



Blackburn with Darwen Climate Emergency Action Plan

Published February 2020

FOREWORD

Climate change has been recognised as one of the gravest threats ever faced by humankind. It needs to be addressed in an urgent manner.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has declared a climate emergency and set a goal to be net carbon neutral by 2030 to tackle climate change.

Across the Borough, the Council and partners have already made progress and taken steps to address climate change. From encouraging residents to recycle more, to take up energy efficiency grants to help with the cost of installing loft and cavity wall insulation and to cycle more.

However, tackling climate change requires everybody - local authorities, communities, government and businesses - to take action together. This, our first Climate Change Action Plan, has been developed to steer action across Blackburn with Darwen and deliver on our Corporate Plan objective to reduce our carbon footprint.

Our Action Plan sets out what needs to be done in the local area to contribute to the battle against climate change through resource efficiency, emissions reductions and behavioural change to help reduce future climate change and to adapt to the climate change impacts which are already inevitable.



FOREWORD

The Council has outlined the following objectives:

- » **Sound Decisions** – To use resources sustainably so as not to add to the burden of climate change emissions in Blackburn with Darwen or elsewhere
- » **Resilient & attractive borough** – To align policy to climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives to create sustainable places where people want to live, work and visit and capture the benefits to health and the economy from the move to a climate-friendly borough
- » **Lean and clean** – To use energy more efficiently and generate more locally from renewable sources; cut waste and improve recycling
- » **Travelling lightly** – To make and facilitate the transition to cleaner, greener fuels and more active travel;
- » **Capturing more carbon** – To store carbon naturally by increasing tree cover, protecting soils and enhancing natural habitats.

We cannot do this alone. We will hold a Citizens' Inquiry to identify actions that individuals, communities, organisations and decision-makers could take and we will work with other bodies in the public, private and voluntary sector to learn what they may already be doing to tackle climate change. We know too, that Blackburn with Darwen is just a small part of the problem and we need action at national and international level to help us reach our carbon neutral target. The Council will lobby Government for the support it needs. The plan will evolve to reflect actions being taken across the Borough and we will report progress annually to full Council.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Park".

Denise Park
Chief Executive



A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "V.McG".

Councillor Vicky McGurk
Executive Member for Finance and Resources

ACTION SUMMARY

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will:

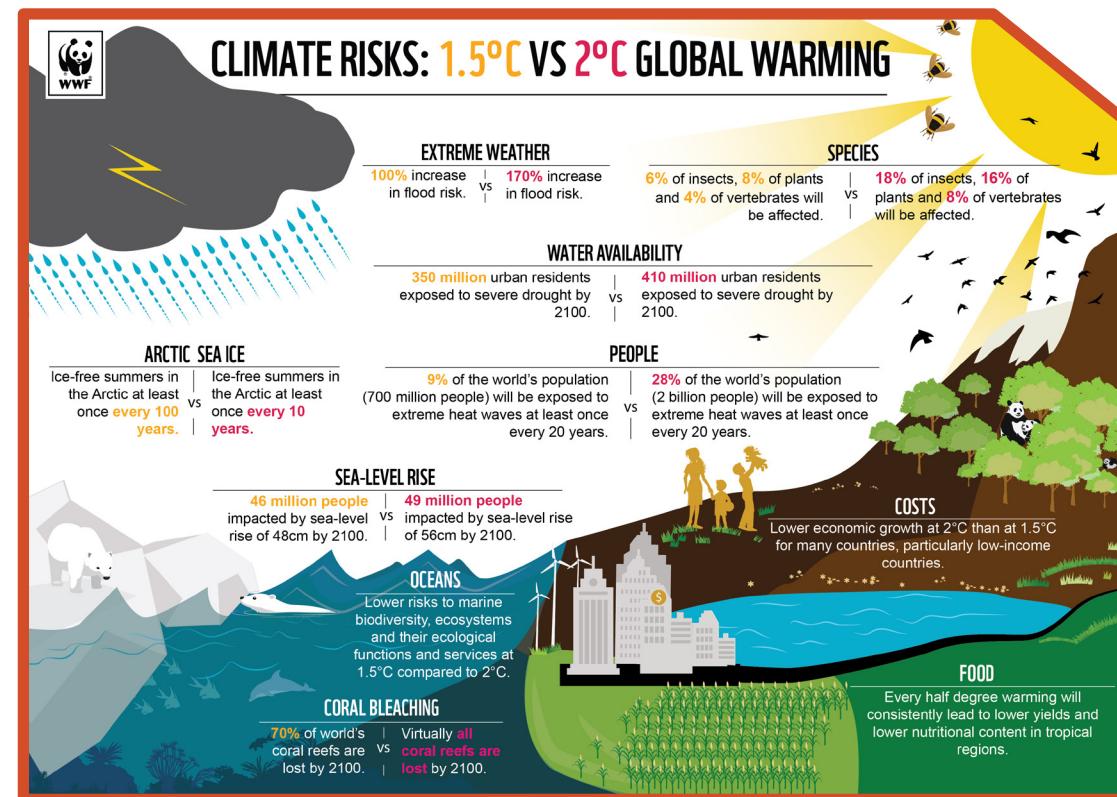
Sound Decisions	<p>Account for emissions in decision making</p> <p>Revise procurement policies and procedures to ensure environmental impact is considered as part of all major procurements.</p>
Resilient & Attractive Borough	Align Council policy with our climate emergency objectives
	Review and update our plan to adapt to the changing climate to ensure a resilient borough
	Take what steps we can to facilitate improvement of homes in the borough to reduce emissions and tackle fuel poverty.
	Exploit the opportunities arising from the move to a low carbon economy
Lean & Clean	Invest in clean energy and efficiency measures throughout the Council estate and support renewable energy generation in the borough
	Reduce the household waste generated in the borough, increase recycling and maximise the benefit from residual waste
Travelling Lightly	Reduce emissions from transport and increase active travel
Capture more carbon Basis for change	Work with landowners to plant more trees and protect and enhance natural carbon stores
	Work with residents and partners to raise awareness of and to take action to tackle climate change
	Identify a Climate Emergency Champion and provide regular reports on action plan progress to Council and residents
	Actively lobby the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2030 target

INTRODUCTION

The Earth is warming up fast – faster than any other time in the planet's history. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal, have caused global temperatures to rise by almost 1°C above pre-industrial levels. This degree of difference is causing more extreme weather events and sea level rises worldwide, putting people and the environment at risk.

In 2015 world nations, including the UK, signed up to the [Paris Agreement](#) to keep global temperature rise to well below 2°C and make every effort to keep the rise to no more than 1.5 °C. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions”.

In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that global warming is on track to reach 1.5 °C between 2030 and 2052 and 3-5 °C by the end of the century, if it continues to increase at the current rate. Limiting it to 1.5 °C to avoid catastrophic impacts on natural and human systems requires rapid and far-reaching action across all sectors NOW .



The difference in the impacts of just 0.5 °C are shown in the above infographic:

In response to the IPCC report the UK, in June 2019, passed [laws](#) to end its contribution to global warming, setting a target to be net carbon zero by 2050. This means any emissions would be balanced by schemes to offset an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, such as planting trees to capture and store carbon dioxide.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The UK makes a relatively small contribution to global emissions of greenhouse gases – just 1.1% of total emissions. In 2018, each person in the UK was responsible for 5.5 tonnes of CO₂ being emitted into the atmosphere. The UK is also a net importer of emissions from other countries that produce food, goods and services on our behalf, increasing each person's emissions by at least 50%.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has long been aware of climate change and taken steps to cut emissions and adapt to more extreme weather. But, the consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5 °C are so severe that preventing it from happening must be humanity's number one priority. The Council recognises it is part of the problem and needs to transform how it operates and change mind-sets if it is to redress the balance between climate-related considerations and other, often competing, priorities. Protecting the environment is the top priority for young people in Blackburn with Darwen, as identified by the 2019 Making Your Mark Campaign. The Council needs, with other local authorities, to show leadership in taking action. It remains, of course, the role of national Government to improve leadership and coordination over UK climate policy implementation.

In acknowledgement of the urgency of the situation the Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to work with residents and partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030.

The [Declaration](#) made by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council in July 2019, in summary, notes that:

- Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world;
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has already made some positive progress, but this is not enough. More can and must be done;
- Action from all parts of society is necessary and local government has a responsibility to lead the way.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The Council believes that:

- All levels of government (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown. Local councils that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
- The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5 °C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority;
- Bold local climate action can deliver economic and social benefits in terms of new green jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as much improved well-being for Blackburn with Darwen residents.

The Council decides to:

- Declare a Climate Emergency
- Commit to a target of making Blackburn with Darwen carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- Request an update report within six months setting out the immediate actions the Council has taken and will take to address this emergency and meet the 2030 target.
- Work with partners across our towns and across the region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans and drawing on local and global best practice.
- Actively lobby the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2030 target.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan sits alongside and informs the Council's principal plans strategies which, collectively, deliver our Corporate Plan objectives, in particular, reducing our carbon footprint, creating a safe and clean place to live and visit, and promoting pride in the area and environment.



THE MAIN GREENHOUSE GASES AND THEIR SOURCES

Greenhouse gases are essential for life on Earth, but in too great quantities, they are responsible for the excess warming of the atmosphere. The main greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the dominant driving force in global warming and accounts for about 80% of the UK's greenhouse gases. Atmospheric levels are higher than they have ever been and rising.²

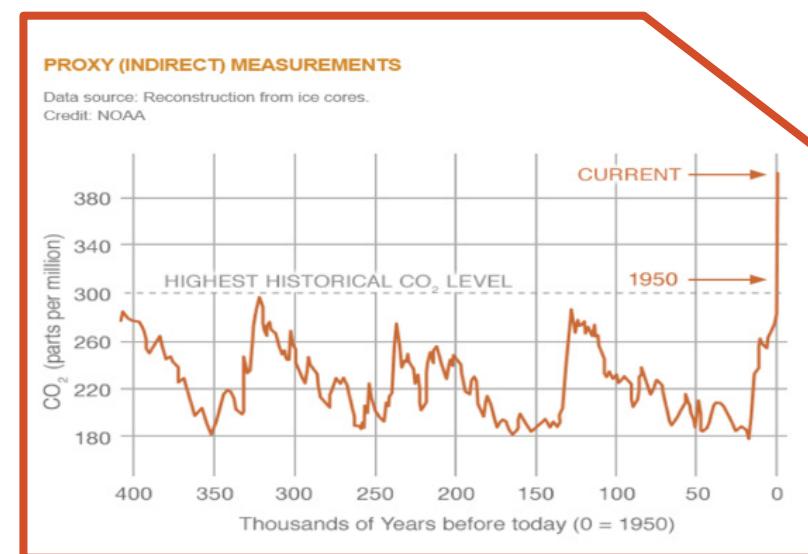
Greenhouse gases are released when we burn fossil fuel to generate the energy needed to power and heat our homes, businesses, schools and hospitals, produce goods and services, supply and dispose of water and transport people and merchandise. Greenhouse gases are also released from ploughing the soil, from deforestation, waste disposal sites and belching livestock.

From production to consumption, food is responsible for 30% of global emissions and has many negative environmental impacts, such as dependence on fossil fuels, loss of biodiversity and depletion of natural resources.

The UK, in 2017, emitted 460 million tonnes of greenhouse gases from the sources shown³. Emissions are down 43% on 1990 levels, mainly because the UK has swapped coal for renewable energy from sun and wind to generate electricity. Provisional figures for 2018 suggest the downward trend is continuing. Emissions from transport, however, continue to buck the trend, having risen 6% in the last three decades, as ever increasing mileage wipes out the benefit of more fuel-efficient vehicles.

These figures do not include imported goods, which are accounted for where they are made, or international shipping and aviation. Reducing emissions from shipping is possible, but cutting emissions from aviation is likely to happen only with a reduction in demand for flying⁴.

Emissions from Blackburn with Darwen have fallen as a result of the changes in how electricity is generated and because electrical equipment, homes and cars have become more energy efficient. In 2017, 624,000 tonnes of CO₂ were emitted Blackburn with Darwen homes, road transport and industry and commerce.



² NASA The Causes of Climate Change <https://climate.nasa.gov/causes/>

³ Department for Business, Energy & industrial Strategy: 2017 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-2017

⁴ Bows-Larkin, A., Traut, M., Gilbert, P., Mander, S., Walsh, C., & Anderson, K. (2012). Aviation and shipping - privileged again? (Tyndall Centre Briefing note 47). Manchester: Manchester University.

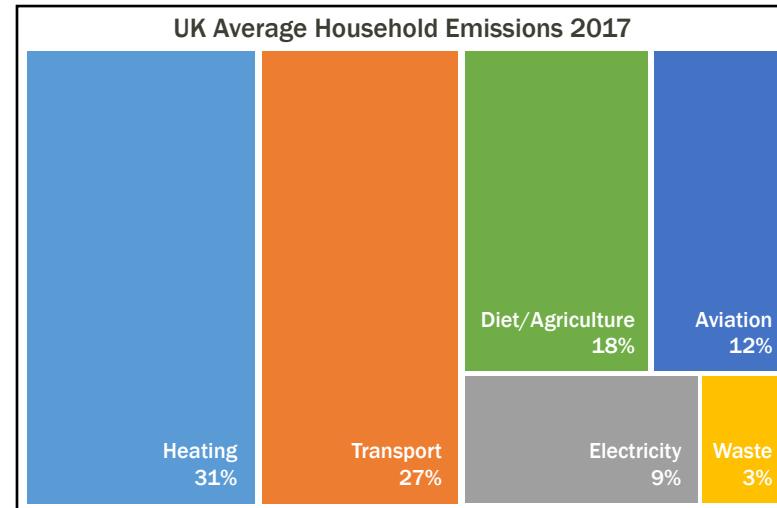
THE MAIN GREENHOUSE GASES AND THEIR SOURCES

The sector split in the borough is:

Sector	BwD	UK
Domestic	34%	27%
Transport	26%	36%
Industry & Commerce	41%	37%

Households were responsible for one-quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions in the UK in 2017, an average of around 9 tonnes per household. Increasing car ownership and number of flights taken are thought to be the reasons why emissions by household have not been falling in recent years.

Open green space in the town and countryside, forestry and agriculture all have a vital role to play in capturing and storing carbon. The land in Blackburn with Darwen held at least 4,100 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2017, as well as providing vital habitat for wildlife, and services for people such as recreation, shade and flood defence.



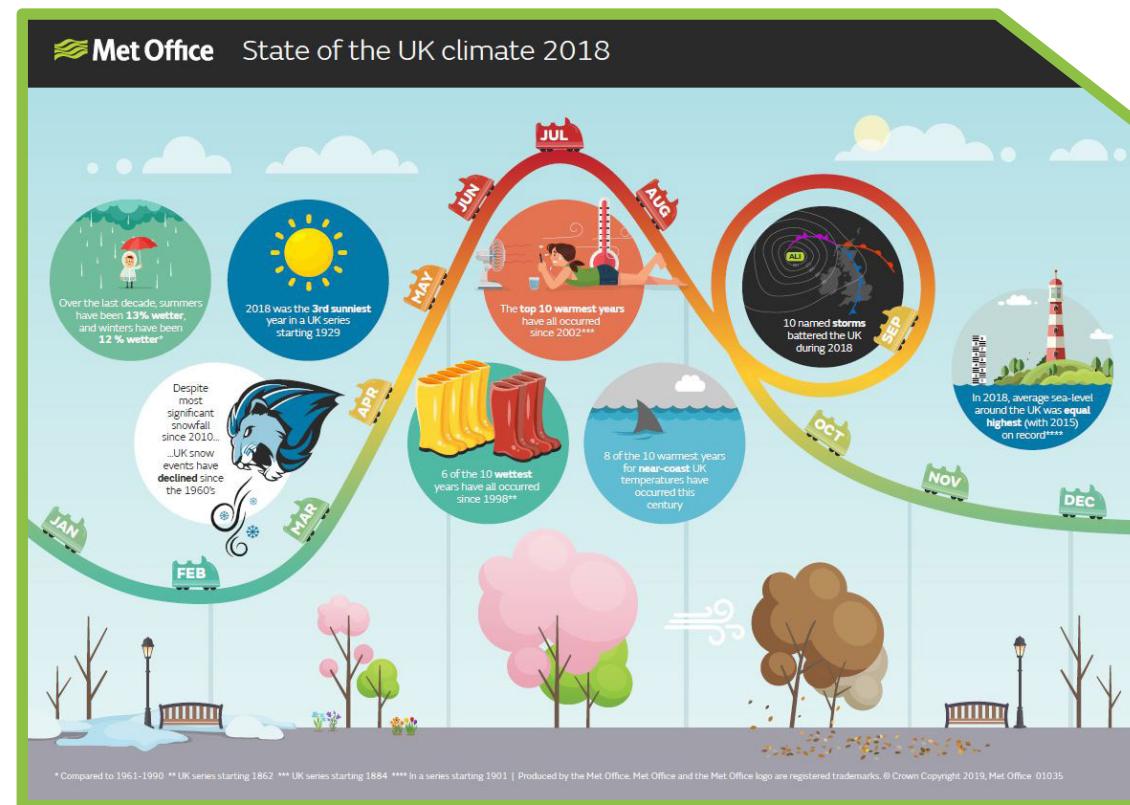
THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is already affecting the UK and other countries around the world⁵ as a consequence of rising sea levels and more frequent extreme weather events such as heat waves, drought, extreme rainfall, and coastal flooding.

The main threats are:

- Flooding risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
- Risk of shortages in the water supply for people agriculture and industry;
- Risks to wildlife and habitats
- Risks to food production

Vulnerable people, whether because of age, disability, ill health or low income, tend to be more badly affected by climate change. For example, the number of deaths increased around the same time as the hottest day on record (July 2019) in the UK⁶. This could be because the most vulnerable people such as those with pre-existing respiratory or cerebrovascular diseases are more susceptible to death during heatwaves.



⁵ www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp18-headline-findings-2.pdf

⁶ Office for National Statistics, Do summer Heatwaves Lead to an Increase in Deaths? Oct 2019 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/articles/dosummerheatwavesleadtoanincreaseindeaths/2019-10-07

WHAT THE COUNCIL IS ALREADY DOING

The Council has addressed the risks and pursued the opportunities presented by a changing climate, in line with local priorities, through its role as:

- Community leader – helping local people to be smarter about their energy use and to prepare for climate impacts;
- Service provider – delivering services that are resource efficient and that protect those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts;
- Estate manager – ensuring that our own buildings and operations are energy efficient

The Council's Corporate Plan requires all departments to take active steps to reduce our carbon footprint and create a safe and clean environment. Strategic plans, particularly its land use and transport plans, contain policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change. For example, the risk of flooding from river and surface water must be assessed and suitable mitigation measures put in place; charge points to help the transition to electric vehicles are normally a condition of large, new development.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is part of Cosy Homes in Lancashire ([CHiL](#)), a collaboration of Lancashire local authorities that delivers domestic energy efficiency schemes pan-Lancashire. CHiL works to improve the energy efficiency of Lancashire homes, address health inequalities exacerbated by living in cold damp homes, reduce fuel poverty, tackle seasonal excess deaths and reduce carbon emissions from the domestic sector.

Electric vehicle charge points have been installed in 5 public car parks in Blackburn and Darwen to help the transition to electric vehicles. A range of multi-modal transport schemes, funded by the Council's Local Transport Plan to improve rail (Blackburn to Manchester rail services), bus (Pennine Reach), walking and cycling infrastructure and services (Weavers Wheel) have been progressed. The Council is delivering the Connecting East Lancashire project to promote and encourage sustainable transport choices.



WHAT THE COUNCIL IS ALREADY DOING

Insulation, first time central heating and new boilers have been installed in the homes of some of the borough's most vulnerable residents, providing more comfortable living conditions and taking them out of fuel poverty as well as reducing emissions. These schemes have been made possible by the availability of funding initially from national government and now through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme. Improvements carried out in the borough in 2017 saved at least 627 tonnes of CO₂. CHiL also offers residents in the region access to energy efficiency grants, affordable heating solutions, energy advice and support on a range of money saving energy measures to help residents heat and insulate their homes.

The amount of household waste sent to landfill instead of recycling, composting or energy from waste has a marked effect on emissions of greenhouse gases. Today, residents generate 30% less waste than they did in 2006/07, but also recycle very much less. Indeed, the recycling rate in Blackburn with Darwen at 30% is one of the lowest in the country. If the residual waste can't be incinerated for energy then it is sent to landfill and emissions increase markedly. The Council has launched a campaign and is preparing an action plan to increase the recycling rate to 65% and send 70% of residual waste to an energy from waste plant by 2030. In 2019, the Council granted planning permission for an Energy to Waste plant to be constructed in Lower Darwen. The plant will generate enough electricity to power every home in the borough.

Between 2014 and 2016 the Council replaced 17,500 street lamps in the Borough with LEDs, cutting primary electricity consumption by 5 million kilowatt hours (62%) and CO₂ emissions by 2,600 tonnes a year.

Since 2005 the Council has cut emissions from its own buildings by a third by encouraging staff to use energy wisely and installing energy efficient equipment such as LEDs, new boilers and voltage optimisation.

Eat Well, Move More, Shape Up is Blackburn with Darwen's food, physical activity and healthy weight strategy to tackle health inequalities which aims, amongst other things, to reduce food waste and the carbon footprint of the food system. UK households throw away approximately 7 million tonnes of food, most of which could have been eaten, £450 worth per household or £700 for a family with children⁷. In terms of greenhouse gas emissions it would be the equivalent of taking 1 in 4 cars off the road if all food waste was eliminated.

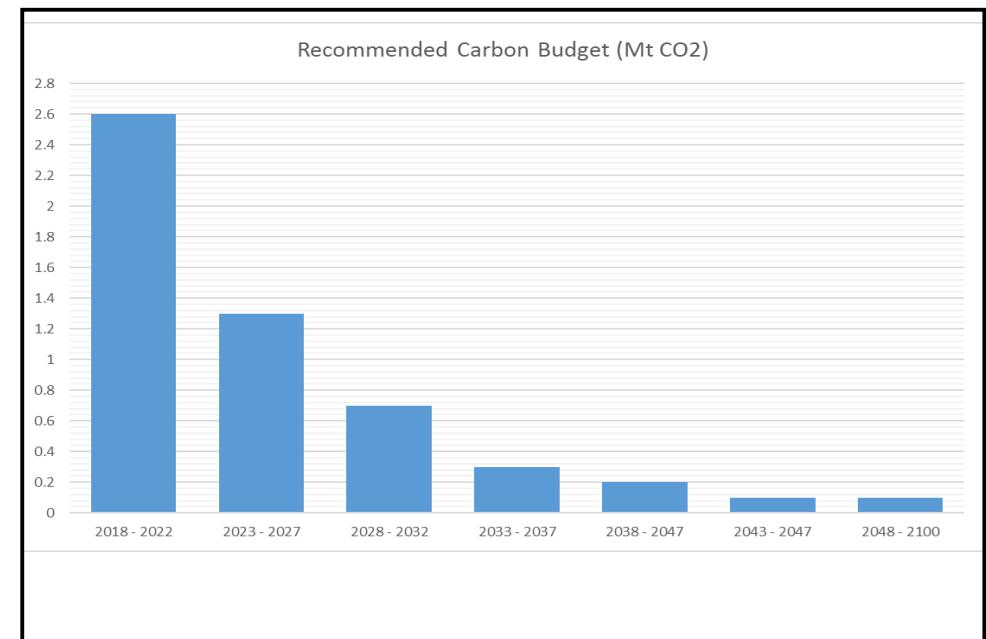
In addition to acting to mitigate the impact of its activities on climate change, the Council must reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change that are inevitable due to past and current greenhouse gas emissions. Adapting to climate change is essential if the borough is to remain resilient in the face of the changing climate. Actions that the Council is taking to adapt are outlined in its [Adaptation Strategy](#), which is to be updated in 2020.

CARBON REDUCTION PATHWAY

In spite of past activity much more needs to be done and more quickly. The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in Manchester⁸ has calculated carbon budgets for every local authority in England. For Blackburn with Darwen to make its fair contribution towards a global temperature target of 1.5 °C, the borough needs to stay within 4 million tonnes of CO₂ between 2020 and 2100. At current emission levels the budget will be used up in 7 years so a 13% reduction every year is needed, about 81,000 tonnes in the first year.

Local authorities are well placed to drive and influence action on climate change through the services they deliver, their regulatory and strategic functions, and their roles as community leaders, major employers and large-scale procurers. However, it is not all in the Council's control or sphere of influence, nor does the authority have the resource and expertise to tackle everything. It is important to work in partnership with residents, particularly young people, business and other sectors to find solutions and to be prepared to lobby government on the big issues that need a national or even an international response.

Partner organisations will include East Lancs Hospital Trust, Blackburn College, the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership, Blackburn Hive, the Environment Agency, social landlords, Council for Voluntary Services, Transdev, faith groups, Electricity NW, United Utilities, youth groups, and neighbouring councils.



ACTION PLAN

The Council intends to be pro-active in tackling climate change, taking what action it can, encouraging others to take action and lobbying government to provide the support needed to help the borough be carbon neutral by 2030.

This plan sets out the main proposals and initial actions that the Council intends to take, underpinned by the following objectives:

- Sound Decisions – To use resources sustainably so as not to add to the burden of climate change emissions in Blackburn with Darwen or elsewhere.
- Resilient & attractive borough – To align policy to climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives to create sustainable places where people want to live, work and visit and capture the benefits to health and the economy from the move to a climate-friendly borough.
- Lean and clean – To use energy more efficiently and generate more locally from renewable sources; cut waste and improve recycling.
- Travelling lightly – To make and facilitate the transition to cleaner, greener fuels and more active travel.
- Capturing more carbon – To store carbon naturally by increasing tree cover, protecting soils and enhancing natural habitats.

To provide the basis for change we must aim for:

- Wider understanding of the climate emergency
- Stronger partnerships and networks
- Adequate resourcing of the investment needed to match the scale of the challenge
- Evidence informed action and sound governance



ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan will deliver on the Council's Corporate Plan ambition to enable residents to achieve a good quality of life in a vibrant and thriving place, with strong community values and an inclusive society. All of the actions have benefits other than cutting emissions of carbon dioxide, such as to health from better air quality, more active travel and healthier diets, reductions in fuel poverty, economic regeneration and creation of local jobs, and lower energy bills. Furthermore, increasing resilience to climate change risks can result in avoided costs from flood damage to buildings, infrastructure and services, enhanced green spaces and improved health. We recognise that there may be tensions between conflicting goals that we will have to resolve as we implement our plan. We may also be limited in our ambition if the national policy context is not strengthened and no additional resources are made available.

Our Plan is a preliminary document to be developed in collaboration with residents and partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Our proposals will be subject to more detailed investigation to determine costs, benefits and priorities and to enable the Council to set out a comprehensive timetable for action, investment and lobbying. We want to share intelligence and secure locally determined contributions from all sectors to help meet our carbon neutral objective and incorporate actions by partners into the plan.

Our preliminary Action Plan is set out below. We propose to open dialogue with partners and residents, beginning with a Citizens' Inquiry, early in 2020. The review of our internal procedures to ensure CO₂ emissions are accounted for in decisions is already underway. The work needed to produce business plans for each action will get underway from early in 2020.



www.imperial.ac.uk/news/190946/things-about-climate-change/

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Sound Decisions	We will account for emissions in decision making	The Council recognises that its decision making processes don't currently achieve an adequate balance between climate change related considerations and other priorities. We are committed to improving our processes to improve how we account for carbon in our decisions. We propose to review and revise our internal reporting and procurement procedures to help us identify sources of emissions, and the most cost-effective ways to reduce them. The Council is developing a new Social Value policy in which environmental considerations will play an important factor.	By mid-2020
	We will revise procurement policies and procedures to ensure environmental impact is considered as part of all major procurements	<p>The Council will find the most appropriate and cost-effective means of providing training for staff and elected members in support of procedural changes.</p> <p>Directors of Public Health will publish a climate emergency section in their Annual Public Health Reports</p>	On-going From 2020/21
Resilient & Attractive Borough	We will align Council policy with our climate emergency objectives	As plans and strategies are prepared the Council will ensure that they address its climate change objectives. These include its departmental service plans as well as its Financial Strategy and statutory plans such as the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan (LTP4), both of which are in the process of being updated. The Council recognises that the Local Plan is the vehicle to set a consistent framework on many key climate change and related matters.	In line with timescales for plan preparation e.g. Local Plan: Examination early 2021
	We will review and update our plan to adapt to the changing climate to ensure a resilient borough	The Council's Adaptation Strategy will be reviewed in the light of the latest UK climate projections and the associated action plan updated.	September 2020

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Resilient & Attractive Borough	We will take what steps we can to facilitate improvement of homes in the borough to reduce emissions and tackle fuel poverty	<p>A large part of the Borough's housing stock is in poor condition and energy inefficient. Some 14% of households live in fuel poverty, meaning more than 10% of their income is spent on energy bills. Responsibility for the energy efficiency of a dwelling lies with the owner or the landlord. The Council will continue to work with partners to secure funds, provide advice, promote the benefits of energy efficiency measures and enforce minimum standards in the private rented sector.</p> <p>The Council is preparing a Fuel Poverty Strategy to guide where it should focus its limited resources and identify where additional assistance from Government is needed.</p> <p>The Council will continue to work with Lancashire local authorities and the County Council through Cosy Homes in Lancashire to secure Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding to undertake energy efficiency measures that improve living conditions for vulnerable people and those on low incomes.</p>	On-going
	We will exploit the opportunities arising from the move to a low carbon economy	<p>Decarbonisation of energy and development of the circular economy are major opportunities for clean development and new jobs and skills.</p> <p>The Council will use its influence with the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and other local/national public/private partners to progress technology and relevant product and process innovation to support changes required. It will work through networks, such as the Hive, and Growth Lancashire to identify champions who will encourage the business sector to cut emissions from all parts of its operation, including transport and supply chains.</p>	June 2020 On-going From 2020 On-going

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Lean & Clean	We will invest in clean energy and efficiency measures throughout the Council estate and support renewable energy generation in the borough	<p>The Council will assess its estate to identify opportunities for energy efficiency measures and renewable energy installations. It will draw up business plans to help it identify the costs and benefits and prepare an investment plan to 2030.</p> <p>The Council will work with partners to identify opportunities for renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures in the borough and prepare an investment plan to 2030 for viable schemes.</p>	December 2020
	We will reduce the waste generated in the borough, increase recycling and maximise the benefit from residual waste	<p>The Council has an objective to increase its recycling rate from 30% to 65% by 2030, reducing contamination by separation of recyclables and sending the residual waste to an energy-from-waste plant. An action plan to achieve this goal is being prepared and the publicity campaign is already underway.</p> <p>The Council is reviewing and refreshing its internal systems for office recycling to minimise what is sent to landfill. The Council will review its purchasing to ensure it uses single-use plastic only where necessary and will also encourage staff to find alternatives such as re-useable water bottles and coffee cups.</p> <p>An audit of Blackburn and Darwen Markets will be undertaken to find cost-effective alternatives to single-use plastics, identify waste streams and how these can be minimised and improve recycling rates. Blackburn and Darwen Markets aim to showcase sustainable business practices.</p>	From 2023 From December 2019 September 2020
	We will seek increased transparency from the Council's Pension Fund managers in relation to the coherence of Pension Fund Investment choices	The Council will call for increased transparency from its Pension Funds managers to ensure investment choices align with its Climate Change strategy	2020

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Travelling Lightly	We will reduce emissions from transport and increase active travel	<p>The current Local Transport Plan (LTP3 2011-2021) aims to reduce carbon emissions from transport to help achieve a low-carbon and resilient transport system. Encouraging active travel, better public transport and preparation for electrification of vehicles are key to this strategy. The plan is to be updated (LTP4 2021 onwards) and the review process will examine existing policy to ensure it can help to deliver the Council's carbon neutral goal. The strategy will be accompanied by a detailed implementation programme with potential schemes to be delivered in the short (by 2025), medium (by 2030) and long term (by 2040).</p> <p>The Council will develop an investment plan to move its fleet from fossil to clean fuel by 2030.</p> <p>We will investigate ways to reduce emissions from staff business travel and commuting and introduce cost-effective solutions as quickly as possible.</p> <p>We will work with local taxi drivers to find ways to cut emissions from the 27 million miles driven in the borough every year.</p>	On-going On-going September 2020 September 2020
Capture more carbon	We will work with landowners to plant more trees and protect and enhance natural carbon stores	Owners and occupiers have a vital role to play in managing their open land as a carbon 'sink' as well as its main use for, e.g. agriculture, recreation or wildlife, whether in the urban areas or the countryside. The Council will, with key landowners and environmental organisations, assess opportunities for improvements and set out how these might be implemented and by whom. This would include protecting existing moorland and trees, identifying appropriate sites for tree planting, ascertaining how moorland habitats could be enhanced and at the same time help with flood attenuation and promoting environmental stewardship to farmers. The role of urban parks, public open spaces and private gardens will also be considered.	March 2021

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Basis for change	We will work with residents, schools and partners to raise awareness of and to tackle climate change	<p>We will hold a Citizens' Inquiry into the climate emergency. Held over a number of sessions, it will involve a representative group of residents receiving and debating information about climate change and making recommendations for what residents, the Council and other can do about climate change. These recommendations will inform the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan. Recommendations are disseminated and shared with key stakeholders, including residents.</p> <p>A communications plan will be prepared to manage the dissemination of information and advice to residents, partners and others during development and implementation of the plan. This will include information on matters of individual choice such as food, diet and consumption of goods and services including air travel.</p> <p>We will address the climate emergency with the borough's schools through the School Council.</p> <p>The Council will support the Blackburn with Darwen Youth Forum, the Youth MP and two Deputy Youth MPs to engage young people in tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>The Council will work with other Lancashire local authorities and public bodies to tackle the climate emergency.</p>	Spring 2020 Spring 2020 2020 2020 Ongoing

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Basis for change	We will identify a Climate Emergency Champion and provide regular reports on action	<p>Member and officer leads will be identified and a governance structure agreed.</p> <p>The plan will be presented for approval to Executive Board. It will be updated as proposals are worked up in greater detail, investment implications evaluated and schemes prioritised. Partner organisation proposals to cut emissions will be documented in the plan.</p> <p>The first amendment to the action plan will assimilate recommendations arising from the Citizens' Inquiry into the plan.</p>	<p>March 2020</p> <p>February 2020</p>
	We will actively lobby the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2030 target	The Council will lobby Government as necessary as it identifies where support and/or resources are required to achieve its carbon neutral objective.	On-going

WHAT YOU CAN DO

While individuals alone may not be able to make drastic emissions cuts that limit climate change to acceptable levels, personal action is essential to tackle climate change and raise awareness of the importance of the issue. Using your voice and taking action as a consumer, a customer, a member of the electorate and an active citizen, will lead to changes on a much grander scale.

1. Tell the government to act now	<p>Time is running out to stop catastrophic climate change. The solutions are out there, and if we act quickly, we can make them a reality.</p> <p>Individuals need to exercise their rights both as citizens and as consumers, putting pressure on the government and on companies to make the system-wide changes are needed.</p>
2. Take action in your community	<p>Right now, people just like you are coming together to develop practical, local solutions and make their towns and cities more climate-friendly. Find out what's happening near you.</p>
3. Power up on plants	<p>After fossil fuels, the food industry is one of the most important contributors to climate change – meat and dairy production is responsible for 14% of global emissions.</p> <p>You don't have to go vegetarian or vegan to make a difference. By reducing your consumption of animal protein by half, you can cut your diet's carbon footprint by more than 40%.</p>



WHAT YOU CAN DO

4. Top up your fitness	<p>Petrol and diesel cars spew out lots of climate-changing emissions. They also increase air pollution, which poses a serious threat to public health.</p> <p>Top up your fitness and tackle climate change at the same time by cycling or walking.</p> <p>Too far? Hop on the bus or train.</p> <p>If driving is unavoidable... Investigate trading in your diesel or petrol car for an electric or hybrid model. A fully electric vehicle could save 2 tonnes of CO₂ per year. Or try car sharing.</p> <p>When behind the wheel, drive smoothly and switch off the engine when you park up.</p>
5. Take the train, not the plane	<p>Flying is one of the fastest-growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Consider taking your next holiday in the UK or hop on the train if you're heading to Europe.</p> <p>At work, try video-conferencing and when flying is unavoidable, choose a standard class seat as that will use the plane's capacity more efficiently than first or business class.</p>



WHAT YOU CAN DO

6. Save energy at home

Being energy efficient doesn't mean going without a warm and well-lit home or making big sacrifices. Many energy efficiency measures are low-cost and may even save you money.

Small changes at home will help you use less energy, cutting your carbon footprint and your energy bills:

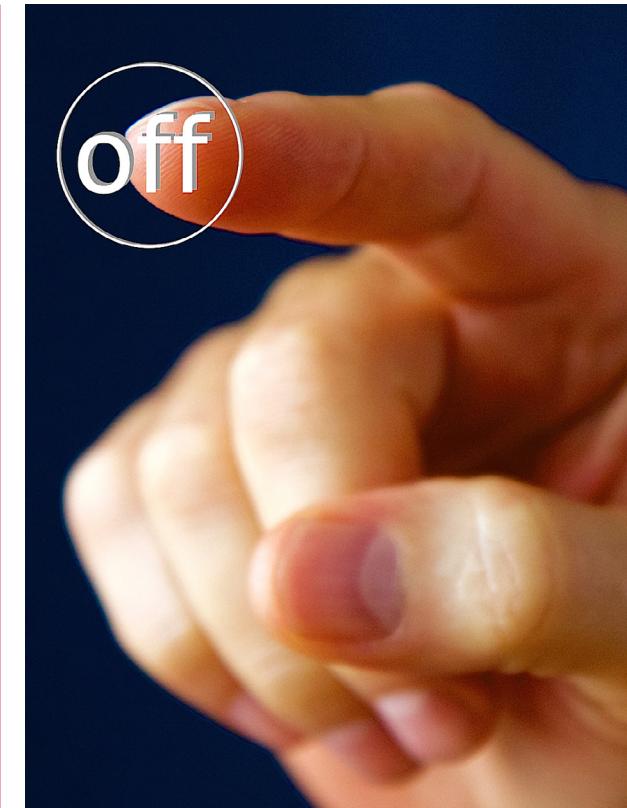
- Put on an extra layer and turn down the heating a degree or two;
- Turn off lights and appliances when you don't need them;
- Replace light bulbs with LEDs;
- Make simple changes to how you use hot water, like buying a water-efficient shower head.

Make sure your home is energy efficient. Check the building has proper insulation, and consider draught-proofing windows and doors. If you are in rented accommodation, lobby your landlord to make sure the property is energy efficient.

These measures could reduce an average household's emissions by 0.6 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

Switching energy supply to a green tariff is a great way to invest in renewable energy sources – and could save you money on bills too.

Generating energy from renewable sources is getting easier and cheaper to do and worth checking if it's appropriate for your home. Low-carbon generation could save 1.25 tonnes of CO₂ per year for the average home.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

7. Cut consumption and waste	<p>Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle</p> <p>Everything we use as consumers has a carbon footprint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid single-use items and fast fashion, and try not to buy more than you need; • Shop around for quality items that last a long time; • Put your purchasing power to good use by choosing brands that align with your new green aspirations; • Give unwanted items a new life by donating them to charity; • Avoid wasting food; • Let brands know if you think they are using too much packaging <p>Help the Council to recycle as much of your waste as possible. Reducing and sorting waste could reduce emissions from the average home by 0.25 tonnes of CO₂ per year.</p>
8. Invest your money wisely	<p>Are your savings for the future being used to make that future worse? Find out where your money goes and choose a bank or pension provider that invests in the type of things you agree with.</p>
9. What if I just can't avoid that flight, or cut down on driving?	<p>If you simply can't make every change that's needed, consider offsetting your emissions with a trusted green project to compensate for that unavoidable flight or car trip. A web search will help you find the right company. Off-setting is a far cry from a solution to climate change, but it helps.</p>
10. Talk about the changes you make	<p>Share your experience with your family, friends, customers and clients. Talk positively and honestly about the ups and downs. Social scientists have found that when one person makes a sustainability-oriented decision, other people do too, so you will make a difference, no matter how small it seems.</p>





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For more information on our Climate Emergency Action Plan please visit www.blackburn.gov.uk

