas are hotter; storm water run-off is more intense; winter frosts are rarer; habitats and green spaces are more fragmented and the recreational pressure upon them more concentrated.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Ensuring parks and related facilities from new development are resilient to projected seasonal changes in ground conditions through appropriate design and approved implementation.	New sites and facilities delivered and informed by up to date guidance on relevant resilience measures.	Ongoing
Introducing water harvesting and conservation measures to improve the use of scarce water resources	An overall reduction in water consumption for parks and grounds maintenance	Ongoing

Commitment: Promote green infrastructure and biodiversity across the Council estate		
Justification: It is important that the Council's green estate delivers multi-functional benefits including the promotion of biodiversity and the ability to adapt to climate change to help deal with floods etc.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Work through the Council's Greenspace Strategy and site management plans to improve the management of the Council estate that promotes	Reviews of biodiversity value of parks and open spaces through regular updates of existing	Ongoing

biodiversity, natural habitats and adaptation to climate change	management plans and creation of new management plans where needed.	
Contribute to the delivery of Habitat and Species Action Plans from the Bedfordshire and Luton BAP.	Through review mechanisms identified in Biodiversity 2020 and review of species and habitat action plans.	Ongoing up to 2020

Commitment: Promote biodiversity, and green infrastructure that helps the area adapt to climate change.		
Justification: Open and biodiverse spaces provide the vital green infrastructure that enables us to deal with floods or mitigate and adapt to climate change.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Working with partners (national agencies, businesses and communities, the Local Nature Partnership) to agree an approach to the management of natural resources that is based on the principles of 'ecosystem services' and the promotion of green and blue infrastructure.	Support planned research and undertake structured trial of urban meadow plots in conjunction with university team to enable production of an ecosystem services model for Bedford and Kempston.	2013 - 2016
Develop a tree strategy, to promote tree planting and the protection of the existing tree stock, through consultation with relevant service areas, which will address the reduction of air pollutants, reduction of rapid run off, the provision of urban	Completion of a strategy.	2015/16

cooling and carbon sequestration.		
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Commitment: Ensure access to green and open space is maintained and enhanced		
Justification: Open spaces and public access networks provide a range of social, environmental and health benefits as well as making areas more attractive and access to it is important for social inclusion, community cohesion, and health and well-being.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Retaining and improving existing open spaces, sport and recreation facilities and providing a network of diverse, multi-functional open spaces that is accessible to all.	Improved accessibility through phased delivery of Bedford Green Wheel and integration of development site greenspace provision.	Ongoing
	Related actions delivered from Rights of Way Improvement Plan.	Ongoing