

Redditch Carbon Reduction Strategy

September 2024 Review.

Introduction.

Globally, governments have committed to keep within 1.5oC increase in temperature to avoid catastrophic impacts from climate change. Government has committed to Net Zero by 2050. Local Authorities (LA's) are key in taking and influencing action on climate change due to the services they deliver, their regulatory functions, strategic functions, procurement powers and responsibilities as social landlords and major employers. This evidence supports that Redditch Borough Council should make carbon reduction key to what we do as a council.

Redditch Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. On declaration of a climate emergency, an LA is affirming it will place the Climate Emergency at the centre of its decision-making process. LA's are then expected to develop carbon reduction targets and Implementation plans to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions, from their own council functions and, using their sphere of influence.

Redditch Borough Council developed and published its first carbon reduction strategy in 2022 and set this strategy to run for 3 years with a yearly review of progress to take place. The strategy is now in its second year and this report is assessing the progress so far on the measures outlined in the Carbon Reduction Strategy and sets out a set of actions to carry forward into the final year.

Following the final year review of the carbon reduction strategy in 2025 a new strategy will be produced to monitor progress through to 2030 and the target year to reach 50%.

To support with the development of the next iteration of RBC's carbon reduction strategy and to continue to work with services across RBC in their efforts to reduce their own carbon emissions recruitment is underway for a Graduate Climate Change Officer.

1. Assess low carbon fleet fuel options

Environmental services use of fuel now means each 4th tanker of fuel that fills up our tanks is HVO which is then used by all vehicles in the fleet. HVO can save up to 90% of the lifetime carbon emissions compared to traditional diesel. Environmental services are planning to increase the frequency of HVO only tanker deliveries to 1 in every 2.

We are undertaking a review of our fleet replacement programme, together with associated plant and machinery, and as part of this we are assessing the availability and affordability of alternative fuel options

A significant piece of work has been undertaken to assess the opportunities to replace the smaller fleet vehicles with electric vehicle equivalents. The aim is to purchase 60 new vehicles for the housing fleet over the next two years, with at least 10 of these being small electric vans. Work is

currently being undertaken with Zest to assess the feasibility of charging points within the depot to accommodate these vehicles.

2. Refurbish Crossgates depot to include renewable energy & resource efficiency

The refurbishment or redevelopment of Crossgates is still in the planning stage and is subject to funding before progressing. However, RBC is working with its EV charge point contractor Zest to explore the feasibility of installing EV charge points at Crossgates to serve fleet vehicles as part of the transition away from internal combustion engines.

3. Set up a rolling programme of works to improve energy efficiency / renewable generation in the buildings with the highest consumption.

Abbey Stadium.

Funding has been secured to undertake the install of solar PV on the main leisure centre building at the stadium. Currently the project is in the design phase to ensure the eventual PV array is able to extract the most sunlight possible and ensure the system works as efficiently as possible for the building.

Further to the Solar PV installs there are plans to improve the Building Energy Management System (BEMS) at Abbey Stadium. RBC have secured £382,311 of grant funding to undertake these works,

In addition there are ongoing discussions with the district network operator on connecting to the grid to allow the installation of EV charge points on the car park at Abbey Stadium. RBC is working with its EV charging contractor Zest to progress this.

Crematorium

Plans are in place to further improve the BEMS at the Crematorium and Abbey Stadium to improve the efficiency of the heat recovery system in place between the Crematorium and Abbey Stadium. Additionally there are further plans to upgrade the lighting system to an LED system in the building.

Pitcher Oak Golf Course

There are ongoing discussions with the district network operator on connecting to the grid to allow the installation of EV charge points on the car park at Pitcher Oak Golf Course. RBC is working with its EV charging contractor Zest to progress this.

Greenlands Business Park

EV charging installs are being explored at the business park the contractor Zest, and there are ongoing legal discussions underway with the landlords of the site.

Forge Mill Car Park (EV)

Discussions are underway to assess the viability of installing EV charge points at this location

Arrow Valley Car Park (EV)

EV charging is challenging on this site as there are challenges with connection to the grid, and further challenges with the limited parking spaces at this location.

Trafford Car Park (EV)

This site is still to be explored for viability for EV charging.

EV charging across RBC's car parks is supported by the £2.1 million partnership with Zest to deliver EV charging infrastructure across the borough over the next 15 – 20 years. Leases to the first 5 sites across both councils have been signed and we are therefore gearing up to the commencement of the first installations in January 2025. There is no cost to the council, we attract a 10% margin of the profit share.

In addition to the work being undertaken on RBC and Rubicon Leisure buildings and car parks, work is beginning on the commercial estate to bring these buildings up to an EPC C by 2027.

4. Improve energy efficiency of current housing stock making use of LADS and other government schemes

LAD3

In 2023 RBC completed the LAD 3 programme which saw 18 low income owner occupier households across the borough receive energy efficiency measures. Of these homes 4 were moved up to an EPC B, 11 to EPC C, and 3 to EPC D from their previous EPC rating on average saving 28.1 tonnes of carbon per year and an average of 2.7 tonnes of CO2 per household per year.

SHDF Wave 2.1

- Works to be completed by September 2025
- Projected savings of 1,120,000kWh

Annual Carbon Savings in excess of 200 Tonnes to be measured by the Digitalisation element of this programme

5. Create measures in the performance dashboard for carbon saving as a result of streamlining operations.

Performance measures are to be built into the next version of the carbon reduction strategy in 2025 to enable further accountability and insights at service level to ensure all services are able to see their carbon impact and put in place actions to ensure the services contribute to the council's wider carbon reduction.

6. Energy audit of server rooms to enable energy saving practices.

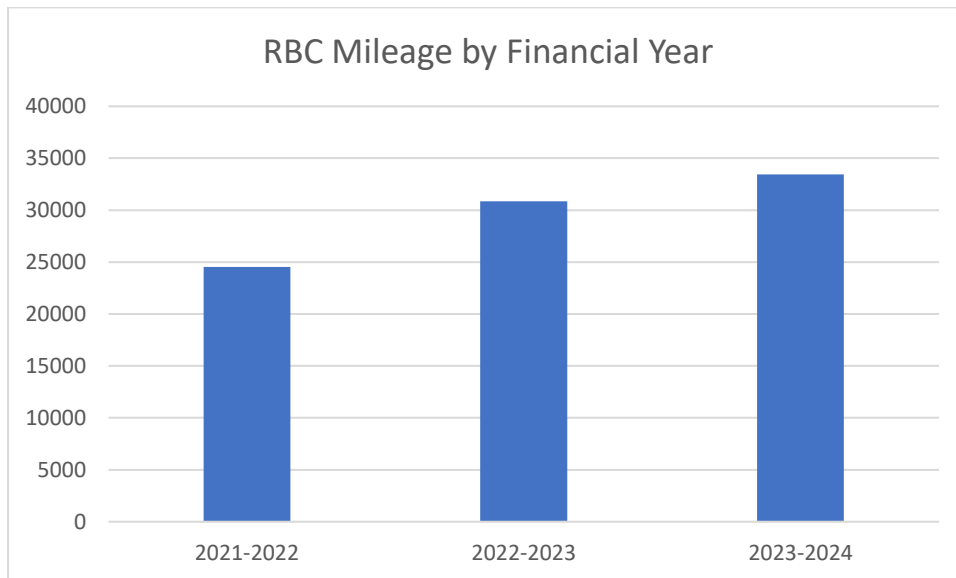
Dates in early 2025 to be agreed with MNZH and facilities management to undertake these audits with report to follow.

7. Moving more IT capacity to cloud-based servers

With the update to Oracle, a number of documents and key information has been moved onto a cloud-based server system, There is however still progress to be made on moving services onto cloud based servers with a change in how services operate to ensure

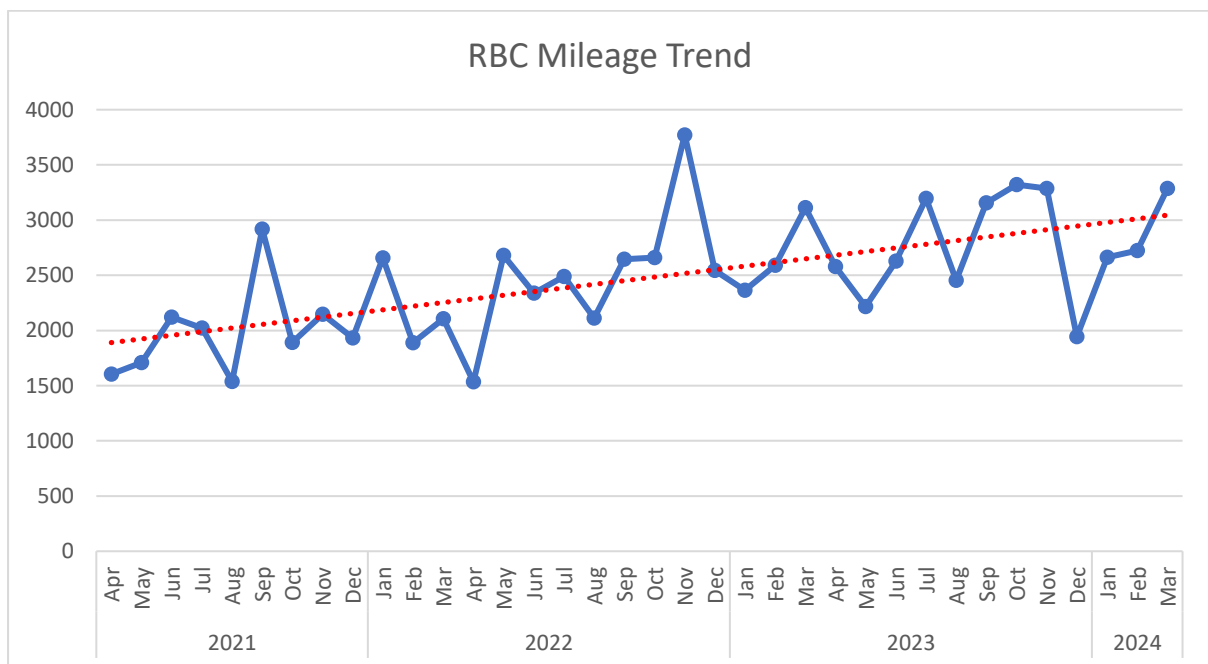
8. Reduce staff travel by making further use of video conferencing.

RBC has seen mileage claims increase over the last 3 financial years as illustrated by the graph below



To understand this rise in mileage claims further investigation will be needed. However one explanation could be is following the covid-19 pandemic services have progressively returned to the their pre-pandemic level.

The trend seen above is more acutely highlighted by the mileage month on month below and shows the trend is an overall increase of over 1000 miles.



Staff travel from home to the office is not recorded in this data set or that RBC staff share services and roles with Bromsgrove District Council. Furthermore, where a service has its budgets lines set may also impact on this trend.

9. Walk through energy assessment of shop mobility hub at kingfisher centre

Shopmobility is moving from the office in the car park to a unit within the kingfisher shopping centre. It will be out by Primark where our customer services currently are. The move will bring carbon benefits due to requiring less heating and there will be a reduction of scooters but leasing of a more efficient fleet of scooters. The move is due to take place in January 2025.

10. Implement Recommendations of the 2020 EST report for the 'grey fleet and include' travel plans across all service areas

The move to agile working has contributed to reduction in staff mileage across RBC and having a positive impact upon CO2 emissions. Services are also actively working to ensure journey planning is done in the most efficient way where practically possible, and by holding meetings online to reduce the need for staff to travel to office locations.

Outside of direct influence of RBC, the growth of electric vehicle sales, and more efficient vehicles on the road will also have an impact on grey fleet emissions over time.

11. Work with Rubicon leisure to further reduce carbon emissions at Abbey Stadium, Needle Museum & Forge Mill visitor centre.

Abbey Stadium.

Grant funding has been secured to undertake the install of solar PV on the main leisure centre building at the stadium during 2025. Currently the project is in the design phase to ensure the eventual PV array is able to extract the most sunlight possible and ensure the system works as efficiently as possible for the building.

Further to the Solar PV installs there are plans to improve the Building Energy Management System (BEMS) at Abbey Stadium.

In addition, there are ongoing discussions with the district network operator on connecting to the grid to allow the installation of EV charge points on the car park at Abbey Stadium. RBC is working with its EV charging contractor Zest to progress this.

Forge Mill Car Park (EV)

Discussions are underway to assess the viability of installing EV charge points at this location

Conclusion.

This report will be the last review report of the current carbon reduction strategy for RBC. In 2025 the next iteration of the Carbon Reduction Strategy will be produced taking into account the learning and outcomes of this 3-year strategy, and with a view to taking the next strategy up to 2030 and the point in which RBC is aiming to be 50% net zero.

In addition, recruitment is underway for a Graduate Climate Change officer to support and add additional resource to RBC to continue its journey to net zero and support services in contributing to achieving their climate change goals.

The measures covered in the current Carbon Reduction Strategy doesn't cover all the work that Redditch Borough Council is doing to tackle climate change more broadly. This includes work being undertaken to improve biodiversity across the borough, working with developers to ensure house building is to the most energy efficient standard, and working to support the boroughs industrial sector with their journeys to net zero.