Environment Strategy

2025 Refresh

West Berkshire
COUNCIL

Contents

Foreword

Tackling the climate and ecological emergencies is one of the defining challenges of our time. At West Berkshire Council, we recognise the urgency and the responsibility we share to act decisively and collaboratively. This refreshed Environment Strategy marks the next step in our challenging journey—a renewed commitment, grounded in action, ambition, and accountability.

Since the launch of our original strategy in July 2020, we have made meaningful progress. But the scale of the challenge demands more. This updated strategy reflects the lessons we've learned, the evolving best practices, and the growing momentum in our organisation and across our communities. It sets out the projects we are planning which will reduce our emissions and help us on our pathway to net zero. You will also read about the key themes that will guide our Delivery Plan—focusing our efforts where they can have the greatest impact.

Whilst the responsibility for achieving the Council's pathway to net zero by 2030 lies firmly with us, there is a greater challenge of influencing and assisting in the District's journey to net zero. For this, our approach is rooted in partnership. We know it is not something the Council can achieve alone. It requires the collective effort of residents, businesses, community groups, and regional partners. Together, we can build a greener, fairer, and more resilient West Berkshire.

Whilst much of our focus will be achieving net zero for the Council's activities, I hope this Strategy Refresh will inspire communities, businesses and other organisations to have the same focus as we strive to include environmental sustainability at the heart of everything we do. We invite you to join us in making that vision a reality.

Councillor Stuart Gourley
Executive Member for Environment and Highways

1. Introduction

1.1 The climate emergency is one of the largest challenges we face. In 2023 concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions reached a record high and summer 2024 was the hottest summer on record globally. There are actions we can take both individually and as organisations to help mitigate the multitude of impacts, but we must act now.

1.2 On 2nd July 2019, West Berkshire Council declared a climate emergency. Subsequently, we developed and published a comprehensive and ambitious Environment Strategy (in 2020) which set out our intentions for achieving net zero by 2030.

1.3 To support the objectives of the Environment Strategy, we produced a detailed Environment Strategy Delivery plan which states the actions, responsibilities and timescales required to achieve the intentions within the Environment Strategy.

1.4 A great deal has changed in the past 5 years. This has included the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, a change in the Council's administration and a change in national government. A new 'Climate Change Service' was created within the Environment Department in April 2023 to help direct, deliver and focus work on climate action. We've learnt from our experience, reflected on our existing approach, and considered new ideas, research and policy to develop a refreshed strategy to achieve our objectives.

1.5 We've updated some of our terminology. Our target now states we want to achieve net zero emissions for council activities by 2030, as opposed to being carbon neutral by 2030. The reason for this is because net zero incorporates all greenhouse gas emissions, not just carbon dioxide. In addition, net zero aims to first significantly reduce emissions to as low as can be achieved, and then offset any remaining emissions, which is the council's intention. This aligns us with the approach of Government and other Local Authorities.

1.6 We also declared an ecological emergency on 5th October 2023; this means we have recognised the urgency to protect nature and will take collective action to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity locally. The UK has experienced an 19% decrease in wildlife abundance on average since the 1970s and ranks among the bottom 10% globally for biodiversity . Habitats that have rich biodiversity support our ability to address wider climate change challenges, making it vital that we address this issue.

1.7 As part of our review of the Environment Strategy, we have identified a need to rationalise and prioritise our actions to have the largest impact and make use of the limited time and resources available to achieve our target. Actions that are no longer viable are not being pursued and existing actions have become more focused.

1.8 West Berkshire Council remains committed to assisting the district to reduce its emissions, however there are elements which are outside of our direct control and scope of influence. We recognise that the behavioural change of our residents, businesses and schools can be influenced and supported, but outcomes are not within our direct control. We will continue to support the wider community, where practicable, by providing high quality information and advice in order for the District to strive towards a net-zero target. However, our main projects going forward will be focused on our own operations and our pathway to net zero.

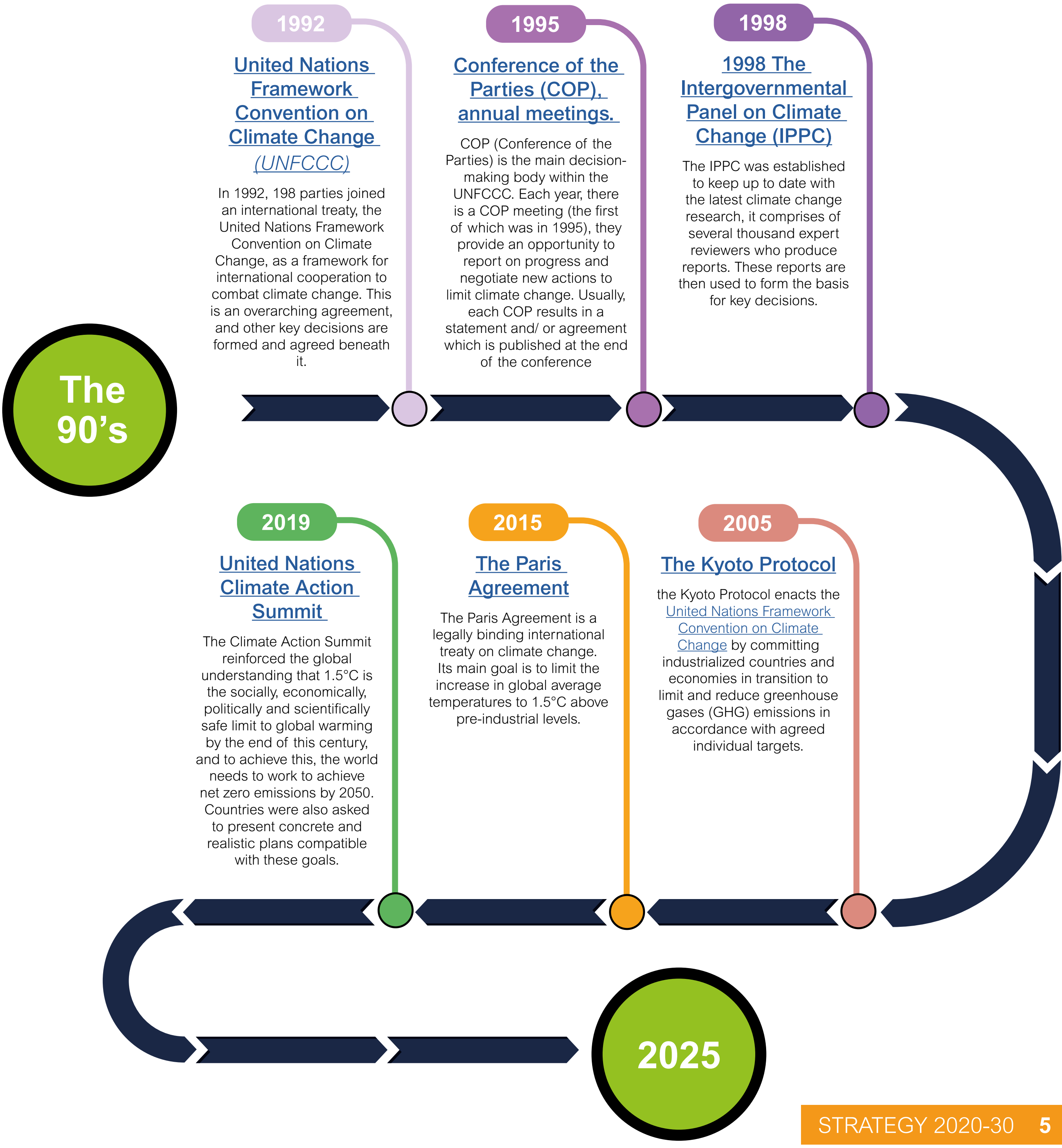
1.9 We remain dedicated to continuous improvement and keeping up to date with new developments and technologies in the sector and will support projects across the District where practicable and that fall in line with the Council Strategy and Development Management Policies.

2. Context

2.1 The global and national context within which we operate is important and frames our planning and ambitions when it comes to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Figure 1 below sets out some key global milestones over the last 33 years that inform and influence our actions today.

2.2 Appendix A includes further information on legislation, documents and strategies that relate to the national context and how these are relevant for the themes explored in more detail in section 4 of this document.

Figure 1: Global environmental milestones

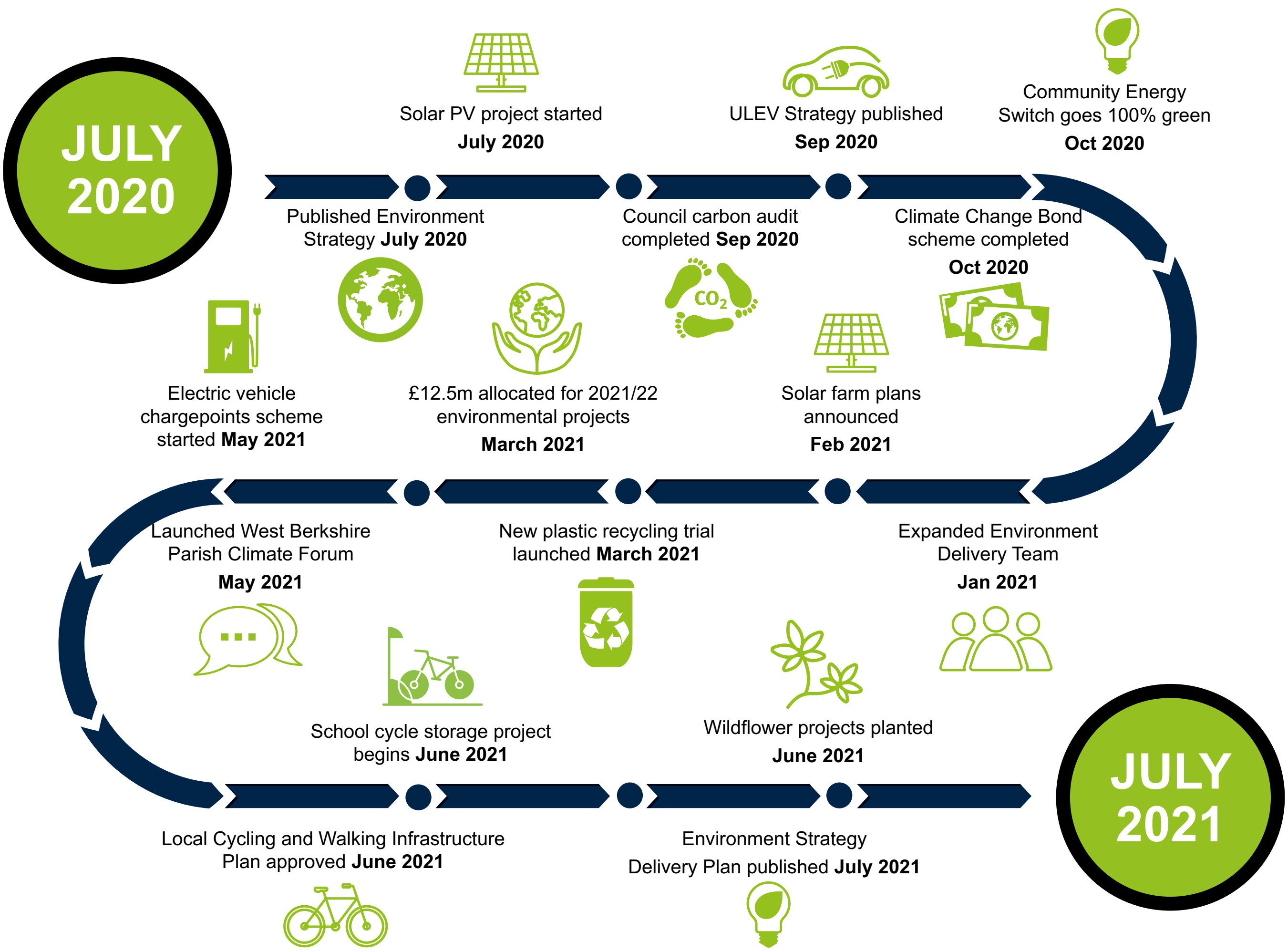


3. Achievements to date

3.1 Following the publication of the original Environment Strategy in July 2020, Progress Reports have been produced annually. These have been reported to the Executive and are published on the [Council's Environment Strategy webpage](). They report on progress in reducing the Council's carbon footprint and include many case studies of projects delivered by the Council and the community which demonstrate a wide range of climate action.

3.2 Included in the Annual Progress Reports each year is a roadmap of the highlights which acts a summary of the key projects and achievements of the year. These published roadmaps from July 2020 through to July 2024 are included below to provide an overview of the achievements to date.

Figure 2: Highlights of achievements to date – 'roadmaps' from July 2020 to July 2024



JULY 2021

Eco Schools initiative launched
September 2021

Implemented pilot School Streets project in Calcot
September 2021

Public Finance Sustainability and Social Value Award for Green Bond
September 2021

Local COP26 campaign
October 2021

First Bus Service Improvement Plan for West Berkshire published
October 2021

Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report published
November 2021

Shop Local Shop Green Christmas campaign
November 2021

Rapid charger installed Newbury central
January 2022

Carbon-neutral road surfacing projects in Beedon, Burghfield and Thatcham
February 2022

WBC joins UK Green Buildings Council
February 2022

Environmental Co-Production group formed
March 2022

eCargo bikes available for loan
April 2022

WBC joins UK100
May 2022

First ever soil conditioner giveaway day
May 2022

Local Area Energy Plan developed
May 2022

aDoddle launched for green community groups
June 2022

Sustainable warmth project launches
June 2022

Planning permission granted for North and East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Schemes
June 2022

Completed A4 Western Avenue Active Travel scheme in Newbury
July 2022

JULY 2022

JULY 2022

Two new Mini Recycling Centres opened in East Garston & Theale
August 2022

Solar farm planning permission granted
August 2022

Internal staff climate action behaviour change campaign launched
September 2022

Separate food waste collections launched
October 2022

Community Repaint opened
October 2022

Christmas Shop Local, Shop Green campaign
December 2022

121 trees delivered to 26 schools in our Trees for Schools project
December 2022

Free Christmas bus travel
December 2022

100 urban trees planted
January 2023

Community orchard planting in Almond Avenue
January 2023

School Streets pilot in Calcot complete
January 2023

Sustainable Business Directory launched
February 2023

Awarded external funding to assist with delivery of EV charging infrastructure
March 2023

Liftshare pilot launched
March 2023

Thatcham Flood Alleviation Scheme construction started
April 2023

Celebrated 10 years working with BBOWT
April 2023

Wild West Berkshire (education project) pilot complete
April 2023

Awarded funding to help community halls with improving their energy efficiency
April 2023

Bike stands installed in Yattendon, Hungerford and Newbury
May 2023

New 4-year contract signed for delivery of EV charging infrastructure
May 2023

£221k Low Carbon Skills Fund awarded
June 2023

'Solar Together' launched
June 2023

Sustainable Business Breakfast event
July 2023

JULY 2023

JULY 2023

Launch of new ultra-low emission bus service linking Newbury – Harwell - Didcot
July 2023

Start of pavement trial for EV charging
September 2023

First phase of on-street EVCPs installed under new contract
October 2023

Council declares an Ecological Emergency
October 2023

First anniversary of food waste collections (4,191 tonnes collected)
October 2023

Community Repaint Project (2,408 litres of paint reused in first year by 263 residents)
October 2023

21 trees were given to Lambourn Environmental Group for tree planting projects
November 2023

Community Orchard planted at Pigeons Farm
December 2023

Free Christmas Bus Travel
December 2023

Natural Environment webpage launched
January 2024

Opening of Newbury Rail Station Upgrade
March 2024

Launch of council's Sustainability Assessment Tool pilot
March 2024

Soil conditioner event gives away 52 tonnes of free compost
March 2024

Revocation of Air Quality Management Areas in Newbury and Thatcham
April 2024

Memorial Fields Flood Alleviation project starts (Thatcham)
April 2024

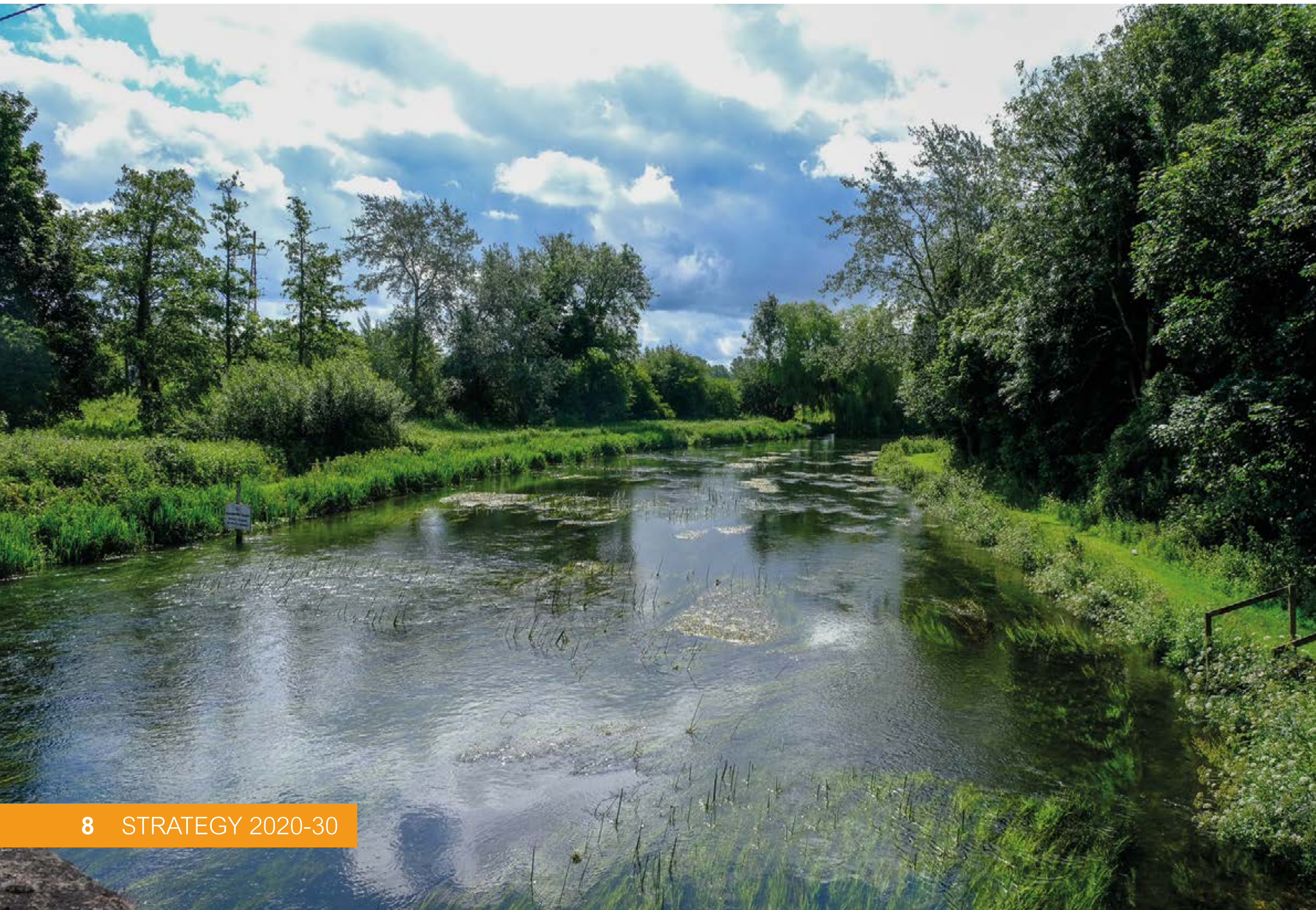
Full launch of Biodiversity Net Gain requirement for new developments
April 2024

One year on from the first Solar Together Project with 214 installations using over 2,200 solar panels. New scheme launched for 2024
June 2024

One year of EAG Open Forum welcoming 17 guest speakers
July 2024

Opening of Stockcross active travel route
July 2024

JULY 2024



4. Themes for delivery

4.1 As part of our revised approach through the refreshing of a strategy, we have categorised our work into 4 main themes:

- Energy Efficiency and Renewables
- Sustainable Transport
- The Natural Environment
- Waste Reduction & Recycling

4.2 These themes cover all the projects we are delivering and plan to deliver soon, which will contribute to our pathway to net zero (see more about our pathway in section 6). The themes form the structure for our re-focused Delivery Plan.

4.3 Within the re-focused and refreshed Environment Strategy Delivery Plan, there are overarching actions with specific tasks to contribute to achieving each theme. In addition, there are details of responsibilities, estimated timescales, estimated carbon savings (measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO_2e where possible), estimated cost and whether the action will provide carbon savings for West Berkshire Council, the District, or both.

4.4 The Energy Efficiency and Renewables theme includes actions which will progress working with partners, the decarbonisation of the Council's estate and activities, generate renewable energy and support the wider community to become more energy efficient.

4.5 The Sustainable Transport theme contains actions which support active and sustainable travel throughout the district, including developing cycle hubs, increasing the amount of electric vehicle charge points, and encouraging our staff to travel sustainably.

4.6 The Natural Environment theme focuses on the development and implementation of a strategic approach to the creation of natural capital across the District as well as working with partners, to conserve and enhance habitat and continue to develop and implement best practice methods for environmental land and water management. This is a key theme in addressing the ecological emergency and fulfilling our duties set out in the Environment Act.

4.7 The Waste Reduction and Recycling theme incorporates actions to continue to develop methods to reduce municipal waste and increase recycling rates as well as increase recycling rates within Council offices.

4.8 In addition to these main four themes, we have identified common threads which run through all our work, the most relevant of which is net zero as it will assist us in addressing the climate and ecological emergencies declared by the Council. Other common threads include Health and Wellbeing, Communications, Partnerships and Education & Engagement, all of which also support the threads within the Council Strategy.

4.9 Many actions under the four themes of the Delivery Plan will have a positive impact on the common thread of Health and Wellbeing. Whether this is through reduced emissions from transport creating cleaner air, or enhancement of and greater access to nature, or encouraging active travel, we aim to improve health and wellbeing of all residents via our activities and guard against any detrimental impacts. This supports the Council's commitment to a 'health in all policies' approach across the organisation.

4.10 The Council will seek to communicate effectively and in a variety of ways to ensure residents, communities, organisations and businesses are aware of our plans and proposals and have an opportunity to comment where appropriate. The importance of communicating our and others' successes is recognised as an important way of providing ideas and encouraging the community of West Berkshire to take a proactive approach. We will also seek to learn from and engage with others in the District and further afield who have developed innovative projects in an attempt to improve our projects and plans.

4.11 West Berkshire Council seeks to work in partnership wherever possible, particularly where this will strengthen outcomes, make the best use of resources and support, build and encourage community action. Existing partnership working has delivered some excellent outcomes and opportunities for new partnerships are encouraged.

4.12 Providing information to help increase knowledge on climate, biodiversity and sustainability matters across the themes is important to enable and encourage understanding, leading to action and behavioural change. Opportunities for engagement to support this education and joint learning are built into the Council's work alongside a desire to take up new opportunities for engagement where they deliver on important objectives and priorities.

5. Measuring and reporting progress

5.1 After the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, the Council worked on establishing a baseline for its own carbon footprint. This was reported for the period April 2019 – March 2020. A specialist contractor assisted in quantifying the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated by the Council's assets and activities.

5.2 Each year, we report on the carbon emissions for our own operations and assets and compare it to the baseline figure. We measure our energy use, travel, sewage processing and refrigerants, as well as emissions from our main contractors.

5.3 To do this, we use a recognised and trusted methodology known as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. We use the following formula to calculate emissions:

Activity Data x Emissions Factor = Emissions (tCO_2e)

The three scopes when considering emissions are as follows:

- **Scope 1 emissions** (aka direct) come from sources that are owned or controlled by the Council e.g. our vehicles,
- **Scope 2 emissions** (aka indirect) come from the generation of electricity/ heat etc. used in our buildings (for example, from the national grid)
- **Scope 3 emissions** (aka indirect) come from goods/ services that the Council utilises but are not directly responsible for, e.g. investments, activities of our contractors

Activity data is data associated with West Berkshire Council's activities (e.g. diesel consumption in litres).

The emission factors are the amount of GHG emissions associated with the activity data (e.g. the emissions from the combustion of a litre of diesel).

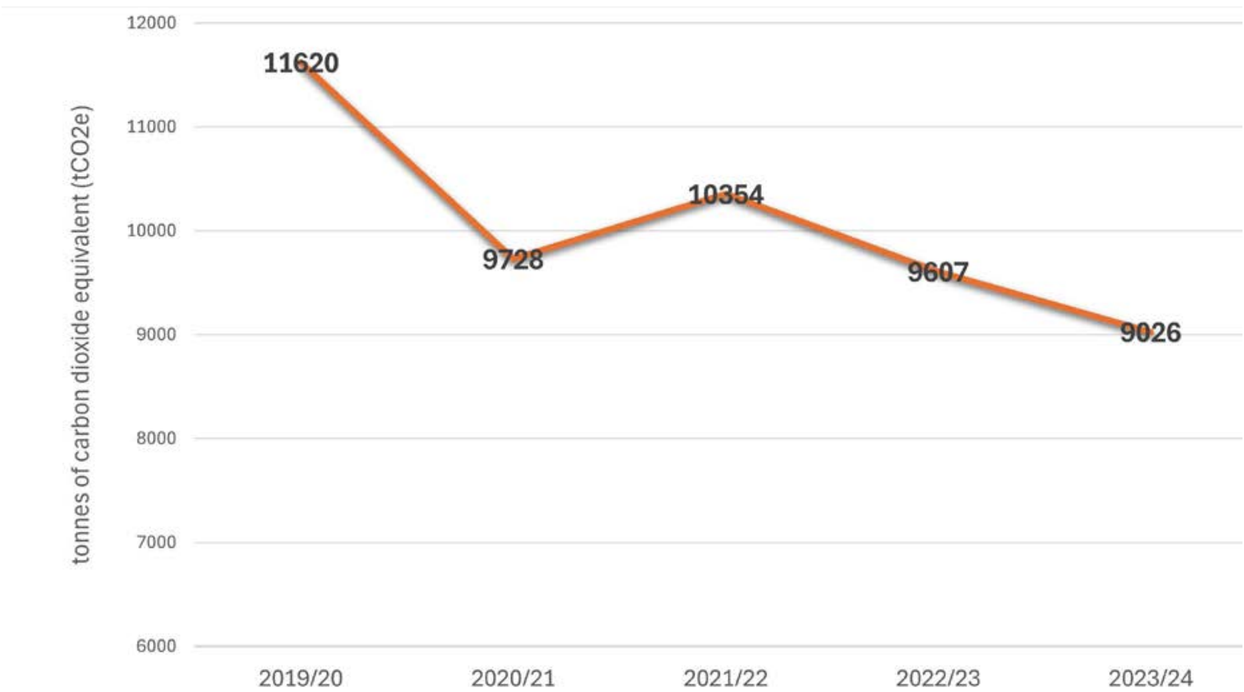
tCO_2e stands for tonnes of CO_2 equivalent and is a metric measure that is used to compare emissions from various greenhouse gases on the basis of their Global Warming Potential (GWP) by converting amounts of other gases to the equivalent amount of CO_2[2].

5.4 In addition to annually reporting on our carbon footprint, we will continue to update our Environment Strategy Delivery Plan at least quarterly, to ensure regular monitoring is taking place.

5.5 The progress that has been made since our baseline carbon footprint was calculated for 2019/20 is shown in Figure 3. Commentary has been made in each Annual Progress Report in relation to the relevant year of data. The position at the end of the 2023/24 reporting period was that there had been a 22% reduction in the carbon emissions generated by Council activities when compared to the baseline.

[2] https://coolerfuture.com/en/blog/co2e

Figure 3: West Berkshire Council's Carbon Footprint (tCO_2e) 2019/20 – 2023/24



6. Our pathway to net zero

6.1 As we consider where we are at this point on our journey (as shown in Figure 3), it is clear there is a significant challenge to achieve our net zero ambitions over the next 5 years.

6.2 A number of projects and changes in the way we approach our activities are planned for this period. Together they will help us on our pathway to net zero. They are funded in ways which always seek to deliver best value for money. This includes maximising opportunities for external grant funding. For example, in the list below in 6.3, grant funding from Sport England will contribute to solar panels being installed at one of our leisure centres and grant funding of £2.8million from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme will be used to deliver decarbonisation works at Northcroft Leisure Centre.

6.3 Upcoming projects that will help to reduce our emissions and which are included in the Council's plans with funding allocated to them are:

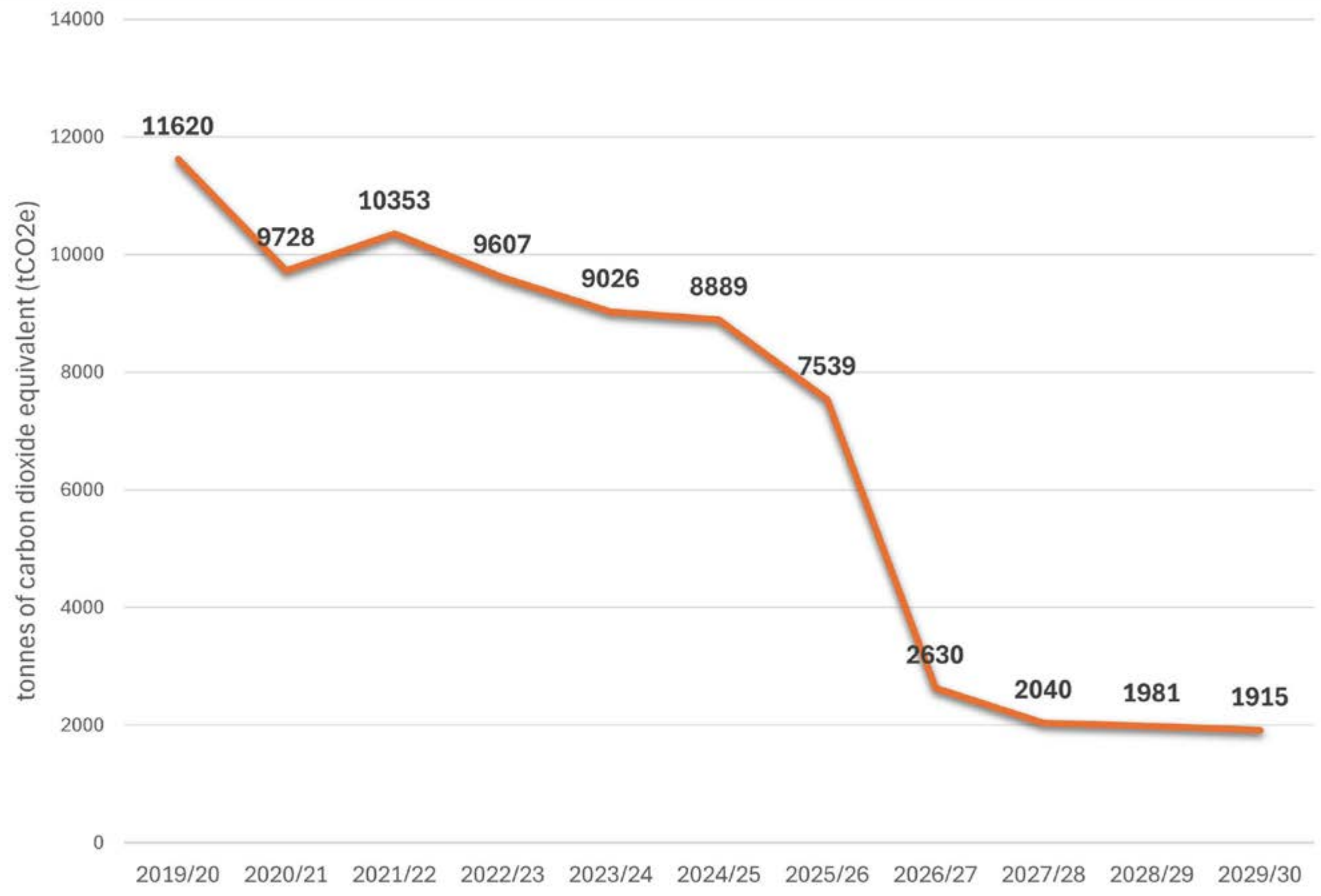
- Change in fleet to electric vehicles (cars and light duty vehicles) – achieving 25% fleet being EV is funded (Scope 1)
- Installation of rooftop solar pv on Council buildings (delivering a pipeline of projects at suitable locations) (Scope 2)
- Solar energy generation (rooftop and ground mounted solar panels) at Padworth Recycling Centre (Scope 3)
- Using HVO fuel (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) for our food waste collection vehicles (Scope 3)
- Decarbonisation scheme at Northcroft Leisure Centre (Scope 3)

6.4 In addition, we have considered other projects that can be considered as 'off-setting' the Council's emissions from its activities. It is important to the Council that any off-setting is local and preferably comes from projects we have initiated or activity on our land. The off-setting from planned projects and evidence gathered is set out below:

- Delivery of a solar farm near Grazeley to generate renewable energy (off-setting activity and income generating project)
- Carbon sequestration from natural capital on Council land. We have undertaken a high-level study to establish the carbon which is being sequestered across land that the Council owns and manages, or is managed on our behalf by Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) (off-setting).

6.5 Knowledge of buildings that will be coming out of the Council's portfolio over the coming period will also contribute to the overall picture and account has been taken of this in the known pathway scenario set out in Figures 4 and 5. The main examples of this are schools which are moving from being Local Authority Schools to becoming Academies. The Council's portfolio of buildings remains large and there will always be a desire to make best use of our estate and not to hold on to assets unless they are delivering an efficient benefit. The disposal of assets in the future could be an appropriate approach to helping to reduce our carbon footprint.

Figure 4: West Berkshire Council's predicted Carbon Footprint (tCO_2e) 2019/20 – 2029/30 – committed projects



6.6 Figure 4 extends the position shown in Figure 3 into the future with the reduction in emissions from known and funded projects taken into account. The impacts from the activities mentioned in 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 all contribute to the pathway shown in Figure 4. This shows that the 'gap' at our net zero target date of 2030 is 1,915 tCO_2e.

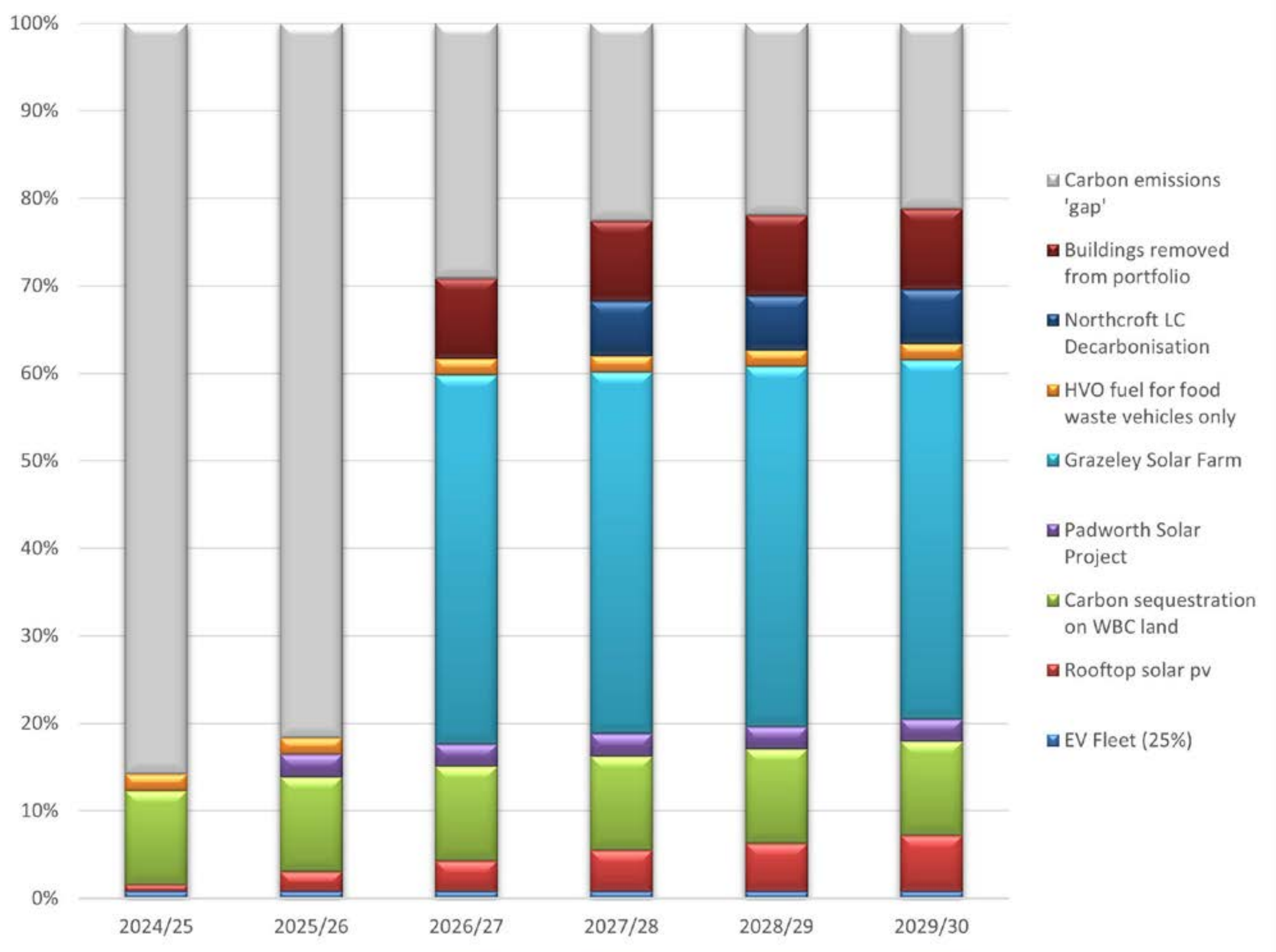
6.7 The timings for the start of the different projects that contribute to the pathway in Figure 4 are shown in Table 1. The contribution that each project or activity makes to the overall reduction is demonstrated through the make-up of the bars on the graph in Figure 5. The same data is used for Figures 4 and 5.

Table 1: Timings of commencement of funded projects and their contribution to the pathway to net zero

Project	Start year
25% WBC fleet cars and light duty vehicles that are ULEV.	2024/25
Solar Panel Installations on WBC buildings.	2024/25
Carbon sequestration on WBC owned land	2025/26
Padworth Solar Panel installations	2025/26
Grazeley Solar Farm	2026/27
HVO fuel for some waste/ recycling vehicles.	2026/27
Northcroft Leisure Centre decarbonisation works	2027/28

Figure 5: West Berkshire Council's predicted Carbon Footprint (tCO_2e) - breakdown of contribution of committed projects and known activities

Chart shows how the latest known position of 9026 tCO_2e (in 2023/24) could be reduced by committed projects and the grey 'gap' that would remain



6.8 Consideration has been given to how 'the gap' could be closed to meet our target of net zero by 2030. Prior to considering further projects where we can estimate the likely carbon impact, it is worth remembering that no account has been taken of the additional efforts on activities where the carbon impact is hard to predict and measure. An example of such a project is the introduction of a Sustainability Assessment Tool (SAT) which assesses the wide range of possible impacts that a proposed project will have on environmental and socio-economic criteria. The Council is introducing this tool for projects that meet certain thresholds in order to keep improving the quality of delivery, including a project's impact on emissions.

6.9 In addition, as education and engagement on climate, ecological and general sustainability matters increases, there are behavioural changes that happen which will contribute to the Council's pathway to net zero. These changes, which might relate to being more efficient with energy use for example, could contribute well if they happen consistently across the Council's building portfolio.

6.10 Such changes that are hard to measure could, over the years, make a good contribution to reducing the 1,915 tCO_2e gap and strengthen the Council's opportunity for meeting its target. These types of changes are not measured or included in any of the calculations or graphs presented in this document so would act as impacts on top of those projects being discussed.

6.11 The options that have been considered for possible future investment by 2030 are:

- Increasing the use of EVs to 100% of the Council's fleet (cars and light duty vehicles)
- Expanding the use of HVO fuel to all waste and recycling vehicles
- Investment in further decarbonisation projects across the Council's estate
- Changing tariff so that the Council only uses 100% green energy
- Additional off-setting activities (more renewable energy generation, further carbon sequestration, etc)

6.12 The value for money for each of the above options varies as does the opportunity to realistically deliver the options prior to 2030. Based on these considerations of value for money and opportunity to deliver, a possible option for further projects that could see the 2030 target being achieved is set out below in Figure 6.

6.13 The additional projects included in the pathway shown in Figure 6 are as follows:

- 100% of the Council's fleet (cars and light duty vehicles) being EVs by 2030
- All waste and recycling vehicles using HVO fuel
- Additional decarbonisation projects being delivered at Council sites where initial feasibility work has been carried out

6.14 Including these possible additional projects above serves as an example of how 'gap' could be addressed. This scenario has been chosen as an illustration because it includes the projects that deliver best value for money and serve to reduce the Council's emissions rather than further off-setting. If this scenario was to be delivered it would need further detailed planning and resourcing both in terms of staffing and funding. Grant funding might be available for the decarbonisation projects.

Figure 6: A possible scenario for West Berkshire Council's pathway to net zero with additional (uncommitted) projects included in future Carbon Footprint calculations (tCO_2e) 2019/20 – 2029/30

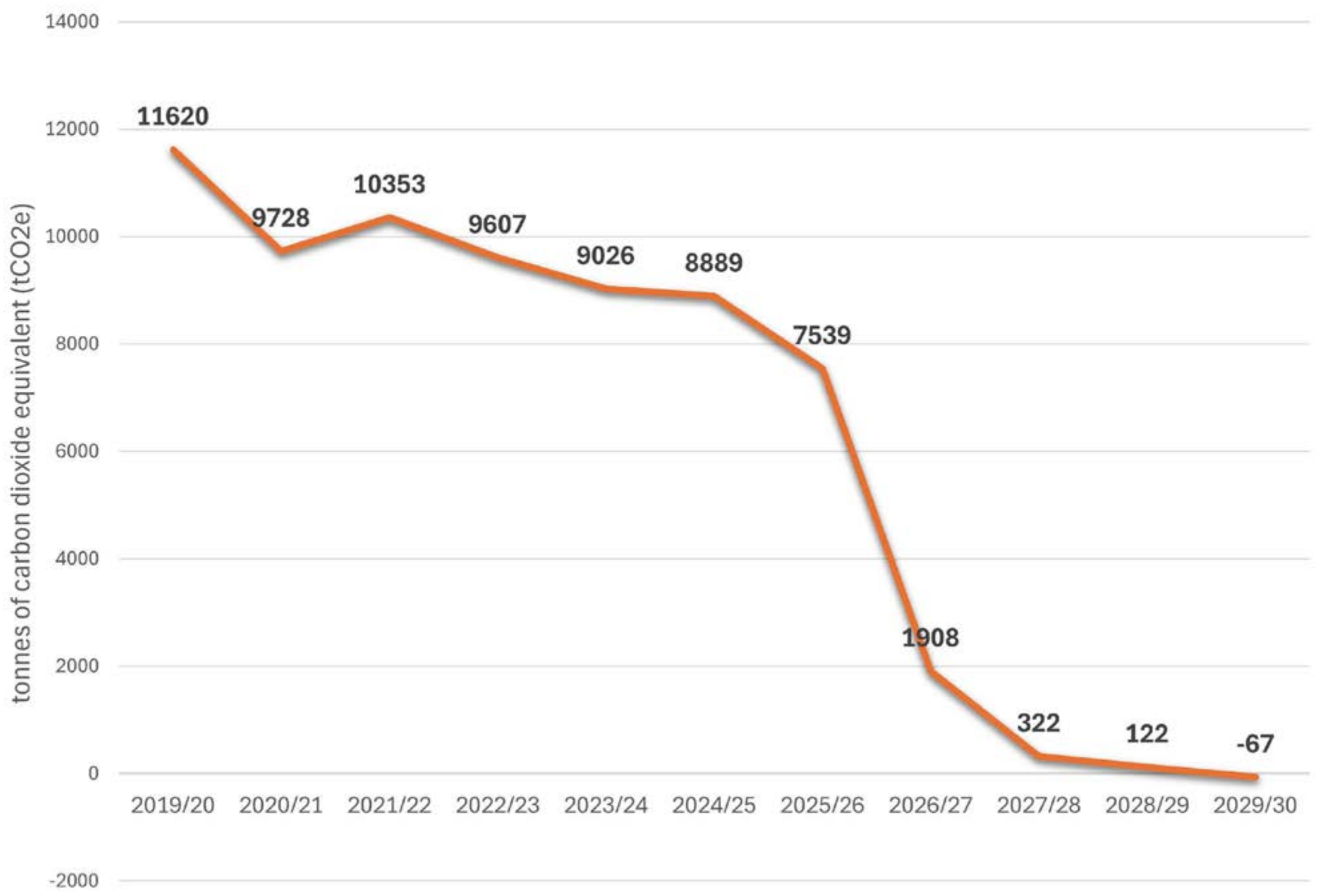
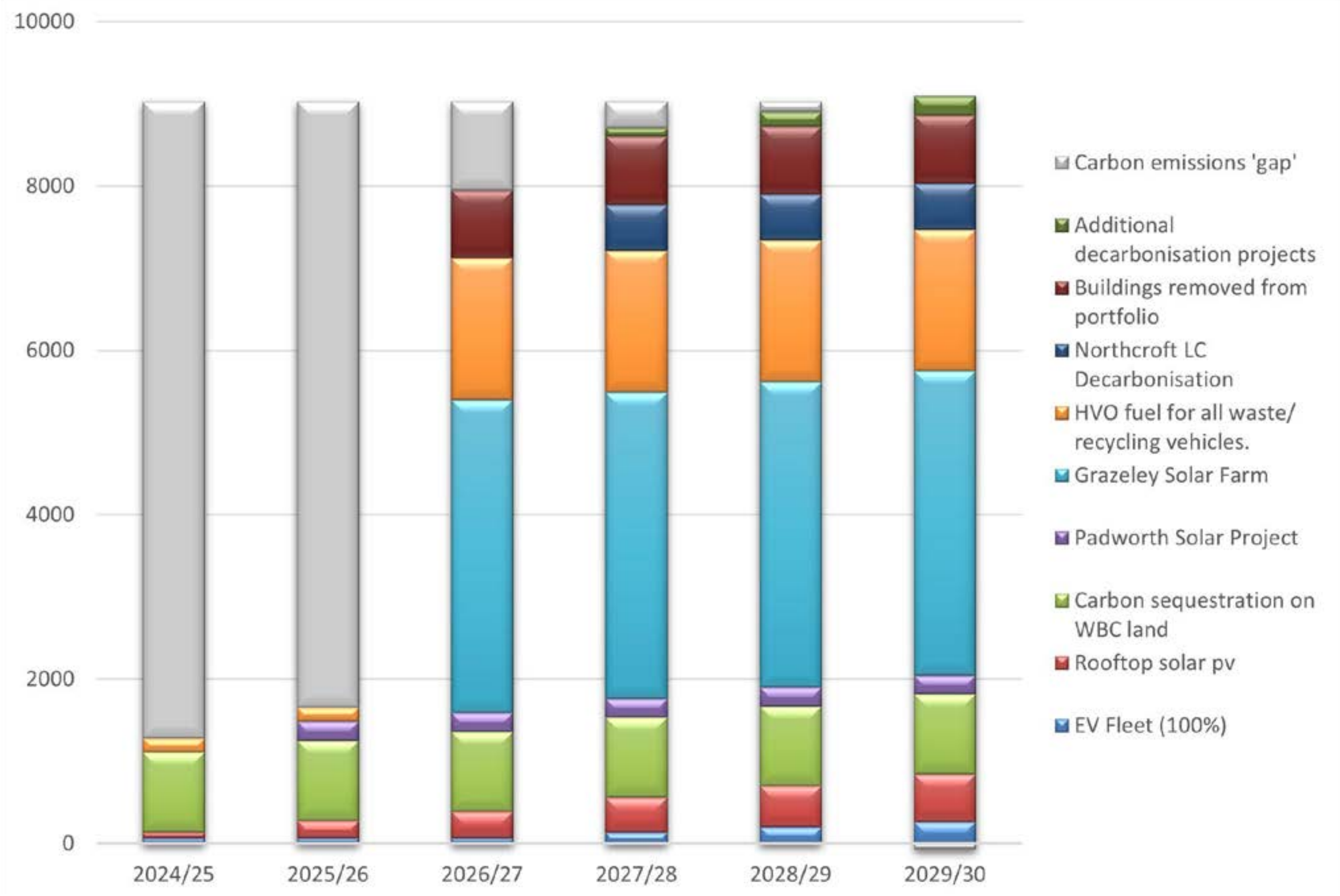


Figure 7: Breakdown of the contribution of known activities, committed and uncommitted projects as an illustration of a possible pathway to achieve net zero by 2030

Chart shows how the latest known position of 9026 tCO_2e (in 2023/24) could be reduced by identified projects.



6.15 As Figure 6 shows, this scenario may take the Council's position beyond the point of net zero. This would deliver a better outcome than the target or provides an element of comfort and contingency should some of the projects not deliver the anticipated reductions.

6.16 The way in which the projects contribute to the possible scenario which achieves net zero is illustrated in Figure 7.

Conclusion

6.17 The detailed work informing our pathway to net zero will aid us in our focus for delivery over the coming period up to 2030. Our Delivery Plan will be refreshed at least each quarter reflecting projects that have been completed and new tasks that have been added as opportunities arise. Consideration will be given to the best way to close the 'gap' to reach net zero and the appropriate plans will be made and bids for funding submitted. Through the annual reporting on our carbon footprint, our plans will be refreshed as we consider our progress on the pathway to our target of net zero by 2030.

6.18 In addition to the clear focus we will have on our own pathway to net zero, we will also engage in the activities we can undertake to influence and assist in the District as a whole making progress to net zero. As expressed in the original Environment Strategy published in July 2020, the Council cannot deliver this wider outcome alone and everyone in West Berkshire has a role to play. The changes residents, businesses and communities are able to make will vary in impact but all are important as we work towards a shared aspiration for our environment.

Appendix A – National Context

Legislation, documents and strategies which set the national context relevant to themes set out in section 4 of this strategy refresh are provided in this appendix. Different aspects of the national policy context will be developing regularly. Some elements are critical to helping local delivery of improved outcomes for the environment.

The themes we have structured our Strategy Refresh around are:

- Energy Efficiency and Renewables
- Sustainable Transport
- The Natural Environment
- Waste Reduction & Recycling

Energy Efficiency and Renewables:

2023 The Energy Act

The Energy Act is one of the most significant pieces of energy legislation in recent history. It aims to make various improvements by promoting clean energy technologies, improving energy security, and enabling a transition to a low carbon future.

Sustainable Transport:

The Second Cycling & Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS II)

This outlines the Government's ambition for cycling and walking in England;

- To make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey by 2040
- Increase the percentage of short journeys in towns and cities that are walked or cycled to 50% in 2030 and to 55% in 2035
- Cycling and walking will be the natural first choice for many journeys with half of all journeys in towns and cities being cycled or walked by 2030

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-second-cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy/the-second-cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy-cwis2

Decarbonising Transport: A better, cleaner Britain (2021)

This plan sets out the UK Government's commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK. It covers active travel, road transport (including motorcycles, road freight, buses and coaches), the rail network, aviation and maritime.

The current pathway, amended by the UK Government at the start of 2024 is outlined in the zero-emission vehicle mandate, sets out the percentage of new zero emission cars and vans manufacturers will be required to produce each year up to 2030. The changes to the pathway essentially push back the 2030 target set in 2020 back to 2035. The revised headline for this being;

- 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold in Great Britain will now be zero emission by 2030, increasing to 100% by 2035.

Pathway for zero emission vehicle transition by 2035 becomes law - GOV.UK

- We will deliver a world class cycling and walking network in England by 2040

The Natural Environment:

2021 The Environment Act

The Environment Act aims to improve air and water quality, tackle waste, increase recycling, halt the decline of species and improve our natural environment.

It incorporates many important activities, including:

- Nutrient Neutrality
- Biodiversity Duty
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)
- Biodiversity Net Gain

The National Planning Policy Framework ensures that Local Plans strengthen Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI).

Waste Reduction and Recycling:

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Under the proposals, packaging producers will be responsible for the full net cost of managing the packaging they handle or place on the market. This includes the cost of collecting, transporting, sorting and disposal of packaging waste, whether from households or businesses.

The EPR aims increase recycling rates, reduce excessive packaging, increase the quality of material that is recycled as well as reduce the amount of packaging that is littered.
www.fdf.org.uk/fdf/what-we-do/packaging-latest/extended-producer-responsibility/

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

This scheme is due to be introduced in 2027. Under a DRS, people who buy drinks in certain kinds of containers will have to pay a small deposit, which they can reclaim when they are finished with their drink. In order to increase recycling and reduce litter. In England, the scheme will target plastic and metal drinks containers between 50 ml and 3 litres. The DRS has a proven track record of success in other European countries. For example, just 2 years after the scheme was launched in Latvia, the number of drinks containers found on the coastline of the Baltic Sea reduced by half.
https://defraenvironment.blog.gov.uk/2025/01/31/introducing-the-deposit-return-scheme-for-drinks-containers/

Simpler Recycling

The Government wants to achieve greater consistency in the materials that are collected for recycling by different English local authorities. Simpler Recycling will enable consistent, more streamlined collections from all households, businesses and relevant non-domestic premises (such as schools and hospitals). There are various implementation dates for this scheme, the first one being the 31st of March 2025 for businesses and relevant non -domestic premises.
www.gov.uk/government/publications/simpler-recycling-in-england-policy-update/simpler-recycling-in-england-policy-update

Emissions Trading Scheme

The UK Government is committed to achieving Net Zero by 2050. Therefore, they now plan to include Energy from Waste (EfW) plants in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) with effect from 2028.
www.gov.uk/government/consultations/uk-emissions-trading-scheme-scope-expansion-waste

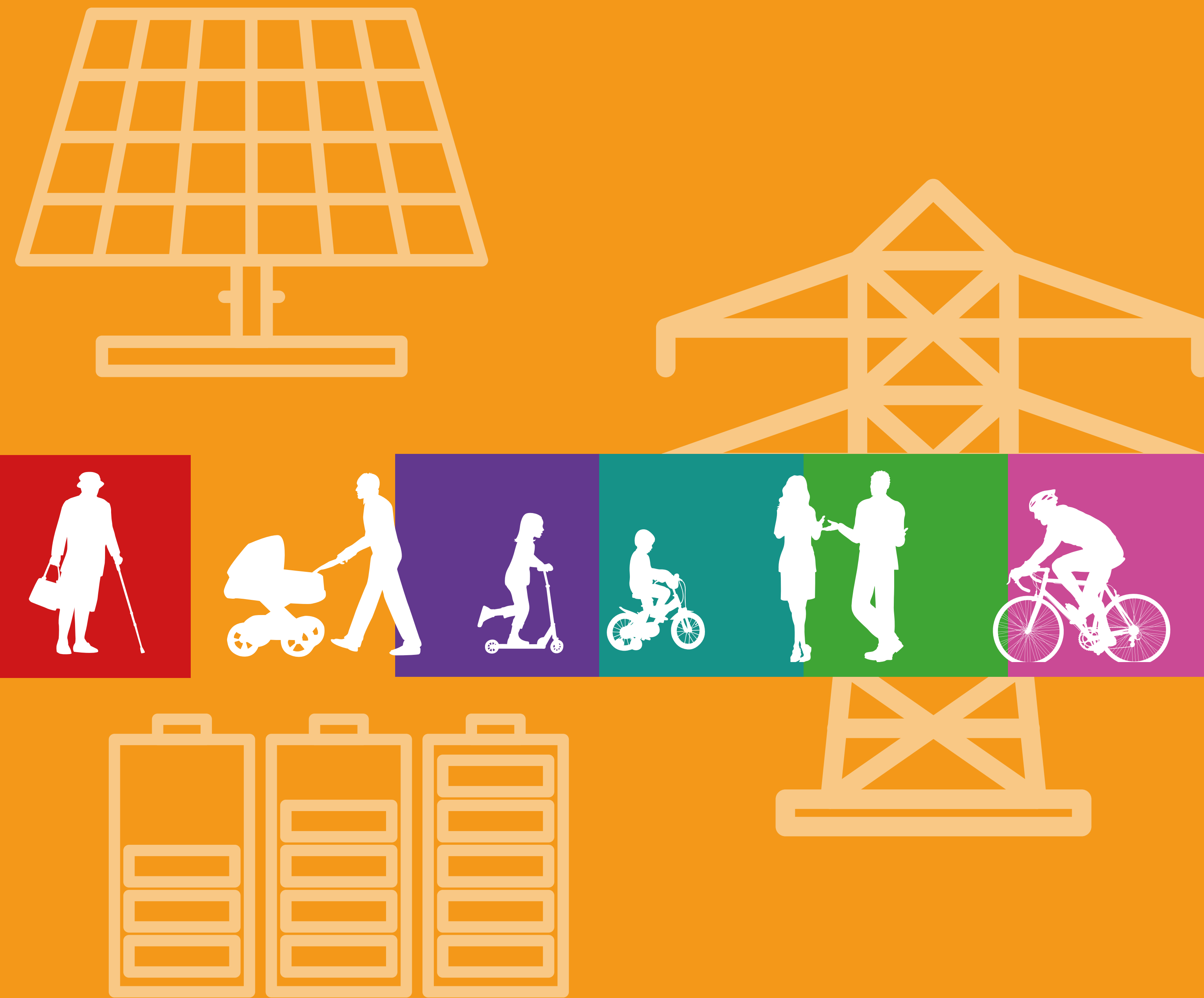
Appendix B – Glossary

This glossary provides an explanation of terms used in this annual report along with some additional terms which may also be of general interest relating to climate change and our environment.

Abbreviation	Term	Explanation
	Anaerobic Digestion	A process in which organic matter is broken down by micro-organisms in an oxygen free ‘tank’ to produce fuels.
	Baseline	A fixed point of reference used as a starting point for comparison purposes.
	Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life.
	Carbon budget	The maximum amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted over a certain period.
CCS	**Carbon capture and storage**	Trapping carbon at its emission source, and then storing it long term.
CO_2e	**Carbon Dioxide Equivalent**	A term used to describe different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any greenhouse gases and their amount, it is the amount of carbon dioxide which would have the equivalent warming impact.
	Carbon footprint/carbon audit	The total greenhouse gas emissions caused by a person/event/organisation/product, expressed as the carbon dioxide equivalent.
	Carbon neutral/ carbon neutrality	Balancing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by offsetting, or removing from the atmosphere, an equivalent amount of carbon for the amount produced.
	Climate change	The long-term shift in the planets weather patterns and temperatures.
CCA	**Climate Change Act 2008**	Provides the framework for the UK’s climate change policy
	Climate Change Bonds	Fixed income bonds, linked to climate change solutions.
	Climate Emergency Declaration	The Declarations vary for each organisation. The Council’s Declaration is set out in the Introduction section of the Environment Strategy.
	CO_2 emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities	The UK produces a breakdown of carbon dioxide emissions by Local Authority area as a subset of its annual inventory of greenhouse gas emissions. The emissions deemed to be within the scope of Local Authorities exclude large industrial sites, railways, motorways and land-use.
CCC	**Committee on Climate Change**	Independent body to advise the government on climate change.
CIL	**Community Infrastructure Levy**	A charge which can be levied on new developments within the Local Authority’s area. It helps deliver required infrastructure.

	Delivery Plan	The Council's plan on how the objectives of the Environment Strategy will be achieved.
	Economic Development Board	Newly formed Economic Board which will oversee the Economic Development Strategy, implementing an action plan to fulfil its objectives.
EU ETS	**European Union Emissions Trading System**	The first and largest greenhouse gas emissions trading system in the world. It works on a 'cap and trade' principle where allowances are set. Allowances are auctioned off or allocated for free. Emitters must ensure they have enough allowances to meet their emissions or purchase more. Those who reduce their emissions and have spare allowances can sell off their credits.
GWP	**Global Warming Potential**	The potential of a Greenhouse Gas to trap additional heat in the atmosphere relative to Carbon dioxide. Specifically, it is a measure of how much energy the emissions of 1 tonne of a gas will absorb over a given period of time, relative to the emissions of 1 tonne of carbon dioxide. The larger the GWP, the more that gas warms the Earth compared to CO_2 over that time period.
	Green energy	Definitions would usually mean the gas or electricity were from 100% renewable sources.
GHG	**Greenhouse gases**	Gases in the atmosphere that absorb and re-emit heat. They occur naturally in the Earth's atmosphere but human activity increases these, leading to increased warming and climate change.
GDP	**Gross Domestic Product**	The total monetary/market value of the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period.
	Health and Wellbeing Board	A partnership that brings together West Berkshire's leaders of the health and social care system.
KPIs	**Key Performance Indicators**	A measurable value/outcome to gauge how well an organisation is meeting its key objectives.
LULUCF	**Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry**	A greenhouse gas sector defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
LCWIP	**Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Programme**	Sets out the Council's long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks
	Local Plan	The plan is part of the overall Development Plan for West Berkshire, setting out our local planning policies.
LTP	**Local Transport Plan**	Aims to deliver effective transport solutions for all by increasing choice and minimising congestion.

NAEI	**National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory**	The Inventory is compiled by Ricardo. It is the standard reference inventory for the UK and includes emission estimates for a wide range of important pollutants.
	Nature Recovery Plan	The plan defines the objectives and key actions required to improve biodiversity and wildlife in the district
	Net zero / Net zero carbon	Making changes to reduce carbon or GHG emissions to the lowest amount – and offsetting as a last resort to reach an overall net position of zero carbon.
	North Wessex Downs National Landscape (previously AONB)	Area of countryside designated for conservation in recognition of its national importance.
	Per capita	The district's emissions divided by the number of people to give a value per person. This can be useful in comparing other areas of differing population size.
	Operational Control	A method of providing a boundary for an organisation to isolate its carbon emissions. This method describes where an organisation has functional operational control of an asset it will be included in calculations.
	Scope 1 Emissions	aka direct emissions, come from sources that are owned or controlled by an organisation, e.g. vehicles
	Scope 2 Emissions	(aka Energy indirect) come from the consumption of electricity used in an organisation's buildings
	Scope 3 Emissions	(aka other indirect) emissions come from goods/ services that an organisation utilise but are not directly responsible for e.g. investments.
SME	**Small medium enterprises**	Small or medium businesses are generally defined as businesses with less than 250 employees.
SuDs	**Sustainable drainage systems**	Systems designed to manage the drainage of surface water.
	Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership	An organisation bringing together business, public sector, education and community together to drive the local economy.
	Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum	A Forum to help prepare, respond and recover from emergency incidents.
	The National Adaptation Programme	This sets out the actions that the UK government and others will take over the next five-yearly cycle to adapt to the challenged of climate change.
ULEV	**Ultra low emission vehicle**	A vehicle that emits no more than 75g/km CO_2, based on the NEDC test, at the tailpipe. This includes pure electric, hydrogen, range-extender and plug in hybrid vehicles.
	Whole life carbon	The emissions created for every stage of an item/ buildings production, use and disposal.



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