



Rossendale
BOROUGH COUNCIL

2020-2030

CLIMATE CHANGE

Strategy



**THIS IS A REAL EMERGENCY
THAT WE ARE FACING AND
WE NEED TO ACT NOW
TO PREVENT DEVASTATING IMPACT
ON OUR CLIMATE AND OUR LIVES.**

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FOREWORD

In September 2019, Rossendale Borough Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' and pledged to take action. This is a real emergency that we are facing and we need to act now to prevent devastating impact on our climate and our lives.

We are a small borough but we have our part to play – as does every individual who lives here and every business that trades here.

As a council, we can take action to make sure that we reach Carbon Zero by 2030 and this strategy sets the framework for achieving that goal.

We would like to see the whole borough reach the same target by the same date and we will be working in partnership with you to do that.

Everyone has a role to play simply by the personal choices we make. For example in the way we travel and use energy, by planting a tree or just passing on the message. Please join us and help us to reach our target and do our bit in the fight against climate change.



Cllr Julie Adshead
Member Champion for Climate Change

We recognise that our council has an important role to help our residents and businesses to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on climate change.

These include saving money on energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, supporting new sources of energy, managing local flood-risk and water scarcity and protecting our natural environment. This Strategy and Action Plan sets out our commitment to achieving our goals in relation to reducing our carbon footprint.



Neil Shaw
Chief Executive for Rossendale Borough Council



EVERYONE
HAS A ROLE
TO PLAY

Rossendale
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Net Zero

Introduction

As a council we are passionately committed to improving the environment. The world's climate is changing and we are keen to do all we can to take positive action locally to make a contribution to reducing our carbon consumption and tackling climate change.

We are clear that human activities are leading to climate change at a scale and pace that threatens our quality of life and that of future generations. Such a global challenge requires a global response, and we are keen to do our bit at a local level and provide leadership on this issue which is becoming of increasing public concern.

The UK Government has agreed to take a lead globally by setting a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In 2019 the council formally declared a 'climate emergency' and committed to taking urgent action.

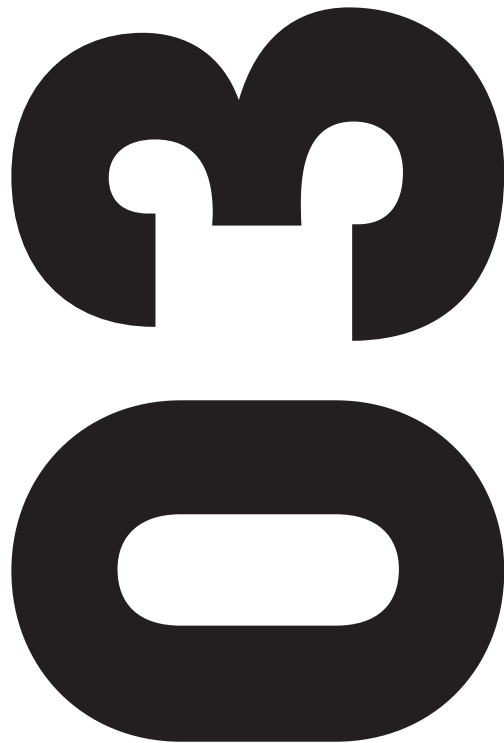
Everyone has a role to play. We are keen to show strong local leadership on this issue but know this cannot be achieved alone.

A crucial part of this strategy is to foster the energy of all those living and working in Rossendale to make a difference to all our futures. This will include working with local businesses on steps to become net zero emitters of carbon.

We will work with local communities to promote greater awareness of the role they can play in reducing their carbon consumption and providing practical approaches to reduce, reuse and recycle. Mobilising our young people will be a crucial aspect, and by working with our schools and colleges we can develop new and innovative ways to change behaviour and reduce our collective impact on the environment.

We are already doing much to make a positive impact on climate change, such as sustainable transport, recycling and insulating homes. This ambitious strategy goes further than ever before to protect our environment by working together to have a positive impact both locally and globally.









Our Commitments

Our aims are to make the council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030 and to work in partnership to reduce carbon emissions for the whole of Rossendale.

Currently, in Rossendale, each person is responsible for an average of ten tonnes of carbon emissions each year. This equates to 24 million balloons per person. It is our aim to reduce that figure significantly. Through its corporate strategy the Council is committed to, and already working towards, a cleaner and greener borough.

TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT, THE COUNCIL WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

-  **Efficient energy consumption;**
-  **Sustainable transport;**
-  **Waste and the wider environment;**
-  **Working together in partnership.**

We will not achieve the impact that we all wish to see by acting alone, and we are committed to bringing together statutory partners, the voluntary, education and business sectors and our communities to reduce our collective impact on the environment.

Rossendale has been deeply impacted recently by the Covid 19 outbreak. This has prompted major changes in people's behaviours and it has demonstrated how we can reduce our reliance on carbon-based travel and make a switch to cycling and walking.

We must embrace this opportunity to change behaviours permanently and empower our young people to be vocal ambassadors for greater environmental awareness.

This will all develop over time, but this strategy and the action plan that will deliver its aims will lay the foundations for a much broader social movement that allows everyone to play their part.

3.1 EFFICIENT ENERGY CONSUMPTION

We believe that a key contribution to tackling climate change is both a reduction in the overall consumption of energy and the adoption of more renewable energy sources to fulfil our local demand. We will show community leadership by reducing our own overall carbon-based energy consumption and actively move to more renewable sources of energy generation.

By better understanding the council's current carbon 'footprint' we will be able to measure our success in reducing this.

We will work with local businesses and housing providers to encourage them to adopt similar approaches, particular in higher energy consuming businesses like manufacturing. We will promote energy saving initiatives to local communities to encourage the wider take up of such approaches.

WE WILL FOCUS ON DRIVING THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES:

- Reaching a carbon-zero position for the Council's activities by 2030;
- Reducing the Council's overall energy consumption by 50 percent by 2030;
- Obtaining our energy needs from renewable sources;
- Increasing the number of businesses and households who source their utilities from renewable sources.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- Commission an assessment of the Council's carbon footprint;
- Identify ways to reduce the consumption of energy in council owned buildings;
- Work with local housing associations and private sector landlords to increase home insulation and adopt other energy efficiency measures, identifying government funding where possible;
- Review our planning guidelines and use these to encourage new buildings that have a lower carbon footprint both in construction and operation;
- Support energy switching schemes that enable more residents to move to energy providers using renewable sources;
- Engage in a public education campaign to promote the benefits of reduced energy use and switching to renewables.

3.2 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Nearly 30 percent of all carbon emissions are due to transport. Moving to more environmentally sustainable forms of transport will play a significant role in reducing overall carbon emissions.

This includes replacing older heavily polluting vehicles with newer technologies and people using vehicles less. We will improve our vehicles whilst also promoting healthier travel options such as walking and cycling.

The Council's development of the new bus station in Rawtenstall is a visible commitment to our approach for better public transport and we are keen to work with government on even more ambitious developments in the future such as a modern rail route into Great Manchester.

WE WILL FOCUS ON DRIVING THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES:

- Moving all council fleet vehicles away from carbon-based diesel/petrol power;
- Increasing the proportion of our staff who are taking more sustainable forms of transport to get to work;
- Increasing the proportion of local people who are walking or cycling to work.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- The use of electric pool cars for staff so that no work mileage uses petrol / diesel-powered vehicles;
- Switching all council owned vehicles from petrol / diesel to electric;
- Support staff who wish to walk or cycle to work by providing good changing facilities and promote the bike to work scheme;
- 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 work;
- Encourage more sustainable travel within the Borough through publicising walking and cycling routes;
- Continuing to seek external funding for sustainable transport infrastructure projects, in particular a fast rail link to Greater Manchester and the North West;
- Promote the wider take up of cycling and improve the Borough's cycling infrastructure;
- Work with local businesses towards eco-friendly fleet.

3.3 WASTE AND THE WIDER ENVIRONMENT

The reduction in certain waste streams such as single-use plastics can play a role in the fight against climate change. More so, the production of energy from waste can make a considerable contribution. Waste reduction and recycling also benefit our environment in other ways and affect the legacy that we leave for future generations.

Each year our residents create around 23,600 tonnes of domestic waste. We are proud that we already play a leading role in making better use of the Borough's waste. Currently around 7,400 tonnes of this is sent for recycling each year. This is a good start but we need to do more. Currently we recycle around 33% of the borough's domestic waste but the average English borough council is recycling around 49%.

Businesses also generate significant levels of waste and we are keen to explore ways businesses can reduce the level of resources they consume and maximise the level of waste which can be recycled.

We also need to look at issues such as land use and afforestation in the fight against climate change. Alongside this, there needs to be a focus on biodiversity and ecosystems in order to protect our environment for future generations as well as mitigating against some of the effects of climate change such as flooding.

WE WILL FOCUS ON DRIVING THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES:

- Increasing the proportion of domestic waste which is recycled or used for energy production;
- Reducing certain waste streams;
- Increasing tree cover;
- Enhancing biodiversity.



TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- Work with Lancashire County Council to incentivise recycling and increase recycling and re-use rates to 45% by 2025;
 - Increase the number of residents taking up the garden waste service by 10 percent per annum over the next three years;
 - Increase the proportion of local commercial waste which is recycled by 50 percent per annum over the next three years through a Council scheme for commercial waste collection and disposal and additional promotion;
 - Introduce food waste collection;
 - Investigate the possibilities of using our waste for energy production;
 - Identify council owned sites suitable for increased tree coverage;
 - Work with local businesses, communities and schools on a major tree planting scheme;
 - Ban the procurement of single use plastics for all council services and events by June 2022;
 - Embed carbon reduction objectives in major procurement activities;
 - Encourage other public service providers to adopt carbon reduction initiatives;
 - Review all Council procurement to achieve the best value balance between cost and environmental harm;
 - Engage in a public education programme promoting local organically grown produce;
 - Identify areas in the Borough to work on the enhancement of biodiversity and climate change mitigation schemes.
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3.4 WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP

To achieve our ambitions and make a real impact, we need to work together in partnership.

We can all make a positive difference to our carbon footprints.

We know that a new house can involve the production of 50 tonnes of carbon and by working with local housing providers and through government grants this could possibly be reduced.



We know that transport and older vehicles can be a major contributor to carbon emissions and other harmful pollutants. Promoting more efficient vehicles could help reduce these pollutants.

We want to identify leaders in each sector to champion change and to share the many opportunities that exist for reducing emissions.

We also know that the willingness and enthusiasm to address climate change has never been greater and that young people can be very powerful influencers. By working with schools and colleges, we can harness this enthusiasm to encourage behaviour change across all age groups.

This strategy sets out clear actions for the council. But it also establishes the building blocks for a much broader partnership to tackle the climate emergency.

TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP AND HAVE THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE IMPACT ON IMPROVING OUR COLLECTIVE CARBON FOOTPRINT, WE WILL:

-  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.





NO

Case Studies



4.1 EFFICIENT ENERGY CONSUMPTION

CASE STUDY: FUTURES PARK SOLAR PANELS

In 2012 Rossendale Borough Council installed solar panels on its Futures Park offices. The installation of the solar panels was a £112,000 investment for our future within a 25 year plan.

In the eight years since the solar panels were installed they have produced 553,043 KWH of electricity and for every KWH produced we receive 11.5p from the Government subsidy - The Feed in Tariff (FIT). Over this period the total FIT is £63,599.

Through the solar panels, we are producing approximately a third of the electricity we need for Futures Park therefore we no longer need to purchase this from the National Grid at the cost 12.5 per KWH making an annual approximate saving of £4,000 and a total saving over the eight years of £32,000.

Unused electricity produced through the solar panels is exported back into the National Grid for which we are paid 4.5p KWH. Annually this equates to £1,500.



£32,000

Saved in the 8 years since investment in solar panels

4.2 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

CASE STUDY: ELECTRONIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Rossendale Borough Council and six other local authorities have set out to improve the infrastructure of their respective districts. Together they set out a tender to formally develop electric charging point infrastructures within the districts aimed in particular at the taxi and private hire trade.

Rossendale Borough Council went about this procedure after consulting other councils about their electric taxis. This led to a company doing consultation work with RBC to produce and show RBC and taxi owners the positives in switching to electric vehicles.

The company in question ran a workshop for RBC staff and councillors to show why electric charging point infrastructure is going to be needed. It was decided that RBC and the six other local authorities would join together in a bid to gain funding to develop charging points within each council's district. The charging points are being constructed for taxis, but members of the public are free to use them when they are not in use.



4.2 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

CASE STUDY: EAST LANCASHIRE CYCLEWAY

The creation of an East Lancashire Strategic Cycleway Network was proposed in the East Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan, which was approved in February 2014.

The masterplan sets out the transport priorities for East Lancashire until 2021.

PRIORITIES WITHIN THE MASTERPLAN INCLUDE:

- Improving access to areas of economic growth and regeneration;
- Providing better access to education and employment;
- Improving people's quality of life.



The Valley of Stone is 16.5km long and connects Rawtenstall to Waterfoot, Bacup and Whitworth to the Lancashire border with Rochdale at Healey Dell, as well as providing access to employment sites, communities and linking towns along the Rossendale valley.

It is built on the former railway line and when completed will provide a sustainable travel alternative to using the busy roads which run along the main valley floor.

4.3 WASTE AND THE WIDER ENVIRONMENT

CASE STUDY: WASTE

There are challenges in increasing recycling and achieving efficiencies in waste collection, in a borough as rural and diverse as Rossendale.

The fact that the council must collect waste from several different property types – including terraced housing, houses with multiple occupants, medium density flats, hard to reach properties – means that finding a solution that meets the needs of citizens, as well as the aspirations of a sustainable borough, is difficult.

There can be no “one-size-fits-all” solution, and we need to work with communities to tackle waste and improve recycling across Rossendale.

We also know that in some of the terraced areas of the borough, recycling rates are quite low, which is challenged further in areas of rented accommodation. This is a challenge that must be met with greater support and improved education.

More broadly, the world market for waste is changing, meaning that, as a borough, we will all have to do more.

Unless we do so, the financial cost of dealing with waste in the borough, not to mention the global environmental cost, will simply become too high.


A strategy will play an important role in helping to keep Rossendale streets clean in addition to waste and recycling benefits.

The Council’s Recycling and Waste Management Strategy is to be reviewed every three years, with the initial strategy covering the period 2019-22.



**“The eyes of all future generations
are upon you...”**

Greta Thunberg





An aerial photograph of the Rossendale valley in Lancashire, England, taken during the 'golden hour' of sunset. The landscape is a patchwork of green fields, hedgerows, and clusters of trees. In the distance, rolling hills and a small town are visible under a sky filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. A prominent green vertical bar is on the left side of the image.

Rossendale

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Cover Photo Credit: John Hartley ©