



High Peak Borough Council
working for our community

CLIMATE CHANGE

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2022



High Peak Borough Council
declared a [Climate Emergency](#)
in October 2019.

Terms of Reference of that declaration were that this Council declare a Climate Emergency as many councils have already done all over the UK and will undertake to:

- 1 Declare a Climate Emergency
- 2 Make High Peak Borough Council carbon neutral in its internal operations and the services it delivers by 2030, and work with partners to achieve this target across High Peak
- 3 Call on the UK Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.

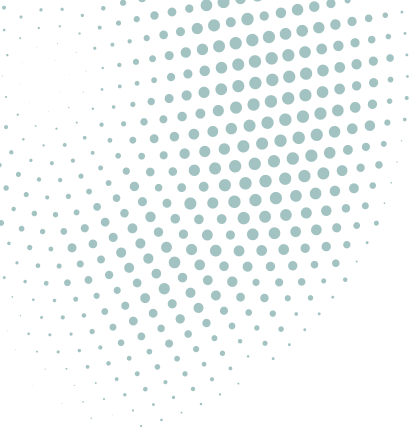
- 4 Work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies
- 5 Work to mitigate the biodiversity crisis in its actions across the Borough
- 6 To address this emergency, establish a cross-party working group to assist in investigation, prioritisation, drafting and delivery of a strategy, action plan and timetable including targets for CO₂e reduction, working with officer support and drawing on wider expertise.
- 7 The inclusion of local residents and businesses chosen in accordance with 'citizens' assembly' principles in drawing up this strategy and plan.

- 8 To report back to Council by end of March 2020 with this plan
- 9 Ensure that all Council committees and scrutiny panels consider the impact on climate change and the natural environment when taking decisions and reviewing policies.
- 10 Review progress against the target and report back every six months.

The aim was to translate the aspiration expressed in the emergency resolution for a carbon neutral High Peak 2030 into a deliverable action plan.

The Terms of Reference objectives have been established.

Reporting is annually with an interim report at six months along with monthly updates to Climate Change Working Group.



CONTEXT

In 2018, emissions from High Peak as a borough totalled 1,181 ktCO₂e. The majority resulted from buildings (78%) and on-road transport (12%)

Although emissions are reducing in High Peak, the rate of reduction needs to increase to avoid breaching the limits of the carbon budget as aligned to the [2015 Paris Agreement](#).

KEY STATISTICS AT A GLANCE – HIGH PEAK



An annual reduction rate of 15.8% is recommended to keep High Peak aligned with Paris Agreement targets



According to BEIS statistics, between 2005 and 2019 the average annual emissions reduction rate in High Peak was just over 1%



If High Peak continues along a business-as-usual scenario, the carbon budget (2020 – 2100) will be exceeded by 2026

Local authorities across the UK are thought to have a combined 3% contribution to overall UK emissions. In addition it is thought that local authorities can influence up to 33% of emissions in their areas.



CORPORATE PLAN 2019

The Council approved a new [Corporate Plan \(2019-23\)](#) on 15 October 2019 that included an aim to: “Protect and improve the environment and respond to the climate emergency”. The Council’s Corporate Plan has previously included aims around improving the environment, but this is the first time that climate change has been specifically named it as a key aim, demonstrating the Council’s commitment to putting climate change at the heart of its activities.

CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN PART 1 2021/22

This plan sets out how the Council will tackle emissions from its own operations. [The plan can be found here](#)

The aims have been combined with the Part 2 Plan to address borough-wide emissions.

CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN PART 2 7 WAYS TO NET ZERO

The [Climate Plan for the borough emissions](#) has ambitious targets to meet net zero across the borough by 2030.

1 The Way We Live	2 The Way We Travel	3 The Way We Work	4 The Way We Make Energy	5 The Way We Look After Our Environment	6 The Way We Manage Waste	7 The Way We Can Help Change to Occur
Actions						
Support new buildings to be energy efficient and minimise emissions	Reduce emissions from Council vehicles	Reduce emissions from Council buildings	Look at generating green energy for Council buildings	Increase tree cover and improve nature	Reduce carbon emissions from our waste and recycling service	Consider Climate Change in all Council decisions and policies
Tackle fuel poverty and reduce emissions from homes	Support sustainable travel and development	Switch to green energy	Promote the use of renewable energy	Protect and extend the existing green infrastructure	Encourage recycling and the green initiatives	Provide Councillors and staff members with appropriate skills and training
	Support the increased use of EV vehicles	Buy low carbon products and services		Reduce the risk from flooding	Support community initiatives designed to reduce, recycle and repurpose waste	Promote climate change projects
	Encourage people to make journeys by walking or cycling	Support the green economy		Work in partnership with our communities, including the most vulnerable		Encourage community climate change and nature projects
		Support the development of a circular economy				Work with Parish Councils
		Help businesses to get advice and support				Involve and engage our communities and create a more inclusive society
		Encourage Council staff to adopt energy saving/low carbon				Lobby for change

THE WAY WE LIVE

[The Local Plan](#) was adopted in April 2016 and includes elements on integrated renewable energy generation to support new buildings reduce their lifetime emissions.

The Local Plan lists climate change as a Key Issue under KI3 Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change and contains policies and objectives to support this. A few examples are below.

Strategy Objective SO5: To address, mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change on people, wildlife and places; promoting the safeguarding and prudent sustainable use of natural resources.

Policy S1 Sustainable Development Principles : The Borough Council will expect that all new development makes a positive contribution towards the sustainability of communities and to protecting, and where possible enhancing, the environment; and mitigating the process of climate change, within the Plan Area. The principles consider energy efficiency, approximation to amenities to avoid travel, land use, renewable energy, and adaptation to climate change such as flood risk.

The Local Plan is being reviewed to support a stronger emphasis on considerations to climate change, nature recovery and energy infrastructures.

High Peak benefits from the [Warmer Derbyshire Homes](#) project, offering energy saving advice to all householders and referring people to appropriate grants for insulation.

High Peak accessed government funding to improve the energy efficiency rating of its own housing stock. The Council is now in the process of securing funding to help low-income home owners whose homes have a poor energy performance.

We help people in fuel poverty by supporting a fuel bank service.



THE WAY WE TRAVEL

Emissions from vehicles are a significant issue in High Peak. Being quite a rural borough, the reliance on private vehicles for personal journeys is significant. We also have several thoroughfares for haulage vehicles.

Separate to the Climate Change Plans is the [Air Quality Assessment](#) which sets out our strategy to improve air quality. The co-benefits of this to climate change mitigation are clear as much of the activity is to encourage either modal shift to active transport methods or improving efficiency of vehicles.

The Local Plan for High Peak, recognises that Transport Assessments required to accompany relevant proposals under Policy CF6, on Accessibility and Transport should include consideration of the impact of proposals on air quality.

The Council are currently involved in the Air Aware project in collaboration with neighbouring Staffordshire Authorities. Part of the project has been the development of the air aware website, which contains lots of resources showing how you can help with air quality.

This approach also reflects the aims of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities to promote improved health and protect the environment. The Council will aim to ensure as far as possible that development minimises traffic problems and maximises the potential benefits of accessibility and new infrastructure to the wider community through active travel methods.

Our fleet and operation partners' fleets has been analysed by the Energy Saving Trust to support a forward plan to systematically improve engine types, efficiencies and fuel use.

Our pioneering project to use spent hydrogenated vegetable oil on suitable vehicles, will not only reduce CO₂ emissions but also particulates.

THE WAY WE WORK

We are embedding Climate Change considerations across our service delivery and operations.

All Council reports now have a section to include Climate Change considerations. Climate Change reporting is governed through the Climate Change Working Group.

The Climate Change and Biodiversity Group is chaired by the Head of Communities and Climate Change with all Heads of Service. It meets monthly to review and track progress against the aims.

The Council is accredited with the Carbon Literacy Bronze Award.

All the Heads of Service have had training in Carbon Literacy. Each service has nominated a member of staff to become

their 'Climate Champion' and has attended Train the Trainer in Carbon Literacy to disseminate through their teams and to embed across service and project design and delivery. This will follow up with a peer to peer network and communications programme to support staff adopt climate friendly actions.

A performance indicator framework has been established. Baselines and monitoring systems are being set out for each if these aims to be incorporated into the Corporate Plan and performance framework. Where possible these will be SMART targets using appropriate data streams and frequency of reporting .

We aim to reduce the energy used in our buildings and by our service delivery partners. Energy and water audits have been carried out to identify potential improvements to efficiency and inclusion of generation opportunities. These are being aligned to the Asset Management Plan and our Capital Investment.

Mechanisms to monitor and target energy use are being developed.

Funding has been applied for to support development of specialist Heat Decarbonisation Plans for key buildings.

Capacity to deliver energy and water management will be incorporated into the Assets Service restructure.

The Alliance is members of UK100, APSE and the Local Authorities Energy Partnership where we can use peer experience to help build capacity and knowledge.

We are active members of the Vision Derbyshire in partnership with all the local authorities across the county and sit on other groups with countywide ambitions.

The Agile working policy for staff has enabled suitable roles to use blended working approaches to reduce travel time and resources for both commuting and meetings.

The Council are developing a sustainable procurement policy to include climate change considerations in product and services provisions. This will support the green and circular economy by pushing our values up the supply chain.

Where possible we work with local providers; 15-20% of contracts over £5k were awarded to local providers over the last financial year.

An assessment, commissioned through Anthesis, provided a snap shot of the possible emissions related to some of our procurement activities. Due to the inherently difficult nature of carbon accounting in procurement, it provides an indicative snap shot in time. The report contains commercially sensitive information and will not be published, but will be used to inform the Council's approach to reducing emissions through the procurement of services.

Our newsletter to businesses is used to share information on support available to them for courses, grants and advice on sustainability.

THE WAY WE MAKE ENERGY

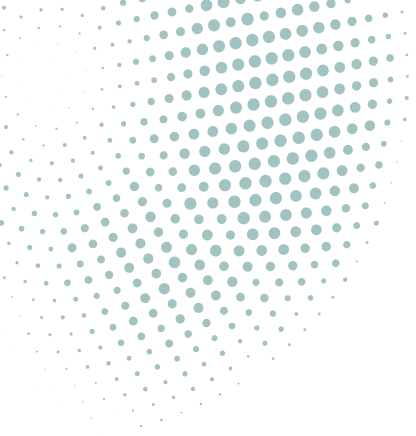
The Local Plan Policy EQ 1 states “The Council intends to meet part of its future energy needs through renewable or low carbon energy sources and will therefore encourage and support the provision of renewable and low carbon technologies, including both stand-alone installations, and micro-renewables integrated within new or existing development.”

The Local Plan is being reviewed to enhance and revise the policies relevant to climate change mitigation and adaptation delivery. This will include reviewing the approach to renewable developments.

An initial audit of Council owned buildings has been carried out to assess the feasibility of installing onsite renewables. These are to support informing the Asset Management Plan and capital investments in renewable energy measures.

Derbyshire County Council have commissioned a Renewable Energy Feasibility Study to identify potential generation opportunities across the county. This will be available later in 2022 and will help to form strategic plans to encourage and facilitate renewable energy installations.





THE WAY WE LOOK AFTER OUR ENVIRONMENT

The [Local Plan](#) recognises the important biodiversity of the borough:

“The Plan Area has a rich biodiversity, primarily due to its rural nature. The countryside surrounding the Borough’s towns and villages and bordering the Peak District National Park, comprises a patchwork of internationally, nationally, regionally and locally designated sites important for their nature conservation value.”

Policy EQ 5 states “The biodiversity and geological resources of the Plan Area and its surroundings will be conserved and where possible enhanced by ensuring that development proposals will not result in significant harm to biodiversity or geodiversity interests.”

Our [Parks Strategy](#) demonstrates our long-term commitment to providing nature-based leisure spaces for our community.

We stopped using weedkiller on put parks and open spaces in 2019 with the exception of use on invasive Japanese Knotweed.

[Serpentine Walks](#) Biodiversity Plan was developed in partnership with the biodiversity group from the Buxton Civic Association,

We have been piloting some areas with No Mow May to assess how this will impact our operations, and identify suitable sites to roll this out.

We are also working closely with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to deliver A Plan for Nature.

This will incorporate the Council’s response to the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements under Part 6 of the Environment Act 2021, which is likely to be mandatory by November 2023 subject to further guidance. It will also incorporate our strategic approach to improve and increase tree cover, create green corridors and improve the ecology of our borough.

As a borough we are already losing a significant amount of tree cover through the loss of many ash trees to Ash Die Back. Ash make up an estimated 14% of all trees in the High Peak area and it is anticipated that between 50% and 90% of all ash trees will be infected and lost within 10 years. That is a lot of trees. Therefore planting more trees is important

Anthesis was commissioned to carry out a more in-depth look at agricultural and land use emissions, and carbon offsetting given the rural nature of the borough. This forms part of the Council's on-going commitment to adopting a data-led approach and making information available for use by the Council and others to encourage, inform and shape their work.

The analysis shows that:

- Emissions from agricultural activity are significant, totalling 90ktCO₂e.
- Livestock emissions, dominate agricultural emissions in High Peak
- Over half of the borough is permanent grassland, whilst arable crops make up around 20% of land across the borough. This includes grazing land, covering wetlands and peatland.
- Peatland plays a significant role in agriculture and land use (ALU) emissions as a carbon sink. However, further research on peatland specific to Derbyshire Moorland should be conducted in partnership with Moors for the Future.
- The emissions reductions scenarios conclude that, under a high ambition scenario, the transition of High Peak's diet away from livestock (18ktCO₂e) as well as the transition from grassland to woodland (55ktCO₂e) can reduce up to 88% of emissions from ALU sources.
- Carbon offsetting is often considered to address residual emissions or the councils 'gap to target' when analysing reduction scenarios.

- Offsetting for local authorities falls under strong public scrutiny, due to its inability to retain benefits locally.
- Authority Based Insetting can offer an alternative solution to typical offsetting practices.

The report sets out the following steps for the Council to consider:

- Maintain continued engagement with farmers and landowners on this agenda
- Prioritise woodland coverage
- Conduct more specific analysis of potential sites for afforestation.
- Collect more accurate data on local farming practices and landowner carbon emissions

- Build understanding of the importance of soils in mitigating carbon emissions
- Define and communicate suitable finance options for farmers and landholders
- Establish the council's stance on carbon offsetting within their net-zero ambition.
- Explore opportunities for insetting

We will consider the analysis and recommendations within the Anthesis report during the creation of A Plan for Nature with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Since it was launched last year, Pick-Fit has had over 500 registrations and seen litter-pickers collect over 3 tonnes of litter. It has recently been recognised as [highly recommended in the MJ Awards](#). This project aims to combine health and wellbeing with a healthy environment and encourage people to consider walking before using the car.

THE WAY WE MANAGE WASTE

The Council continues to be a high performer achieving a 54% recycling rate

Our partner at AES have trialled electric light vehicles and refuse wagons in a programme to decarbonise our fleet and operations. We moving towards the use of recycled hydrogenated vegetable oil (a waste product) to fuel our fleet. Reducing carbon emissions and particulates while supporting the waste hierarchy and using a waste product.

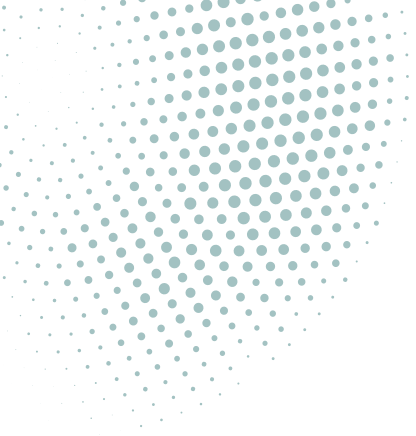
We encourage people and businesses to follow the waste hierarchy. AES has an engagement vehicle and officer who attends events to speak to the public about how to improve waste. We have proactive campaigns on fly tipping to encourage responsible waste disposal.

We will use our sustainable procurement policy to push up the supply chain to encourage the creation of a circular economy and help suppliers consider cradle to cradle product and systems design.

We recognise several community groups are establishing localised repair cafes. We will offer support to promote these types of initiatives where possible.

We adopted a Single Use Plastic policy in 2020 ensuring that wherever possible such items are not used by the Council.

We support our local food banks. This not only helps people who are struggling but diverts food from landfill. Just one of our groups in 2021/22 distributed over 10 tonnes of food. This accounts to 24,000 food portions and 16tCO₂.



THE WAY WE CAN HELP CHANGE TO OCCUR

We recognise the importance of working with external agencies, community groups, businesses, parish and town councils, academic communities and so on to support us deliver this cross cutting agenda.

The Council is engaged with a number of key agencies to assist with the development of our plans including The Midlands Energy Hub, the Energy Saving Trust, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Anthesis Sustainability Consultancy and Keele University.

We sit on several steering and working groups with Derbyshire County Council and our peers in other districts and boroughs and the Peak District National Park

As part of the Alliance, we are able to benefit from learning from colleagues and projects in Staffordshire and the West Midlands which we can use where applicable.

The Council has joined the UK100 group of local authorities with ambitious climate change targets.

This includes access to the Countryside Climate Network. We are also active members of many other peer networks to share learning and support. We have been active members of Local Authority Energy Partnership for over 20 years working with all the boroughs, districts, cities and counties across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

We recognise that we must lead by example to other organisations such as with driving the supply chain through our procurement policy and procedures. Meanwhile we must leverage the collective impact of community groups, parishes and town councils to help each other and be more than the sum of their parts when it comes to taking action to help people to action.

We also recognise our ability to lobby and respond to consultations as a Council and through our networks.

One of our next steps is to set out a comprehensive engagement and communication plan based on a stakeholder assessment to help us identify those key leverage points to accelerate the take up of actions.

Our [Climate Change Fund](#) is open to community groups who need a little help to get a project started or sustain it. We hope this will help to expand our network of interested groups outside those who we know that already doing what they can to move the agenda forward.

Round 1 of the fund has been awarded to

Buxton Baby Bank, preventing baby clothing and equipment going to landfill and helping families access second-hand equipment. They work across High Peak.

- Glossop Allotments, improving the soil health and produce yields
- Men in Sheds, Glossop, reviving tools and upcycling materials into bat boxes, toughs etc.

Sustainable Hayfield, to support targeted energy assessments of homes and install small measures to improve energy efficiency along with signposting to potential grants.

Transition New Mills, Support with their new library of things where people can borrow equipment to use at home. They bought a thermal imaging camera which people can borrow to see where the cold spots are on their homes or work places.

- Whaley After School to help with their allotment and healthy eating and education programme.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

AIM	MEASURE	BASELINE	TARGET	
			2025	2030
We will support action including retrofitting to reduce fuel poverty, prevent health hazards relating to damp and excess cold and reduce emissions from homes	Emissions from residential buildings	192,070 tCO ₂ e		Net Zero
	10% of households will be living in fuel poverty by 2025 and 0% by 2030. 2019	16%	10%	0%
	Proportion of properties with an EPC - lodged in 2019/2020	13%		
	Proportion of properties EPC with rating D to G - lodged in 2019/2020	72%		
Reduce emissions from Council vehicles and Council related activity	Fleet vehicles - Total tCO ₂ e. Cal Year 2019. Incl waste fleet Alliance	1556 tCO ₂ e		
	Fleet vehicles - total miles calendar year 2019 Alliance	380,971		
	Officer business miles (grey fleet) Alliance - CO ₂ e (2019/2020)	32.4		
	Officer business miles (grey fleet) Alliance - total miles (2019/2020)	122,960		
	Councillor business miles - CO ₂ e (2019/2020)	1.11		
	Councillor business miles - total miles (2019/2020)	3965		
We will encourage and support the increased use of EV vehicles	% of EVs TBD			
We will work in partnership to reduce travel and transport related emissions	Commuter journeys by public transport, cycling or walking	2011 - 27% journeys not by driving car/van	37.50%	40%
	Vehicle-related emissions	135 ktCO ₂ e in 2018		%

AIM	MEASURE	BASELINE	TARGET	
			2025	2030
We will reduce energy use and improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings including Leisure Centres	Emissions from Council buildings – HPBC tCO ₂ 20/21	1350		Net Zero
	Emissions from leisure centres – HPBC	1519		
We will switch the Council's energy supply to 100% green energy				
We will reduce the number of products purchased by the Council, choose low carbon/ carbon neutral products where possible, and seek to use contractors who are working towards carbon neutrality	Procurement emissions' - TBD			
We will increase tree cover, and improve wildlife habitats and biodiversity	There will be 20% urban canopy cover by 2025 and 24% by 2030.	10.5% 2018 Urban 19.49%	20%	24%
We will work in partnership to deliver our Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)	Mortality attributable to PM2.5 pollution across the Borough will remain below the national average.	4.5% (2020) National average 5.6% (2020)		
We will implement measures to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's waste and recycling service	Emissions from waste (fleet) Alliance	919 tCO ₂ e		Net Zero
We will work with Derbyshire County Council and other Derbyshire Councils to encourage recycling and the broader greener agenda	% of waste reused, recycled or composted by 2025.	47.5% in 21/22 (provisional HPBC results)	County wide target 55%	
	Residual waste per household in 2021/22	434.53 kg in 21/22 (provisional HPBC results)		



NEXT STEPS

DEVELOP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The identified indicators need targets and milestones to be set. Some existing targets need refined based on the emerging evidence of assessments being carried out or volatile market forces, for example, Fuel Poverty related to energy costs. These will be SMART where possible.

Additional indicators could be added in the future may include

- Energy reduction and on site generation
- Business Miles by active travel (walk/bike/scooter) or by public transport
- Water use
- Phase out fleet to low carbon

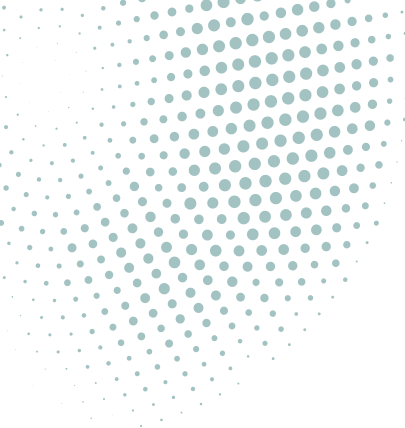
- Decarbonisation plans for Net Zero buildings
- Space utilisation
- Off-site generation
- Number of referrals to Warmer Homes Derbyshire
- Number of energy efficient measures installed
- Nature based indicators
- Air Quality targets

DEVELOP DELIVERY PLANS

Through the wider consultation in the development of the plans, many ideas and initiatives were suggested. Anthesis have collated all these ideas and scored them in terms of impact along with a possible timescale – long/medium and short term actions.

These actions will help to build up a portfolio of projects and initiatives to enable reductions in carbon emissions.

Through the Climate Change and Biodiversity Delivery Group and the Climate Champions network we will use Anthesis' assessment and overlay an internal perspective on the suggested actions.



This will help us to build a better picture of what we can achieve with existing resources and programmes, where we could easily add value to existing programmes and then understand the gaps where we need to increase capacity, knowledge, seek funding, lobby for support etc.

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ENGAGEMENT – WORK ACROSS THE BOROUGH TO EMBED AND ENCOURAGE CHANGE TO OCCUR

We are carrying out a stakeholder analysis to identify those across the borough who can leverage and accelerate change. This will include actors from across the community from, but not exclusive to, businesses, community groups, support agencies, other

public sector, schools, parish and town councils, faith groups and youth groups.

It was clear from the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge report from January 2022 that people are keen to see progress on this agenda and the Council must communicate this better to engender support and build confidence.

Climate Change cuts across all of the activities across the borough, as such each project is a component part of the solutions and will each need a different engagement strategy depending on the stakeholders and influencers.

We have created short videos to show what we are doing and what everyone can do.

Our staff now includes a network of Climate Champions who will disseminate Carbon Literacy across our staff and partners.

REPORTS

An interim report on the Plan will be made available in November with the Annual report scheduled for July 2023 through the Climate Change Working Group.

The revised Local Plan is being developed and will co-benefit targets for our climate change ambitions.

We are developing our biodiversity strategy called A Local Plan for Nature this will encompass our strategic approach to tree planting.