

Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update 3

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

Background information about the CEAP can be found [here](#).

Theme / Priority Action	Progress to November 2020
<p>Council assets</p> <p>Adopt an emissions baseline for the Council’s estate and operations.</p>	<p>As part of its climate and ecological declaration, the Council agreed 2018/19 as its baseline year for emissions monitoring.</p> <p>As previously reported, the Council’s 2018/19 Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) submission shows that the total energy consumption for corporate buildings owned and used by the Council was 18,638,896 kilowatt hours (kWh) equating to 5,006 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂). New Vision Homes (NVH) residential properties recorded a footprint of 2,555 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO₂e) in 2018/19.</p> <p>The Council’s climate emergency declaration uses a definition that also includes all properties that are owned and leased out to other organisations. The Council owns over 550 such leased properties. As reported previously, due to the scale of the portfolio, determining the energy consumption and carbon footprint of these buildings needs to be conducted in a phased approach.</p> <p>As reported in September 2020, the energy consumption and EPC ratings for the top three largest leased buildings owned by the Council - Dukes Court, Export House and Orion Gate have been determined. Officers will identify the next steps as part of this ongoing review as well as determining which buildings should be looked at next.</p>
<p>Collaborative work with ThamesWey to deliver on carbon reduction goals e.g. decarbonising the energy supply for all Council buildings and</p>	<p>Action Surrey – part of the ThamesWey Group – was successful in its consortium bid on behalf of the majority of Surrey districts and boroughs under the BEIS Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme and</p>

<p>operations and eliminate emissions directly through the supply of renewable / sustainable power sources.</p>	<p>was awarded £6.2 million. The project – named Green Jump Surrey - seeks to upgrade the energy efficiency of low income, fuel poor households across the county. BEIS has since launched a subsequent Phase 1B of the GHG LAD scheme and Action Surrey is exploring submitting a second bid to allow homes with an EPC D rating to be included (Phase 1a covers homes below a C rating). Action Surrey is also engaging with the Greater South East Energy Hub regarding further Phase 2 funding which is anticipated to become available in March 2021. Action Surrey gives a full report on this scheme elsewhere on the Working Group’s agenda.</p> <p>Works continue on the Poole Road Energy Centre as does the modelling study with consultants WSP of the district heating networks in Woking Town Centre, as reported in September’s update.</p>
<p>Improve the energy performance of Council owned and leased properties – initially through an appraisal of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs).</p>	<p>Due to the scale of the property portfolio, Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) are being reviewed in a phased approach, beginning with the largest three leased properties. Of these, Dukes Court and Orion Gate are C rated. Export House however has an EPC rating of E. The accompanying EPC report lists possible remedial actions required to uplift this rating which will be reviewed. Officers will identify the next steps as part of this ongoing review as well as determining which buildings should be looked at next.</p> <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 and Monument Way. Energy efficiency consultancy, BSSEC, has been contracted to undertake these initial DEC assessments on 19 November 2020. The DECs and accompanying reports will give an up to date view of the energy efficiency of these buildings with recommendations as to how they can be further improved to reach at least a C rating, if required. The results will be shared with the Working Group and revised certificates uploaded to the Council’s DEC webpages here. Officers are also liaising with Freedom Leisure regarding DECs for the Leisure Centre and Pool.</p> <p>As reported at the last meeting, the boilers at the Leisure Centre were due to be replaced by late October 2020 to improve energy efficiency. These were</p>

	<p>delayed due to difficulties in sourcing materials for the metal flues but are due to be completed mid-November 2020.</p>
<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. Work has begun on preparing an initial high level renewable energy strategy.</p> <p>On 17 November 2020, the Government announced its Ten Point Plan to push the UK towards net-zero emissions by 2050, which will be backed by £12bn investment and aim to create 250,000 new green jobs. The Plan includes a target for 40GW of offshore wind power by 2030; an aim to generate 5GW of “low-carbon” hydrogen production capacity by 2030; and 30,000 hectares of tree planting each year.</p>
<p>Transport</p>	
<p>Avoid unnecessary travel to meetings where possible and develop a mandatory transport hierarchy as part of the Council's Staff Transport Plan.</p>	<p>Due to circumstances in the spring and prevailing restrictions, levels of staff travel (to and for work) and flexible working have changed markedly. Social distancing requirements have seen the majority of staff working from home and the use of Zoom for meetings.</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. Initial contact has been made with e-bike charging companies to identify potential solutions. Suitable locations and best-fit products are to be identified.</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>Officers from Green Infrastructure (GI) have been in discussion with SCC about the feasibility of joining the countywide car club scheme. This could bring benefits including: a greater number of cars available for business and public use; improved environmental criteria including targets for EVs on the fleet; flexibility in pick up and drop off locations. SCC is in the process of finalising its contract after which GI officers can review contract terms and better assess cost and service implications for the Council.</p>

Policy, leadership and behaviour changes	
<p>Review Woking 2050 to incorporate the Council's pledge for carbon neutrality and climate emergency action plan.</p>	<p>This has in part been addressed with the identification of priority actions as per this plan and the subsequent updates on these. Climate Emergency Action Plan updates are available on the Council's website under the climate change pages here. To be further progressed by officers in the coming months to reflect the adopted pledge and call for accelerated action and timeframes.</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.</p> <p>Work continues on the Planet Woking programme. The purpose of the programme is to raise the profile of what the Council has been doing to date to address climate change and sustainability locally; its climate and ecological emergency declaration; and current /future projects.</p> <p>At the heart of the programme is the involvement of the local community to inspire local residents to make, or continue to make, changes to live a greener, more sustainable home and work life.</p> <p>On 20 October 2020, Planet Woking held its first virtual event, focusing on the theme "Home". 75 Eventbrite registrations were received with 49 residents joining the webinar online to find out how making changes to everyday activities at home can contribute to a sustainable Borough.</p> <p>The talk was chaired by Cllr Kevin Davis with an introduction by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ayesha Azad. We were joined by guest speakers Jen Gale, author of The Sustainable(ish) Living Guide, and Wendy Wakenshaw, Woking resident and founder of the Imperfect Footprints website, who gave inspiring presentations and shared tips and advice on sustainable living. Further information about the speakers is available on their websites - www.asustainablelife.co.uk and www.imperfectfootprints.co.uk. Their presentation slides are available on the Planet Woking website at www.planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/home-is-where-the-heart-is along with a recording of the online talk at www.planetwoking.co.uk/events/home-event.</p>

Following the presentations, 23 webinar viewers stayed online for a discussion, sharing their own experiences of living greener and asking the panellists questions. It proved a great forum through which to gather ideas to later share through Planet Woking. Officers from Green Infrastructure are now working with two residents to produce case studies on home energy efficiency and installing a home living/green wall. These will be uploaded to the website soon.

Planning will soon begin for the next online event which will take place on Tuesday 2 February 2021 and will focus on the theme 'The Great Outdoors'. A synopsis of the event is available [here](#).

Air Social continues to promote Planet Woking through Facebook and Instagram. Monthly content plans for social media campaigns and messaging are generated. Since launching, Planet Woking has reached over 60,000 local accounts and appeared in 335,361 newsfeeds. Social media adverts have generated over 2,000 clicks during this time, which ranges from users visiting the website, visiting the Facebook page and engaging with content. A further 85 newsletter sign-ups have also been generated. The Planet Woking Facebook page has to date (9 November) had 331 total likes and 445 page views. The Instagram account has reached 56,833 accounts; generated 270,456 impressions and 1,792 clicks through to content. The Council's Green Infrastructure service officially relaunched its Natural Woking newsletter in October as a Planet Woking newsletter which carries all the latest climate change, sustainability and biodiversity project updates. The Natural Woking newsletter had amassed a distribution list of 462, so together with the additional sign ups generated from the Planet Woking website to date, the newsletter now has a circulation of 547.

The Council's website has been updated with a direct link to the Planet Woking website from the [climate change pages](#).

	<p>The winter edition of the Woking Magazine was published at the end of October 2020 featuring a full page article about Planet Woking. The Magazine is circulated to all households in the Borough and is available online here.</p> <p>Woking Borough Council is highlighted in an article by the South East Climate Alliance (SECA) as one of just a few councils in the South East communicating well on climate change. Planet Woking is cited. The article is available here: https://seclimatealliance.uk/council-communication/. Officers from Green Infrastructure will be contacting the SECA to further share what the Council has been doing to address climate change locally.</p> <p>On 12 November 2020, Woking Environmental Action held its AGM. Cllr Kevin Davis attended to give an overview of the Planet Woking programme and to answer audience questions.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Officers are working on ideas to continue to promote awareness, particularly through the Planet Woking programme. Officers in the Green Infrastructure team now have a Planet Woking email signature signposting to the standalone website.</p> <p>Covid-19 and prevailing restrictions around social distancing have naturally seen a significant reduction in the number of officers and councillors in the office environment, with many largely based at home.</p>
<p>Sustainable development</p>	
<p>Further develop planning guidance to reflect the Council's climate and ecological emergency declaration.</p>	<p>A draft 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 being undertaken by officers in Planning Policy. This piece of work will help identify opportunities for further developing planning policy or</p>

	<p>guidance to help deliver the Council's declaration and how best they could be achieved, particularly for the next iteration of the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>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>	<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>Once complete, the Working Group will be consulted on the findings of the scoping exercise referenced above.</p>