Foreword: John Leach, Chief Executive

This Climate Change Strategy is designed to support the goals of the wider Council Plan, as we align all our efforts to deliver high-quality, reliable services for our residents.

Our approach here is practical and service-led: making energy efficiency upgrades to homes, adding solar PV and heat pumps to council buildings to reduce our carbon emissions, and improving biodiversity and soil health through land management strategies to ensure green spaces continue to thrive for the public.

We will continue to modernise the vehicle fleet that works for residents, expand local EV charging infrastructure, and embed sustainability into our planning and procurement, ensuring that our decisions support both service excellence and environmental responsibility.

It's not only about reducing emissions. We want to help create healthier homes, safer streets, and resilient communities. By aligning climate action with our organisational priorities – financial and organisational stability, strong governance, and community-focused delivery – we can make meaningful progress toward net zero while protecting the services people depend on.

As we look ahead, we recognise that Local Government Reorganisation will shape how services are delivered across the county. This strategy is designed to be adaptable: ensuring that our climate commitments remain central to decision-making, whatever the governance structure. We will work closely with partners to maintain continuity of projects, align priorities, and explore opportunities for joint procurement and shared infrastructure investment. By building flexibility into our approach, we can safeguard progress toward net zero while supporting a smooth transition for residents and staff.

Foreword: Councillor Jen Snape, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change

"This strategy takes a pragmatic approach to tackling climate change by focusing on actions that deliver real benefits for residents while safeguarding the services people rely on.

“Our priorities include improving energy efficiency in homes, particularly our council housing stock, to cut bills and tackle fuel poverty, reducing emissions from council buildings, supporting greener transport, and embedding biodiversity into planning and land use. These are practical and achievable steps, designed to make steady progress toward our net zero target.

“It is in all our interests to ensure that every improvement we make keeps one eye firmly on protecting the much-loved greenness that defines Redditch.

“From retrofitting homes and expanding renewable energy, to increasing tree cover and enhancing biodiversity, we want to balance progress with preservation. By working together, the council, our partners, and the community, we can create a healthier, more resilient borough while safeguarding the natural spaces that make Redditch special."

Background & Introduction

What is climate change?

Climate change refers to the changing global and regional long-term weather patterns. Climate change is predominantly caused by the release of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by human activity. These greenhouse gases trap heat from the sun warming the planet in a process called the enhanced greenhouse effect. Globally we are seeing severe consequences from more frequent and intense weather events such as droughts, heat waves, storms, rising sea levels and melting glacial ice, and we are seeing some of these impacts locally within the borough (most notable intense droughts, heat waves and storms). These extreme weather events disrupt peoples' lives both in terms of physical and mental wellbeing and economically and have wider implications on communities and ecosystems.

Climate change in a local context

In 2015, the UK and 195 other countries signed the Paris Agreement[1], where they agreed to limit mean global temperature rise to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels to avoid catastrophic impacts from climate change. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report[2] warning that urgent action was required to cut greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to 1.5°C; in order to reach this limit, CO2 emissions need to decline by approximately 45% from 2010 levels by the year 2030, and reach net zero by approximately 2050.

The UK Government has committed to Net Zero by 2050. Local Authorities (LA) 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 major employers. Redditch Borough Council has set targets to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve Net Zero by 2040.

Modelling using the IPCC methodology for calculating Net Zero, suggests that Redditch Borough Council is currently on course to reach a 50% emissions reduction by around 2035 and Net Zero by around 2037—demonstrating strong progress but falling short of the Council's earlier targets of 50% by 2030 and Net Zero by 2040.

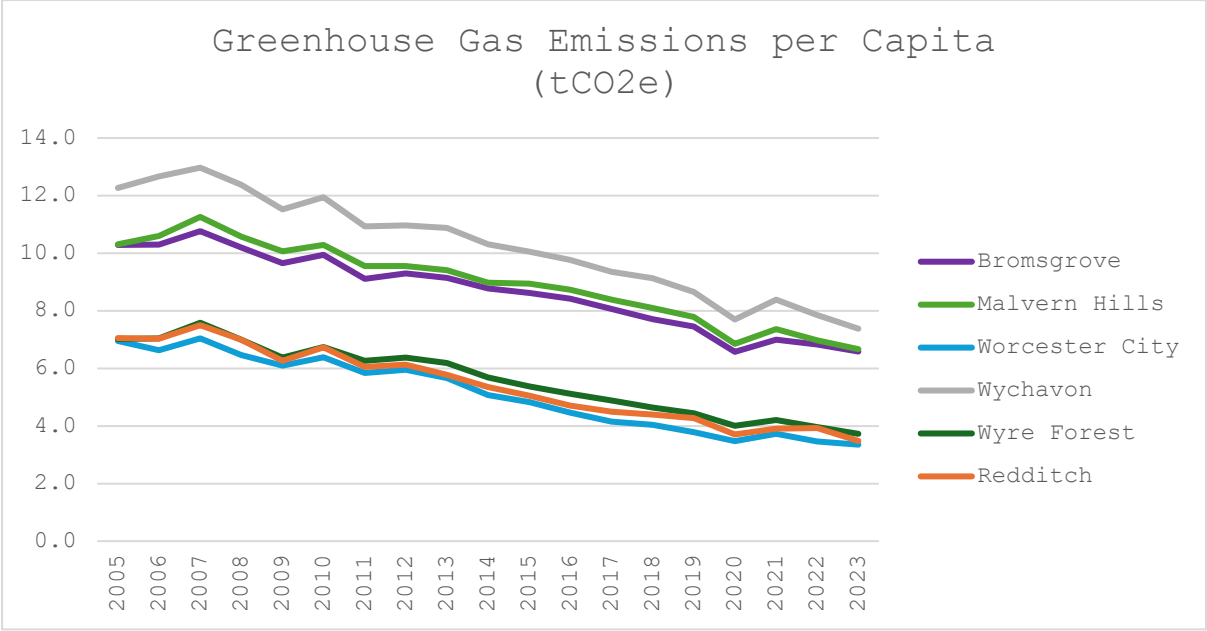
[1] 2015 Paris Agreement: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf
[2] 2018 IPCC report: https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

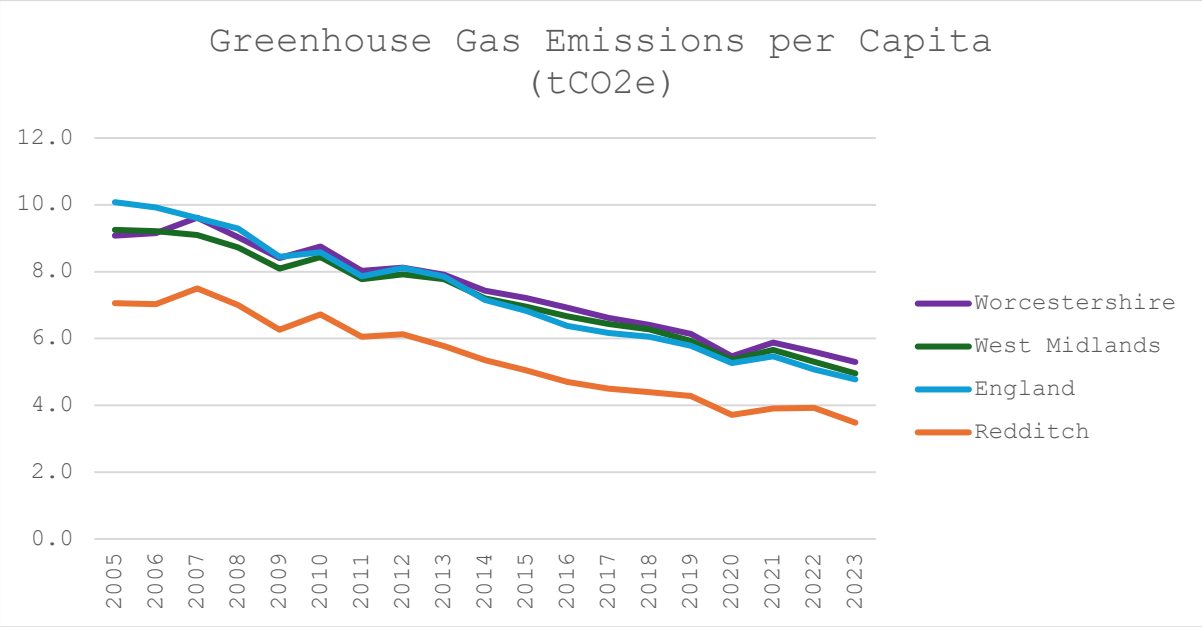
The actions and milestones set out in this Strategy—including large-scale retrofit programmes, expansion of solar PV on the Council estate, transport decarbonisation, planning policy improvements, biodiversity enhancements and strengthened governance—represent the essential additional effort required to close this gap and accelerate the borough's pathway.

Effective monitoring, evaluation and transparent reporting of these milestones will be key to ensuring delivery remains on track. This will allow the Council to regularly assess progress, respond proactively where interventions need strengthening, and sustain the pace necessary to meet its Net Zero ambitions.

Improvements to the council's emissions can be made on various levels, referred to as scopes. Scope 1 emissions are those that arise from the council's combustion of fossil fuels – through the burning of gas in boilers and from internal combustion engine vehicles. Scope 2 emissions are those produced from electricity that the council purchases from the grid. Scope 3 emissions are those associated with products and services the council purchases (for example manufacturing and transport costs).

In 2023, the greenhouse gas emissions associated with Worcestershire were 3,253.5 ktCO2e. The borough of Redditch was responsible for 303.1 ktCO2e, and the emissions considered within the scope of local authority influence totalled 253.9 kt CO2e.


Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Capita (tCO2e)
14.0
12.0
10.0
8.0
6.0
4.0
2.0
0.0
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
Bromsgrove
Malvern Hills
Worcester City
Wychavon
Wyre Forest
Redditch



The figures above show the per capita emissions of Redditch to regional and national statistics[3]. Redditch has consistently produced fewer emissions per person than Worcestershire, West Midlands and England averages, and continues to reduce emissions, with an average of 3.5 tCO2e per capita in 2023.

Within Worcestershire, Redditch performs consistently well as the second lowest producer of greenhouse gas emissions per person, performing in line with more urbanised districts within the county.

Redditch Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. On the declaration of this, the council affirmed that it places the Climate Emergency at the centre of its decision-making process. A carbon reduction action was created plan in 2022 with targets to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions, both from council functions and the wider sphere of influence. This action plan follows on from the carbon

[3] Data for figures: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2023

reduction action plan and considers actions the council will take to further reduce emissions (including carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases). This plan will be reviewed annually and refreshed after five years.

Residential buildings

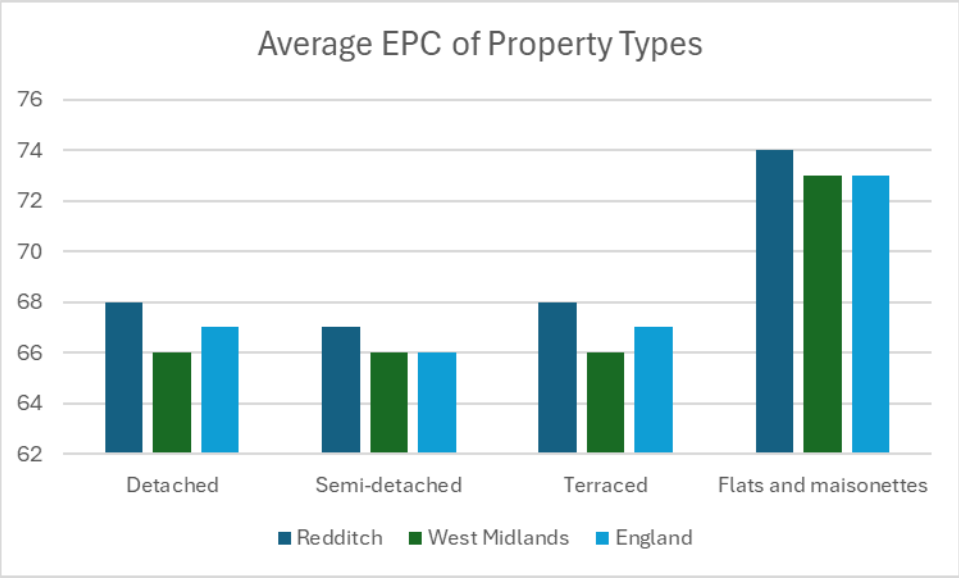
In Redditch it is estimated that 67.6% of homes are owner occupied, with 11.3% private rented and 21.1% social housing properties making up 5,531 homes across the borough. In 2024 RBC undertook 1200 surveys of its housing stock and have ongoing programme of 1340 surveys every year going. Over the five-year cycle of these surveys' officers will gain insight for future work in improving the energy efficiency of homes across the borough.

Making homes more energy efficient helps to reduce bills, which helps to combat fuel poverty across the borough. This has wider benefits as health risks from damp and mould are reduced, as well as reducing carbon emissions.

Since Redditch declared a climate emergency in 2019 RBC has utilised several government funding streams to support improving the energy efficiency of homes across the Borough. This has so far resulted in £1,810,368 of investment in social housing across the borough and seeing improvements made to 270 properties and 5 blocks of flats. For private homes, the council has used £260,000.00 of government funding to retrofit 18 homes across the borough.

Currently RBC is utilising Warm Homes Local Grant Funding to provide retrofitting works across both privately owned homes and private rented homes over the next 3 years and could see a further £576,876.92 worth of investment into the borough. RBC has is also utilising the Social Housing Fund which has allocated £2.17million, and combined with council contributions, £4.27 million is invested into this project to retrofit the 200 properties within the council's own housing stock. This work includes adding measures to homes such as insulation which reduces the heat lost, reducing the consumption of energy.

In addition, RBC is actively working in partnership with Act on Energy to advise, educate and inform occupiers on Energy efficiency, fuel supplies and the best practices to enable them in turn to lower bills, improve comfort and make best use of their homes. RBC will also be following up the Governments commitment to energy efficiency and will continue to apply and access government funding streams and actively review how RBC can use and encourage the deployment and use of Solar PB on its housing stock.



Energy efficiency score	Energy efficiency rating band
More than 91	A
81 to 91	B
69 to 80	C
55 to 68	D
39 to 54	E
21 to 38	F

The graph above shows Redditch's EPC ratings compared to the West Midlands and England. Redditch consistently has higher EPC scores than the averages for the West Midlands and England but still falls within the same bands for each property type.

As part of the clean growth strategy[4], the national government have set targets for all fuel poor homes to be upgraded to EPC C by 2030 with an aspiration for as many homes as possible to be EPC B and C by 2035 where practical, cost-effective and affordable. Within the clean growth strategy there is also an aim to improve the energy performance of privately rented homes, with as many as possible upgraded to EPC C by 2030.

Future Milestones

Actions	Service area	Milestone and data	Timescale	Outcomes/targets
Improve energy efficiency of new residential buildings across borough	Planning/housing	• Explore feasibility of new homes to be built operationally net zero • RBC new social housing all to be high energy efficiency	2028 2026-2031	**Outcomes:** Reduced energy bills Warmer homes – fewer illnesses Reduction in household carbon emissions **Target:** 100% all new RBC social housing EPC A
Improve EPC of council owned housing	Planning/housing	• Retrofitting of council owned housing – Warm Homes Social Housing Fund (WHSHF) • Secure further government funding for retrofit projects in line with Governments Warm Homes Plan • Work towards all homes in the council's housing stock at EPC C minimum	2028 2026-2031 2030	**Outcomes:** Reduced energy bills Warmer homes and less instances of damp and mould which reduce associated health risks Improve each areas average EPC score above the national/regional average

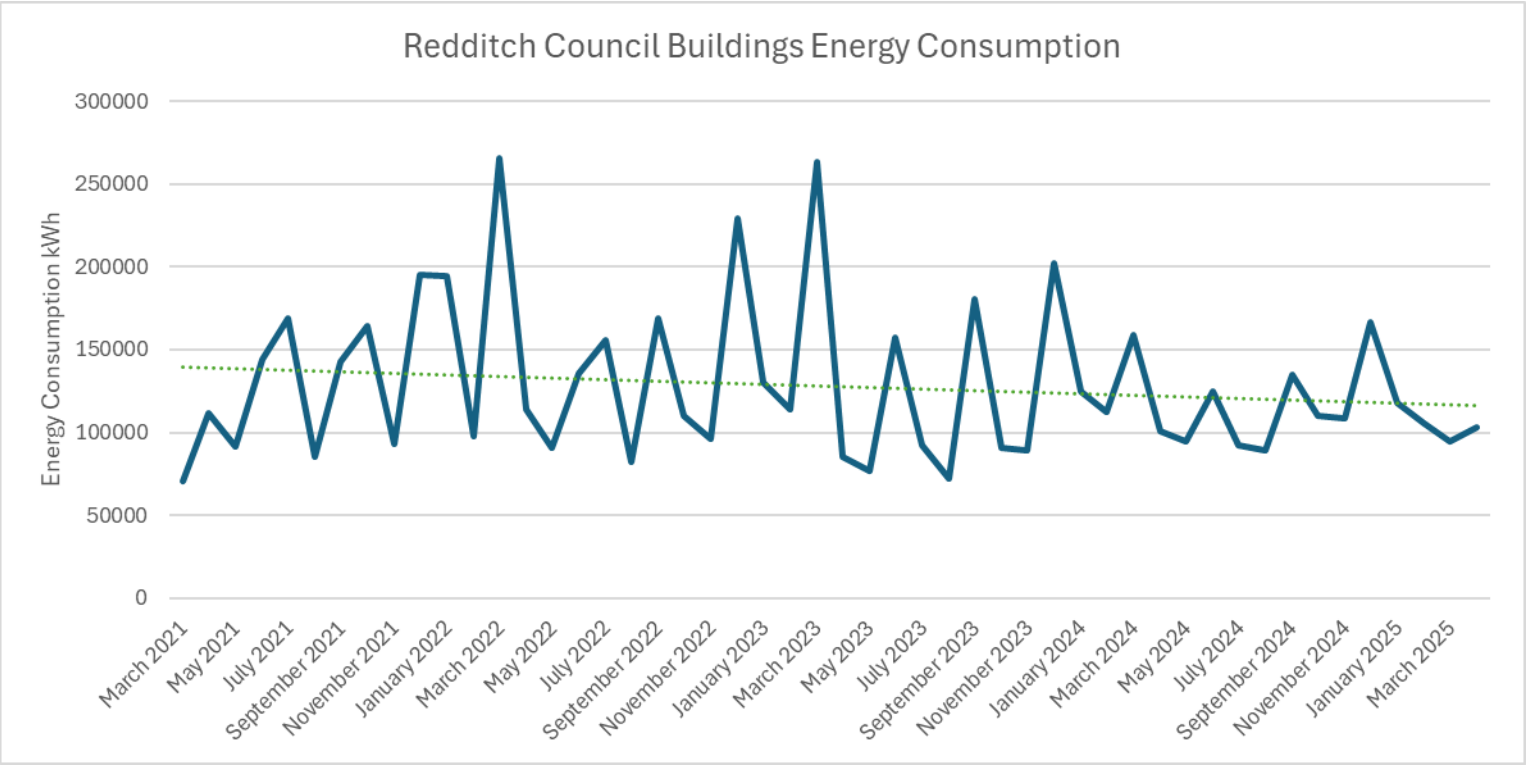
[4] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ad5f11ded915d32a3a70c03/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf

				Reduction in fuel poverty Reduced household carbon emissions Increased local supply chain employment opportunities, increased local skills base, support the transition to green economy **Target:** Up to 200 homes retrofitted under WHSHF **Target:** Ensure all homes meet 2030 MEES unless exemptions are applicable
Retrofit houses with lowest EPC	Housing	• Complete the retrofitting of homes utilising the Warm Homes Local Grant (WHLG) funding • Secure funding for further retrofit projects in line with the Warm Homes Plan • Seek out partnerships to develop an offer for the able to pay market in line with government proposals in the Warm Homes Plan • Work with Energy Advice Service provider to support households needing support with energy bills to explore access to retrofit schemes and reduce fuel poverty • Identify and enable opportunities to retrofit listed buildings and residential properties in conservation	2028 2026-2031 March 2028 2026-2031 March 2027	**Outcomes:** Reduced energy bills Warmer homes and less instances of damp and mould which reduce associated health risks Improve each area's average EPC score above the national/regional average Reduction in fuel poverty Reduced household carbon emissions Increased local supply chain employment opportunities, increased local skills base, support the transition to green economy

		areas by publishing heritage appropriate retrofit guidance and delivering at least three pilot or demonstrator projects in partnership with conservation officers and housing providers-appropriate retrofit guidance and delivering at least three pilot or demonstrator projects, in partnership with conservation officers and housing providers		**Target:** 38 Private Homes retrofitted under WHLG by 2028
Council to actively support landlords with Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards of homes	Housing/WRS	• Support landlords to progress towards MEES compliance (EPC C by 2030) by providing advice, guidance and signposting to funding, retrofit support and exemption routes, and by working with partners to remove local barriers to delivery	2030	**Outcomes:** Reduced energy bills Warmer homes and less instances of damp and mould which reduce associated health risks Reduced household emissions

Buildings – council

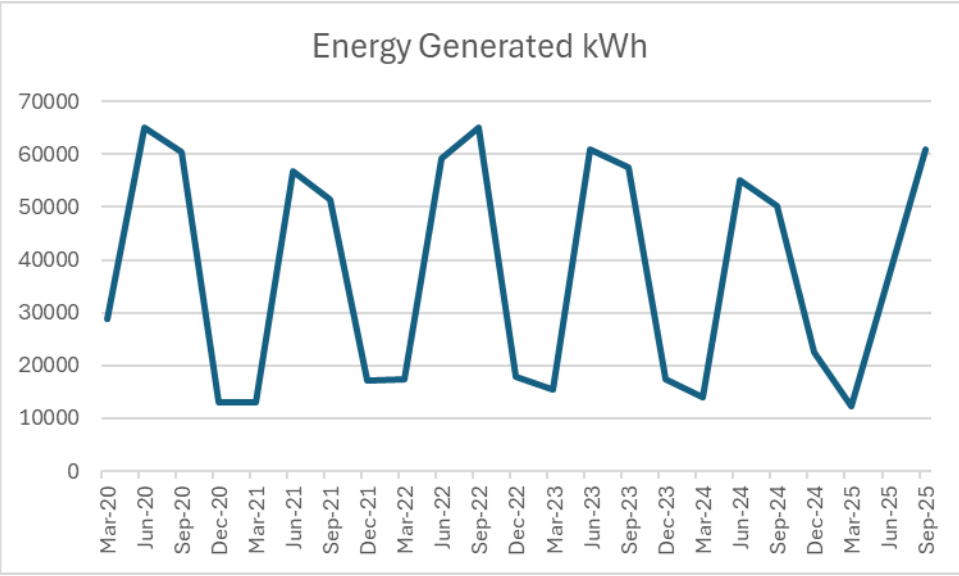
Reduction in energy consumption in council buildings reduces emissions released. The creation (and consumption) of renewable energy (e.g. from solar PV) reduced emissions further, as no greenhouse gases are released in the production of this energy. The council's buildings have undergone significant improvements to reduce emissions, such as retrofitting solar panels* and heat pumps. As a result, fewer emissions are released in the process of powering these buildings. Where surplus energy is created, this is transferred back into the grid, creating green energy for other consumers. There are also economic benefits as less energy is purchased from external providers. Where the council does buy energy, it is on a 100% green tariff, which also helps to reduce emissions.



The chart shows purchased energy consumption across Council buildings. While monthly usage fluctuates seasonally, the overall trend has been downward since 2021, with an indicative reduction of around 20% based on the trendline. Winter peaks have also moderated. Part of this reduction reflects operational changes following the Covid-19 pandemic—such as different occupancy patterns and more hybrid working—so the trend should be interpreted alongside building-use data and service needs rather than as efficiency gains alone. Ongoing monitoring will help distinguish savings from behaviour/occupancy changes versus improvements from targeted energy-efficiency measures.

Currently the following council buildings in Redditch have solar PV installed which are generating electricity: Town Hall, Palace Theatre, Bredon House, Retreat Steet Sheltered Housing Site, Mendip House, Malvern House, Keats House, Chiltern House, St David's House, Ibstock House, Downsell House, Gorsey Close Community Centre, Beoley Road West, Beoley Road Common Room, Arthur Jobson House, Auxerre House, Harry Taylor House, Crossgate House, Abbey Stadium and Redditch Crematorium

The council is seeking to increase the amount of PV on its buildings, with Abbey stadium currently having more work undertaken to increase the amount of PV.



The graph above shows the energy generated by solar PV installed on council owned buildings in Redditch. The seasonal dips are due to reduced levels of sunlight in winter, but even during these months energy is created by solar panels.

The Council is currently investigating NOx abatement options for its cremators to improve local air quality, while the potential transition to electric cremators will be considered at the next planned replacement window (approximately eight years), which would deliver longer-term carbon and air quality benefits.

Future Milestones

Actions	Service area	Milestone and data	Timescale	Outcomes/targets
Improve efficiency/renewable energy generation of council buildings	Property Services	• Develop and publish a strategic approach to identifying building improvement opportunities and funding sources, to inform future designs, planning decisions and capital investment. • Implement energy efficiency upgrades to priority buildings in line with the building's improvement and funding strategy, where funding, approvals and business cases are in place. • Investigate opportunities to reduce energy demand in Council buildings, including through behavioural and operational measures such as reducing	2028 2026-2031 2026	Carbon emissions and energy use from Council-owned buildings reduce through improved efficiency, low-carbon technologies and increased on-site renewables, improving resilience and value for money. **Target:** Reduce carbon emissions from Council-owned buildings year-on-year, with an ambition to achieve EPC C or equivalent across the portfolio by 2030 where technically, financially and operationally feasible.

		internal temperatures where appropriate. • Implement energy efficiency upgrades to Council-owned listed buildings and properties within conservation areas, where applicable, using heritage-appropriate measures and subject to funding, consents and technical feasibility • Continue to deploy renewable energy technologies on Council owned buildings where technically and financially feasible, prioritising sites identified through feasibility work and capital planning	2027- 2031 2026-2031	
Improve the energy efficiency and emissions performance of Redditch Crematorium through phased upgrades, cleaner technology and lower-carbon procurement.	Environmental Services	• By 2027, implement NOx abatement measures at Redditch Crematorium, subject to technical feasibility and funding, to improve air quality and reduce emissions. • From 2026 onwards, prioritise sourcing memorial products, including headstones, from local	2027 2026-2031	Emissions from Redditch Crematorium are reduced over time through phased improvements, cleaner technology and lower-carbon procurement, delivering air-quality and climate benefits while maintaining service provision.

		or UK-based suppliers where practicable to reduce transport-related emissions. • At the end of the current cremator stack lifecycle, consider replacement with improved technology that reduces emissions and, where feasible, enables the recovery and use of waste heat to support nearby buildings or services. •	2026-2031	

Transport

The council's transport comprises of council owned vehicles (such as refuse collection lorries), vans and staff-owned vehicles. All of these vehicles have impacts on the environment, however, where possible a switch in fuel type or to electric reduces emissions released. Alongside council owned vehicles, across the borough emissions can be reduced by the public using electric cars. As well as releasing carbon emissions, petrol and diesel vehicles cause high rates air pollution, so switching to EV or public transport can help to reduce this. The council has expanded the available network of public EV chargers across the borough, encouraging more car users to switch to EV. Redditch is part of the Worcestershire County Council Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) scheme, and which has been awarded £3.5 million to supply, install and operate EV chargers into areas with limited off-street parking.

Staff mileage has been significantly reduced through agile working and officers working from home.

The council has been working with Zest to install public EV charge points across the Borough, to date 2 chargers have been installed with further planned over the coming years.

Dial A Ride is available as part of Redditch's vehicle fleet. As this fleet is expanding, options for electric or hybrid vehicles are being considered in order to reduce emissions. Where possible, Dial A Ride services strive to provide efficient journeys transporting several customers to one destination or picking up several customers from one destination/or nearby destinations and to make the routes as efficient as possible in terms of mileage. A cancellation policy has been introduced to ensure that drivers are not making unnecessary journeys to pick up points where the customer no longer wants the journey, as this has been an issue in the past and caused wasted journeys.

Redditch Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan[5] has been created to improve active travel, with a key objective of 50% of local trips in towns and cities to be on foot or by bicycle by 2030. The plan aims to implement approximately 45kms of primary cycling routes with 11 secondary and 12 link cycling routes totalling 42kms, as well as creating a walking and wheeling network covering Redditch town centre core walking zone and 8 primary town centre walking and wheeling routes. A key benefit of the LCWIP will be the enhanced safety of highways and footways for everyone, as well as less congestion and saving money on transport costs.

[5] https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-10/redditch_lcwip_final.pdf

Future Milestones

Actions	Service area	Milestone and data	Timescale	Outcomes/targets
Supporting transition to zero emissions vehicles	All Services	• By the end of the strategy period, reduce staff business mileage by a further 10% compared to March 2026, through increased use of remote working, digital meetings and sustainable travel options. • Identify and implement practical ways the Council can support staff to transition to electric vehicles, including policy review, infrastructure provision and incentives, where feasible • By the end of the strategy period, increase uptake of public transport and active travel for Council business and commuting, through travel planning, policy support, communications and improved facilities where feasible • Install electric vehicle charging infrastructure on suitable Council owned land, building on the current programme of work with Zest and supporting Worcestershire County Council in the delivery of the LEVI programme, where technically and financially feasible	2026-2028 2026-2031 2026-2031 2026-2031	Emissions from Council-related travel reduce as business mileage falls and cleaner travel choices are adopted, supported by EV charging on Council land to enable long-term transport decarbonisation. **Target:** Reduce staff business mileage by 10% by the end of the strategy period (2031), compared to the March 2026 baseline. Support the ongoing phased rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure through the Zest partnership, contributing to delivery of up to 120 chargers across 30+ sites in Bromsgrove and Redditch, subject to feasibility and funding.

Support wider public with transition to zero emission transport	Climate Change and Comms Economic Development and Regeneration	• Support residents and businesses to transition to electric vehicles by providing information, signposting to grants and infrastructure, and enabling access to charging where feasible • Encourage and enable increased use of public transport and active travel by residents through partnership working, information, and support for local improvements where feasible • Support the growth of green jobs and skills locally by working with partners, employers and training providers to enable employment opportunities linked to the low carbon transition. • Embed and support delivery of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), including the implementation of priority routes where funding and delivery mechanisms are in place	2026-2031 2026-2031 2026-2031 2026-2031	Transport emissions reduce as cleaner travel choices, including EVs, public transport and active travel, become more accessible, supporting improved air quality, health and growth in green jobs and skills.
Decarbonising of council's transport fleet	Environmental Services	• Progressively reduce emissions from the Council's fleet by prioritising replacement with newer, more efficient and lower-emission vehicles through the fleet replacement programme, and by adopting zero-emission or alternative fuel vehicles (such as HVO) where infrastructure, funding and operational requirements allow	2026-2031	Fleet emissions reduce through phased replacement with more efficient, lower-emission and alternative-fuel vehicles, delivering lower fuel costs and improved air quality.

Improve air quality	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	• Work in partnership with Worcestershire Regulatory Services and Worcestershire County Council to investigate the feasibility and potential benefits of low emission or low traffic interventions in Redditch, where appropriate. -emission or low-traffic interventions in Redditch, where appropriate. • Support improvements in local air quality by promoting active travel, public transport and reduced car use, working with partners to encourage behaviour change.	2026-2031 2026-2031	Local air quality improves as transport-related pollution declines, supported by partnership working with WRS and the County Council to assess proportionate low-emission/low-traffic interventions, alongside behaviour-change measures that increase use of low-emission, active and sustainable travel.

Planning and Land Use

A significant proportion of emissions can be reduced through future planning and developments. By meeting stricter energy standards and constructing buildings to a higher energy efficiency/with technology such as solar PV already installed, the council can contribute to a reduction in emissions across the borough.

The council considers the environmental impact of new developments when developing the local plan. While new developments cannot be built without creating emissions, the council seeks options which have the lowest impact on the environment.

The council has undertaken a research study into the decarbonisation of North Moons Moat industrial estate and based on these findings is looking to implement strategies to reduce carbon emissions here.

The local plan[6] includes a climate change policy to ensure than new developments are constructed in an efficient and sustainable manner in order to be climate resilient and to contribute to reducing carbon emissions. Planning applications are judged against the following criteria:

- development should be placed in accessible locations in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Proposals should take account of the need for accessibility between any development site and key facilities and consider how flexible and smarter working practices can be maximised to reduce transport emissions;
- the energy efficiency of the development must be maximised through its siting and orientation, and through the adoption of energy conservation measures, including natural ventilation, heating, street trees and lighting;
- proposals must seek to meet the new national technical standards, excluding the additional optional standards;
- all new non-domestic development must be assessed against the BREEAM assessment method (or any other national scheme which supersedes it);
- all proposals must demonstrate that the use of sustainable, locally sourced and recycled materials has been considered and the waste hierarchy has been considered (waste minimisation, reuse and recycling) during construction;
- adaptation measures must be maximised, with particular emphasis on the provision, enhancement and retention of Green Infrastructure

[6] https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/media/tbodcekr/adopted-borough-of-redditch-local-plan-no4-2011-2030.pdf

As well as robust criteria to be met, the use of small-scale renewable technologies and low carbon vehicle infrastructure are encouraged.

Future Milestones

Actions	Service area	Milestone and data	Timescale	Outcomes/targets
Ensure the new Local Plan embeds strong climate change, sustainability and adaptation policies—covering buildings, transport, biodiversity, energy and infrastructure—to support delivery of the Climate Change Strategy when adopted.	Planning, Climate Change	• By the next draft Local Plan stage, develop policy wording that embeds climate mitigation and adaptation requirements—such as Future Homes Standard (FHS) compliance for qualifying permissions—in line with national transition arrangements and the Council's Climate Change Strategy. • From 2026 onwards, ensure ongoing collaboration between Climate Change, Planning Policy, and relevant service areas so that emerging Local Plan policies reflect current evidence, carbon-reduction priorities, adaptation needs and infrastructure opportunities. • By 2028, develop and update the Local Plan evidence base relating to climate change, including renewable energy opportunities, sustainable transport, green infrastructure, nature recovery and resilience, to support sound policy drafting and examination. • By 2029, progress the Local Plan to the adoption stage in line with the Council's	2026-2029 2026-2029 2028 2029	The new Local Plan strengthens the planning framework so future development supports lower-carbon buildings, sustainable transport and enhanced biodiversity, helping align planning decisions with the Climate Change Strategy and improve resilience across the district.

		agreed timetable, ensuring climate-related policies are retained and strengthened through examination.		
Support the deployment of rooftop solar on commercial buildings through feasibility, partnerships and enabling delivery models (e.g., leases or PPAs), to reduce emissions and energy costs across the local economy.	Climate Change, Planning	• By 2027, identify and prioritise commercial buildings suitable for rooftop solar using desk-based screening (roof size/orientation/age), basic structural/red-flag checks, and indicative grid capacity and planning considerations. • From 2026 onwards, engage targeted owners, landlords and tenants to understand appetite, lease terms, roof access/maintenance responsibilities, and preferred commercial models (rooftop lease, landlord-funded CAPEX, third-party PPA). • By 2028, establish preferred delivery routes (e.g., framework/partner for financed PPAs; guidance for landlord-funded installs), including outline heads of terms, standard due-diligence (structural surveys, warranties), and grid application approach. • From 2028, support a first tranche of viable schemes to progress (subject to surveys, consents, roof condition, and DNO connection), focusing on sites with	2027 2026-2031 2028 2028	Increased deployment of rooftop solar on commercial buildings, supporting lower energy costs for businesses, reduced carbon emissions and greater local energy resilience through a growing pipeline of viable solar projects enabled by partnership working.

		strong business cases and willing counterparties.		

Governance and Finance

In order for the council to make key improvements in carbon emissions and reach net zero by 2040, a key aspect is ensuring that net zero and carbon reduction targets are embedded across the council's plans, and are then followed through.

Within the council staff there is a dedicated climate change team employing two FTE colleagues. As well as this within the elected members of the council, Councillor Snape is the portfolio holder for climate change. These roles ensure that climate change implications are considered within all aspects of council actions before they are passed.

All reports taken through the committee process have a required assessment of climate change implications included (the council is exploring using a climate impact assessment tool to support officers with this process).

Carbon literacy training has been provided to all members of the senior managers, with ongoing training provided to elected members and officers within in the council. The council is looking to review the provision of carbon literacy training to include all staff at all levels.

The Council will proactively identify, bid for and secure external funding to deliver priority actions in this Strategy, aligning bids with corporate priorities, value-for-money principles and partnership opportunities.

The council are auditing the current scope 3 emissions created through their operations with an aim to reduce these. These emissions refer to those that are out of control of the council, through the transport and production of good that the council uses.

Future Milestones

Actions	Service area	Milestone and data	Timescale	Outcomes/targets
Reduction of scope 3 emissions through procurement, purchasing and audit	Legal, democratic Services, property, services, Economic Development and Regeneration	• Review key day-to-day purchasing lines and suppliers to identify opportunities to reduce carbon impacts, waste and cost, and to inform more sustainable procurement decisions. • Undertake proportionate environmental impact assessments of key suppliers to identify Scope 3 emissions hotspots and opportunities to reduce carbon impacts through procurement and contract management. • Introduce a time-limited stationery amnesty while reviewing existing stock, to reduce unnecessary purchasing, minimise waste and use existing resources more effectively. • Embed processes for the return, reuse or appropriate recycling of unused IT equipment and electronic items, to reduce waste and Scope 3 emissions from purchasing.	2026 2026-2027 2026 2026	Scope 3 emissions are reduced through more sustainable procurement, improved use of resources and reduced waste across day-to-day Council operations
Audit of server rooms and IT usage for scope 3	Property Servies and ICT	• Complete an audit of Council-owned server rooms and on-premise IT usage to establish a baseline for energy use, utilisation and Scope 3 emissions • Develop an action plan to reduce emissions from server rooms and IT usage, identifying priority	2026 2027	Emissions associated with IT systems and data storage are better understood and reduced over time through improved efficiency, informed decision-making and supplier engagement

		actions, responsibilities and opportunities for efficiency, consolidation or decommissioning. • Improve understanding of emissions associated with cloud-based services and external data centres used by the Council, through supplier engagement and available reporting, to inform future IT and procurement decisions.	2027	
Accurately identify the risks of climate change to the local area within the council's Corporate Risk Register	Legal, democratic, property	• Identify and assess the key climate-related risks to the local area and Council operations and incorporate these risks into the Council's Corporate Risk Register. • Regularly review and update climate-related risks within the Corporate Risk Register to reflect emerging evidence, local impacts and changes in policy or operations	2026 2026-2031	Climate-related risks to the local area and Council services are clearly understood, monitored and managed through the Council's corporate risk framework
Implement a sustainable procurement policy that supports area-wide net zero ambitions and embeds tackling the climate emergency as a core	Legal, democratic, property	• From 2026, implement updated procurement policy and guidance that encourages more sustainable and locally sourced procurement where appropriate, in line with legal and value-for-money requirements. • Work with Procurement to improve and consistently apply the Council's procurement tools, ensuring climate and carbon considerations are embedded across purchasing decisions.	2026-2031 2026-2031	Procurement decisions increasingly support net zero ambitions by reducing Scope 3 emissions, strengthening local supply chains and embedding climate considerations into purchasing across the Council.

procurement priority				
Strengthen internal governance of energy purchasing and on-site generation to support carbon reduction and value for money	Property Services	• Regularly review and monitor the Council's energy purchasing arrangements, prioritising green tariffs and lower-carbon options where they offer value for money and security of supply. • Ensure solar photovoltaic systems on Council-owned buildings are appropriately maintained and optimised, including routine inspection and cleaning where required, to maximise performance and carbon savings.	2026-2031 2026-2031	Energy purchasing and on-site generation are effectively governed and optimised, supporting carbon reduction, resilience and value for money across Council operations.
Report transparently on the Council's greenhouse gas emissions to support accountability, decision-making and progress tracking.	Property Services	• Develop a climate change dashboard to report on the Council's greenhouse gas emissions and, where data is available, wider borough-level emissions, to support transparency and informed decision-making. • Regularly monitor and report on the Council's greenhouse gas emissions to track progress against targets and inform future action. • Ensure the Council meets all relevant statutory and voluntary requirements for greenhouse gas emissions reporting, in line with national guidance and best practice.	2026 2026-2031 2026-2031	The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are accurately monitored, transparently reported and used to inform decision-making and continuous improvement.
Improve climate change awareness and carbon literacy	HR	• Publish details of climate awareness training undertaken by senior management and relevant Members (including Cabinet Members and	2026	Staff and Members are better informed and equipped to consider climate change impacts, mitigation and

across the Council through transparent leadership training and accessible learning opportunities for staff and Members.		Committee Chairs), to support transparency and leadership by example. • Develop and embed ongoing climate change awareness training for staff and Members, including induction content for new starters, to support informed decision-making and action. • Provide an optional pathway for staff and Members to achieve a recognised carbon literacy certificate, where appropriate, to build organisational capacity for climate mitigation and adaptation.	2026 2027	adaptation in decision-making, supported by transparent leadership and improved carbon literacy.
Embed a consistent climate impact assessment approach into Council decision-making to ensure climate implications are considered across all policies and reports.	Climate change	• By 2026, review the current climate change commentary in committee reports and explore options for strengthening it into a proportionate climate impact assessment approach, including implications for officers preparing reports. • Pilot and embed a consistent climate impact assessment approach within committee and key decision reports, supported by guidance for officers. • From 2027 onwards, keep the climate impact assessment approach under review to ensure it remains proportionate, effective and aligned with best practice and organisational change.	2026 2027 2027	Climate implications are routinely and consistently considered in Council decision-making, supporting more informed, transparent and climate-aware outcomes.
Proactively identify and	Climate change	• From 2026, proactively identify and track relevant external funding opportunities to	2026-2031	External funding is maximised to support the delivery of

secure funding to support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation activity.		support climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, working with internal and external partners where appropriate. • By the end of the strategy period, secure and deploy external funding, where available, to support priority climate change projects identified through the Climate Change Strategy and delivery plans.	2026-2031	climate change priorities, reducing reliance on core Council budgets and enabling wider action.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is intrinsically linked with the climate crisis. The natural environment to the health and wellbeing of society and provides 'ecosystem services' to regulate our environment, produce clean air and pollinate our crops. Through increased biodiversity and the conservation and restoration of natural spaces, it is possible to reduce emissions helping to mitigate climate change by absorbing carbon from the air. However, climate change is a significant cause of biodiversity loss, as species and ecosystems are affected by changes in weather patterns and extreme weather events. Significant carbon dioxide emissions are caused by land use change, which is also a key driver for biodiversity and ecological loss. In severe cases, entire species and/or ecosystems can be lost, which can have devasting effects on human health and economic stability. As a Local Planning Authority, Redditch Borough Council is legally required to ensure that most new developments deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) under the Environment Act 2021. This means that any qualifying planning application must demonstrate a minimum 10% increase in biodiversity value compared to the pre-development state of the site.

The borough of Redditch contains several areas of land ranked moderate to high value for conservation and wildlife. Corridors of land linking these areas are also important for the ecology of the area. Where the public has access, co-benefits such as improved health and wellbeing are also of importance, contributing to higher quality of life. Arrow Valley Park has been awarded Green Flag status, an international quality mark for parks and green spaces, which ensures that the parks are accessible to the public, whilst also ensuring that the environment is protected. The Brown Hairstreak Butterfly has been a success story of conservation locally after they were assigned a wildlife protection order and can now be found in Morton Stanley Park.

The council has committed to mowing green spaces less in order to increase biodiversity, such as wildflower verges to help with insect populations. New planning and development projects include biodiversity net gain to ensure that biodiversity conservation continues. Within the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Management and Maintenance Plans actions are include which will conserve and enhance biodiversity.

The environmental services team for Bromsgrove and Redditch have begun the transition to electric power tools, moving away from 2-stroke petrol tools. This includes 9 short reach hedge cutters, 6 long reach hedge cutters and 3 strimmer's. Electric chainsaws and blowers are being trialled with an aim to these being replaced as well.

Future Milestones

Actions	Service area	Milestone and data	Timescale	Outcomes/targets
Reduce the Council's reliance on harmful pesticides by trialling alternative approaches, preparing for regulatory change, and adopting more environmentally responsible practices where feasible.	Property Services/ Environmental Services	• Review current pesticide stock levels and usage across relevant services to establish a baseline and identify opportunities for reduction. • Continue to trial alternative equipment and non-chemical or lower-impact weed control methods, assessing effectiveness, cost and operational suitability. • Keep pesticide use under review in response to emerging legislation and guidance on substances such as glyphosate, adapting practices as required to remain compliant and reduce environmental impact. • Monitor developments in the market for alternative products, equipment and practices to further reduce reliance on harmful pesticides over time.	2026 2026-2031 2026-2031 2026-2031	The Council reduces its reliance on harmful pesticides over time through evidence-based trials, regulatory readiness and the adoption of lower-impact alternatives, supporting biodiversity and environmental protection.
Progressively transition Council equipment and machinery to battery-powered or lower-emission	Environmental Servies	• By 2026, complete a stock audit of Council-owned equipment and machinery to understand age, usage, fuel type and opportunities for transition to lower-emission alternatives. • From 2026 onwards, replace equipment and machinery with battery-powered or	2026 2026-2031	Council equipment and machinery become progressively lower-emission over time, reducing carbon impacts, noise and air pollution while maintaining service delivery.

alternatives where feasible.		lower-emission alternatives at end of life, where operationally suitable and financially viable.		
Improve biodiversity and carbon sequestration within Council-managed green spaces through changes to land management, including reduced mowing, habitat enhancement and improved soil health.	Planning, regeneration and leisure, Property Services	• Identify priority green spaces for biodiversity and soil-health improvements and secure funding, where available, to support changes in land management and enhancement projects. • implement biodiversity-led management of selected green spaces, including reduced mowing regimes and habitat creation, where appropriate. • Improve soil health within green spaces through appropriate management practices that enhance biodiversity and increase carbon sequestration, where feasible. • From 2027, implement and expand biodiversity and soil-health improvement projects where evidence, funding and operational experience support wider roll-out.	2026-2031 2026-2031 2026-2031 2027-2031	Council-managed green spaces support richer biodiversity, healthier soils and increased carbon sequestration, while continuing to meet community and operational needs.
Embed effective governance, monitoring and delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), while supporting opportunities to	Planning, regeneration and leisure	• introduce a clear mechanism to monitor, record and report on Biodiversity Net Gain outcomes from new developments, in line with national requirements and local planning processes. • Identify and support opportunities to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain beyond statutory planning requirements, including off-site provision,	2026-2031 2026-2031	Biodiversity Net Gain is effectively governed, monitored and delivered, contributing to enhanced biodiversity outcomes both through the planning system and wider voluntary action.

enhance biodiversity beyond statutory planning requirements.		partnerships and Council-led land management where appropriate. • Align Biodiversity Net Gain delivery with wider biodiversity, green space and climate objectives to maximise environmental benefits where possible.	 2027-2031	
Report on biodiversity actions and outcomes in line with the Council's Biodiversity Duty, ensuring delivery, transparency and continuous improvement.	All services	• Work with relevant services to develop and implement action plans aligned with the priorities and actions set out in the Council's Biodiversity Duty Report. • By the next statutory reporting deadline, complete and publish the Council's Biodiversity Duty Report, setting out progress, outcomes and next steps. • From 2026, use biodiversity reporting to review progress, share learning and inform future policy, land management and investment decisions.	2026 2031 2026-2031	The Council meets its Biodiversity Duty through clear reporting, coordinated delivery across services and continuous improvement in biodiversity outcomes.
Increase and manage tree cover as part of a wider approach to biodiversity, soil health and nature-based climate action.	Leisure	• Increase tree cover in suitable locations and develop a long-term tree management plan to ensure trees are appropriately managed as they establish and mature. • Ensure new tree planting uses a mix of appropriate native and climate-resilient species to enhance biodiversity and reduce the risk of monoculture.	2026-2031 2026-2031	Tree cover increases in a planned and resilient way, contributing to biodiversity, place-making and public engagement, while being integrated with soil-based approaches that deliver effective long-term carbon sequestration.

		• From 2026 onwards, integrate tree planting with soil-health and land-management practices that maximise biodiversity and carbon sequestration, recognising the role of healthy soils alongside tree cover. • From 2026 onwards, work with residents who wish to participate in greening initiatives, including tree planting and nature-friendly gardens, to support biodiversity and local environmental quality. • From 2026 onwards, provide public information and education on the role of trees in the borough, including species choice, lifespan, management needs and their relationship to biodiversity and carbon reduction.	2026-2031 2026-2031 2026-2031	

Collaboration and Engagement

Redditch Borough Council has worked alongside Rubicon Leisure to reduce emissions in the local area. Heat from Redditch Crematorium is used to warm Abbey Stadium Sports Centre, which also has solar panels on its roof. Redditch Borough Council hosts an annual Green Fair. This is a family event to communicate the message of a low carbon future to the wider community as well as eco-friendly initiatives. Within Redditch there is a climate action group where residents can help to influence the climate action plan and have their say.

Climate officers are frequently working with those at risk from climate change, in particular lower income homes who are eligible for improvements to the energy efficiency of their homes through grants, often with the support of Act On Energy. This improves Redditch's health economy by improving air quality within homes and reducing damp and mould.

The council works with external bodies to reduce emissions further across the borough. Within the police force the exchange of evidence has become digitalised so that police staff take fewer journeys to collect evidence, thus reducing emissions and allowing officers to be available for more urgent needs.

Redditch Borough Council is a member of Worcestershire Public Sector Sustainability Group, helping to reduce emissions across the county.

Redditch Borough Council works with Midland Net Zero Hub, an organisation funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, that supports decarbonisation projects across the Midlands. The council is working with MNZH to help deliver home improvement upgrades as part of Warm Homes Local Grant.

Redditch's leisure strategy[7] aims to generate a high profile, safe, inclusive, well-connected and managed network of active travel networks, green and blue corridors, heritage trails, leisure and culture facilities. There is a green thread underpinning the leisure and culture strategy to ensure that the environment is considered and climate change mitigated where possible. Recommendations within the strategy include developing a better understanding of the biodiversity and green assets across the borough so that they can be improved; develop an investment plan for enhancing parks and open spaces; promote active travel routes within parks and open spaces. This can help to improve Redditch's health economy by encouraging people to become more active.

[7] https://moderngovwebpublic.redditchbc.gov.uk/documents/s46219/Appendix%20A%20-%20Leisure%20and%20Culture%20Strategy.pdf

Outside of the public sector organisations RBC is an active member of the Better Environment group and works with 3rd sector organisations supporting residents across the borough with environmental projects or access to funding a resources in managing through the cost-of-living crisis, fuel poverty community clean ups and accessing transport across the borough.

Future Milestones

Actions	Service area	Milestone and data	Timescale	Outcomes/targets
Work with local educational institutions to support climate change awareness, skills and engagement among children and young people.	Climate Change	• By 2026, engage with local schools and educational institutions to identify opportunities for climate-related engagement and plan future events or activities. • From 2026 onwards, deliver a rolling programme of climate change engagement activities with local schools and educational institutions, subject to capacity and partnership arrangements.	2026 2026-2031	Children and young people are better informed and engaged on climate change and sustainability, supported through partnership working with local educational institutions.
Engage with community groups to support, inform and shape local climate-related initiatives across the borough.	Climate Change	• From 2026 onwards, engage with community groups through planned and proportionate meetings or forums to support local climate action and share information on Council priorities and activity. • From 2026 onwards, ensure feedback and views from community engagement are captured, considered and, where appropriate, used to	2026-2031 2026-2031	Community groups are actively engaged in climate action, with local knowledge and perspectives helping to shape and support delivery of the Council's climate priorities.

		inform the Council's Climate Change Strategy delivery and action planning.		
Deliver inclusive community outreach to ensure those most affected by climate change are informed, heard and able to engage with local climate action.	Climate Change	• From 2026 onwards, ensure community outreach and engagement activities are inclusive and designed to reach residents and groups most affected by climate change impacts. • From 2026 onwards, deliver targeted community engagement workshops, where appropriate, to raise awareness, build understanding and support participation in local climate action.	2026-2031 2026-2031	Community outreach is inclusive and accessible, enabling those most affected by climate change to engage with and contribute to local climate action.
Share best practice and collaborate with the County Council, neighbouring local authorities and public-sector partners to support delivery of net zero and climate resilience objectives.	Climate Change	• From 2026 onwards, engage in regular partnership working with Worcestershire County Council, neighbouring local authorities and public-sector organisations to share best practice and support delivery of climate and net zero initiatives (for example, EV infrastructure and LEVI delivery). • From 2026 onwards, work with partners to ensure continuity of climate change activity, data and learning in the event of Local Government Reorganisation,	2026-2031 2026-2031	Climate action is strengthened through effective collaboration, shared learning and continuity of approach across the county, neighbouring authorities and the wider public sector, including through periods of organisational change.

		supporting effective transition and shared approaches where required. • Subject to the outcomes of Local Government Reorganisation, support the alignment of climate priorities, actions and reporting across new or revised governance arrangements.	 2026-2031	
Support the exploration and development of community energy initiatives, including potential community microgrids and district heat networks, in partnership with local communities and specialist organisations.	Planning/housing	• By 2027, seek external expertise to assess the feasibility of community energy opportunities within the borough, including the potential for community microgrids or district heat networks and identification of suitable locations where appropriate. • By 2027, engage with community groups, parish councils and other local stakeholders to understand appetite for community energy projects and to raise awareness of potential opportunities and benefits.	2027 2027	Communities are supported to explore and develop locally led energy solutions, contributing to decarbonisation, energy resilience and local benefit where feasible.
Engage and support local businesses to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency, building on	Climate Change	• From 2026 onwards, support the implementation of appropriate actions identified in the North Moons Moat Industrial Decarbonisation Study, working with businesses and partners where feasible.	2026-2031	Local businesses are supported to understand and progress decarbonisation opportunities, building on evidence-based studies and partnership working to reduce emissions and strengthen the local economy.

evidence from local decarbonisation studies and partnership working.		• From 2027 onwards, use learning from the North Moons Moat study to inform wider engagement with local businesses on decarbonisation opportunities, including energy efficiency, low-carbon heat and renewable energy.	2027-2031	
Work in partnership with other public-sector organisations to identify and support opportunities to improve the energy efficiency and decarbonisation of public-sector buildings.	Property Services	• By 2027, identify opportunities to work with other public-sector organisations (such as the police, fire service, NHS and schools) where buildings are shared, co-located or in close proximity to Council assets, to explore joint energy efficiency or decarbonisation opportunities. • By 2027, work with partners to identify and pursue appropriate funding opportunities and delivery mechanisms to support energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures in shared or neighbouring public-sector buildings. • From 2028 onwards, support the implementation of joint energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects in public-sector buildings where funding, partner agreement	2027-2031 2027-2031 2028-2031	Public-sector organisations work collaboratively to improve the energy efficiency and decarbonisation of buildings, reducing emissions, costs and duplication across the local public estate.

		and governance arrangements are in place.		

Waste reduction and Food

The council operates weekly domestic waste collections, alternating between recycling and general waste collection. Commercial food waste is being collected by the council and in 2026 food waste bin collections will begin for households, which will reduce the amount of food waste going to landfill which releases vast amounts of methane. Redditch Borough Council is a 'collection authority' and the disposal of waste collected is the responsibility or Worcestershire County Council. Currently the County Council has a Waste Core Strategy that covers the period to 2027, the Council is signed up to the Worcestershire & Herefordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). The JMWMS sets out our targets for the reduction and recovery of household waste and runs until 2034.

Reducing residential and commercial waste has huge benefits for the environment and economically. Be seeking alternatives to buying new/replacing items straight away, few materials are required. This means that from the start of a product's life-cycle, there are fewer emissions involved in extracting materials, manufacturing and transport, as well as the use of earth's resources. Within the borough, monthly repair cafes are held where broken items can be taken to be fixed, both saving money and reducing waste going to landfill.

With the statutory rollout of weekly food waste collections by March 2026 under the Environment Act 2021, Redditch Borough Council has an opportunity to better align waste management with low-carbon energy and resource recovery. The introduction of separate food waste collections supports national recycling objectives and creates the potential for organic waste to be treated through anaerobic digestion, a proven technology that can generate renewable biomethane and biofertiliser.

Recent regional analysis, including work supported by the Midlands Net Zero Hub, has highlighted the potential role anaerobic digestion could play in Worcestershire as part of a wider, integrated approach to waste, energy and land management. Where appropriate, anaerobic digestion can support decarbonisation of the energy system, reduce reliance on fossil gas, and return nutrients to soils through digestate.

By supporting the effective capture and treatment of food waste, the Council can help enable opportunities to convert unavoidable waste into valuable energy and soil-enhancing products, contributing to emissions reduction, energy resilience and the growth of low-carbon infrastructure across the county.

Future Milestones

Actions	Service area	Milestone and data	Timescale	Outcomes/targets
Increase recycling rates across the borough through improved communication, public engagement and targeted investment in recycling and waste reduction initiatives.	Environmental	• From 2026 onwards, deliver targeted communications to residents and businesses to improve understanding of what can be recycled, reduce contamination and encourage positive recycling behaviours across the borough. • From 2026 onwards, undertake public engagement activities to encourage increased recycling and waste reduction, using feedback to shape future communications and initiatives where appropriate. • By 2031, increase the borough-wide recycling rate to 50% of all household waste, supported by external funding where available and the delivery of community-led recycling and waste reduction projects. • By 2027, work with waste and recycling contractors and service providers to improve understanding of recycling performance, data quality and operational practices, and identify opportunities to increase recycling rates and reduce residual waste.	2026-2031 2026-2031 2031 2027	Recycling rates increase across the borough as residents and communities are better informed, engaged and supported to reduce waste and recycle more effectively.

Reduce overall waste arisings across the borough through behaviour change, reuse initiatives and targeted support for waste prevention.	Environmental and Climate Change	• From 2026 onwards, deliver targeted public communications campaigns to encourage waste reduction and reuse, including participation in national initiatives such as Plastic Free July. • From 2026 onwards, support initiatives that redistribute surplus food and reduce food waste, working with community organisations and partners where appropriate. • From 2026 onwards, support the development of community-led reuse initiatives, such as swap shops and furniture reuse schemes, to prevent waste and extend product lifespans. • From 2026 onwards, deliver regular internal communications and guidance to support staff in reducing waste in Council operations and in their own behaviours. • By 2031, reduce overall household waste arisings across the borough by 10% compared to the baseline year.	2026-2031 2026-2031 2026-2031 2026-2031 2031	Overall waste arisings reduce as residents, communities and the Council are better supported to prevent waste, reuse materials and reduce consumption.
Reduce food waste and associated	Environmental, Property Services	• From 2026, support the distribution of food waste bins to households and relevant Council buildings across the borough as part	2026-2031	Food waste is increasingly diverted from general waste through effective collection,

emissions by supporting the roll-out of separate food waste collections and encouraging effective use by households and Council services.		of the national food waste collection programme. • From 2026 onwards, deliver targeted communications and engagement to encourage residents and Council services to use food waste collections correctly, reducing the amount of food waste placed in general waste.	 2026-2031	improved public participation and reduced methane emissions from disposal.
Manage the green waste service in a phased and sustainable way to support waste reduction and composting, while managing operational capacity and demand.	Environmental Services	• From 2026 onwards, manage and optimise the existing green waste collection service, recognising current capacity constraints and reviewing performance and demand to inform any future changes where feasible. • From 2026 onwards, deliver targeted communications to support correct use of the green waste service and manage resident expectations. • From 2026 onwards, monitor green waste volumes, contamination and operational impacts to inform future service development where feasible.	2026-2031 2026-2031 2026-2031	Green waste is increasingly diverted from general waste through a well-managed, phased collection service that balances environmental benefit with operational capacity.
Support local food growing to improve food resilience, community wellbeing and	Environmental	• From 2026 onwards, encourage local food growing by sharing good practice, guidance and local growing initiatives through markets, communications and partnership working.	2026-2031	Local food growing is supported through community-led initiatives, improved skills and access to funding, contributing to resilience, wellbeing and

environmental outcomes through engagement, demonstration and partnership working.		• From 2026 onwards, support the delivery of local food growing demonstrations and learning opportunities, such as allotment or community garden demonstrations, where capacity and partnerships allow. • From 2026 onwards, seek and secure external funding (for example from the National Lottery and other grant programmes) to support local food growing, skills and community-led initiatives where available.	2026-2031 2026-2031	more sustainable food systems.