

West Berkshire Environment Strategy Delivery Plan

Carbon Neutral by 2030

Short term:
Now - March 2023

- Assess WBC's assets
- Establish CO₂ baseline for WBC
- 100% Renewable energy for WBC
- Research Carbon Neutrality Quality Standard
- Research accredited carbon offsetting schemes
- Adapt Committee Report Templates to incorporate CO₂/ Environmental Impact/s
- Develop a Climate Change Bond Scheme
- Develop & implement a Social Value Policy
- Develop and publish West Berkshire's Tree Strategy

Medium term:
April 2023 – March 2026

- Develop a rolling programme of installation for renewable energy technology
- Deliver ULEV strategy Actions
- Audit WBC's Building Portfolio to identify improvements
- Undertake Energy Mapping Exercise with key stakeholders
- Explore the opportunity for procuring new land to support renewables and carbon offsetting
- Urban Tree Planting
- Assess WBC land for potential solar farm & subject to the findings, build a solar farm
- Develop Carbon Budgets for WBC
- Work with public transport operators to support the recovery of passenger numbers following COVID
- Replace the Council's remaining high intensity traffic lights with LED technology

Long term/ongoing :
April 2026- March 2030

- Work with public transport operators to increase the use of public transport.

- Ensure WBC actively monitors and participates in relevant national / regional strategic and policy consultations
- Investigate a joined up approach to natural regeneration including rewilding, tree planting, carbon capture and habitat conservation and creation across West Berkshire
- Work with community groups to develop proposals for the installation of renewable energy
- Work closely with landowners and farming/ agricultural communities to explore opportunities for natural sequestration through environmental land management techniques.

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Responsible Economic Growth

Short term:
Now - March 2023

- Ensure the Environment Strategy aims & objectives are reflected in the Local Plan
- Develop the next Local Transport Plan for the district

Medium term:
April 2023 – March 2026

- Undertake a district heat mapping project
- Develop an Energy Strategy for the district
- Investigate the potential for district heat networks
- Study the viability of implementing Smart Cities initiatives
- Explore incentives for businesses to be more sustainable & seek to incorporate these into the Economic Development Strategy

Long term/ongoing :
April 2026- March 2030

- Deliver the actions from the Energy Strategy
- Lobby for high environmental standards to be reflected in National Building Control Standards
- Work with local education providers to enhance knowledge of climate change in young people
- Develop communications to help grow new and existing green businesses and enable them to make environmentally conscious choices
- Lead by example and significantly reduce the presence of single use plastic for Council activities and work with the waste industry to improve recycling options
- Explore ways to emphasise and support the role that farming and agriculture has in our local economy and the ways in which they can contribute to addressing climate change

Healthy Communities

Short term:
Now - March 2023

- Development of the Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
- Install a network of permanent automatic active travel monitoring sites
- Pilot a 'School Streets' Initiative
- Implement a new travel policy for WBC staff
- Introduce covered and secure cycle storage at all secondary schools

Medium term:
April 2023 – March 2026

- Investigate the potential for adult and family cycle training courses.

- Deliver the priority routes identified in the Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
- Deliver Cycle Hubs in Theale and Newbury & investigate the feasibility of further cycle hubs

- Encourage and promote the take up of emerging sustainable transport technologies through collaboration with technology companies and government trials
- Ensure all primary schools have covered and secure cycle storage

- Work with partners to encouraging people to use green and blue spaces and to encourage access to the countryside.
- Work with partners and WBC's Public Health and Education Services to encourage children to be closer to nature
- Continue to provide cycle training for children
- Invest in walking and cycling routes and provide road safety education and safety training
- Ensure our communities are aware of options to travel sustainably and work to encourage take up of these options
- Work with local businesses to promote sustainable travel by staff

Long term/ongoing :
April 2026- March 2030

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Resilient to Climate Change

Short term:
Now - March 2023

- Review and update WBC's Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Assess all highway verges to assess the feasibility of wild flower growth
- Make West Berkshire a plastic free Council.
- Review WBC's Sustainable Drainage Policy

Medium term:
April 2023 – March 2026

- Implement a maintenance regime to encourage wild flower growth on verges identified as having potential

Long term/ongoing :
April 2026- March 2030

- Work with partners to develop Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects to allow catchment wide adaptation to flooding
- Work with Thames Water to deliver higher resistance to droughts
- Build on the success of the Pang and Lambourn Valley Flood Forums to make communities more resilient to flood risk & to improve communication on flood risk
- Raising awareness within the Council to ensure our activities align with the aims of the Environment Strategy
- Reuse, recycle and compost at least 60% of municipal waste we handle by 2030
- Investigate the feasibility of a rewilding scheme on Council owned land and where suitable implement a pilot project

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Working with our Communities

Short term:
Now - March 2023

Medium term:
April 2023 – March 2026

Long term/ongoing :
April 2026- March 2030

- Implement a kerbside collection system that is fully compliant with the minimum service standards required by the UK Government by 2025
- Provide separate food waste collections to all eligible households by 2025, subject to the availability of funding from the Government
- Collection of at least the core set of dry recyclable materials by April 2025

- Develop communications, including the website to ensure communities can access up to date information, make good environmental decisions & feel engaged
- Improve our use of technology to increase accessibility to environmental information, events and debate
- Work closely with landowners and farming / agricultural communities to explore opportunities for natural sequestration through environmental and land management techniques
- Produce an annual progress report and update of the delivery plan
- Seek to develop strategic partnerships with stakeholders and organisations
- Encourage residents to recycle to minimise the waste sent to landfill
- The continuation of the provision of separate garden waste collections from households.
- Work with partners to maximise the benefits of infrastructure investment through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Providing landlords and home owners with advice on funding to improve energy efficiency and affordability
- Support residents to assist with energy switching to ensure they have the most affordable tariffs and linking these to green energy initiatives