

Climate Emergency Action Plan: progress update one

This document summarises progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), as reported to the Climate Change Working Group in March 2020.

[Find out more about the Climate Emergency Action Plan \(CEAP\)](#)

Theme / Priority action	Progress to March 2020
Council assets	
Adopt an emissions baseline for the Council's estate and operations.	The Council's 2018/19 Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) submission shows that its total energy consumption was 18,638,896.20 kilowatt hours (kWh). This includes grid electricity, self-supplied electricity (through Combined Heat and Power generation), and natural gas consumption. This equated to 5,006 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO ₂). However, this baseline does not include properties that are owned by the Council and leased out or New Vision Homes (NVH) residential properties, which the Council agreed was within the scope of its definition. Consumption by the latter can be obtained from the Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions report. In 2018/19, this was recorded as 2,555 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO ₂ e). The Council owns over 550 leased properties. Due to the scale of the portfolio, this will need to be conducted in a phased approach, beginning with the largest three leased properties.
Collaborative work with Thamesway to deliver on carbon reduction goals e.g. decarbonising the energy supply for all Council buildings and operations and eliminate emissions directly through the supply of renewable / sustainable power sources.	ThamesWey has developed and published its Environmental Policy Statement as part of the process for implementing the ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System. The policy statement sets out ThamesWey's ambitions and environmental objectives across the ThamesWey group of companies. In its 2020 business plans, ThamesWey has committed to support Woking Borough Council's objective of carbon neutrality by 2030. Outline areas for action and options to be explored have been identified with Thamesway.
Improve the energy performance of Council owned and leased properties – initially through an appraisal of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs).	Due to the scale of the property portfolio, Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) will be reviewed in a phased approach, beginning with the largest three leased properties. The EPC will determine the way forward in identifying remedial actions required at each site, if below a C rating, and how much the work would cost.

	<p>Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for publicly accessible Council buildings will also be reviewed in a phased approach, beginning with that of the Civic Offices. The updated reports will give an up to date view of the energy efficiency of these buildings with recommendations as to how they can be improved to reach at least a C rating, if required.</p> <p>In the meantime, the Council continues to make improvements to energy efficiency across the Council estate. These are some recent examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A low carbon heating and cooling options appraisal is underway for Woking Park. All technologies are being reviewed as to what can offer an optimum solution given the facilities on site and the associated energy demands. • The Monodraught ventilation and cooling system installed on the ground floor of the Civic Offices for the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has been a success. Building Services is therefore considering an appraisal of the technology for wider use across the Civic Offices. • Energy efficiency ‘housekeeping’ continues across the Civic Offices and Freedom Leisure buildings for example switching off lights and equipment, closing windows, etc. • Food vending machines will be discontinued when the contract finishes at the end of June 2020 which will see an end to the sale of single use plastic drinks bottles. A review of kitchen facilities across the Civic Offices is being considered which will look at hot water and drinks provision. • At Woking Pool in the Park, a physical swimming pool cover for the teaching pool and a liquid pool cover for the leisure lagoon will be used at night from March 2020 to stop heat loss and evaporation.
<p>Large scale renewable energy plan to be drafted, detailing how wind energy could be funded across the Borough and how it could be complemented with solar energy.</p>	<p>This was agreed by the CCWG as a new priority action at its meeting on 12 March 2020.</p>
<p>Transport</p>	
<p>Avoid unnecessary travel to meetings where possible and develop a mandatory transport</p>	<p>The Council is about to embark on a two year pilot Office 365 project. This will be piloted by business areas and will potentially see greater flexibility in</p>

<p>hierarchy as part of the Council's Staff Transport Plan.</p>	<p>how the Council works for instance with video conferencing capability; more efficient home working facilities; and the ability to access work based phone calls and emails through personal mobiles. The approach is being piloted through business areas to better embed changes in working.</p> <p>The Council's existing Staff Transport Plan (2016 – 2022) seeks to minimise the environmental impact of staff travel and encourage transport choices that do not rely on cars. It incorporates policies such as flexible working; tax free bicycles and interest free season ticket loans for public transport. Officers are exploring how to best communicate transport hierarchy ideas to staff while acknowledging the need for efficient working and travel to work arrangements. Meanwhile, existing car club arrangements for business mileage are being reviewed to secure improved environmental criteria and availability / efficiency.</p>
<p>Identify locations for the installation of electric bike charging points to further enable staff (and public) to select sustainable modes of transport and alternatives to the car, particularly for short journeys.</p>	<p>This was agreed by the CCWG as a new priority action at its meeting on 12 March 2020.</p>
<p>Work with the Council's car club provider to replace the existing petrol cars with electric vehicles.</p>	<p>Existing car club arrangements for business mileage are being reviewed to secure improved environmental criteria and availability / efficiency.</p>
<p>Policy, leadership and behaviour changes</p>	
<p>Review Woking 2050 to incorporate the Council's pledge for carbon neutrality and emerging climate emergency action plan.</p>	<p>To be progressed by officers in the coming months to reflect the adopted pledge and call for accelerated action and timeframes. This has in part been addressed with the identification of priority actions as per this plan and the subsequent update on these.</p>
<p>Develop an engaging staff communication programme to promote and raise awareness of what the Council is doing to address climate change across its estate and operations (and more broadly across the Borough).</p>	<p>Officers have been continuing to promote what the Council is doing to address climate change. Recent activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to the Council website including: a timeline of climate change and sustainability related activities and projects; the publication of summary minutes of the Climate Change Working Group; and information on the definition of the Council's climate emergency declaration including agreed baselines (scope and year).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals are being developed for a series of talks – the Planet Woking talks – around the themes of Woking 2050 and Natural Woking to raise awareness of the Council’s work in these areas; promote current and future projects; and facilitate community feedback and involvement.
Develop a staff and councillor communications campaign to promote and encourage positive behaviour changes that focus on messages around switching off equipment, avoiding single use plastics, etc.	Communications to staff and councillors to promote and raise awareness of the pledge to become carbon neutral will continue over the coming weeks and months. This has in part been addressed with messages arising through projects as noted above.
Sustainable development	
Further develop planning guidance to reflect the Council’s climate and ecological emergency declaration.	A scoping exercise of the Council’s current planning policies, how they align with its climate emergency declaration, what they cover and what gaps might exist, is to be undertaken. This will enable officers to identify any opportunities for further developing planning policy or guidance to help deliver the Council’s declaration and how best they could be achieved, particularly for the next iteration of the Core Strategy .
Work with Planning Policy service to update local guidance to reflect how development can be adapted to encourage the adoption of low or zero carbon technologies. Develop planning guidance for developers and homeowners regarding the installation of technologies such as ground and air source heat pumps etc.	<p>Currently, developers applying for planning permission for new homes need to demonstrate that schemes go beyond the Building Regulations minimum requirements (a minimum of a 19% improvement), and incorporate climate adaptation measures. Planning guidance in the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) encourages developers to go even further towards zero carbon housing if viable and technically feasible.</p> <p>The scoping exercise referenced above will be completed in the coming weeks, the results of which will be reported to a future meeting of the Working Group.</p> <p>Aspects of Planning and the natural environment will be addressed as part of a forthcoming review of the Climate Change SPD but may be developed as separate guidance.</p>