

Adaptation

Councils play a vital role in mitigating climate change by reducing emissions, but with increasingly frequent and more intense heatwaves, floods and wildfires, they must also lead on climate adaptation. Councils can build climate resilient communities by supporting local food production, planting trees, and ensuring that both new and existing homes are climate-resilient. Embedding resilience into council policies, strategies, and engagement is essential to making adaptation a core part of council operations.

The Scorecards include 93 questions, almost all of which contribute both to reducing emissions and increasing resilience in councils and communities. For this adaptation focused infographic, we've highlighted the questions that are most relevant to climate adaptation with the majority not featured in the other infographics.



CREATING CLIMATE RESILIENT NEW HOMES



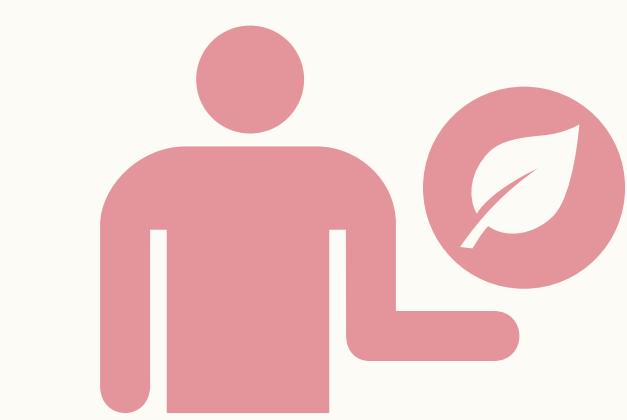
62% ▲ 3 versus 2023

of planning authorities set the highest water efficiency standards for new builds¹



45% ▲ 3 versus 2023

of planning authorities avoid building new development on land that is most at risk of flooding²



12%

of planning authorities have introduced the Green Space Factor into new development³

EMBEDDING RESILIENCE ACROSS THE COUNCIL



34%

of councils⁴ include climate risks in their Corporate Risk Register⁵



34%

of councils consulted residents most affected by climate change and climate initiatives⁶

SUPPORTING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



96% No change versus 2023

of local authorities⁷ offer funding to residents to retrofit their homes⁸



64% ▲ 38 versus 2023

of local authorities support circular economy projects⁹



24% ▲ 7 versus 2023

of councils have a tree cover target and a tree management plan¹⁰

82%

of local authorities support community food growing initiatives¹¹



(1) Q.5 in Planning & Land Use. The highest water efficiency standards are 110 litres of water per person per day in England and Wales, with Scotland using a per appliance metric • (2) Q.8 in Planning & Land Use. The land most at risk of flooding is the functional flood plain, labelled 3b in Scotland and England and 3c in Wales • (3) Q.10 in Biodiversity: Has the council introduced a Green Space Factor to increase habitat in new developments? • (4) "councils" include all 391 UK local and combined authorities assessed in the 2025 Council Climate Action Scorecards • (5) Q.2 in Governance & Finance (Q.3 for combined authorities): Does the council's Corporate Risk Register accurately identify the risks of climate change to the local area? • (6) Q.5b in Collaboration & Engagement: Does the council's ongoing engagement with residents include those most affected by climate change and climate action policy? • (7) "local authorities" excludes combined authorities • (8) Q.10 in Buildings & Heating: Does the council offer funding to private renters or homeowners to retrofit their homes? • (9) Q.2 in Waste Reduction and Food: Has the council taken steps to support a circular economy locally? • (10) Q.5 in Biodiversity: Does the council have a target to increase tree cover and is a tree management plan agreed as they grow • (11) Q. 5 in Waste Reduction and Food: Has the council taken steps to support local food growing?