

Subject:	Climate Change Strategy Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	5 th March 2025
Report of:	Climate Change Programme Officer	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
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1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 That Council note the progress in year four of the Climate Change Strategy and approve the revised Climate Change Action Plan.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan were agreed in July 2020 and work has progressed over the past four years to deliver the agreed actions.
- This report provides an update on progress in implementing the projects to reduce our direct carbon emissions from our corporate assets and emissions in the Borough as detailed in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).
- Further work on the preliminary CCAP has been necessary to ensure that proposed actions are clear Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) actions that are informed by latest evidence and feedback from senior officers across all service areas of the Council.
- In the first half of the Climate Change Action Plan's life, we prioritised decarbonising Council operations and services. As we move into the second-half of the plan, we shall be focusing more on the wider aspiration of creating a Net Zero Carbon Valley by working with households and businesses to deliver this shared goal.
- The attached revised Action Plan is a result of consultation with senior officers.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. In September 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency and committee to take action locally through a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
- 3.2. The strategy and action plan were agreed in July 2020 and work has progressed over the past 4 years to deliver the agreed actions.
- 3.3. The Council is taking a wide range of direct actions, set out in the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan, which will contribute to reducing emissions in Rosendale and help to deliver the vision for Council operations to be net zero carbon by 2030.
- 3.4. The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13th January 2025, where they recommended Council to approve the revised Action Plan.
- 3.5. A revised and updated Action Plan is presented for approval at **Appendix 1**.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1. Years one, two and three showed considerable progress in setting out the direction of the Council on its journey towards a carbon net zero position by 2030 and produced some notable successes in reducing our carbon footprint. Details of these are contained in the Annual updates for year 1, 2 and 3, copies of which are in **Appendix 2, 3 and 4**.
- 4.2. The 10-year plan was always designed to be a marathon, not a sprint and year 4 has seen considerable progress in planning and developing measures to future proof Council owned assets, and to ensure that any carbon and energy saving initiatives provide value for money, measurable and sustainable reductions in our carbon output.
- 4.3. Progress has also been made in developing policies and projects to ensure that the wider community, businesses and residents contribute to Rossendale's overall carbon reduction efforts.
- 4.4. In the first half of the Climate Change Action Plan's life, we have been focusing on decarbonising the Council's operations and services as much as possible. As we move into the second-half of the plan, we shall be focusing more on the wider aspiration of creating a Net Zero Carbon Valley by working with households and businesses to deliver this shared goal.

Progress in delivering key actions

- 4.5. **Decarbonising Council assets**
- 4.6. The attached priority actions document (**Appendix 5**) highlights key projects delivered or progressing within the 2024/25 financial year.
- 4.7. Work has continued to identify the most appropriate alternative to fossil fuel powered heating systems with consideration given to both ground and air sourced heat pumps, bio mass boilers and infra- red heating systems.
- 4.8. To support this work, funding totalling £39k was secured from the public sector Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) Phase 5, awarded by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero administered by Salix to develop a Building Heat Decarbonisation Plan (BHDP) that gives a detailed profile of the Council estate including the required recommendations to decarbonise each building, reducing the carbon footprint and total energy usage and, ultimately, to achieve net zero by the 2030 deadline.
- 4.9. The LCSF is to cover the costs associated with accessing the expertise and skills needed to develop a Building Heat Decarbonisation Plan (BHDP) to cover 12 buildings across the RBC estate. The site list is as follows:
 - Aged, Blind & Disabled Centre, Burnley Road, Bacup, OL13 8AB
 - The Business Centre, Futures Park Bacup, OL13 0BB
 - Henrietta Street Recycling Depot, Henrietta Street, Bacup, OL13 0AR
 - Sports Changing Rooms, Maden Rec, Maden Road, Bacup, OL13 8HJ
 - Mechanics Hall (Bacup Library), St James Square, Bacup, OL13 9AH
 - Stubbylee Annexe, Stubbylee Lane, Bacup, OL13 0DE
 - Stubbylee Hall, Stubbylee Lane, Bacup, OL13 0DE

- Haslingden Sports Centre, Helmshore Road, Haslingden, BB4 4DN
- Sports Changing Rooms, Marl Pits Pavilion & Sports Centre, Newchurch Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 7SN
- Sports Centre & Pool, Marl Pits Pool, Rawtenstall, BB4 7SN
- Museum and Café, The Whittaker Museum And Visitors Centre, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 6RE
- Whitworth Civic Hall (The Ashcroft), Whitworth Civic Hall, Whitworth, OL12 8DP

- 4.10. The final output is an action plan detailing the prioritised recommended actions for each site. This will:
- Identify carbon saving/ decarbonisation works required to meet our 2030 net zero target.
 - Recommendations for energy efficiency/ decarbonisation works considering timescales, planning constraints, payback, and costs with consideration to electricity loading capacity and any future changes to load capacity
 - Identification of key challenges; consideration for risks associated with implementing recommended improvements and identify any issues that may limit the recommended action performance, whether these issues are technical, financial, or logistical in nature.
- 4.11. The basis of this approach, coupled with further analysis of specific buildings will aid the Council in seeking funding through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) in replacing systems at the end of their working life with low carbon heating alternatives.
- 4.12. Funding totalling £290k was secured from the Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF), awarded by Sport England to fund the installation of swimming pool covers and replacement of the air handling unit at Marl Pits Leisure Centre. This will reduce energy consumption at Marl Pits Leisure Centre, enabling a reduction in utility costs as well as contributing to our carbon reduction.
- 4.13. Practical measures implemented this year to reduce energy use and our carbon footprint have included servicing the solar PV at Futures Park, replacing the boiler at Henrietta Street depot office (with a more efficient boiler) and the installation of a hive heating management system at Marl Pits Pavilion and installation of four EV charging sockets at Futures Park and Henrietta Street waste transfer station.
- 4.14. The Council is progressively replacing our vehicle fleet with electric vehicles or low carbon alternatives at the point when they are due for replacement. The Council has commissioned a new electric van to be used as a service vehicle.
- 4.15. **Net Zero Terraced Streets and decarbonising Rossendale**
- 4.16. Working in partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE) and other partners, Net Zero Terraced Streets(NZTS) is an innovative approach to addressing the complex problem of decarbonising communities which due to the nature of the housing stock, i.e. terraced streets are unsuitable for retro fitting of technology such as Air Sourced Heat Pumps (ASHP's).
- 4.17. As part of Innovate UK's £60 million Net Zero Living programme, which is helping drive the government's Levelling Up agenda, a successful joint bid between Rossendale Borough Council, Rossendale Valley Energy and the Centre for Energy Equality provided funding to investigate the barriers to achieving Net Zero in communities.

- 4.18. The project is being delivered in three stages; Discovery, Alpha and Beta
- 4.19. The Discovery stage completed in June 2023, provided the initial scoping in overcoming the barriers to Net Zero and the Alpha stage which completed in March 2024, further explored the outputs required to deliver the NZTS including community and stakeholder engagement.
- 4.20. The NZTS project has been awarded a further £2.5m to deliver a demonstration scheme to promote a net zero heating solution for terrace houses in Rossendale.
- 4.21. The project is to be delivered by a partnership which includes Rossendale Valley Energy along with a range of other organisations in the public, private and community sectors to deliver different aspects of the project.
- 4.22. The funding has allowed the Council to appoint a Project Manager and a Project Officer to lead the coordination and delivery of the project including financial management, promotion, business and community engagement.
- 4.23. The project has been built around the need to bring together a partnership of technical expertise and community solutions so that an approach can be delivered without the need for the infrastructure of the national government or large metropolitan councils. The partnership therefore brings together:
- Rossendale Borough Council
 - Rossendale Valley Energy
 - Nuvision Energy • Urban Chain
 - IoT Horizon
 - Centre For Energy Equality
 - Kensa Utilities Ltd
 - Community Energy Association Ltd
 - Challock Energy
- 4.24. Details of the demonstration scheme is contained in Net Zero Terraced Street Funding which is in **Appendix 6**.
- 4.25. Funding totalling £171k was secured from On-Street Residential Charge point Scheme (ORCS), awarded by Department for Transport, Office for Zero Emission Vehicles to roll out 26 residential charging points across the Borough.
- 4.26. The ORCS funded Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure project will increase EV charging points in Council owned car parks and provide slower EV charging in 24/7 accessible car parks to support overnight charging.

Key projects delivered 2024/25

- 4.27. **On-street Residential EV charging infrastructure project**
- 4.28. We have completed the installation of 52 new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging sockets across multiple car parks in Rossendale. This was completed using funding from Department for Transport in collaboration with Connected Kerb and supported by Energy Saving Trust. As part of the Council's commitment to a cleaner, greener Borough, the EV charge points became fully operational on 15th November 2024 to serve residents, EV drivers, and visitors

4.29. **Rossendale Forest initiative**

4.30. The Rossendale Forest, the council's tree planting initiative to plant a tree for every child in the borough over three years- that is, 16000 trees between 2022 and 2025- has successfully planted more than 16,000 trees since the start of the project. As of November 2024, the initiative has planted 16,500 trees, exceeding its initial target of 16,000.

4.31. **Revised Climate Change Action Plan**

4.32. A preliminary Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) has previously been drafted to support delivery of the Climate Change Strategy, but further work on this has been necessary to ensure proposed actions are informed by the latest evidence (such as the baseline emissions findings of the Climate Change Study), feedback from senior officers across all service areas of the Council and incorporating clear Specific, Measurable, Achievable Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) actions

4.33. The revised CCAP updates the existing, preliminary Action Plan, which was prepared alongside the Climate Change Strategy. The purpose of the CCAP is to support delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy. The revised CCAP contains measures that will help reduce the Council's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, but also includes measures that will help reduce borough-wide emissions.

4.34. The revised CCAP contains several introductory chapters describing how actions have been identified; how the Council's estate and area greenhouse gas baseline has informed actions; how actions will be financed and resourced; and how the CCAP will be delivered and monitored.

4.35. The actions themselves are then presented, grouped by theme. The actions have been developed through a combination of means, including:

- a desk-based literature review to identify existing evidence on actions associated with reaching net zero, including reports produced by the Climate Change Committee and their recommendations to Government;
- consulting action plan toolkits and best practice case studies, such as the Local Government Association climate change hub;
- familiarisation with action plans from similar local authorities, including those across Lancashire with whom the Council will be working with to tackle climate change at a larger spatial scale;
- drawing on feedback from senior officers across all Service Areas of the Council at meetings held throughout January-June to ensure the actions are fit-for purpose and reflect service area plans;
- drawing on feedback from the lead Member for Climate Change and Member Climate Change Champion.

4.36. By implementing these changes, the Council's CCAP will become:

- more transparent and accountable
- more likely to achieve its intended environmental outcomes
- easier to track and evaluate progress
- more effective in attracting funding and partnerships

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- A risk register has been developed for the strategy as part of the Council's programme management process and these risks are monitored regularly. A public commitment has been made by the Council to do what it can locally to tackle climate change. This report limits the risk of not delivering on that commitment by putting the resources in place to ensure delivery. This report identifies ways in which the risk of non-delivery can be mitigated.
- Failure to adopt a comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) will have a serious impact on the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

6. FINANCE

- 6.1. Council approved a £1m capital Carbon Reduction Fund in February 2021, phased over 4 years commencing in 2021/22. To date £373k of this fund has been spent on Decarbonising RBC assets. The remainder of the fund will be allocated to support the delivery of this Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Where appropriate, reports will be developed to support this allocation of funds.
- 6.2. Production of the revised CCAP has been undertaken in-house. No additional resource implications beyond that provided for within the agreed climate change budget will be required.

7. LEGAL

- 7.1. There are no legal implications arising from this report. Each project will be subject to its own considerations on a case by case basis.
- 7.2. All of the projects/activities included in the CCAP which are underway, would have had their legal implications assessed. Future planned activities will need to have their legal implications considered at the relevant stages, as appropriate.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. All of the projects/activities included in the revised CCAP which are underway, would have had their equality implications assessed individually, where relevant. Future planned activities will need to have their equality implications considered at the relevant stages, as appropriate.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

- 9.1. In 2020, the Council made an ambitious commitment to play its part in reducing carbon emissions. The subsequent 4 years have seen significant progress towards achieving this. Continued development of the outlined projects will allow us to move forward to achieve our net zero ambition.
- 9.2. The adoption of the revised Climate Change Action Plan and implementation of outlined actions will ensure that we address the Climate Emergency that the Council declared in

2019, meet the strategic priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2025 and ensure we reach our net zero ambitions by 2030.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Appendix 1. Revised Climate Change Action Plan	attached
Appendix 2. Annual Report year 1	D1.%20Climate%20Change%20Update
Appendix 3. Annual Report year 2	C1.%20Climate%20change%20strategy%20update
Appendix 4. Annual Report year 3	C2.%20Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20Update
Appendix 5. Priority actions 2024/25	attached
Appendix 6. Net Zero Terraced Street Funding report	D4.%20Net%20Zero%20Terrace%20Streets%20Funding

NET ZERO ROSSENDALE

ACTION PLAN 2020 - 2030

Revised July 2024



NET ZERO ROSSENDALE

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Efficient Energy
Consumption



Sustainable
Transport



Waste and
Biodiversity



Working Together
in Partnership



1. Introduction

It is generally agreed that human-induced global warming is changing our climate. Scientific, peer-reviewed studies provide evidence that climate change has been exacerbated by human activity¹. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report which presented evidence indicating that efforts to combat climate change should seek to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C². The report highlighted that greenhouse gas emissions produced by industrial and agricultural processes from the early industrial era through to today will continue to impact our climate, leading to problems such as higher global temperatures and rising sea levels, resulting in extreme weather events, including flooding, heatwaves and drought. According to the IPCC, in order to ensure global temperatures do not exceed the limit of a 1.5 °C increase, global net human-induced carbon dioxide emissions need to reduce by about 45% by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050.

The UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommended in 2019 that the “UK should set and vigorously pursue an ambitious target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050, ending the UK’s contribution to global warming within 30 years”³. In May 2019, the UK Parliament also backed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency, and in June 2019 the UK became the first major economy in the world to pass legislation to bring greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050.

In response to this unprecedented challenge, Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) declared a Climate Emergency in September 2019. RBC committed to reaching net-zero carbon emissions in our estate and operations by 2030 and to work in partnership to reduce carbon emissions for the whole of Rossendale. In 2020, we published our climate change strategy setting out the framework for taking actions to achieve net-zero by 2030.

This action plan sets out how we can reduce carbon emissions across our operations and estate to reach net-zero by 2030 or sooner, as well as how we can work collectively with our partners and communities to deliver a net-zero Rossendale as stated in our climate change strategy. This plan will be reviewed annually to enable new issues, challenges, opportunities, and solutions to be considered, with projects added over the life of this document.

1 Harvey, J. A., Turgeon, K., Gals, R., Heine, R., Abaca, M., Abram, P. K., & Chow, S. L. (2023). Scientists' warning on climate change and insects. *Ecological monographs*, 93(1), e1553.

2 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2018). *Global Warming of 1.5 °C*. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

3 Committee on Climate Change (CCC). (2019). <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/>

2. Our Emissions

In 2019, soon after declaring a "Climate Emergency", RBC commissioned an assessment of the Council's carbon footprint, in order to understand our emission levels, identify priority areas for action, and check our progress towards making the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030. We worked with One Carbon World to assess our carbon footprint, including all our activities covered under scopes 1, 2, and 3 of the Green House Gas (GHG) protocol corporate standard (see Figure 1). Therefore, the baseline period of the 2019-2020 financial year is used as the most recently available data measuring the Council's carbon footprint.

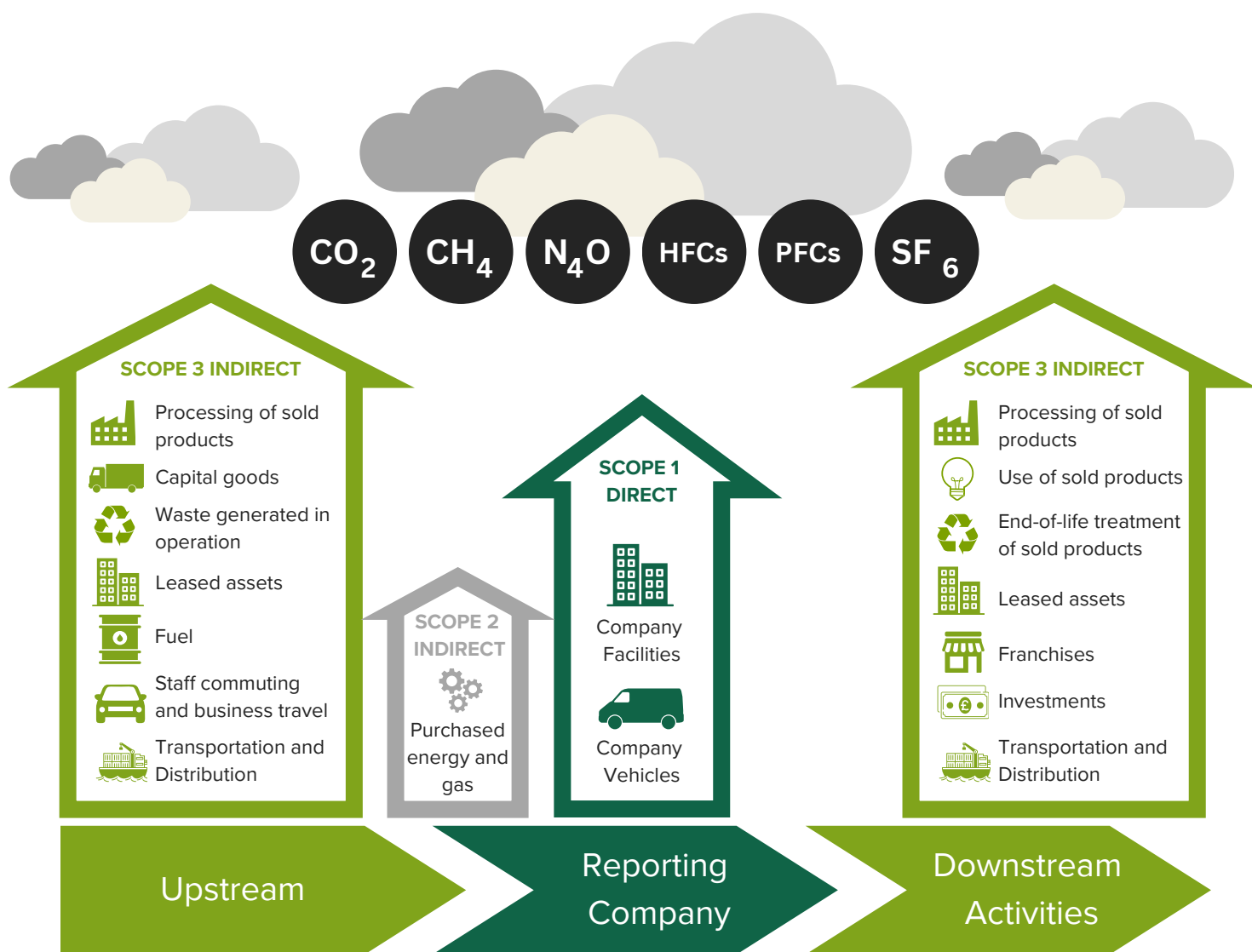
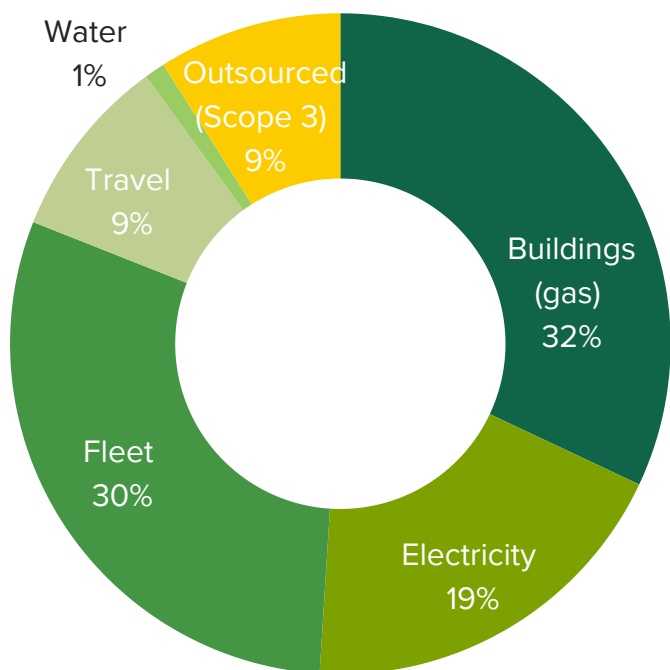


Figure 1 - Scope 1 - 3, Source - GHG Protocol

Net Zero Rossendale

For the 2019-2020 financial year, we calculated the carbon emissions resulting from our activities and operations as **2,028.13 tCO₂e** ("tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent", which is the standard measurement of emissions used by the GHG protocol).



As shown in Figure 2, our top three emission contributors are our buildings, vehicle fleet, and electricity. Therefore, we have prioritised decarbonising these three areas. In 2021, emissions from heating our buildings reduced by 10%.

Figure 2: RBC emissions Source: One Carbon World⁴

⁴ Rossendale Borough Council CO₂ report 2021 as provided by One Carbon World

Figure 3 presents borough-wide emissions data for Rossendale. In 2020, the total estimated carbon footprint for the Borough was 326,000 tCO₂e. The data indicates that transport was the largest carbon emitter, producing 36% of CO₂ emissions in the Borough. While the Council represents only 0.6% of the total emissions in the Borough, we are conscious that by leading the way to become net-zero ahead of the national 2050 timeline, we can demonstrate what can be achieved and inspire Rossendale residents and local businesses to join us on this rewarding journey.

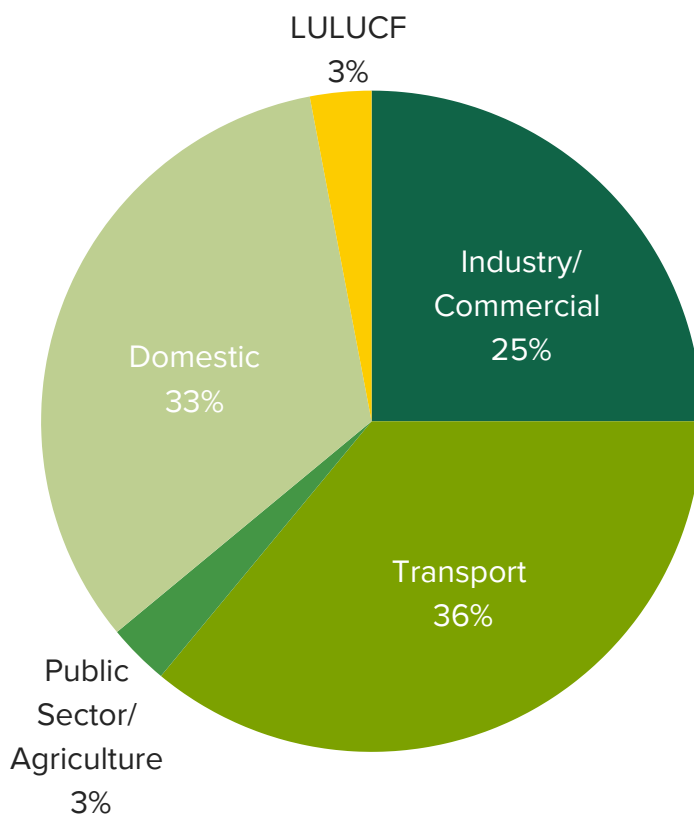


Figure 3: RBC sectoral GHG emissions (2019-2020). Source: BEIS⁵

⁵ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). (2022). UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2020>

3. Our Approach to Decarbonisation

We aim to ensure that the Council's activities and operations reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 and to work in partnership to reduce carbon emissions for the whole of Rossendale. To achieve net-zero, we must avoid and reduce carbon emissions as well as increase the amount of carbon that is removed from the atmosphere. It is important that we use our resources wisely for effective delivery of net-zero, taking cost-effective actions which have the greatest impact on reducing emissions.

Emissions Reduction Hierarchy

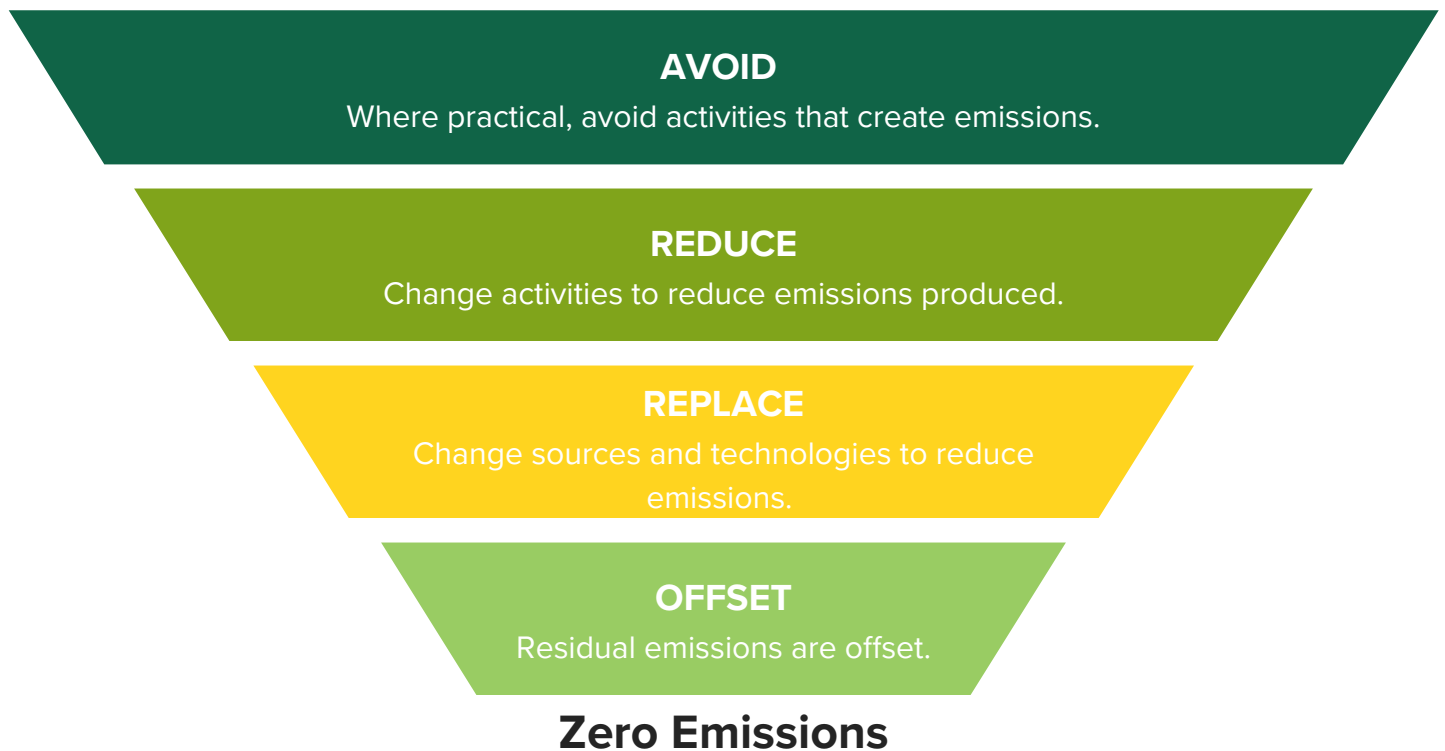


Figure 4: Emissions reduction hierarchy Source: [IEMA](#)

As highlighted in Figure 4, we will follow the internationally recognised emissions reduction hierarchy, an approach to cutting carbon emissions in the most efficient way. In line with the emission reduction hierarchy, avoiding the production of GHG emissions will come first in our plans, followed by taking steps to reduce our emissions. To reduce emissions, the Council will adopt four key areas of focus: efficient energy consumption, sustainable transport, waste and the wider environment, and working together in partnership.⁶

⁶ Rossendale Borough Council. (2020). Climate Change Strategy. <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/environment/climate-change>

Efficient Energy Consumption



Energy consumption in our buildings from gas and electricity contributed our largest emissions in 2020 (51%). Therefore, making our buildings more energy efficient has to be a priority, along with purchasing and generating renewable energy. To achieve this, we will focus on the following key objectives:

- Identify ways to reduce the consumption of energy in Council-owned buildings
- Work with local housing associations and private sector landlords to increase the use of home insulation and adopt other energy efficiency measures, identifying government funding where possible
- Review our planning guidelines and use these to encourage the construction of new buildings that have a lower carbon footprint in both construction and operation.
- Support energy-switching schemes that enable more residents to move to energy providers that use renewable sources to generate energy.

Sustainable Travel



Transport accounted for 39% of the Council's emissions and 36% of borough-wide emissions in 2020. We aim to deliver low-carbon transport options for all, whilst also promoting healthier travel options such as walking and cycling. To achieve this, we will focus on the following key objectives:

- Strive to switch all Council-owned fleet from petrol/diesel to low carbon alternatives including electric and Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)
- Install rapid electric car charging points across the Borough.
- Work with local public transport providers and Lancashire County Council to promote public transport options for residents commuting to work.
- Publicise walking and cycling routes within the Borough to encourage the use of travel options that are more sustainable.



Waste and Biodiversity



In 2018, UK-wide emissions from the waste management sector amounted to an estimated 0.1% of total GHG emissions in the UK (BEIS, 2019). However, if we consider emissions across the lifetime of products, from resource extraction and manufacturing, to disposal, the total emissions recorded from this sector would be significantly higher. Finding ways to ensure sustainable resource extraction, use, and end of life management of natural resources will support a transition to a circular economy and contribute to reducing waste streams such as plastics waste.

Meanwhile, experts have highlighted the importance of ecosystems and biodiversity in offsetting carbon emissions and mitigating some of the effects of climate change, including flooding. The Urban Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee Network (UFWACN) recommends that 20% tree canopy cover is a good aspiration and will unlock several benefits to the environment. Currently, tree cover across the Borough stands at just 5%. We need to explore opportunities to increase our tree canopy cover and enhance biodiversity.

To achieve our aim of reducing waste and impact on the wider environment, we will focus on the following key objectives:

- Work with Lancashire County Council to incentivise recycling and increase recycling and re-use rates to 45% by 2030.
- Introduce food waste collection.
- Work with local businesses, communities, and schools on a major tree planting scheme.
- Identify areas in the Borough to work on the enhancement of biodiversity and climate change mitigation schemes.





Working Together in Partnership



In 2020, the Council's carbon emissions represented 0.6% of emissions in the Borough. Therefore, to achieve our ambitions and make a significant impact, we need to work together in partnership with local businesses, institutions, community groups, and residents in the Borough. We need to establish the building blocks for a much broader partnership to tackle the Climate Emergency. To achieve this, we will focus on the following key objectives:

- Hold a Rossendale Climate Change Conference that brings people together to share ideas and to pledge to work together on the Climate Emergency and to protect our environment
- Establish Climate Change Champions across all sectors and support them to create wider networks for action.
- Create a public platform to track our progress on specific actions and targets, and help you to hold us accountable for taking the action we need.
- Support campaigns and initiatives across the district that deliver carbon savings and increase sustainability.

4. Governance

We have established project groups to ensure we deliver actions committed in this plan, to ensure that the changes benefit the full range of residents in the Borough and to ensure that money is spent appropriately. Table 1 identifies some of these groups and their roles, but it is not intended to be fixed, nor to list everyone that should be included.

Group	Members	Roles and Reporting
Climate Emergency Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Economic Development • Director of Resources • Lead Member for Climate Change 	<p>Overall responsibility for action plan delivery remaining on target and to budget</p> <p>Annual report to Cabinet</p>
Implementation Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Economic Development • Head of Environmental Services • Head of Finance • Head of Planning • Facilities Manager 	<p>Responsible for the delivery of projects and reporting progress to CMT and Executive leadership board</p>
Climate Emergency Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents • Stakeholders • Community groups 	<p>Public engagement, information sharing, reporting</p>

5. Funding

Delivering all the actions in this action plan requires significant funding. The pursuit of our net-zero ambitions and decarbonising the Borough is a top priority for RBC. The Council commits to spending £1m carbon reduction fund to improve energy efficiency of our buildings and other carbon saving technologies. It is important to highlight the carbon reduction fund will not be enough to fund all carbon reduction projects.

We need public and private funding, as well as businesses and residents using their own financial resources to take action, where possible. We will approach government departments, energy companies, and other partners to invest in the future of Rossendale, and will explore all finance options available, such as decarbonisation funds, social impact bonds, and other forms of blended finance.



6. Monitoring and Reporting

To deliver this plan effectively, we will need to monitor, evaluate and report our progress in reducing carbon emissions. We aim to produce an annual carbon emission report outlining our own operational carbon emissions for each financial year using the Green House Gas Accounting Tool developed by local partnership and the Local Government Association.

Across borough-wide emissions, we will utilise the UK Government Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) territorial carbon emissions data, released annually each summer.

An annual Climate Change Conference will be arranged to bring together stakeholders and interested parties in this agenda to review performance and plan the route forward. We will also create a platform for residents to be able to engage with and track our progress and performance so we can ensure we remain accountable.

ACTION PLAN

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Level	Estimated Costs	Carbon Savings
Low	Free or low cost measures	Limited carbon saving, single intervention
Medium	Some investment needed	Significant project or multiple interventions
High	Large capital projects	Large capital projects

Efficient Energy Consumption



Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Commission and develop a full energy audit of council buildings	Facilities Manager	September 2021	Low	One Carbon World Funding	Low	Identification of energy consumption and carbon output of council owned buildings and potential savings
Develop a building heat decarbonisation strategy and delivery plan	Director of Economic Development	August 2022	Medium	Existing salary budget	Low	Structured route to decarbonise council buildings
	Facilities Manager	Ongoing		External Funding (LCSF)		
Deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation of heat project to council buildings in line with Rossendale Borough Council building heat decarbonising strategy	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Medium	Existing salary budget	High	Lower energy use and associated carbon emissions in council buildings
	Facilities Manager			External Funding (PSDS, SPSF, LCSF)		
Apply for future funding to support building retrofit for council buildings and buildings in the Borough	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Increase energy performance of council buildings and homes across the Borough
	Head of Finance					
	Head of Legal					
Incorporate energy efficiency measures and other net zero interventions into Town Centre Regeneration plans for Rawtenstall, Bacup, Waterfoot and Haslingden	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Medium	Capital Regeneration Fund	High	Improved air quality, enhanced biodiversity and reduced carbon emissions in the Borough
	Head of Housing and Regeneration			External Funding (UKSPF)		

Net Zero Rossendale - Action Plan

Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Develop a supplementary planning document which sets the requirement to develop net zero enabled buildings, which are resilient to future climatic changes	Director of Economic Development Head of Planning	November 2022	Medium	Existing salary budget Local Plan review budget	Medium	Developers meet higher standards of sustainability and include provisions for electric vehicle charge points and renewable energy provisions by use of appropriate planning conditions
Work with East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce (ELCC) to conduct free carbon audits and provide advice to support businesses reduce their carbon emissions	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Low	External Funding (UKSPF)	Medium	Businesses taking up advice and available funding to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy costs and carbon emissions in the Borough
Work collaboratively with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE) to provide energy advice through the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) project and the Fairer Warmth App	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget External Funding (Innovate UK funding)	Medium	Increased numbers of households improving energy efficiency of their homes
Promote Government household energy efficiency support schemes including ECO flex and HUG	Housing Renewal Officer	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Energy efficiency in homes, reduction in fuel poverty and carbon emissions
Encourage the installation of appropriate renewable energy sources including solar and wind turbines to generate sustainable renewable energy	Director for Economic Development Head of Planning	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Allocation of sites for renewable energy projects in Local Plan review. Increased uptake of energy from renewable energy sources

Sustainable Transport



Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Develop a council fleet/plant decarbonisation plan to accelerate the shift to electric vehicles	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Low	Structured route to decarbonise council vehicle fleet/machinery
Explore greater remote/work from home arrangements for staff	HR Manager Head of IT	March 2026	Low	Existing salary budget	Low	Reduction in carbon emissions resulting from staff commuting to work
Procure electric pool cars for staff and encourage the use of public transport for business travel and commute to work	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	December 2020 Ongoing	Medium	Carbon Reduction Fund	Medium	Reduction in carbon emissions from staff travel
Explore options to switch council vans and maintenance vehicles to electric or ultra-low emission alternatives by 2027	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Medium	Carbon Reduction Fund Capital Replacement Budget	Medium	Reduction in carbon emissions from staff travel and operations
Monitor Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) cost and where feasible fuel fleet using HVO	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Medium	Carbon Reduction Fund HVO budget	Medium	Reduction in operational carbon emissions
Develop EV infrastructure strategy	Director for Economic Development	March 2026	Low	Existing salary budget	High	Strategy to address the Council's role in supporting transition to electric transport
Support Lancashire County Council to deliver LEVI funded EV charging infrastructure project to develop an expanded network of EV charge points across the district	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Low	External Funding (LEVI fund, ORCS fund)	High	Increase uptake of electric cars in the borough

Net Zero Rossendale - Action Plan

Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Support the implementation of Lancashire County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs)	Director for Economic Development Head of Planning	Ongoing	Low	External Funding (LCC funding) Developer contributions	High	Increasing the number of people across all sectors that regularly walk and cycle for both exercise and commuting to work or school/college
Work with local public transport providers to improve public transport service	Director for Economic Development Head of Planning	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Increasing the number of people across all sectors that regularly use public transport to commute for work or school/college
Ensure that all Council facilities are cycling friendly with facilities available to encourage staff to take up cycling	Facilities Manager	December 2026	Medium	Carbon Reduction Fund	Medium	Increasing the number of staff who cycle to commute to work

Waste and Biodiversity



Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Learn lessons from the successful “check before you chuck” programme and apply to food waste collection rollout	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Increase recycling rates in the Borough to 45% by 2030
Explore the potential for collaborating with local charities and organisations to segregate and redistribute good quality products from households	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Increase in reuse, diversion of waste and a transition to a circular economy
Develop and deliver Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs) on Council owned land	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Medium	Existing salary budget External Funding	Medium	Flood mitigation
Implement the Biodiversity Net Gain approach in planning	Head of Planning	Ongoing	Medium	Existing salary budget External Funding	Medium	Increased biodiversity across the Borough
Explore opportunities for the Council to be a biodiversity and carbon offset provider on Council owned land	Director for Economic Development Head of Planning	July 2026	Medium	Existing salary budget External Funding	Medium	Increased biodiversity across the Borough and removal of carbon emissions from atmosphere
Increase tree cover of Rossendale Forest by 2 hectares per year	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	December 2025	Medium	Existing salary budget External Funding	Medium	Increase tree canopy cover towards the national average

Net Zero Rossendale - Action Plan

Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Address the impact of extreme heat in regeneration schemes	Director for Economic Development	December 2026	Medium	Existing salary budget External Funding	Medium	Increase adaptation to impacts of extreme heat. Assist with the design codes for Rossendale, needed for the Local Plan Review

Net Zero Rossendale - Action Plan

Working Together in Partnership



Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Hold annual Rossendale Climate Change Conference	Director for Economic Development	April 2025	Low	Existing salary budget Carbon Reduction Fund	Low	Increase in awareness of climate change issues and participation in environmentally positive behaviours
Establish community climate action group	Director for Economic Development	March 2025	Low	Existing salary budget	Low	Increase in awareness of climate change issues and participation in environmentally positive behaviours
Explore opportunities to deliver carbon literacy education and training	Director of Economic Development HR Manager	April 2025	Low	Existing salary budget Carbon Reduction Fund	Low	Greater carbon literacy leading to Council progress to Carbon Literate Organisation silver status and beyond
Work in partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE) on Net Zero Terrace Streets project	Director of Economic Development Head of Planning	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget External Funding (Innovate UK funding)	Medium	Reduced energy demand for domestic activities
Pursue local and regional partnerships with other councils to implement RBC climate action plan	Director for Economic Development	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Low	Borough-wide collaborative activity to deliver carbon emissions reduction
Work in partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy to develop opportunities to involve young people in climate action, including the Energy Heroes initiative	Director of Economic Development Head of Planning	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget External Funding (Innovate UK funding)	Medium	Increase in awareness of issues and participation in environmentally positive behaviours

Net Zero Rossendale - Action Plan

Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Work in partnership with Electricity North West to plan deliver and promote Rossendale Council's climate action plans	Director for Economic Development Head of Housing and Regeneration	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Borough-wide collaborative activity to reduce carbon emissions
Establish a system to monitor annual carbon emissions to track progress, raise public awareness and maximise carbon reduction benefits.	Director for Economic Development Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team Facilities Manager	April 2025	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Accurate monitoring of reduction in carbon emissions, carbon accountability and raising public awareness

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Rosendale Borough Council,
The Business Centre,
Futures Park, Bacup,
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Net Zero Rossendale Priority Actions 2024/25



Efficient Energy Consumption

Action	Responsibility	Detailed Activities	Update	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Completion date
1. Deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation of heat project to council buildings including Henrietta Street depot office building, Marl Pits Leisure Centre and Futures Park	Jane Riley Nichola Fenton-Clough Kwabena Poku	Develop Building Heat Decarbonisation Plan (BHDP) for the Council Implement recommendations of energy audits for Marl Pits Leisure Centre and Henrietta Street depot office	£290k funding secured by the Council from Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) to install new air handling unit and improve energy efficiency at Marl Pits £38k funding secured by the Council from the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) to develop a BHDP	Medium	Carbon Reduction Fund Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) Existing salary budget	SPSF project-March 2025 LCSF project-March 2025
2. Apply for future funding to support decarbonisation of Marl Pits Leisure Centre	David Smurthwaite Chris Warren Clare Birtwistle	Seek additional funding where appropriate – e.g. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)	PSDS phase 4 application in progress	Estimated £300k PSDS Phase 4 project match funding if grant is approved	Existing salary budget Carbon Reduction Fund	November 2024
3. Deliver campaigns to provide energy advice for the home and promote Government household energy efficiency support schemes including ECO flex and HUG	Kwabena Poku Kelly Jenkinson Jackie Flynn Lauren Dickens Natalie Whitham	Continue to work with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE) to deliver Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) and Net Zero Terraced Streets (NZTS) Project Housing services supporting household applications for available funding including ECO-flex, HUG and Cosy Homes grants	LEAD project progressing NZTS project progressing Government household energy efficiency support schemes highlighted on updated RBC website	Low	Existing salary budget Innovate UK funding Government household heating/energy support funding	Ongoing
4. Identify and exploit opportunities for the installation of renewable energy storage on Council land	Kwabena Poku	Research to identify opportunities for the installation of renewable energy sources including solar and wind farms progressing	Discussions with Planning and Property Services	Low	Existing salary budget	March 2025
5. Incorporate the Council's net zero plans into town centre regeneration plans	Megan Eastwood Kwabena Poku	Economic Development team working with Climate Change Programme Officer to incorporate low carbon interventions in all regeneration projects	Plans to install low carbon heating, EV charging infrastructure and solar PV at Rawtenstall and Bacup market	Medium	Levelling up fund	Ongoing

Sustainable Transport

Action	Responsibility	Detailed Activities	Update	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Completion date
6. Implement council fleet decarbonisation plan to accelerate the shift to electric vehicles	Andy Taylor Kwabena Poku	Carbon audit of RBC fleet completed DNO application for information about electricity capacity at Henrietta Street Depot to support EV fleet expansion completed	Recommendations of detailed carbon audit conducted for Environmental Services/ Operations to inform fleet decarbonisation plan One EV charging point (two sockets) installed at Futures Park and two at Henrietta Street depot New EV service van purchased-September 2024	Medium	Capital replacement budget Carbon Reduction Fund	Ongoing
7. Develop an expanded network of EV charging points across the district adding to existing provision and working with partners to identify where more are needed.	David Smurthwaite Kwabena Osei Poku	Deliver On-street Residential Chargepoints Scheme (ORCS) funded community EV infrastructure project	26 EV charging points (52 sockets) in the Borough will be commissioned on November 18 th	£171k	ORCS grant	November 2024
8. Work with local public transport providers to improve public transport service	Kwabena Poku	Evidence from residents survey to pursue with transport providers	Public transport providers have promised changes	Low	Existing salary budget	Ongoing

Waste and the Wider Environment

Action	Responsibility	Detailed Activities	Update	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Completion date
9. Deliver initiatives to increase reuse, recycling and waste prevention.	Andy Taylor	Apply lessons from “Check before you chuck” campaign to prepare for food waste collection	Preparation for food waste collection progressing Preparatory work for new waste transfer station progressing	Low	Existing salary budget	Ongoing
10. Partner with local charities and organisations to segregate and redistribute good quality products from households.	Kwabena Poku Jackie Flynn	Engage with local charities and organisations involved in redistribution of food and products from supermarkets and households	Stakeholder engagement ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	March 2025
11. Increase tree coverage across the Borough	David Smurthwaite Kwabena Poku	Develop tree planting strategy to provide a clear direction on land acquisition, types	Internal discussions and consultation on tree planting strategy has commenced	Low	Existing salary budget	March 2025

	David McChesney	of trees and stakeholder engagement Explore funding opportunities to start a new tree planting project	16000 tree target for Rossendale Forest initiative achieved- spring 2024			
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Working Together in Partnership

Action	Responsibility	Detailed Activities	Update	Estimated Cost	Funding source	Completion date
12. Hold annual Rosendale Climate Change Conference	David Smurthwaite Kwabena Poku Stephen Sykes Jackie Flynn	Planning for annual Climate Change Conference is in progress	Discussions about agenda and venue Initial contact with prospective speakers and stakeholders	Low	Existing salary budget Carbon Reduction Fund	March 2025
13. Deliver carbon literacy education and training to staff	Kwabena Poku	Book carbon literacy training course for RBC staff and Councillors	40 RBC staff and Councillors to be trained by March 2025	Low	Existing salary budget LCSF Phase 5 project social value support	March 2025
14. Net Zero Terraced Streets project	David Smurthwaite Kwabena Poku Lauren Dickens Natalie Whitham	Work with RVE to deliver Net Zero Terraced Streets (NZTS) project	Community Engagement as part of Net Zero Terrace- Alpha phase completed	Low	Existing salary budget Innovate UK funding	SIF Alpha phase of NZTS completed- March 2024 NZTS Pathfinders 2 - ongoing
15. Pursue local and regional partnerships to implement RBC climate action plan and influence regional climate change agenda	David Smurthwaite Kwabena Poku Cllr Adrian Lythgoe	RBC to continue the partnership with RVE and East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce	Council officers have been attending the Lancashire Climate Officers' quarterly meeting Council officer presented at East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce/ RedCAT meeting in April	Low	Existing salary budget	Ongoing
16. Promote the Climate Action Network and develop opportunities for young people to shape climate action	Kwabena Poku Jackie Flynn	Relaunch Climate Action Network and promote Network on RBC website Continue to work with RVE on LEAD project Working closely with schools	Climate emergency section on the Council website updated in April 2024 Climate Change Officer held meeting with head teacher of St James school (Haslingden) in September to discuss the Council's decarbonisation plans and how to involve young people in shaping climate action	Low	Existing salary budget	Ongoing

<p>17. Establish a system to monitor annual emission to track progress, raise public awareness and maximise carbon reduction benefits.</p>	<p>Andy Taylor Kwabena Poku Jane Riley</p>	<p>Develop emission monitoring plan Explore the use of building energy use monitoring systems for possible use in Council owned buildings</p>	<p>Work on emission monitoring plan progressing Plan to install gas and electric usage monitoring system at Futures Park by end of November</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Existing salary budget Carbon Reduction Fund</p>	<p>March 2025</p>
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