

Fareham Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan

Introduction

Tackling climate change will pose a significant challenge in the coming years. It will take planning and initiative to bring about positive change and brings the opportunity to build on what we have already achieved as a borough. We can create a society that is more sustainable and one that understands its impact on the environment.

Located in an area of some 30 square miles along the south coast of Hampshire, Fareham is a popular and attractive place to live. Fareham is also growing. Our population has steadily increased over the last 30 years and that trend is expected to continue. People are living longer, and we have an increasingly aging population.

We want to ensure that every generation has a positive future. We are seeking to mitigate climate change and are already underway with a number of resilience projects. Having established our carbon footprint, we can now plan for carbon neutrality in our Council services.

We must also ensure that we address climate equity as the effects of climate change typically affect the most vulnerable in society. For example, those experiencing fuel poverty are often unable to afford the changes their home needs to be more energy efficient. Older residents will also feel the extremes of a changing climate more intensively; risking heat stress in the summer and/or excessive cold and damp in the winter.

This document sets out the challenges that the Council will face in meeting carbon neutrality. It outlines the actions we will undertake in the short term, including those already underway, and describes how we will address the longer-term goals.

Planning for neutrality in the long term will be driven by where the greatest carbon savings can be made. These projects require comprehensive work exploring costs, carbon savings and resources. This Strategy sets out an overarching plan of delivery rather than focusing on the detail of every project.

What is Climate Change?

Climate change looks at average weather patterns and temperature over a long period, determining whether there is a change within a region. The term 'climate change' is usually used in the context of man-made effects on the environment - largely resulting from the amount of carbon dioxide that we have put into the atmosphere.

Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, warming the Earth's surface. The increase in the release of these gases by human activity is well documented by scientists globally. By reducing our emissions, we can help to prevent a further rise in global temperatures.

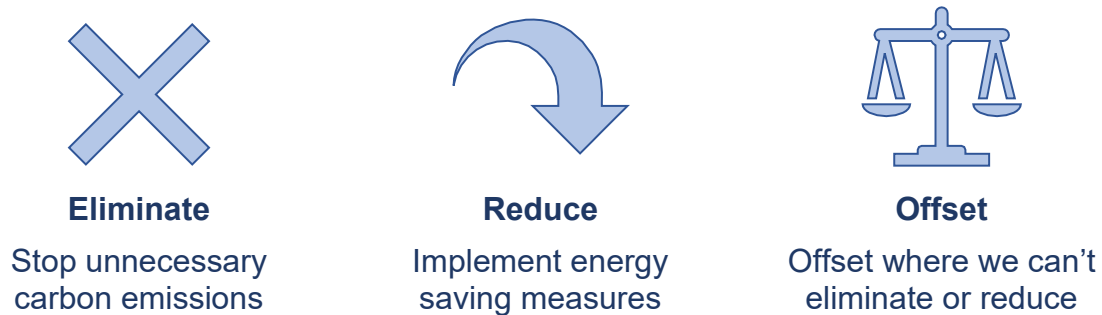
Fareham is positioned along the coast, it has areas of farmland, nature conservation, rivers flowing through urban neighbourhoods and a vibrant community to protect. Locally, if we don't address climate change, we risk seeing increased extreme weather events such as flooding, soil erosion, loss of wildlife, invasive species and loss of land. Remedying these issues can be costly in both ecological and economic terms; we want to prevent this wherever we can.

Our Vision

We recognise the importance of mitigating climate change within Fareham and want to ensure resilience, equity and the environment are at the heart of everything we do.

Our Key Principles

Our strategy to become carbon neutral is centred around 3 principles:



These principles will provide a framework for our carbon reduction actions and help to guide us when making key decisions.

Projects to Date

The Council has had the natural environment as a focus for many years. The Corporate Vision is reviewed annually and the priority 'Protect and Enhance the Environment' has been highlighted since 2011.

Many of the projects the Council is involved in are part of its 'everyday operations'. As they are longstanding actions, we almost don't think of them as contributing to the environment. One such example is that our Refuse and Recycling team enable a 34% recycling rate for the borough. In addition, all residential non-recyclable waste is incinerated with energy recovery, providing electricity for thousands of local homes.

We launched our 'Give Plastic the Push' campaign in 2018 to further reduce unnecessary waste. We diminished our use of Single Use Plastics (SUP) through the removal of plastic straws and stirrers, installing mains fed drinks machines and sending out communications in recyclable paper envelopes.

Wherever possible we have also tried to incorporate more environmental considerations into our estate. For example, the Innovation Centre at both Daedalus and our Depot have solar panels on the roofs. In 2019 we implemented a 'Greener Policy' to make our social housing more environmentally friendly, energy efficient and drive down costs for our tenants. Our more recent builds are better insulated; many include solar panels and recently we undertook a programme of replacement insulation in our existing properties.

The Council has a dedicated team that manages our natural green space. We have recently adopted more land at Coldeast, Abbey Meadows in Titchfield, and Daedalus Common. We also manage several perennial meadows across the borough. In 2015 we launched our Going Wild initiative which seeks to increase diversity in our planting programme and helping support our local wildlife.

More prominently, trees have consistently remained a high priority for the Council. The sites we have adopted over the years contain many individual trees, copses and woodlands. We also have a replacement tree planting programme and recently, circa 21,000 saplings were planted at Daedalus Common.

We have developed an air quality policy that aims to reduce the level of harmful emissions in the air. As well as affecting public health, air pollution can have a serious negative impact on the natural environment. By seeking to improve the air quality we are also playing a part in reducing the carbon emissions from petrol and diesel vehicles.

We are proud of what we have achieved, especially in more recent years. However, we acknowledge that there is much more work to be done. This document is only the start and lays out the foundation of what we hope to achieve in years to come.

Our Carbon Footprint

We are using our 2019/20 carbon footprint calculation as our baseline for improvements. This is what we will use to measure our progress and highlights where the biggest savings need to be made.

Our carbon footprint was 3661.44 tCO₂e in 2019/20. When we calculated our emissions, we used the HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. This helps us to categorise our emissions into three 'scopes':

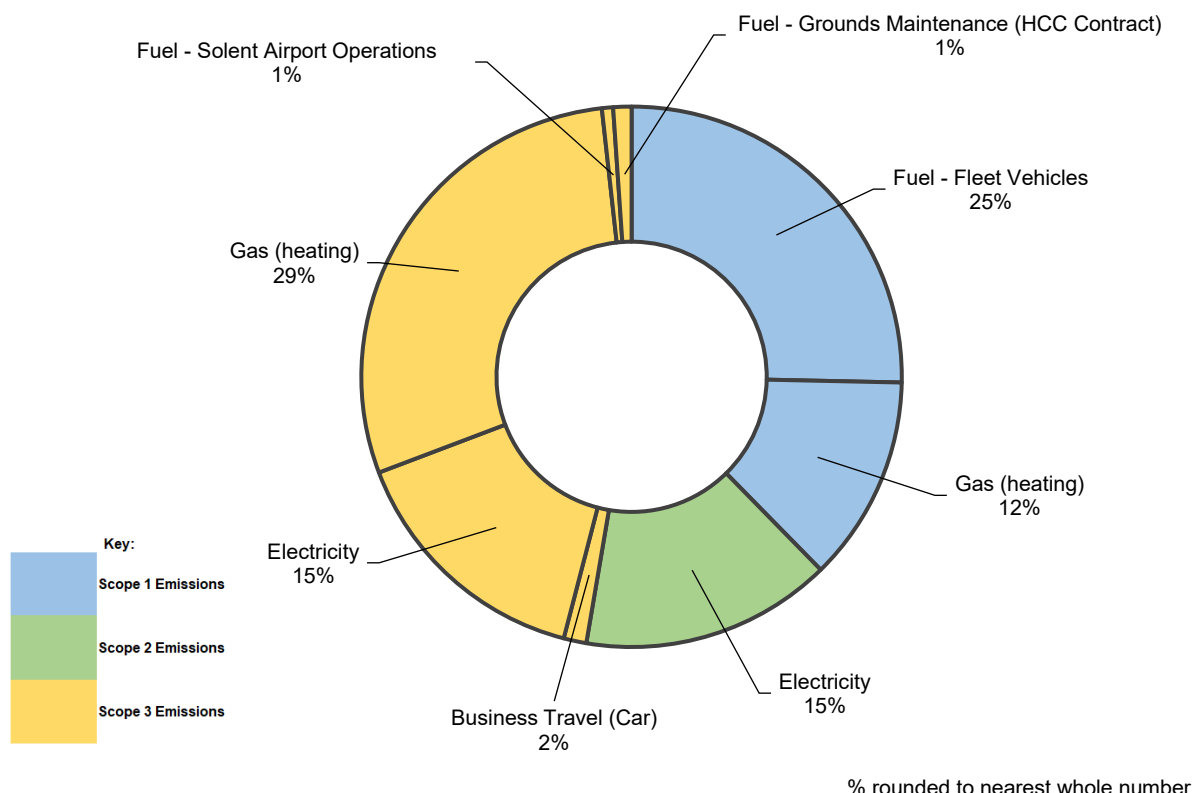
Scope 1 – These are all **direct** emissions released from our activities such as our vehicle fleet.

Scope 2 – These are any **indirect** emissions from electricity purchased and used by us, such as the electricity for our offices.

Scope 3 – These are **any other indirect** emissions from our activities, occurring from sources we do not own or do not control, such as the gas and electricity at our leisure centres.

The following chart shows how the carbon emissions are spread across our services:

How our T Co₂e spread accross our services



Under the HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines, we didn't have to report our Scope 3 emissions. However, we still decided to include these for a more complete picture, where we were able to gather the data.

The highest emissions from Scope 1 and 2 (those sources we own or control) came from the following areas:



927.56 tCO₂e - *From our fleet vehicles*





451.14 tCO₂e - *From heating our buildings*



550.02 tCO₂e - *From the electricity in our buildings*

The highest emissions from Scope 3 (those sources we do not own or control) came from the heating and electricity at our leased / contracted sites. These sites are:

- Community centres
- Leisure centres
- Our leased office space within the Civic Offices and Depot
- Portchester Crematorium


	451.14 tCO₂e - <i>From heating leased / contracted sites</i>
	550.02 tCO₂e - <i>From electricity at leased / contracted sites</i>


Reducing the Council's Carbon Footprint


Our commitment is to escalate our existing carbon reduction actions and focus on the improvements we can make immediately. We know that we still need to undertake a number of feasibility studies to fully understand where we can make the most progress. We also know that we have to make these improvements within a limited budget, due to the negative impact of COVID-19.

Short Term

These are our actions for the short term:


 Eliminate	Stop unnecessary carbon emissions (existing / short term actions)
We will do this by:	<i>Installing solar powered pay and display machines at coastal car parks</i>


 Reduce	Implement energy saving measures (existing / short term actions)
We are doing this by:	<i>Procuring goods and services locally, where we can</i>


 Reduce	Implement energy saving measures (existing / short term actions)
We are doing this by:	<i>Understanding what our vehicle replacement and charging point options are, including trialling electric vehicles, in order to move towards other fuel sources for our fleet</i>
	<i>Exploring Government funding options for energy savings in our buildings</i>
	<i>Implementing route optimisation software that ensures maximum efficiency for our Refuse and Recycling teams</i>
	<i>Providing driving efficiency training for our Refuse and Recycling drivers</i>
	<i>Providing, where appropriate, electric replacements for our petrol hand tools</i>
	<i>Understand how we can reduce unnecessary printing</i>
	<i>Pursuing meetings and seminars online to reduce unnecessary travel</i>

Medium Term

These are the actions we are proposing for the medium term:

 Eliminate	Stop unnecessary carbon emissions (medium term actions)
We will do this by:	<i>Making the switch to a green energy supplier</i>

 Reduce	Implement energy saving measures (medium term actions)
We will do this by:	<i>Develop plans for energy efficiency improvements to our operational buildings</i>

 <p>Reduce</p>	<p>Implement energy saving measures</p> <p>(medium term actions)</p>
<p>We will do this by:</p>	<p><i>Implementing energy saving measures such as improved thermal insulation and solar panels in the redevelopment of Ferneham Hall (Fareham Live)</i></p>
	<p><i>Undertake feasibility studies for how we can improve the energy efficiency of our leisure and community centres</i></p>
	<p><i>Roll out climate change training to staff and councillors</i></p>
	<p><i>Understanding how we can improve our procurement process</i></p>
	<p><i>Updating our Sustainable Travel Plan for employees</i></p>
	<p><i>Understanding where we could reduce Grounds Maintenance tasks to limit unnecessary fuel use</i></p>

Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Carbon offsetting is the process of compensating for carbon emissions through a quantifiable and accredited programme designed to make equivalent reductions in CO₂.

At this stage we have yet to determine how we will offset any emissions. We know that this will be required, and we are currently trying to understand our options. Our priority, as is best practice, is to reduce or eliminate emissions before offsetting them.

We want to ensure that as far as possible any offsetting projects benefit Fareham directly. An example would be to undertake strategic tree planting projects on Council-owned land, particularly at our parks managed by the Council's countryside ranger service. There are opportunities to work with local partners and the wider community and explore external funding opportunities.

The offsetting projects we are currently exploring are:

 <p>Offset</p>	<p>Offset where we can't eliminate or reduce</p> <p>(existing to medium term actions)</p>
<p>We are doing this by:</p>	<p><i>Investigating the opportunities for strategic tree planting projects on Council-owned land, including in our countryside parks</i></p>

Long Term - 2025 and Beyond

We want to ensure that we fully understand what we need to do to be carbon neutral. We will continuously review our progress, any areas that still require a reduction in emissions will be examined and further projects will commence.

Give their complexity, some of the viable projects listed above may not be implemented until 2025 and beyond. We are also going to continue to explore new projects that reduce our emissions as we do not want this strategy to be a simple snapshot in time. We are committed to a programme that is responsive, using all the most recent data, legislation and technology.


The projects outlined in this strategy are only the beginning. Technology will continue to advance and outside influences, such as Government funding, will assist us further in delivering our commit to carbon neutrality. We estimate we will have reduced our Scope 1 and 2 emissions by half, through the implementation of the measures above. Scope 3 reductions will be based on what we can achieve with our partners.


Borough Wide Carbon Reductions

The focus of our carbon reduction actions are the emissions from the Council's services. However, our everyday work is so entwined within the community that there is a natural overlap. We also have a role as a community leader, so we want to help reduce the borough's footprint where we can.

In addition to setting out the actions below, we will also be liaising with Hampshire County Council (HCC) to support the delivery of their Climate Change Strategy. HCC's Strategy covers both emissions of their operations and of the whole of Hampshire. Therefore, to avoid duplicity and ensure effective action we will work closely with HCC to deliver on both Climate Change Strategies.


Our actions in the short term are:

 Eliminate	Stop unnecessary carbon emissions (existing / short term actions)
We will do this by:	<i>Providing advice and facilities on reducing waste and encouraging recycling</i>
	<i>Redeveloping Osborn Road multi-storey car park to include EV charging points</i>
	<i>Building new social housing that seeks to continually improve our SAP and CO2 ratings but does not compromise on affordability</i>


 Reduce	Helping our community implement energy saving measures (existing / short term actions)
We are doing this by:	<i>Continuing to implement the actions within our Social Housing Greener Policy</i>
	<i>Building 5x units at Faraday Business Park @ Daedalus to higher efficiency standards (EPC rating A) and include energy conservation measures such as solar panels</i>
	<i>Working with the Hampshire Waste Partnership to understand how we could improve and expand our waste collection</i>
We are enabling the community to make changes by:	<i>Working with the Greening Campaign to educate and lead the community to tackle and adapt to a changing climate</i>
	<i>Delivering a community solar panel project with Hampshire County Council</i>
	<i>Advertising Government funding options for energy savings to the wider community</i>

Medium Term

These are the borough actions for the medium term:

 Eliminate	Stop unnecessary carbon emissions (medium term actions)
We will do this by:	<i>Installing more EV charging points within the borough to stop reliance on fossil fuels and encourage use of electric vehicles</i>

 Reduce	Helping our community implement energy saving measures (medium term actions)
We will do this by:	<i>Further understand how we can improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock</i>

 <p>Reduce</p>	<p>Helping our community implement energy saving measures</p> <p>(medium term actions)</p>
<p>We will do this by:</p>	<p><i>Beginning a retrofit programme of energy efficiency improvements in our housing stock, where we already understand the issues</i></p>
	<p><i>Delivering our Local Plan, specifically those policies that stipulate more energy efficient dwellings and low carbon technologies</i></p>
	<p><i>Exploring the development of distributed heat networks, including at Welborne</i></p>

Responding to Climate Change and Protecting Fareham's Communities

Adaption and Resilience

Implementing adaptation and resilience measures ensure that the borough can respond to climate change. Adaptation is where we alter our behaviour and systems to protect where we live from the impact of climate change. Resilience looks at this in more detail, breaking down the issues into more manageable, localised tasks.

Fareham's position along the coast makes it vulnerable to the effects of climate change that can't be mitigated. Rising sea levels, erosion and more extreme storms are only part of the effects that climate change can bring. Intertidal habitats such as saltmarshes are at risk as they are 'squeezed' against existing sea defences.

The Council works through the Coastal Partners with a range of coastal landowners including Hampshire County Council (HCC) to ensure resiliency. One example of a resilience measure is the Hook Lake Coastal Management Study. The lake is owned by HCC and the Council has secured £556,000 from Defra Grant in Aid. The grant is funding feasibility work to help secure capital funding from government to create compensatory intertidal habitats lost across the Solent area.

A further example of a resilience project is the comprehensive study to understand how best to reduce flood risk and protect coastal landfill at Fareham Quay and Cadour Drive (Portchester) frontages. A £30,000 contribution from the Council has enabled us to secure over £450,000 of funding from the Environment Agency. The project will develop options to reduce the risk of flooding to 400 properties at risk of flooding over the next 100 year period. It will also develop options to protect former landfill from erosion and leaching into the internationally designated Portsmouth Harbour thus protecting important habitats and wildlife. The study will therefore be a vital part of building a strong case to government for additional capital funding to resolve the national issue of protecting coastal landfill sites.

We want to ensure we fully comprehend the resilience measures required. We already have several plans and policies in place to ensure our services can continue to work in all conditions. However, we do know that there is still further work to be done. In particular we want to understand where more action needs to be undertaken to protect vulnerable residents and local businesses.


Short Term


The projects for the short term are:

 Adaption & Resilience	Responding to Climate Change and protecting our communities (existing / short term actions)
We are doing this within our Council sites by:	<i>Protecting and enhancing our natural environment and countryside sites</i>
	<i>Exploring sustainable planting in our flower beds</i>
We are doing this throughout the Borough by:	<i>Protecting trees through the use of Tree Preservation Orders</i>
	<i>Reviewing our Local Level Strategic Flood Risk Assessments</i>
	<i>Designating Coastal Change Management Areas as part of our Local Plan</i>
	<i>Reviewing our Shoreline Management Plans</i>

Medium Term

The projects for the medium term are:

 Adaption & Resilience	Responding to Climate Change and protecting our communities (medium term)
We will do this within our Council sites by:	<i>Research suitable plant species and locations on our land that will be resilient to climate change</i>
	<i>Promoting our allotments and supporting locally grown food</i>
	<i>Understand which of our services would be affected by climate change and provide continuity plans</i>

 <p>Adaption & Resilience</p>	<p>Responding to Climate Change and protecting our communities</p> <p>(medium term)</p>
<p>We will do this throughout the Borough by:</p>	<p><i>Support wetland projects and creation of natural habitats</i></p>
	<p><i>Stipulating biodiversity net gain through our Local Plan</i></p>
	<p><i>Supporting our residents to undertake resilience planting as part of Fareham in Bloom by encouraging pollinator-friendly plants, diversity of species and a reduction in pesticides</i></p>

Long Term – 2025 and Beyond

As with the reduction projects for the long term, we know we still need to undertake further work on adaptation and resilience. We will continue to develop new initiatives to ensure the Borough can respond to climate change. Projects for the longer term will be presented as soon as the initial feasibility work has been undertaken.

Next Steps

Our goal is to be carbon neutral by 2030. To ensure we continue to reduce our emissions and meet this target we will calculate our carbon footprint on an annual basis. This will help us identify areas for further work and inform / enable delivery of additional projects. We will also review this document in 2025 when we are in a better position to understand the impact of our actions. The update will reflect on the successful reductions and outline new strategies for the long term - 2025 to 2030 and beyond.

