

Teignbridge District  
**Carbon  
Action  
Plan**

November 2025

# Foreword

"Science is clear, human-made climate change is happening and its environmental and economic costs are being felt globally as well as in our District, now. Our Council has recognised the need to show leadership in both reducing our carbon emissions, as well as preparing our District to deal with impacts. Globally and locally we have made significant progress, and have proven that we do have the solutions, if we choose to act on them. This Plan seeks to build on successes and inspire us all to play our part in building a thriving, fair and resilient District.

Importantly, delaying action will increase the costs, not only environmentally but financially and economically. However, we must ensure that the benefits of decarbonisation are shared by all, especially those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

We know that the majority of you, our residents, already support our net zero target, and want us to provide the help you need to reduce your carbon footprint and to cope with the impacts in your home and neighbourhood.

The actions outlined in this Plan will reap multiple benefits for our residents, businesses and environment. Investing in net zero promotes skills and innovation, creates jobs and increases our energy security. As an example, we have already significantly improved energy efficiency and installed renewables in our main Council buildings, saving emissions and costs. By pulling together through this Plan we have the opportunity for cleaner air, warmer, cheaper-to-heat homes, better health, improved green spaces and nature recovery, better communities, more local investment, more travel choices and better protection against severe weather events. All whilst playing our part in reducing carbon emissions. A greener, cleaner and fairer future for everyone in our District. It really is a win, win, win...."



**Councillor  
Jackie Hook**  
Executive Member  
for Environment  
Climate and  
Sustainability

# Chapter 1

# Introduction

On 18 April 2019, Teignbridge District Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency, and pledged to do what is within its powers to become a carbon neutral district. We have since become a signatory of the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership, contributed to developing the Devon Carbon Plan, and have begun to deliver upon its priority actions working toward net zero emissions.

This District Carbon Action Plan forms the second part of our net zero strategy and follows the Part 1 Carbon Action Plan, which sets out the steps we will take to reduce our own carbon footprint through the services that we deliver as a local authority.

Under our Part 1 Carbon Action Plan, we have made good progress to reduce our carbon footprint through a series of heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects covering our top five most energy intensive buildings, whilst also converting a first phase of our fleet to electric vehicles.

This District Carbon Action Plan aims to build upon this momentum and establish how the Council will take the lead working to achieve net zero emissions in Teignbridge to deliver the actions contained within the Devon Carbon Plan, and to play our part in supporting the UK to meet its net zero commitments whilst providing long-term benefits for our communities.

The following Plan provides background on what climate change is and its global and local impacts, details on how we made this plan and how to interpret it, and five chapters each containing actions aligning with the six core chapters of the Devon Carbon Plan.

## 1.1

### Defining Climate Change

The Met Office defines climate change as “the long-term shift in average weather patterns across the world.” The latest evidence (see footnote 1) produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that we have so far experienced between 0.95 and 1.2°C of global warming, of which 1.1°C relates to anthropogenic (human-made) greenhouse gas emissions and less than 0.1°C relates to natural effects such as solar heating and geological processes.

Carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas responsible for climate change alongside other greenhouse gases including methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. These gases all share a characteristic that enables them to absorb and retain solar energy, which in turn forces the temperature of the earth’s atmosphere to increase. Elevated concentrations of these gases are largely driven by human activity including the combustion of fossil fuels to power industry, businesses homes and transport systems, and the release of gases from carbon stocks, such as soils, peatlands and forests.

## 1.2

### Why We Need to Act – The Global Context

The year 2024 marked the first year that global warming reached 1.5°C above pre-industrialised levels. Concentrations of carbon dioxide have increased by 40% over the 20th and 21st century and we understand that they are higher now than at any other period over the last two million years (see footnote 2).

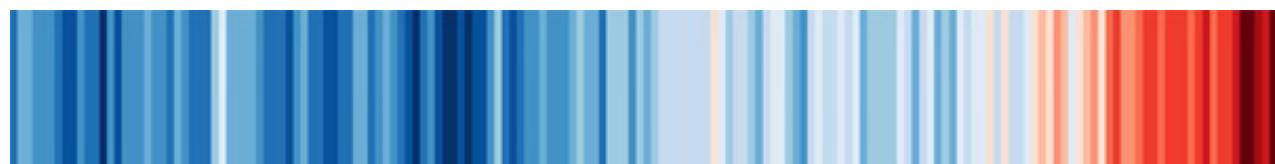


Figure 1: Climate Stripes showing average annual global temperatures over the past two centuries

Footnote 1: [www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_SPM.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf)

Footnote 2: [www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/what-is-climate-change#:~:text=In%202019%2C%20the%20level%20of,1850%2D1900%20baseline%20average%20temperature.](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/what-is-climate-change#:~:text=In%202019%2C%20the%20level%20of,1850%2D1900%20baseline%20average%20temperature.)

The University of Reading created the Climate Stripes shown below in Figure 1; they show a stark pattern of increasing global temperatures over approximately the past two centuries. Blue and light colours represent cooler periods, whilst red and dark colours show periods of hotter temperatures, which coincides strongly with increasing levels of atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions.

The latest studies show that we have just three years left to act before exceeding the emissions threshold for 1.5°C of global warming. With 1.5°C of global warming, it is possible to ward off the most extreme effects of climate change and create a more liveable and fairer world. Below is a summary of some of the global effects we can expect including differences between 1.5°C and 2.0°C of global warming:

### Temperature and Extreme Events

- Limiting global warming from 2.0°C to 1.5°C reduces morbidity, heat island effects, reductions in crop yields and disease spreading, whilst also reducing the frequency and intensity of weather events.

### Sea levels

- Sea level rise will be about 100mm less by the year 2100 under 1.5°C than compared with 2.0°C of global warming. In both scenarios, sea levels will continue to rise beyond 2100 due to latency in ice-climate interactions.

### Ocean Biodiversity

- Reducing global warming from 2.0°C to 1.5°C reduces ocean acidification and deoxygenation thereby reducing risks to marine biodiversity, fisheries, and ecosystems. Coral Reefs decline by 70-90% and >99% for 1.5°C and 2.0°C.

### Biodiversity on Land

- Global warming of 1.5°C will result in habitat losses of 6% for insects, 8% for plants, and 4% of vertebrates. These numbers roughly double under 2.0°C of global warming resulting in profound whole-ecosystem impacts.

### Human Impacts

- Reducing global warming from 2.0°C to 1.5°C reduces food and water insecurity, and prevents population displacement in areas affected by drought, intense heat, coastal erosion and flooding.

## 1.3

### Why We Need to Act – The Local Context

In the UK context, Teignbridge is highly sensitive to climate change. Our location in the South West and position along the coast means that we are already, and will be increasingly susceptible to a range of impacts brought on by climate change. We are already building a catalogue of instances illustrating these impacts including the storm that caused severe damage to the railway and sea wall at Dawlish in February 2014, flash flooding events in Dawlish and Kenton in September 2023, and widespread flooding brought on by Storm Eunice in November 2024. More recently, the UK experienced its driest summer on record in 2025.

Below are some of the specific changes that we can expect to our climate here in Teignbridge:

- Rising sea levels working in combination with storm surges resulting in increased flood risk, flood frequency, and coastal erosion.
- The need to defend our communities and building stock from the sea and flooding events, particularly in low lying areas in Newton Abbot, Teignmouth, and Dawlish.
- Impacts on tourism and bathing water quality when sewers and wastewater treatment plants become overwhelmed resulting in sea and river pollution.
- Flood events causing disruption to essential services such as schools and hospitals impacting on learning, healthcare, jobs, and the economy.
- Drier summers and wetter winters having profound impacts on water security and local food production.
- Increased frequency of heatwaves and extreme heat, which will worsen health in vulnerable groups including the elderly and people with pre-existing conditions.

- Heat and flood impacts on infrastructure including road and rail networks preventing day-to-day activities like getting to work and going to school.

These changes are reflected in data published by the Met Office Local Authority Climate Service and quantified in Table 1 below for increasing levels of climate change reflecting the changes if society does not act.

	0.6°C of global warming 1981- 2000	1.0°C of global warming Recent Past 2001-2020	1.5°C of global warming	2°C of global warming	4°C of global warming
Summer Maximum Temperature	26.7	28.6 °C	+2.3 °C change	+2.9 °C change	+6.8 °C change
Summer Average Temperature	15.4 °C	16.4 °C	+1.3 °C change	+2.1 °C change	+4.3 °C change
Winter Average Temperature	5.3 °C	6.0 °C	+0.9 °C change	+1.3 °C change	+2.7 °C change
Winter Minimum Temperature	-5.6 °C	-4.6 °C	+1.6 °C change	+2.1 °C change	+4.0 °C change
Annual Average Temperature	10.0 °C	10.7 °C	+1.0 °C change	+1.5 °C change	+3.3 °C change
Summer Precipitation Rate	2.01 mm/day	1.85 mm/day	-10 % change	-17 % change	-37 % change
Winter Precipitation Rate	4.38 mm/day	4.56 mm/day	+4 % change	+7 % change	+17 % change
Sea level increase 2030 (see footnote 3)	No data available	No data available	No data available	180 mm	270 mm
Sea level increase 2050 (see footnote 3)	No data available	No data available	No data available	300 mm	480 mm

Table 1: Climate impacts for Teignbridge with increasing levels of global warming

Footnote 3: Sea level data has been aligned approximately by best fit with 2.0°C and 4.0°C of global warming with climate projections based on RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 respectively.

## Chapter 3 - How to Interpret this Plan

We have used the following categories to convey how we will prioritise actions, when we need them to happen, and what our role is in their implementation.

The action categories align with the One Teignbridge Council Strategy covering three groups:



**Business as usual:** This means making an impact by embedding and enhancing climate change in established council functions.



**Priority action:** These are the priority actions that we have established through the Council Strategy and the plan engagement workshops.



**Further ambition:** These are actions that go beyond current priorities and established functions.

We have applied action timeline indicators to set expectations of when actions will be delivered:



**Quick Win:** These are actions that we want to prioritise and deliver to a high standard in the run up to 2030.



**Steady Gain:** These actions will unfold over longer timescales. They typically relate to high cost -projects involving multiple stakeholders.

We have also used the following three indicators to define our role within the delivery of the actions:



**Embed:** This means raising the profile of climate change within council functions, stakeholder engagement, and communication.



**Enable:** This means creating the right environment to enable external primary stakeholders to act.



**Enact:** These are the actions where we are the primary stakeholder and have direct influence to reduce emissions by delivering measures.

Throughout this plan, we have used the terms emissions, carbon emissions, and greenhouse gases interchangeably.

## Chapter 4 – Teignbridge Now

In this section, we explore Teignbridge’s current carbon emissions including how they are produced and how they have changed over time reflecting the district’s geography.

### 1.1. The General Picture

Teignbridge’s carbon footprint currently amounts to about 735 thousand tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year. This is based on the latest government data<sup>1</sup> representing local authority *territorial emissions*. These are the emissions that are directly released to the atmosphere within the district’s boundary. They include the emissions produced by people living in, working in, and visiting the district.

The latest emissions data for Teignbridge represents the period between 2005 and the latest assessment year in 2023. Over this timeframe, emissions have fallen by about 41%. Teignbridge’s emissions profile is shown by source in Figure 1 and by sector in Figure 2. In terms of cross-sector changes, we have seen significant emissions reductions through our use of electricity and heating fuels over the period from 2005 to 2023.

The largest share of emissions reductions relates to our consumption of electricity. Since 2005, significant progress has been made to decarbonise the UK electricity supply system, which has resulted in a total phase-out of carbon-intensive coal-fired power stations and increases in generation from renewables including wind and solar. These effects have resulted in an emissions reduction of 74% for electricity use between 2005 and 2023.

A combination of de-industrialisation and energy efficiency have reduced our use of heating fuels including natural gas, liquid fuels, and solid fuels in our homes and businesses. These changes have resulted in an emissions reduction of 60% for heating fuels between 2005 and 2023. Changes in emissions by activity are summarised in Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Summary of how emissions have changed in Teignbridge between 2005 and 2023*

Activity	Share of total emissions in 2023	Change in emissions between 2005 and 2023
<b>Electricity consumption</b>	10%	Reduced by 74%
<b>Natural gas consumption</b>	15%	Reduced by 41%
<b>Solid and liquid fuels</b>	7%	Reduced by 60%
<b>Transport</b>	47%	Reduced by 8%
<b>Agriculture</b>	18%	Reduced by %
<b>Waste</b>	3%	Reduced by 77%

<sup>1</sup> [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2023)

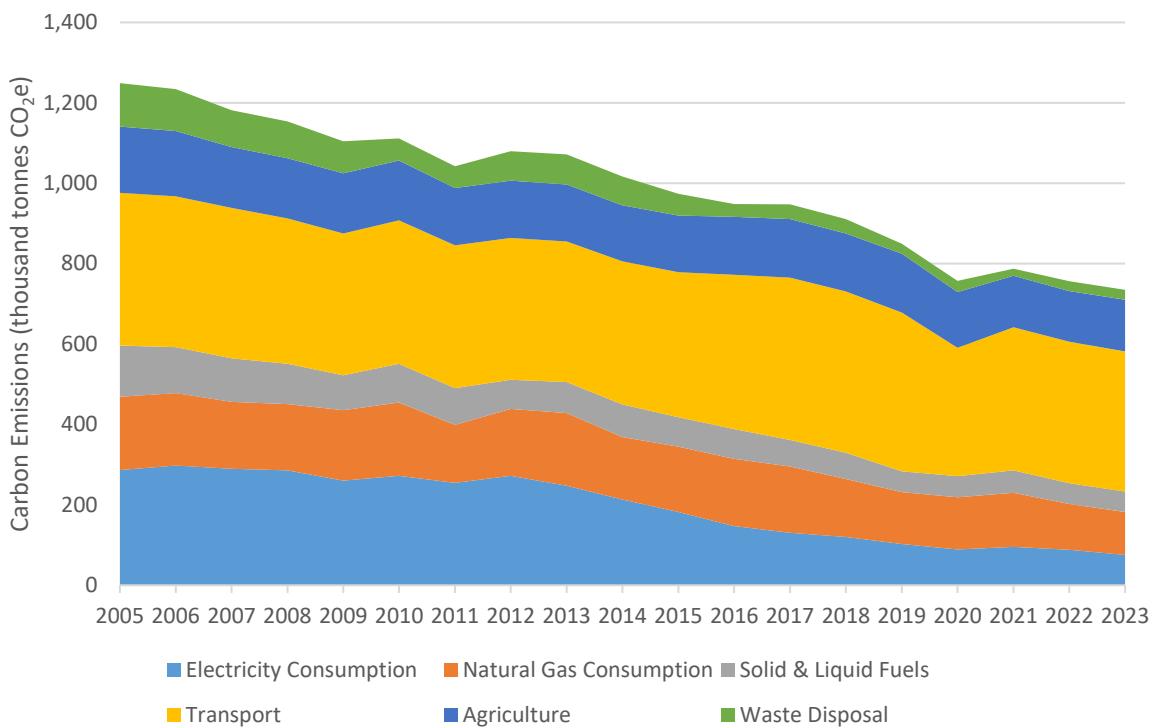


Figure 1: Teignbridge historical emissions by source between 2005 and 2022

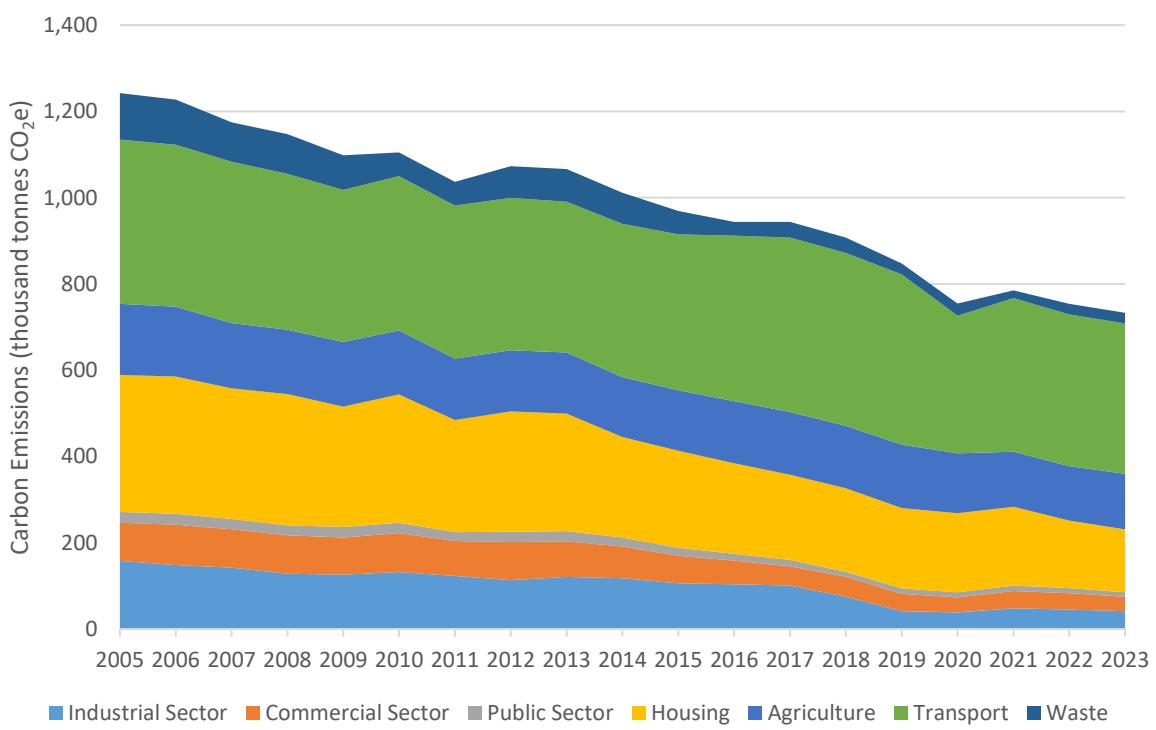


Figure 2: Teignbridge historical emissions by sector between 2005 and 2022

## 1.2. Transport

The largest share of emissions in Teignbridge relates to transport, which makes up about 47% of total emissions; this is largely driven by major A-roads that crosscut the district connecting the Southwest peninsular with the rest of England. Transport links also make up the largest share of developed land in Teignbridge at 4% of all land use. Transport emissions have fallen by 8% between 2005 and 2023.

## 1.3. Housing

Housing is the second-largest source of carbon emissions in Teignbridge and makes up about 20% of the district's carbon footprint. These are the emissions produced from heating and powering about 64,000 dwellings that are home to about 139,000 residents. Homes in Teignbridge are predominantly heated using natural gas, whilst a higher proportion of homes are heated using liquid and solid fuels than elsewhere within the country due to the district's rural nature.

## 1.4. Agriculture

Agriculture produces about 18% of emissions in Teignbridge and is the third largest contributor to carbon emissions. Whilst farmland occupies about 57% of total land use, agriculture contributes about 2% to the district's economy. The most significant sources of agricultural emissions include methane emissions produced by ruminant livestock, and carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide produced from the use of fertilisers, which together make up about 80% of agricultural emissions.

## 1.5. Industrial and Commercial Sectors

Teignbridge is home to light industrial and commercial enterprises, which collectively make up about 10% of the district's carbon footprint, whilst manufacturing and retail sectors respectively make up about 8% and 25% of the district's economy. The district has about ten large businesses of over 250 employees with approximately 5,700 businesses being predominantly micro and small businesses.

Some of our largest commercial centres include Heathfield Industrial Estate, Brunel Industrial Estate, and our town high streets. Hospitality is also a major contributor to the district's economy at 18%; emissions from this sector will span between our commercial and housing sectors.

## 1.6. Public Sector

Public sector emissions make up about 1% of the district's carbon footprint. These are linked with the education sector including schools and colleges, and health and social care including hospitals and surgeries, which collectively make up about 8% and 22% of our economy respectively.

## 1.7. Land Use

Whilst peatlands and croplands produce a net emissions contribution to the atmosphere of about 15 thousand tonnes of emissions per annum, our forests, grasslands, and other land use activities absorb about 104 thousand tonnes of emissions from the atmosphere, representing a net overall reduction in emissions from land use. This is reflected by forestry

and agricultural land making up about 21% and 57% of total land use in Teignbridge respectively.

### 1.8. Waste

Household waste disposal practices have undergone a systematic change in Teignbridge since 2005 with landfilling practices being replaced by a combination of recycling and energy from waste incineration. Although this has contributed to a district emissions reduction of 77% between 2005 and 2023 for the waste sector, some of these emissions savings will be offset by emissions produced from energy from waste plants outside of the district in Plymouth and Marsh Barton; with increases in recycling rates and reductions in methane landfill gas production, the relative benefit in carbon emissions is net-beneficial. Teignbridge still has one active Landfill near Kingsteignton which accepts surplus waste from elsewhere across Devon.

## Chapter 5 – Teignbridge In the Future

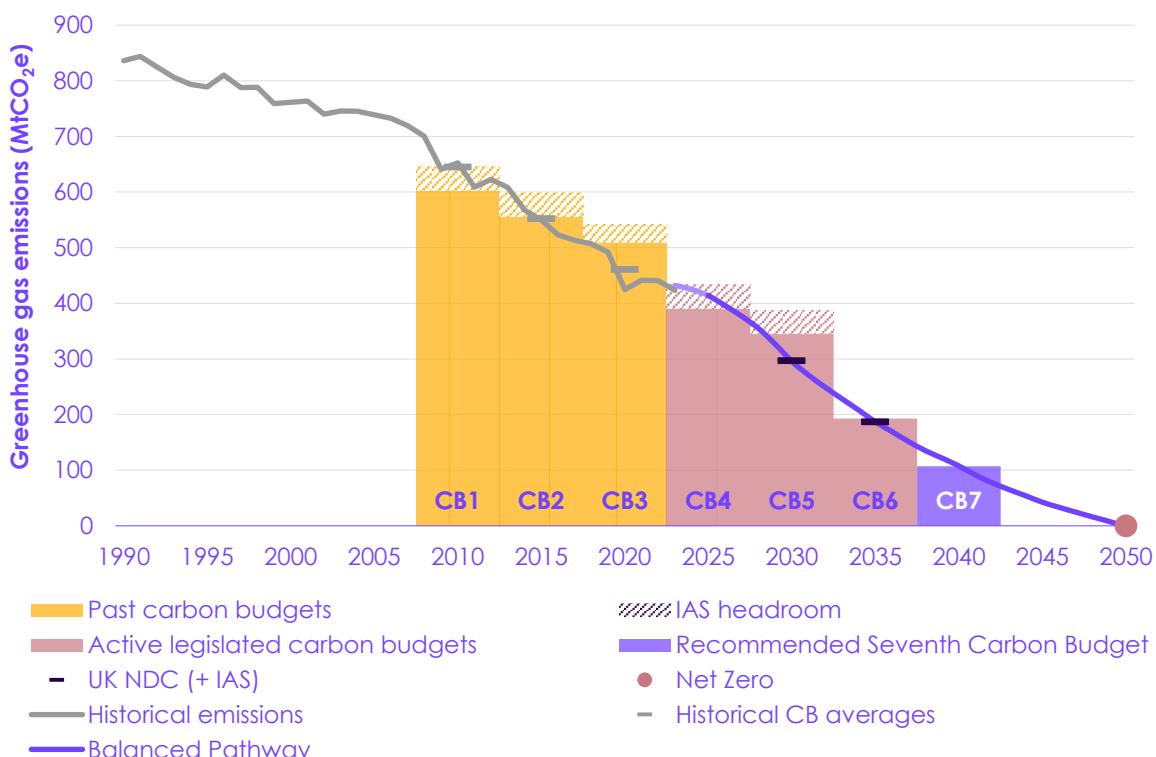
In this section, we explore overarching commitments made by Government working to achieve net zero emissions and how these policies will drive change here in Teignbridge.

### 1.1. UK Net Zero Target and Carbon Budgets

The UK Government has set a legally binding target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050. This means that by this year, the UK will release as many emissions as it absorbs from the atmosphere. Working to achieve this target, the UK Government has also set the series of Carbon Budgets shown in Figure 1; these carbon budgets are set over five-year intervals to set a cumulative cap on emissions whilst allowing for year-on-year emissions fluctuations and for trends to manifest over time.

The UK has already achieved the first three carbon budgets, and it is also on track to achieve its fourth carbon budget. According to the Committee on Climate Change, the UK is not currently on track to meet its fifth and sixth carbon budgets, and it is yet to implement the seventh carbon budget within law.

The sixth carbon budget is significant because it is the first carbon budget to align with global carbon budgets that are compatible with limiting global warming to 1.5°C with a 50% statistical likelihood of achieving that target. This net zero target and carbon budgets will significantly influence the pace for decarbonisation in Teignbridge.



Carbon Budget	Period	Emissions Limit (MtCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Reduction vs 1990	Status
1	2008–2012	3,018	26%	Achieved
2	2013–2017	2,782	32%	Achieved
3	2018–2022	2,544	38%	Achieved
4	2023–2027	1,950	52%	On track
5	2028–2032	1,725	58%	Off track
6	2033–2037	965	77%	Off track

## 1.2. UK Pathways to Net Zero

When recommending Carbon Budgets for the Government to enter into law, the Committee on Climate Change produces a series of pathways setting out how each budget can be achieved by making changes to how energy is used in the UK. One such pathway is the Balanced Pathway, which is reflected within proposals for the sixth and seventh carbon budgets.

The Balanced Pathway strikes a balance between cost to the consumer and industry, technological readiness and technological delivery, whilst helping the Government to achieve stretching yet achievable targets that are compatible with its net zero commitment and the Paris Agreement.

The UK's emissions profile under the Balanced Pathway is shown in Figure 2 illustrating the Committee on Climate Change's recommended approach to achieving the Seventh Carbon Budget. It shows how if emissions remain unabated, then emissions will rise towards 2050. Alternatively, if the Government enacts effective cross-sector policy, then emissions can feasibly reduce to net zero emissions by 2050. To achieve the sixth and seventh carbon budgets, we can expect the following changes within Teignbridge and across the UK:

- Energy efficiency reduces how much energy we use and reduces the amount of renewable energy generation and network infrastructure that we need to build.
- Growth in solar energy, onshore wind, and energy storage within the district reduces Teignbridge's need to import fossil fuel-based energy from elsewhere in the UK.
- Growth in offshore wind including in the Celtic Sea as well as nuclear energy elsewhere in the UK displaces electricity generated from fossil fuels.
- Electric vehicles replace two thirds of heavy goods vehicles by 2040, and the share of new car and van sales is mandated to reach 100% by 2035.
- Half of UK homes will be heated using heat pumps by 2040 with low carbon heating supplying 100% of homes by 2050.

- Electricity becomes a primary source of energy within industry to power equipment like electric ovens, high temperature heat pumps, amongst other technologies.
- For heating and transport applications, hydrogen will play little or no role in Teignbridge being limited to certain industrial processes.
- Hydrogen will play an important role in long-term energy storage by helping to bridge the gap between renewable energy supply and energy demand.
- Carbon capture storage reduces carbon emissions from gas-fired electricity generators and heavy industry elsewhere in the UK to balance supply and demand.
- Nature recovery, including woodland planting and peatland restoration helps us to balance residual emissions to achieve net zero.

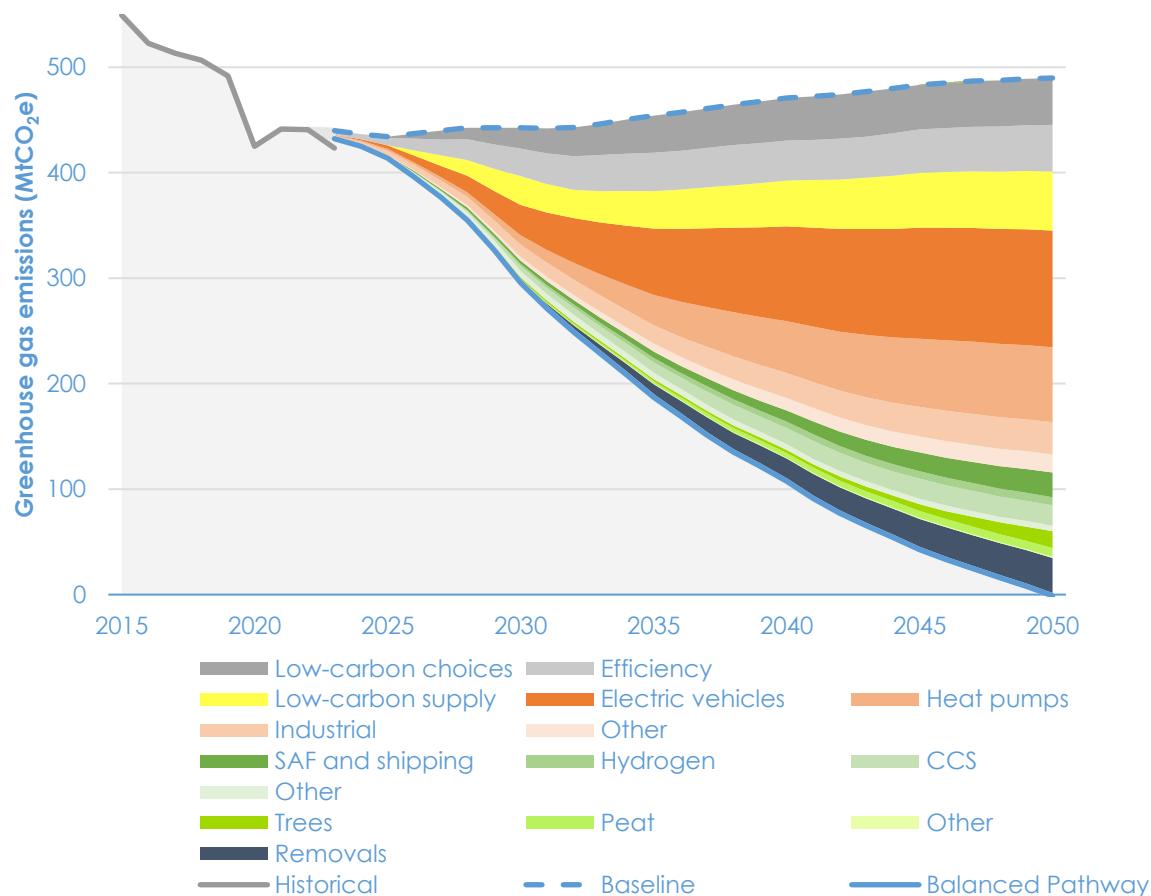


Figure 2: Balanced Pathway for the Seventh Carbon Budget

## Chapter 6 – Net Zero Ambition

In this section, we define clear targets that reflect our net zero ambition, present our mission statement outlining the tactics and working culture required to deliver this plan, and highlight eight key visions and objectives from the Devon Carbon Plan that will transform energy use and accelerate progress toward net zero emissions.

### 1.1. Our Mission Statement

*Through this plan, we will commit to do what is within our powers to limit Teignbridge's contribution to further climate change by embedding the changes needed to achieve net-zero emissions as soon as possible and by 2050 at the latest. We will prioritise the most impactful actions aligning with our sphere of influence, work to spare every possible tonne of carbon emissions, and aim to achieve the best possible outcomes for our communities.*

We will act with clarity by:

- Operating this plan through the One Teignbridge Council Strategy to prioritise action delivery and respond dynamically to arising opportunities.
- Establishing a governance framework through the One Teignbridge Council Strategy Environment Group to measure the effective delivery of this plan.
- Embedding this plan, the Devon Carbon Plan, and the steps needed to achieve net zero in everything that we do including our strategies, policies, and workstreams.
- Setting a clear and consistent strategic direction on climate and encouraging others to follow our lead.

We will create capacity for change by:

- Empowering our elected members to consistently champion climate action and elevate its importance across all aspects of our work as a local authority.
- Leveraging the strategic influence of senior officers to convene stakeholders, drive collaboration, and overcome barriers to delivering this plan.
- Investing in our staff at all levels to ensure they have the knowledge and tools to consistently and proactively embed this plan within their work.
- Encourage our partners including suppliers to adopt our values and ambition on climate change, and to ensure that this plan is reflected within their work.

- Using existing council services like customer support and food licensing to share climate and energy saving advice to boost community engagement with this plan.
- Drawing upon the expertise of ACT, volunteer groups, and town and parish councils to support delivery and build capacity through collaboration.

We will facilitate innovation by:

- Collaborating with partners to communicate successes and failures, avoid duplication, and achieve economies of scale through co-delivery.
- Leading by example by showing others what best practice looks like when delivering services including compliance with our own policies.
- Harness our place shaping powers through the Local Plan to create sustainable communities providing the right mix of things we need for every-day life.

We will build momentum by:

- Celebrating our successes to build momentum showing progress towards net zero and how small changes all add up to make a big difference.
- Amplifying climate messaging and establishing a recognised brand to engage district residents and businesses through new and established channels.

## **Vision and Objectives**

The Devon Carbon Plan has set eight objectives working to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. These form the basis of our district carbon action plan and are reflected in following chapters.



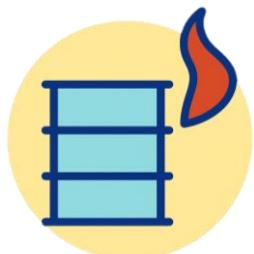
**Fossil fuels are phased out as an energy source**



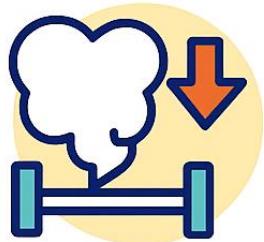
**Minimise consumption**



**Engaged communities acting for resilience and net zero**



**Carbon captured and stored from the burning of fossil fuels**



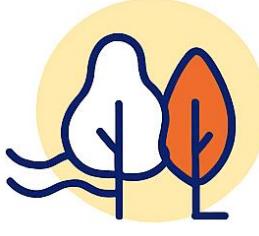
Minimise fugitive emissions



Resilient local economies with access to finance



A circular use of resources



Maximise carbon storage in marine and terrestrial environments

## Chapter 7 - Crosscutting Themes

The Devon Carbon Plan has identified the following five Crosscutting Themes. The actions we have established working to achieve these priorities focus on using our influence to encourage behaviour change and knowledge sharing, and empowering staff and elected members to consider environmental implications when making council decisions. Actions for skills, finance, and procurement are covered elsewhere within this plan.

1. Behaviour change and community engagement
2. Knowledge sharing, skills, and learning
3. Spatial planning
4. Finance, economy and resource access
5. Procurement and commissioning



These are the actions we have established to address the five cross cutting themes of the Devon Carbon Plan, which highlight issues that align with our work and sphere of influence.

## Actions for the Council



**Net zero community engagement:** Empower communities to act on climate change by engaging with them to convey consistent messaging building upon the council's established identity and points of contact with the community:

Who do we want to engage?

- People of all ages, hard-to-reach groups, and people currently unengaged in climate change.
- Individuals who want to act that just need a little help to make changes to cut carbon.
- Groups who can propagate messaging throughout the community including schools, community groups, and local councils.
- Businesses who want to lead the way, make an impact, and show others how to do the same.

What are our priorities?

- Promoting consistent information on climate change, what is causing it, how it will affect us, and empowering people to act.
- Signposting and connecting people to established information and trusted expert advice.
- Fostering social norms to gain community buy-in of new and convenient ways of cutting carbon, saving money, and living better lives.
- Encouraging groups to measure their carbon footprints and take targeted steps to reduce emissions in high-impact areas.
- Communicating how every-day individual and group actions add up and make a significant impact.
- Promoting the co-benefits of cutting carbon including benefits for health, wellbeing, jobs, equality, resilience, and the natural environment.
- Supporting our communities to envisage their net zero futures and encourage and enable them to help make this plan a reality.
- Helping communities to stay abreast of technological developments and achieve the best possible outcomes.

- Communicating what we have learned from our own actions and energy saving projects to inspire and make it easier for others to do the same.

How do we want to engage people?

- Developing a District Carbon Action Plan communication strategy to coordinate impactful engagement.
- Prioritising interactivity and engagement by making it easier for people to communicate with us, local groups, and networks.
- Establishing the Teignbridge Climate Hub as a recognised brand and a one-stop-shop for practical advice on how to save energy and cut carbon.
- Engaging communities through established points of contact including customer services, housing, and the leisure team.
- Removing the jargon by explaining tricky concepts such as climate change, net zero, and carbon budgets.
- Channelling climate action through community priorities including the cost of living, health, and wellbeing.
- Creating engaging media showing real-life case studies and expert advice through podcasts, reels, videos, and other media.
- Measuring the impact of our campaigns to help us to respond dynamically to increase community benefits and carbon savings.
- Raising the profile of the progress we are already making and the objectives of this plan in internal and external communications.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Local environment groups  
Town and parish councils  
Devon Climate Emergency  
Schools and colleges



**Net zero in decision making:** Empower everyone within the council including staff, members, and supply chain partners to enable the successful delivery of this plan. We will work to achieve this by:

- Enabling staff and members by equipping them with the knowledge and support they need to achieve positive outcomes in day-to-day work.
- Increasing staff awareness of climate impacts, solutions, and advice by cascading consistent internal communications in bite-sized chunks.

- Encouraging staff and members to become climate ambassadors and promote positive messaging throughout the local community.
- Working with senior managers and staff at all levels to embed this plan within organisational priorities and performance.
- Creating opportunities for climate-themed voluntary and team-building days within work hours.
- Creating a ripple effect by communicating this plan and what good practice looks like to council suppliers.

Action Status:	 PRIORITY ACTION	Council Influence:	 EMBED
Timeline:	 QUICK WIN	Stakeholders:	Councillors Senior officers and heads of service



**Financial planning:** Strengthen environmental benefits in future council workstreams and investment opportunities through the budget setting and project mandate processes:

- Integrating climate mitigation and resilience metrics into project initiation documents to embed climate change early in council work.
- Working through the medium term financial plan to understand how we can strengthen benefits for carbon reduction and climate change.
- Continuing to plan ahead by working to align spending with the Priority and Business as Usual actions set out within this plan.

Action Status:	 BUSINESS AS USUAL	Council Influence:	 EMBED
Timeline:	 QUICK WIN	Stakeholders:	Councillors Senior officers and heads of service



**Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution:** Collaborate with Devon local authority partners to get the most out of local government reorganisation and devolution by:

- Using our influence to achieve the best outcomes in local government reorganisation where placemaking and infrastructure delivery can produce better outcomes when planned at larger scales.

- Working with Local Authority partners to advocate for funding and additional powers to enable decarbonisation to take place reflecting specific needs in Devon.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Councillors  
Senior officers and heads of service  
Devon districts and county council

## Actions for Town and Parish Councils



We will work with and encourage Town and Parish Councils to:

**Amplify Climate Messaging:** Propagate and expand the reach of our carbon action plan campaigns to share advice, case studies, and resources through their community engagement channels.

**Support Local Carbon Action Planning:** Develop their own carbon action plans helping Town and Parish Councils to minimise local impacts.

**Strengthen Neighbourhood Plans:** Update Neighbourhood Plans to promote renewable energy, low carbon transport, and local amenities to boost long-term community sustainability.

## Actions for Elected Members



We will work with and encourage our Elected Members to:

**Scrutinise our progress:** Through Overview and Scrutiny and the One Teignbridge Council Strategy Environment Group, scrutinise our progress to deliver the *Priority* and *Business as Usual* actions set out within this plan.

**Amplify our Messaging:** Help us to engage with the widest possible audience by relaying and amplifying campaigns and climate messaging.

## Chapter 8 – Economy & Resources

The Devon Carbon Plan has identified the following four priorities reflecting the changes needed under the theme of Economy Resources. The actions we have established working to achieve these priorities focus on areas linking with our waste and recycling collection services, circular economy principles we can influence through local plan implementation, behaviour change through community engagement, leveraging our spending power to influence business and industry, and exploring ways to provide finance to deliver the changes needed to get to net zero.

1. Avoid waste and create a circular economy through purchasing less, repairing, sharing, reusing, buying second-hand, and recycling.
2. Reduce emissions from unavoidable biodegradable waste and wastewater treatment.
3. Use the purchasing power of Devon's organisations to benefit the environment and local communities.
4. Support communities and businesses to transition to net-zero.



These are the actions we have established to address the four economy and resources themes of the Devon Carbon Plan, which highlight issues that align with our work and sphere of influence.

## Actions for the Council



**Circular economy communities:** Through the Crosscutting Themes Communication and Engagement action of this plan, we will encourage communities to adopt circular economy principles to reduce environmental impacts by:

- Communicating how things are made and raising awareness of carbon hotspots including foods, textiles, and plastics to enable low-carbon decision making in day-to-day activities.
- Encouraging a culture prioritising reduce, reuse, and repair decision making to prevent the need to make things from new and to reduce the need to throw things away.
- Encouraging a culture of sharing by promoting community swap groups, tool hire shops, high street repair centres, second life stores, and repair cafes to put things to good use and to get the most out of them.
- Restoring trust in community perceptions of the waste and recycling system by showing people what happens to refuse and recycling materials after they are left at the kerbside for collection.
- Encouraging businesses to run in-house waste audits, reduce their use of materials and adopt split waste and recycling facilities to reduce the quantity of commercial waste going to landfill and energy from waste centres.
- Assisting communities to make informed decisions on when to replace household electrical items with new energy-efficient equivalents offering carbon and energy bill savings.
- Encouraging behaviours to reduce the quantity of fossil-fuel-based materials going to energy from waste facilities, and to reduce the disposal of organic materials including food and textiles in landfill.
- Promoting the benefits of local composting and maintaining woody materials in the environment to increase carbon stocks, improve soils, and support biodiversity.

Action Status:	 <b>PRIORITY ACTION</b>	Council Influence:	 <b>EMBED</b>
Timeline:	 <b>QUICK WIN</b>	Stakeholders:	Community groups and voluntary sector Schools and colleges Devon County Council



**Recycling targets:** Continue to pursue our district recycling target of 65% by 2035 whilst minimising whole-lifecycle carbon emissions by:

- Exploring opportunities to increase the range of materials collected at the kerbside including Tetra Paks and soft plastics.
- Reviewing the lifecycle carbon impact of changes to our refuse and recycling collection services and the materials that we accept.
- Contributing to policy through government consultations working to enable and encourage product reuse and repair.
- Promote extended consumer responsibility legislation and help communities make the most of this policy.

Action Status:	 <b>PRIORITY ACTION</b>	Council Influence:	 <b>ENACT</b>
Timeline:	 <b>STEADY GAIN</b>	Stakeholders:	Devon County Council Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee



**Sustainable Procurement:** Through our Sustainable Procurement Procedure, work with partners and suppliers to get more for the environment out of our £30 million annual spend by:

- Updating our sustainable procurement policy to set clear environmental expectations for officers and suppliers.
- Learning from South-west procurement teams about what measures they have found successful and replicating them in our own procedures.
- Enhance environmental questions and standards in tender return documents representing a range of common projects and services.

- Providing officer training and guidance to embed effective sustainability measures in initial and outline project scopes and specifications.
- Helping officers and suppliers to identify carbon hot spots within goods and services and how to reduce them.
- Using early market engagement to help suppliers to interpret sustainability objectives and to maximise carbon savings.
- Increasing social value by encouraging placement and internship opportunities within authority delivered sustainability projects.
- Developing procurement guides enabling businesses of all sizes to demonstrate how they will achieve sustainable outcomes.
- Exploring opportunities for a green business certification such as the Green Acord to help businesses demonstrate good climate standards.
- Pursuing opportunities to establish carbon performance clauses and incentives in contract documents.
- Working with repeat suppliers to explore mid-contract quick wins to cut carbon where practical.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Devon procurement teams  
Council suppliers



**Carbon in Construction:** Through Policy GP1 and CC2 of the Local Plan 2020 – 2040, work to minimise embodied carbon in new construction projects by:

- Requesting developers to provide embodied carbon calculations aligning with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Whole Life Carbon Assessment methodology covering new major planning applications.
- Encouraging developers to explain how they have minimised embodied carbon in new major developments in alignment with the Low Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI) Net Zero Design Guide.
- Implementing embodied carbon benchmarks based on LETI guidance to enable consistent implementation of Local Plan policies and enable like-for-like comparisons between planning applications.
- Developing guidance for developments of all scales on how to interpret Local Plan policies and consider embodied carbon in their proposals.

- Facilitating knowledge transfer by engaging with experts in low-carbon construction and working with developers to learn about what barriers they face when approaching embodied carbon.
- Holding developer engagement workshops helping planning applicants to interpret Local Plan policies and produce robust energy and carbon statements.
- Providing embodied carbon training for officers and project delivery partners.
- Using Devon Building Control Partnership customer engagement to encourage practical measures to reduce embodied carbon.
- Sharing our experience of implementing embodied carbon policies with Devon local authorities so that they can implement effective embodied carbon policies.

Ensuring that in-house projects requiring planning permission are subject to the same high standards that we expect of local developers by:

- Ensuring that project scopes and Stage Zero specifications include consideration of embodied carbon.
- Making embodied carbon assessments mandatory at the concept design stage (RIBA Stage 2) and following design stages.
- Assessing options to repurpose existing assets, reuse materials, and reduce material consumption where it is practical to do so.
- Addressing carbon hotspots in construction projects by substituting carbon intensive materials with sustainable alternatives.
- Ensuring that projects align with the same guidance and benchmarks that we would expect from local developers.
- Learning by doing to generate in-house expertise in low-carbon construction and communicating what we have learned with others.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

University of Exeter Centre for  
Energy and Environment  
Planning applicants and agents  
Council suppliers and consultants



**Green Business Support:** Through our Economy Team, support businesses to get to net zero by facilitating grant funding opportunities and by bringing businesses together. We will strive to achieve this by:

- Delivering our Carbon Action Plan Communications Strategy to engage and direct businesses to energy advice and funding.
- Working with Devon County Council to secure business funding from Government.
- Working with Members of Parliament to advocate for consistent multi-year funding with realistic grant deadlines.
- Supporting businesses to develop carbon reduction plans through revenue grant funding opportunities.
- Supporting businesses to deliver carbon reduction measures through capital grant funding opportunities.
- Using intelligence gained through the Heathfield Energy Project to work with specific and small business groups to maximise project outcomes.
- Working with commercial landlords to explore opportunities for multi-site carbon reduction and engagement projects.
- Exploring how business decarbonisation can provide the best outcomes supporting jobs, productivity, and resilience.
- Lighten the load on businesses by working with community groups and trusted partners to prepare grant bids and carbon reduction plans.
- Encourage more businesses to participate in future grant schemes and low-energy projects by promoting green business grant case studies.

Establishing economies of scale where partnership approaches reduce the burden on individual businesses by:

- Tapping into business groups including the Teignbridge Business Forum to enable business-to-business knowledge transfer.
- Engaging with farmers and farm advisers to collaborate on initiatives to increase farm resilience and deliver good environmental outcomes.
- Creating business groups where combined projects can attract private sector funding enabling decarbonisation projects to progress at scale.

Action Status:



Council  
Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders: Devon economy teams  
South West Net Zero Hub  
Libraries Unlimited



**Green Retrofit Skills:** Facilitate the transition to net zero by supporting green retrofit upskilling opportunities enabling local heating engineers, builders, and electricians to deliver good quality low-carbon solutions to recognised standards through:

- Promoting green retrofit courses provided by Exeter College and South Devon College.
- Mapping the local skills base to identify opportunities for upskilling district trades and to remove barriers to them gaining accreditation.
- Encouraging local trades to become low-carbon solutions ambassadors to promote the benefits of home energy upgrades.
- Working with MPs to encourage consistent and long-term government policy and incentives supporting low-carbon business growth.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Devon economy teams  
South West Net Zero Hub  
Libraries Unlimited  
Schools and colleges

### Town and Parish Councils



We will work with and encourage Town and Parish Councils to:

**Local Amenities:** Collaborate with us to increase neighbourhood self-sufficiency by providing the right mix of local amenities including local shops to support the local economy and reduce the need to travel for every-day needs through neighbourhood plan making.

**Repair Cafés and Share Hubs:** Support repair cafés and share hubs within your community to increase product repair and reuse, to prevent the need to buy things from new, and help cut the cost of living.

**Town and Parish Council Forums:** Quantify and reduce the carbon impacts of projects delivered through Community Infrastructure Levy contributions and demonstrate compliance with the Local Plan 2020 – 2040 policies.

## Elected Members



We will work with and encourage Elected Members to collaborate in Devon partnership campaigns to lobby Government for better policy and funding opportunities:

**Embodied Carbon:** Incorporate embodied carbon metrics within the Building Regulations to require developers to achieve minimum embodied carbon performance standards when constructing new dwellings and commercial buildings.

**Reuse and Repair Policy:** Strengthen policies that prioritise the reuse, repair, and recycling of materials and products. This includes expanding producer responsibility for packaging, increasing the range of products covered by repair schemes, and tightening restrictions on single-use materials.

**Business Funding:** Lobby for consistent business decarbonisation funding including grants for business decarbonisation plan making, project business case development, and project capital funding.

## Chapter 9 – Energy and the Built Environment



The Devon Carbon Plan has identified the following eight priorities reflecting the changes needed under the themes of Energy and the Built Environment. The actions we have established working in support of these priorities focus on using our influence to promote energy saving advice, implementing local plan policies to deliver energy-efficient homes and renewable energy, supporting housing and business retrofit, and continuing to explore ways we can continue to reduce our own in-house carbon footprint:

### Energy:

1. Use less energy. We need to reduce demand for energy and use energy as efficiently as possible to minimise the need for new generating capacity.
2. Transition to renewables. The energy used needs to be from renewable sources. Increase flexibility and storage.
3. We need to store energy and use it more flexibly.
4. Develop carbon capture and storage. Where small amounts of fossil fuels continue to be used, the carbon emitted needs to be captured and permanently stored to prevent it from reaching the atmosphere.

### The Built Environment:

1. Retrofit existing houses, we need a high take-up of energy-efficiency measures, renewable energy, and low-carbon heating technologies in every one of our homes.

2. Retrofit existing commercial and industrial premises. Just like our homes, the non-domestic buildings in Devon need upgrading too.
3. New buildings need to be net-zero as soon as possible. We need to be constructing new buildings using low-carbon materials and ensuring they won't need retrofitting in the future.
4. Minimise energy use by amenity lighting. Lighting in public areas needs to be efficient and used only when required.

These are the actions we have established to address the eight energy supply and built environment themes of the Devon Carbon Plan, which highlight issues that align with our work and sphere of influence.

## Actions for the Council



**Trusted Energy Advice:** Through the Community Engagement action of this plan, we will support homes and businesses to cut their carbon footprints, reduce their energy bills, and make practical decisions when approaching energy efficiency improvements. We will strive to achieve the best possible outcomes by:

Getting people thinking about the changes they can make:

- Promoting Action on Climate in Teignbridge energy-saving toolkits including the My Electricity toolkit.
- Promoting low-cost hints and tips providing continual quick wins to reduce energy waste, cut carbon, and reduce the cost of living.
- Signposting communities to bespoke and impartial energy-saving advice through specialists such as Energy Saving Devon.
- Addressing common misconceptions associated with low-carbon technologies and showcase scenarios where they work best.
- Helping communities understand what changes they can make to homes and businesses in listed buildings and conservation areas.
- Raising awareness of potential scams and helping our communities to steer clear of measures which are unlikely to benefit them.

Signposting people to practical advice when making changes:

- Promoting energy efficiency funding opportunities for homes and businesses.

- Supporting smart meter uptake and the benefits of emerging smart and flexible tariffs.
- Informing residents of the questions they need to ask when making changes to their homes and businesses.
- Helping communities to get the right solutions from trusted installers working to recognised standards.

Action Status:

 **PRIORITY ACTION**

Council Influence:

 **EMBED**

Timeline:

 **QUICK WIN**

Stakeholders:

Energy Saving Devon  
Exeter Community Energy  
Devon Climate Emergency



**Renewable Energy Supply:** Collaborate with partners across the South West to develop strategies setting out how we will reduce carbon emissions across the complete energy supply system including electricity, heat, and transport. We will work to achieve this by:

Embedding district net zero needs in regional strategies:

- Collaborating with National Grid to align their network development plans with Local Plan policies and district decarbonisation needs to ensure that homes and businesses with heat pumps and electric vehicle charging can connect to the grid.
- Supporting Devon County Council to develop and implement a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) to identify cost effective pathways to net zero and project priorities where local authorities can work with the private sector to deliver initiatives and achieve economies of scale.
- Working with Dartmoor National Park Authority to explore how landscape sensitivity constraints can be overcome to enable the sensitive development of renewable energy in Devon.

Implementing Local Plan 2020 – 2040 policies supporting renewable energy capacity to increase by:

- Enabling renewable energy capacity to increase in Teignbridge by implementing Local Plan policy CC5 supporting the growth of renewable energy and solar photovoltaics, and policy CC6 supporting the growth of onshore wind.
- Increasing energy system flexibility and resilience and overcoming supply-demand constraints by implementing Local Plan Policy CC7 supporting the growth of energy storage in Teignbridge.

- Implementing community engagement guidelines to ensure inclusive and sensitive development of renewable energy in Teignbridge reflecting local need.
- Holding renewable energy developer forums to promote renewable energy site allocations, providing early-doors advice on Local Plan policies through the pre-application process, and encouraging good quality renewable energy development proposals to come forward.

Action Status:



Council Influence:

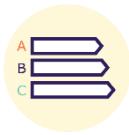


Timeline:



Stakeholders:

National Grid  
Devon Energy Planning Group  
Renewable energy developers  
Regen South West



**Standards for new buildings:** Through Policy CC2 of the Local Plan 2020 - 2040, ensure that new housing and buildings achieve high energy efficiency standards by:

- Requiring all planning applications involving new homes and non-residential buildings to submit an energy and carbon statement.
- Setting timescales for net zero carbon standards in new homes ahead of national policy and regulation.
- Requiring non-residential buildings to achieve BREEAM Excellent standards and using third-party verification to confirm compliance.
- Requiring developers to demonstrate how new housing and buildings comply with the Energy Hierarchy.
- Addressing the “as-designed” and “as-built” energy performance gap by requiring pre and post-construction energy use calculations.
- Encouraging third-party verification of energy performance through the Building Research Establishment’s (BRE) Quality Home Mark.
- Providing officer training on how to interpret carbon reduction plans covering all sizes of development including minor and major projects.
- Running developer engagement forums to learn from and share best practice and to assist developers to interpret climate change policies.
- Keeping our planning validation checklists up to date such that they reflect the requirements of the Local Plan 2020 - 2040.
- Addressing underperformance in new developments and compliance through the Devon Building Control Partnership.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

National Grid  
Planning consultants and agents



**In-House Estate:** Through our in-house estate, continue our carbon descent towards net zero emissions by delivering upon the Devon Carbon Plan and Part 1 Carbon Action Plan objectives. We will work to achieve rapid emissions reductions by:

Taking a systematic approach and making data driven decisions:

- Rank assets by emissions and utilisation metrics to prioritise energy interventions, focusing on big-ticket items and quick wins.
- Improve and expand digital monitoring capabilities to assess and respond to asset performance in real time.
- Use Key Performance Indicators to track the energy performance of assets and set benchmarks for improvement.
- Establish energy champions across our most energy-intensive sites to monitor and minimise energy use.
- Develop preventative maintenance programmes to enable an asset-wide approach to energy efficiency.

Applying the energy hierarchy and planning ahead to minimise emissions:

- Minimise energy wastage by adopting a *plan, do, check, act* approach to energy management reflecting ISO 50,001.
- Maximise generation potential and income from existing renewable energy systems.
- Reviewing how we use our assets to determine the most cost-effective approach to saving energy and achieving business need.
- Proactively develop business cases to replace end-of-life appliances and heating systems with low-carbon alternatives.
- Maximise the share of energy supplied by renewable energy and pursue opportunities to increase asset net operating income.

Working with tenants so that they can work towards the same objectives:

- Establishing a tenant's charter and building user guides to set benchmarks working to increase environmental performance.
- Supporting tenants wanting to undertake changes to improve energy performance standards within buildings that we own.

Action Status:	 BUSINESS AS USUAL	Council Influence:	 ENACT
Timeline:	 QUICK WIN	Stakeholders:	Estates Team Heads of Service Council Suppliers



**Building Retrofit:** Through our Housing Team, we will support residents to cut the cost of heating and powering their homes by enabling high-quality retrofit solutions. We will achieve this through a combination of funding and compliance functions including:

- Aiming to maintain a consistent pipeline of housing retrofit projects including ECO4 and its successor, and the Warm Home Local Grant.
- Continuing to promote retrofit finance including Lendology loans to enable homes to install energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.
- Enforcing the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards to bring Teignbridge's worst performing leased homes and buildings up to better standards.
- Bringing the district's worst performing buildings up to good energy efficiency standards by focussing on the most practical and impactful measures to prepare the district's building stock for low carbon heating.
- Prioritising phase-out of high-cost and carbon-intensive fuels where low carbon heating can provide best value by reducing household energy bills.

Action Status:	 BUSINESS AS USUAL	Council Influence:	 ENABLE
Timeline:	 STEADY GAIN	Stakeholders:	Private Landlords and residents Social housing providers



**Energy Innovation:** Through the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership, explore opportunities for further ambition to deliver projects achieving economies of scale to maximise carbon savings and community benefits:

- Assessing the role of district heating networks and how the private sector can help to establish community-scale projects to enable heat decarbonisation to progress at scale whilst remaining competitive with conventional heating systems.
- Exploring opportunities for new community renewable energy projects in Teignbridge by working with Devon County Council, mineral operators, farmers, and community energy companies to supply local businesses and households with affordable clean energy.
- Supporting the able-to-pay market to invest in renewable energy and low carbon heating through partnership-led bulk purchasing schemes such as the Devon Solar Together Scheme to help communities gain best value and to enable the delivery of measures at scale.
- Supporting the private sector to explore the deep geothermal energy potential in Teignbridge and how it could contribute to heat decarbonisation, and how Hydrogen technologies can be used to support long-term energy storage and hard-to-treat applications in alignment with the sixth and seventh carbon budgets.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Devon Energy Planning Group  
Energy utility providers

## Actions for Town and Parish Councils



We will work with and encourage Town and Parish Councils to:

**Community Energy Toolkits:** Help us to promote Action on Climate in Teignbridge's energy saving toolkits including the My Electricity Project by bringing local community groups together learn about how they can save energy and cut carbon.

**Green Open Homes:** Establish Green Open Homes to show real-life examples of energy retrofit projects, the benefits they bring, what it's really like living with them, and things to look out for when approaching similar changes.

**Community Energy Projects:** Explore opportunities to develop community renewable energy projects providing benefits for local communities and reducing our need for fossil fuels.

**Community Infrastructure Levy:** Increase the amount of Community Infrastructure Levy they can gain by establishing neighbourhood plans to support improvements in renewable energy and low carbon transport infrastructure.

## Actions for Elected Members



We will work with and encourage our Elected Members to lobby the Government for:

**Broaden Eligibility:** Campaign Government for broader eligibility criteria to expand the range of households able to participate in energy efficiency and low-carbon heating grants, and to remove existing barriers that currently prevent more households from accessing these opportunities.

**Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards:** Campaign Government to strengthen the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards to improve district's building stock and reduce the cost of living and running a business in Teignbridge.

**Cheaper Electricity:** Campaign for the Government to reduce electricity costs by restructuring how energy charges are reflected in bills to make heat pumps and electric vehicles more competitive than conventional gas boilers and fossil fuel transport.

## Chapter 10 – Transport

The Devon Carbon Plan has identified the following three priorities reflecting the changes needed under the theme of Transport. The actions we have established working to achieve these priorities focus on our role as an enabler and a facilitator to work with the public sector, transport bodies, and developers to provide the infrastructure needed to help communities use sustainable transport methods including more walking, cycling, public transport, and low-carbon mobility:

1. Reduce the need to travel. Avoiding the need to travel is the most effective way to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Shift to sustainable transport options. These themselves have a hierarchy of active travel (e.g. walking and cycling), followed by public and shared vehicles, and then taxi.
3. Use technology to reduce emissions from vehicles. Even once high levels of modal shift have been achieved, there will still be a need for motorised transport. Private vehicles will remain part of ensuring we can travel around Devon, and commercial vehicles will also remain a necessity.



These are the actions we have established to address the three transport themes of the Devon Carbon Plan, which highlight issues that align with our work and sphere of influence.

## Actions for the Council



**Encouraging Modal Shift:** Through the Communication and Engagement objectives of this plan, we will encourage the uptake of active and shared transport to enable healthy lifestyles and cut carbon by:

- Engaging with people to understand what barriers they face to using active and shared transport and what we can do to help.
- Promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of walking, cycling and public transport as an alternative to car use.
- Working with schools and groups with whole-community influence to take part in active travel days and encourage modal shift.
- Working with partners including Active Travel Devon to provide adult cycle confidence training.
- Encouraging businesses to participate in the cycle-to-work scheme and provide facilities including safe cycle storage and showers.
- Promoting ways to cut the cost of long distance regional and national coach and rail journeys.
- Encouraging flight-free holidays and travel by promoting different ways to travel the UK and abroad including rail, coach, and ferry.
- Working with partners to establish Teignbridge and Devon as an eco-tourism destination with good walking and cycling infrastructure.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Active Travel Devon  
Teignbridge Cycle Form  
Devon transport planning teams  
Local walking and cycling groups



**Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy:** Accelerate the transition to electric vehicles to cut carbon emissions and improve air quality by delivering the ten priority actions under the emerging district Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy by:

- Raising awareness of the growing electric vehicle charging network in Teignbridge.
- Expanding the network of electric vehicle charge points in Teignbridge
- Developing local charging hubs within council and community car parks.
- Supporting DCC to enable charging channels enabling homes with on-street parking to charge their electric vehicles.
- Ensuring all charge points provide a reliable and high-quality experience for customers.
- Working with National Grid to improve grid capacity and the installation of charge points.
- Collaborating with regional partners to secure government and private sector funding.
- Accelerate adoption of low and zero-emissions taxis and private hire vehicles through review of the Hackney Carriage policy
- Using the planning process to increase access to charge points through mobility hubs and compliance with Building Regulations.
- Transition the council fleet to zero emissions vehicles and provide workplace charging facilities.

Action Status:



PRIORITY ACTION

Council Influence:



ENABLE

Devon county transport teams

Private car park owners

Town and parish councils

Taxi and hackney carriage drivers

Timeline:



STEADY GAIN

Stakeholders:



#### **Transport in new Developments:** Through Policy CC4 of the Local Plan 2020

- 2040, collaborate with developers and stakeholders working to achieve policy aspirations stating that at least 50% of trips should be made via active and shared transport. Ensure the effective implementation of this policy by:

- Establishing a framework and benchmarks against which to test compliance of development proposals.
- Working with Devon transport stakeholders to incorporate best practice and recognised standards within guidance.
- Assessing regional transport opportunities and weaknesses to identify the best interventions supporting active and shared transport.
- Pursuing measures that give rise to long-term behaviour change and uptake of active and shared transport.
- Producing guidance to support developers to streamline transport plans and transport action plans.
- Using the validation process to ensure that transport plans are submitted with full plans and outline planning applications.
- Using planning conditions and approved details to ensure that developers implement transport proposals effectively.
- Providing officer and stakeholder training to ensure consistent and effective implementation of the policy.
- Developing approaches that can be replicated elsewhere within Devon to achieve the same outcomes.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Devon transport planning teams  
Planning consultants and agents  
Transport operators



**Local Active Travel:** Through the Heart of Teignbridge and other regional Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, make it easier for people to walk and cycle short-distance journeys by improving pavements and cycleways:

- Connecting strategic development sites with their local town centres and facilities.
- Improving connectivity with National Cycle Network routes in Newton Abbot and Kingsteignton for better access to the town centre, Newton Abbot Railway Station, schools, colleges, retail parks and industrial estates.
- Improved links on the edge of Exeter to connect development sites with the city centre.
- Improving the quality and connectivity of pavements and road crossings in towns and villages for access to local facilities.
- Repurposing road space for walking and cycling through projects identified in the Local Plan 2020 - 2040.
- Engage with young people and other user groups to gather information on how and where they feel safe, and use this information to inform the design of new and improved active travel routes to create safer places and increase community confidence in cycling and walking.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Devon county transport teams  
Planning consultants and agents  
Landowners  
Businesses



**Longer Distance Active Travel:** Through the Heart of Teignbridge and other regional Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, make it easier for people to cycle longer-distance journeys by building and improving cycleways including:

- Linking Newton Abbot with Torquay via Kingskerswell.
- Linking the Teign Estuary Trail with the Exe Estuary Trail to connect Kingsteignton with Teignmouth via Bishopsteignton, and to connect Teignmouth with Dawlish.
- Local aspirations for a route between Kingsteignton and Chudleigh, for wider links into the Stover Trail.
- Continuing to establish and enhance the Stover Trail green corridor by collaborating with the Stover Trail Partnership.

- Villages south-west of Newton Abbot including aspirations for a route from Ogwell to Newton Abbot town centre.
- Newton Abbot into the wider network via improved routes connecting with Jetty Marsh and routes along the A382 and A383.
- South-west Exeter new and existing developments to the high-quality Exe Estuary Trail and to other key local routes.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Devon county highways  
Devon transport planning teams  
Developers and landowners  
Devon local authorities



**Mobility Hubs:** Work with developers and Devon County Council to deliver mobility hubs at strategic locations enabling people to access town centres, Exeter City centre, and local amenities using sustainable transport including:

- Mobility hubs named in the Local Plan 2020 – 2040 including proposals at the Cattlemarket, Bradmore New Neighbourhood, Ilford Park, Markham Village, and Peamore & West Exe.
- Council-owned off-street car parks and leisure centres.

These will be made up of combinations of measures such as bus stops and waiting areas, park and change facilities, secure and covered bicycle parking, bicycle lockers, e-bicycle and e-scooter hire, car club spaces, and electric vehicle charging, where appropriate.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Devon county highways  
Devon transport planning teams  
Developers and landowners  
Shared mobility operators



**Digital connectivity:** Support the private sector to provide fast and reliable internet connectivity throughout the district to enable access to online services, reduce the need to travel, and support the local economy by:

- Working with developers to ensure that new housing and commercial buildings are equipped with super-fast broadband.
- Working with communities to establish signal blackspot areas and communicating this information with network operators.

- Communicating the benefits of digital services and how remote working can benefit the environment.
- Promoting fixed and mobile internet connectivity programmes delivered through the Connective Devon and Somerset Programme.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Connecting and Devon and Somerset Partnership Devon economy teams



**Bus and Rail:** Encourage people to choose bus and rail as their preferred mode of transport for regional and long-distance trips. We will do what is in our powers to make this a reality by:

Collaborating with stakeholders to deliver Local Plan 2020 – 2040 proposals to:

- Create a transport interchange and improve the public realm at Sherborne Road Bus Station.
- Increase connectivity between Newton Abbot Railway Station and Sherborne Road Bus Station.
- Extend the Newton Abbot Railway Station footbridge into Brunel Industrial Estate.
- Extend bus links into strategic development sites.
- Upgrade strategic bus stops including the Drumbridges Roundabout to make them more practical and appealing.

Collaborating partners across the South West and nationally to improve shared transport services connecting local communities and Teignbridge with the rest of the country by:

- Aligning shared transport services where possible to cater for frequent regular journeys that can achieve high cumulative carbon savings.
- Exploring options for community-led shared transport and how this can meet rural commuting and leisure needs including travel on Sundays and bank holidays.

- Increase prioritisation for bus links in town centres to reduce congestion and to make bus use an attractive and competitive alternative to private car ownership.
- Working with bus and rail operators to make it easier to switch between walking, cycling, bus and rail.
- Working with rail and coach operators to increase connectivity between Teignbridge with Bristol and London by increasing service frequency, improving rail rollingstock, and increasing infrastructure resilience.
- Collaborating with Devon County Council and Devon Districts to explore how Electric Vehicle Charging Strategies can align to support the electrification of bus and taxi services.
- Collaborate with Devon County Council on a regular basis to review the performance of bus services and to investigate opportunities to overcome constraints.
- Collaborating with District and County Elected Members to lobby government to make bus and rail ticket pricing more competitive with private car ownership.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Devon county transport teams  
Network Rail  
Rail and bus operators

## Actions for Town and Parish Councils



**Public Transport:** Explore how developer contributions made to town and parish councils can be invested in community transport services to make shared transport available in rural communities and communities served by frequent bus services.

**Electric Vehicle Charging:** Through the District and Devon County Electric Vehicle Charging Strategies, collaborate with us to prepare our communities for the transition to electric vehicles by working with us on projects to install charging infrastructure in your neighbourhoods.

## Actions for Elected Members



**Local Bus Services:** Use your local knowledge of community needs to work with Devon County Council to enhance local bus services by improving bus shelters, ensuring bus shelters are well connected to homes and businesses, and where possible, increasing service frequency and aligning routes with travel demand.

**Planning Contributions:** Scrutinise transport plans in development proposals and highlighting opportunities to enhance walking, cycling, and shared transport provision reflecting local knowledge and community need.

## Chapter 11 – Food, Land and Sea

The Devon Carbon Plan has identified the following three priorities under the theme of Food, Land, and Sea. The actions we have established working to achieve these priorities focus expanding the communication and engagement actions to promote local and seasonal foods, using our influence through the Food Safety Team to encourage sustainable food practices within district food outlets and their supply chains, and working with developers and landowners to store carbon and increase biodiversity in our landscapes:

1. Develop demand for nutritious and sustainably produced food. We need to increase our engagement with food and its production; eat less red meat and dairy; and use our spending power to support local farmers, fisheries and horticulture that demonstrate best practice.
2. Reduce GHG emissions and improve carbon storage from farming. Farm machinery needs to use renewable fuels; emissions from manures, wastes and fertilisers must reduce; and food production needs to transition towards practices that improve the amount of carbon in soils.
3. Maximise carbon storage in the environment. The extent and condition of existing habitats and ecosystems that store carbon need to be protected, enhanced, and restored. New, joined-up habitats must be created on land, in estuaries and at sea.



These are the actions we have established to address the three priority transport themes of the Devon Carbon Plan.

## Actions for the Council



**Sustainable foods:** Through the Communication and Engagement objectives of this plan, we will support communities to cut food carbon emissions and lead healthier lives by:

- Working with Action on Climate in Teignbridge and local community groups to run sustainable food campaigns.
- Promoting practical tips to cut food waste and reduce the cost of nutritious meals.
- Encouraging communities to buy local and seasonal by default to cut carbon.
- Communicating how food is produced and the environmental impacts of different food growing practices.
- Encouraging the use of local food networks, markets, and high-street grocers.
- Signposting communities to reputable advice such as the Good Fish Guide to enable sustainable meal choices.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Community environment groups  
Devon Climate Emergency  
Devon Food Partnership



**Food Safety Team:** Through the Food Safety Team, we will capitalise on established channels of communication with district food businesses to embed sustainable food practices by:

- Helping businesses to achieve compliance with existing sustainability legislation.

- Encouraging practices to reduce food waste and optimise meal portion sizes.
- Encouraging businesses to buy and sell seasonal and local foods supporting district food growers.
- Encouraging food outlets to provide and normalise plant-based meal options and make them prominent in food menus.
- Supporting businesses to add carbon metrics to food products and menu options.
- Signposting businesses to practical advice on how to make changes to increase food sustainability.

Action Status:

 **PRIORITY ACTION**

Council Influence:

 **ENABLE**

Timeline:

 **QUICK WIN**

Stakeholders:

Chambers of commerce  
District food businesses  
Trading standards



**Sustainable Food Farms and Fisheries:** Through our Economy Team, explore opportunities with Devon County Council to collaborate with landowners and fisheries on initiatives increasing environmental sustainability and long-term prosperity in local food growing practices by:

- Collaborating with initiatives working to bring local food producers and experts together such as the Devon Food Partnership and Food Drink Devon to facilitate knowledge transfer.
- Supporting local food growers and distribution networks including Community Supported Agriculture schemes and local veg box providers.
- Engaging with farmers to increase business resilience by diversifying into renewable energy generation including wind, solar, anaerobic digestion, and energy storage.
- Exploring natural capital opportunities where initiatives such as woodland planting, peatland restoration, improving soil carbon,

and enhancing biodiversity can generate income and create public goods and services.

- Securing commitments from developers to provide community allotments through the Local Plan 2020 - 2040.
- Encouraging town and parish councils to establish wilding zones, community orchards, allotments, and community larders.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Decon economy teams

Devon Food Partnership

Devon Local Nature Partnership

Farming groups and consultants



**Biodiversity Net Gain:** Through Local Plan 2020- 2040 policies GP1, GC2 and EN10, work with developers to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain in new development by:

- a. Pursuing opportunities where biodiversity net gain can improve soil carbon and increase carbon stored in woody material.
- b. Working with Devon County Council and Devon local planning authorities to develop joint Devon biodiversity Net Gain guidance.
- c. Developing a strategy setting out site allocations where biodiversity net gain will have the most impact to increase biodiversity complementing the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- d. Pursuing approaches that will increase resilience in the natural environment in response to changes brought on by climate change such as strategic tree planting to prevent surface run-off and other benefits; projects may come forward under biodiversity net gain or other funding opportunities.
- e. Work with stakeholders through joint-delivery agreements to ensure the long-term effective implementation of biodiversity net gain.
- f. Provide training for planning officers to increase the delivery of impactful and realistic measures for biodiversity net gain and climate resilience benefits.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Devon Local Nature Partnership  
Natural England  
Planning consultants and agents



**Connecting to Nature:** Through Policy GC2 of the Local Plan 2020 – 2040 and the Garden Communities project, work to increase opportunities for communities to connect to nature and value green and natural habitats by:

- a. Creating the Newton Abbot Hilltop Countryside Park and establishing the Aller Brook Nature Reserve.
- b. Creating green corridors connecting Decoy with Bradley Manor and the River Lemon via Wolborough.
- c. Requiring the planting of feature trees and the creation of a Garden Community-wide Arboretum.
- d. Restoring the River Lemon and its corridor and creating flood-compatible green spaces.
- e. Encouraging “meanwhile” uses within minerals sites to reconnect and restore wildlife-rich habitats.

Within the Garden Community and wider district:

- f. Promoting the value of peatlands, marshes, carbon-rich soils, and woodlands how they can increase resilience to climate change.
- g. Contributing to Devon initiatives including the Land Use Framework, Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and the Nature Recovery Network.
- h. Exploring opportunities where natural capital can provide public services such as carbon storage and upstream flood attenuation.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Devon Local Nature Partnership  
Devon Wildlife Trust  
Environment Agency  
National Trust  
Natural England



**Estuaries and coast:** Through established flood resilience, estuaries, and coastal partnerships, work with stakeholders to embed the Devon Carbon Plan in strategy documents and project delivery plans by:

- a. Enabling carbon-rich habitats to establish and migrate inland as our landscapes change due to rising sea levels under our Shoreline Management Plan.
- b. Supporting projects to increase and enhance marine natural capital reflecting the natural environment of Teignbridge's estuaries and coastline.
- c. Incorporating measures to reduce embodied carbon emissions when designing and building flooding and coastal erosion risk management schemes.

Action Status:



Council Influence:



Timeline:



Stakeholders:

Environment Agency  
Landowners  
Marine Management Organisation  
Natural England  
Teign Estuary and Coastal Partnership

## Actions for Town and Parish Councils



We will work with and encourage Town and Parish Councils to:

**Community Larders:** Facilitate community larders enabling residents and businesses to share good food and to prevent food from going to waste.

**Allotments and Wilding:** Help communities to connect with where their food comes from by providing allotments, supporting local food growing schemes, establishing community orchards, and wilding community green spaces.

## Actions for Elected Members



We will work with and encourage our Elected Members to:

**Food Labelling:** Campaign for the introduction of food labelling that clearly describes the environmental impacts of food products, enabling Teignbridge residents to make informed choices about the carbon and ecological footprint of their supermarket purchases while maintaining a nutritious and balanced diet

**Environmental Land Management Scheme:** Campaign for the Government to reward farmers for delivering public goods through nature-friendly land use practices, provide safeguards to protect riparian zones, soils, and hedgerows, and recognise those already supporting nature-based solutions within their operations.

**Natural History Syllabus for Schools:** Campaign for the Government to fulfil its promise to introduce a natural history syllabus, providing students with a deeper understanding of the natural world, including how organisms function in natural habitats, as well as topics such as climate change and sustainability.

## Chapter 12 – Summary of Actions

Our District Carbon Action Plan contains 28 actions, of which nine are Priority actions and represent things that we want to implement to a high standard by 2030, 14 are Business as Usual actions representing areas where we will embed climate change within established council functions, and are five Further Ambition actions representing areas where we will engage with stakeholders and explore emerging opportunities. We look forward to working with our partners to make these actions a reality and achieve the best outcomes for our communities and the natural environment.

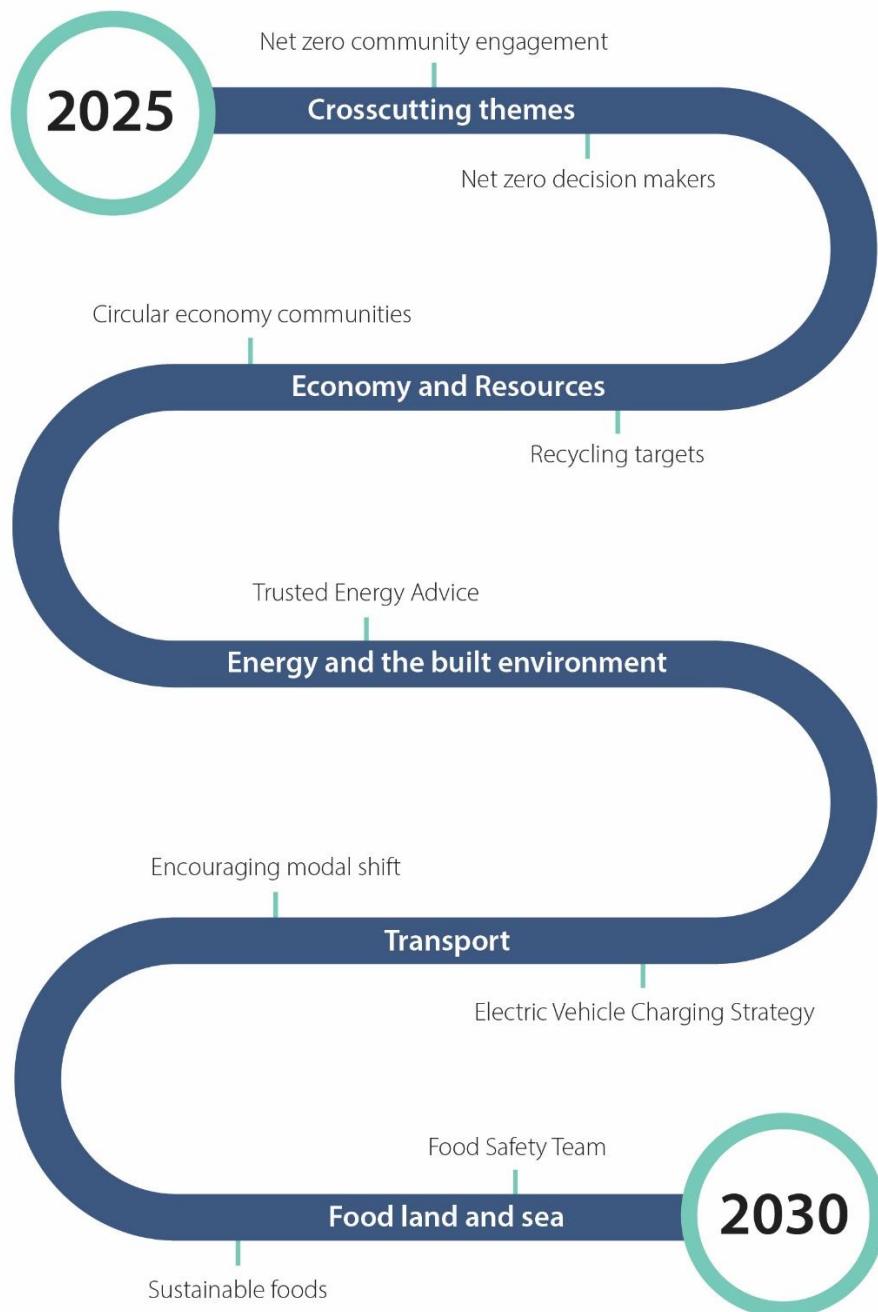


Figure 1: District Carbon Action Plan Priority Actions Summary