

Leicester's Sustainability Action Plan

2015 – 2019



Consultation Draft

Contents

City Council Ambitions	3
Foreword	4
Introduction	6
Priorities for 2019	7
Business	8
Housing	10
The Council	12
Development	14
Mitigation and Adaptation	16
People	20
Summary of Ambitions	22
Consultation	25
Glossary	26



City Council Ambitions

- Halve city wide carbon dioxide emissions by 2025
- Halve the city council's carbon footprint by 2025
- Improve air quality to meet EU target levels for nitrogen dioxide at our 5 monitoring stations by 2020
- Double every day cycling numbers by 2018 then again by 2024
- Engage with over 4,000 individuals, households, schools or employers in 2015/16 in order to improve environmental awareness
- Develop the Connecting Green Leicester Plan to connect open space and improve connectivity to 25% of wildlife areas by 2020



*More information regarding our Ambitions can be found on page 22

Foreword from Councillor Clarke



Welcome to Leicester City Council's Sustainability Action Plan 2015-2019. Inside, you'll find details of our 18 priorities and the commitments and actions we have identified to address them.

It is now 25 years since Leicester committed to the climate change target of reducing emissions of carbon dioxide by 50% from 1990 levels by 2025. The last two decades have seen real progress. For example, the city's District Heating Scheme now connects with 2,800 dwellings and 38 operational buildings. Thousands of homes have improved their energy efficiency and hundreds of businesses and organisations have taken steps to reduce their carbon footprint. However, we must do more.

The council is committed to supporting businesses and residents to reduce fuel bills and become more energy resilient. We are keen to explore opportunities for more local energy generation and we are actively investigating the potential to establish our own energy company. We will continue to upgrade our street lights and traffic lights to low energy lanterns, and we will reduce the energy used in

delivering the council's operations across every department and division, including improving the energy performance of our buildings and introducing the latest ultra-low emissions vehicles to our fleet.

The council's Air Quality Action Plan: "Healthier Air for Leicester" complements and crosscuts this document. Perhaps most notably the Connecting Leicester project is designed to improve pedestrian and cycling access into the city, helping to both reduce the carbon footprint and improve air quality.

We recognise that only by working together will we make the city truly sustainable. Throughout the plan we identify action the council can take to engage with people and organisations to support them to reduce their own environmental impact. We seek to build strong partnerships with organisations across all sectors in the city to help deliver our ambition of a low carbon city.

Councillor Adam Clarke, Assistant City Mayor for Energy and Sustainability



Introduction

This Sustainability Action Plan is divided into 6 strategic themes, as demonstrated in the diagram below. A number of priorities and actions, to be completed by 2019, have been developed for each strategic theme, in order to facilitate a more sustainable city.



Priorities for 2019

Business

- 1 Support businesses to reduce their carbon emissions
- 2 Provide support to businesses that contribute to the low carbon economy

Housing

- 3 Increase the energy efficiency of council housing
- 4 Increase the energy efficiency of private homes in the city
- 5 Work towards delivering an energy company

The Council

- 6 Reduce the council's carbon footprint, maintaining the momentum for meeting the 2025 target

Development

- 7 Improve and extend the existing District Heating Scheme
- 8 Reduce the environmental impact of new development in the city
- 9 Improve pedestrian and cycle connections, and the quality and provision of public spaces, to enhance Leicester's public realm

Mitigation and Adaptation

- 10 Facilitate an increase in the take up of cleaner and more efficient vehicles to address air quality
- 11 Increase the proportion of travel by sustainable transport modes such as cycling, walking and use of public transport
- 12 Minimise waste and increase recycling
- 13 Increase support for sustainable procurement including local food
- 14 Protect and enhance biodiversity
- 15 Identify and enhance green networks and water corridors across the city
- 16 Improve and adapt services to increase resilience to the expected impacts of climate change

People

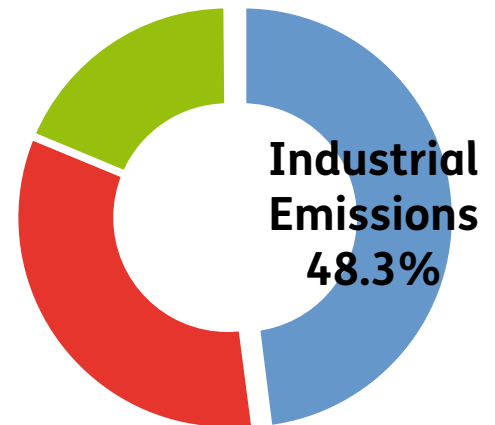
- 17 Increase action taken by city residents in support of the Sustainable Leicester priorities
- 18 Enhance environmental education in the city's schools

Theme 1 - Business

Leicester's businesses and organisations are responsible for approximately half of the city's emissions of carbon dioxide. Effective engagement with this sector will therefore be critical to the overall plan for carbon reduction.

Figures from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)¹ show a 20% decrease in industrial CO₂ emissions since 2005. This reflects both the changing nature of business and the increasing energy efficiency of modern production processes and building management systems.

Leicester City Council is developing an ambitious vision to develop a stronger low carbon economy, supporting local businesses and attracting investment to the city. This includes building strong partnerships with organisations that pledge to take action and reduce their carbon footprint.



Priorities and key actions

1. Support businesses to reduce their carbon emissions

Within the city, enhancing energy and resource efficiency is particularly significant since Leicester remains a disproportionately manufacturing economy and the two largest sub sectors, Food and Drink and Textiles, are traditionally heavy energy consumers. Our business support strategies will include a focus on these sectors. We will also use our direct communication channels to promote the low carbon message to the 500 plus businesses who are direct tenants of city council premises.

The Leicester Energy Agency provides free advice and audits for small to medium enterprises in the city on how to improve their efficiency and reduce carbon. Over 50 Leicester organisations and businesses pledged their support to the previous Climate Change Programme.

Moreover, the council operates a discretionary rates relief programme. The scheme prioritises high growth businesses, bringing empty buildings back into use and regeneration priority areas. The council will review this programme to establish if it is possible to incentivise investment in energy reduction measures.

¹ Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) carbon dioxide emission statistics for local authority areas can be found at; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2013>

1.1	Review the discretionary rates relief scheme to incentivise investment in sustainable technologies	16/17
1.2	Promote energy efficiency measures throughout the council's commercial estate and to key business sectors including food and drink and textiles	16/17
1.3	Ensure all of the council's rented assets "To Let" to commercial businesses meet a minimum Energy Performance Rating of E	17/18
1.4	Expand existing work with city wide partners on climate change mitigation and adaptation	17/18
1.5	Engage with over 90 businesses each year through the Leicester Energy Agency and seek funds to incentivise investment in energy efficiency	18/19

2. Provide support to businesses that contribute to the low carbon economy

In partnership with the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP), the council will provide specific business support as outlined below;

2.1	Facilitate networking and communication within the low carbon sector supply chain	16/17
2.2	Review and expand the current offer of low carbon related vocational and higher education programmes, in partnership with colleges and universities	18/19
2.3	Support research and development in low emission technologies and support businesses in this sector	16/17
2.4	Engage with 180 businesses in the city to promote the use of electric vehicles	18/19
2.5	Consider how the council can directly sponsor awards and initiatives that encourage and celebrate environmental best practice	17/18

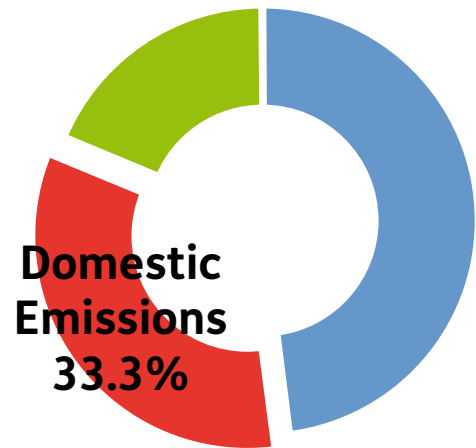


Theme 2 - Housing

The domestic sector contributes approximately one third of the city's emissions of carbon dioxide. Emissions from this sector have decreased by 14% since 2005.

In comparison to other UK cities, Leicester has a higher proportion of solid wall properties. Meeting our 50% carbon reduction target will require a plan for dealing with these older, less efficient properties (particularly inner city terraces) that are more expensive and difficult to treat. We will therefore develop schemes to take advantage of any future funding offers, to work with private residents to maximise economies of scale and manage the visual impact of external wall treatments.

Successive funding schemes for private sector housing from both central government and energy companies have encouraged take up of the lower cost energy efficiency measures, such as loft and cavity wall insulation. There is still the need to continue with these basic measures, and to top-up loft insulation in particular, alongside boiler replacement and installation of new heating controls.



Priorities and key actions

3. Increase the energy efficiency of council housing

Work continues to improve the energy efficiency of the council's own housing stock, including the installation of metering for those residents whose properties are part of the District Heating Scheme, and a specific focus on the least efficient housing.

3.1	Introduce individual metering in 2700 council homes on the District Heating Scheme	15/16
3.2	Complete programme of external wall insulation for 70 council houses	15/16
3.3	Continue to roll out the boiler replacement programme to 1670 council houses	15/16
3.4	Continue specialist work to ensure all council housing attains a SAP rating of 75 or above	15/16

4. Increase the energy efficiency of private homes in the city

The Council's Home Energy Team² offer a free advice service to all the city's private housing residents on request, as well as providing funding to those who live in inefficient homes that are difficult to heat, and those who suffer from fuel poverty. The council has committed to exploring more local energy generation opportunities including solar and community energy projects that will benefit residents.

² Information on schemes run by the Home Energy Team can be found here; <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-plans-and-strategies/energy-efficiency/energy-at-home>

4.1	Receive 300 referrals for the Health through Warmth scheme, with 200 receiving energy efficiency improvements	15/16
4.2	Provide up to £80,000 in grants to landlords for making energy improvements to their tenanted properties heating system	15/16
4.3	Conduct Energy Sense surveys to private households on request	15/16
4.4	Identify renewable energy projects for the domestic sector	18/19

5. Work towards delivering an energy company

The council has made a commitment to investigate the setting up of a new energy company to offer fairer tariffs to city residents and to look at innovative ways of creating more energy efficient homes and local renewable energy generation projects. There are a number of options for delivering this and the first step is to conduct a feasibility study to identify the most suitable and beneficial option for the city and its residents.

5.1	Research the different models for an energy supply company	18/19
5.2	Investigate the potential for setting up a wider energy services company	18/19



Theme 3 – The Council

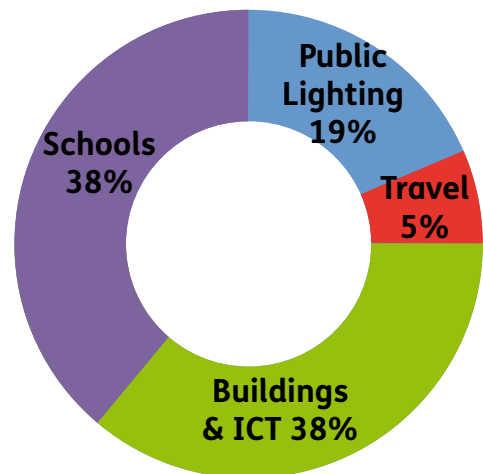
The council has a corporate target to reduce its carbon footprint by 50% by 2025 (based on 2008/09 levels). Achieving this target is also important on a city-wide scale as the council's own carbon footprint accounts for approximately 3% of city wide carbon emissions, 1% of which is from schools buildings.

If the council is to be successful in influencing others in the city to reduce their environmental impact, it should have its own strong action plan in place, setting an example within its own operations.

Priorities and key actions

6. Reduce the council's carbon footprint, maintaining the momentum for meeting the 2025 target

Since reporting began in 2008/09, the council has achieved a 15.6% reduction in emissions, and the 2014/15 footprint stands at 51,730 tonnes CO₂. The council's carbon footprint consists of emissions from corporate buildings, schools, ICT, public lighting and staff travel. The main contributing factors to the council's footprint are emissions from operational buildings and ICT, and the schools building stock. Therefore carbon reduction projects in these areas are most likely to have a significant saving. However, we have made excellent progress in reducing emissions from public lighting which consists of street lighting, traffic signalling, bollards, and festive lighting.



The council has a programme in place to assess progress in each of the areas within its operational carbon footprint, to identify gaps and opportunity for new carbon reduction projects, such as energy efficiency improvements and renewables.

The council has just launched its 'Using Buildings Better' programme which aims to make a direct contribution to reducing our overall carbon footprint, by significantly reducing the number of buildings the council maintains, as well as improving the way we deliver services to our customers.

6.1	Implement energy performance contracts in the council's own estate and schools to make energy efficiency measures and provide advice on operating the school buildings more efficiently	18/19
6.2	Identify and install 1MW of photovoltaics on council buildings	18/19
6.3	Retrofit 129 traffic signalling sites across the city with LED lighting to save 361 tonnes of carbon	15/16
6.4	Deliver and maintain a staff behavioural change campaign to deliver energy savings across the council's operational buildings	18/19
6.5	Replace 122 fleet vehicles with Ultra Low Emission Vehicles and remove a further 200 vehicles from the fleet	18/19
6.6	Develop and adopt a Green ICT strategy for the council	15/16
6.7	Endeavour to use the best available technology to minimise emissions from our expanding schools portfolio	18/19



Theme 4 – Development

This theme links across all elements of the city's carbon footprint: business, domestic and transport sectors. Leicester has an expanding population with growth pressures. The council is committed to reducing the impact of this growth by incorporating environmental measures in developments in the city. This includes both the mitigation of climate change through the implementation of carbon reduction measures during infrastructure planning, and adapting to future effects of climate change through planning and flood risk reduction measures. Implementing such measures will also provide more opportunity for growth in the low carbon sector.

Priorities and key actions

7. Improve and extend the existing District Heating Scheme

District heating has been identified as a key way of achieving long term carbon reduction targets. New developments in the city centre are potentially suited to district heating.

The current scheme is run on gas fired CHP (combined heat and power) which is more efficient than conventional methods of heat and electricity generation as less heat is wasted. Carbon produced from the District Heating Scheme can be reduced further by adding renewable energy into the system.

7.1	Increase the capacity of the existing Cofely scheme by 7MW	18/19
7.2	Introduce renewable forms of energy into the Leicester District Energy Scheme in order to help decarbonise the scheme	18/19

8. Reduce the environmental impact of new development in the city

In addition to the existing District Heating Scheme there is the opportunity for new stand-alone CHP networks to be created, where there is the heat demand. There are further opportunities to plan for energy infrastructure improvements that will increase the resilience of the city in terms of its energy supply in the city's regeneration areas such as Waterside. In privately led developments, planning policy will encourage the implementation of environmental measures through the requirement of sustainability statements for major developments.

8.1	Promote and deliver district heating in regeneration areas where feasible	18/19
8.2	Address the feasibility of additional low carbon energy solutions within regeneration areas	18/19
8.3	Continue to provide sustainability advice to all new major developments	18/19
8.4	Increase allotment provision in the city by 6,000m ²	18/19

9. Improve pedestrian and cycle connections, and the quality and provision of public spaces, to improve Leicester's public realm

The Connecting Leicester programme provides opportunities to improve the quality and sustainability of the built environment. The provision of new walking and cycling routes in the city centre is expected to have an impact on travel patterns in the wider city.

9.1	Make improvements to 12 more streets in the city centre through Phase 2 of the Connecting Leicester programme, including the reconstruction of pedestrianised areas and widening of footpaths to allow joint use footway/ cycleways	18/19
9.2	Complete Legible Leicester and upgrade the cycling and pedestrian signage across the city centre	18/19
9.3	Seek to improve the local environment and public realm through the development of Love Leicester Community Action Plans	16/17

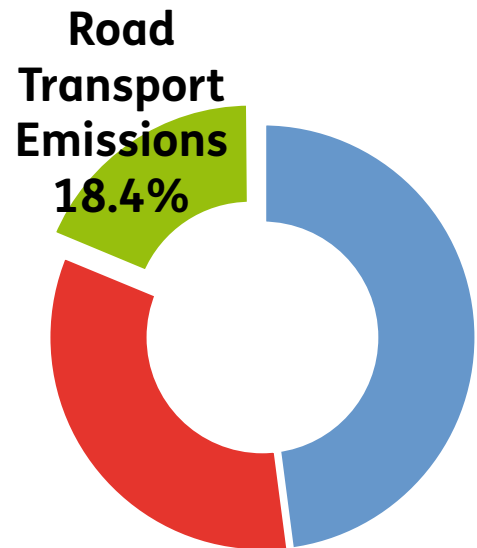


Theme 5 – Mitigation and Adaptation

Climate change mitigation refers to action to reduce carbon emissions and prevent climate change. Climate change adaptation is how we deal with the impacts of climate change that are already evident in the city and that cannot be mitigated³.

Emissions from transport account for 18% of city wide emissions of carbon dioxide. Managing the transport element is a key challenge during a period of substantial urban growth in the greater Leicester area, with an anticipated 45,000 extra dwellings by 2031.

Waste, local food production, biodiversity, and resilience currently all fall outside of the scope of the city's carbon footprint as measured by government, however it is equally important to target these issues when mitigating and adapting to climate change.



Priorities and key actions

10. Facilitate an increase in the take up of cleaner and more efficient vehicles to address air quality

The council's Air Quality Action Plan⁴ aims to reduce the risks to health and quality of life in the city.

A key area within this is promoting the use of low emissions vehicles, which is crucial to reducing the emissions from road transport. This not only helps us to tackle CO₂ reduction in the city, but also reduces the particulates contributing to poor air quality.

10.1	Have 4,700 Ultra Low Emission Vehicles registered in the city	18/19
10.2	Have 100% of registered local bus services using vehicles with EURO 4 or better engines	18/19
10.3	Install 500 electric vehicle charging points in public areas across the city	18/19

³ Leicester's Adaptation Action Plan can be found at; <http://publications.leicester.gov.uk/adaptationplan/>

⁴ Leicester's Air Quality Action Plan can be viewed here; <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-plans-and-strategies/environment-and-waste/air-quality>

11. Increase the proportion of travel by sustainable transport modes such as cycling, walking and use of public transport

Making sustainable transport more attractive and improving the infrastructure for this are key to achieving significant behavioural change in the city. A number of improvements to bus services are ongoing with the introduction of real time information, and the planned improvements for cyclists and pedestrians through the Connecting Leicester Scheme⁵ is expected to influence the uptake of sustainable transport in the city.

11.1	Increase bus patronage to 32 million and continue to run the Bus User Panel to give passengers an opportunity to influence decisions	2019
11.2	Review public transport provision in the city	2019
11.3	Have 25 planning related business Travel Plans being consented each year, including for Ashton Green and Waterside residential developments	18/19
11.4	Identify the potential for introducing a cycle hire scheme in the city	18/19
11.5	Increase the number of walking trips in the city from approximately 105,000 to 115,000	2018



⁵ More information regarding the Connecting Leicester Scheme can be found at; <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/city-mayor-peter-soulsby/my-projects/connecting-leicester>

12. Minimise waste and increase recycling

The waste hierarchy places emphasis on reducing, re-using and recycling in order to minimise waste being sent to landfill. As well as the waste itself, a number of implications for city wide emissions are associated with the waste management process, including the fuel used by its collection vehicles.

12.1	Investigate options to further maximise the diversion of materials through reuse schemes	18/19
12.2	Engage with city residents to encourage the use of Leicester's two Household Waste Recycling Centres	18/19
12.3	Increase the rate of recycling through direct engagement with communities to promote the Orange Bags recycling scheme	18/19
12.4	Investigate options for analysing the carbon footprint of household waste treatment	18/19

13. Increase support for sustainable procurement including local food

Provision of local food within the city contributes to carbon reduction and a diverse range of local organisations are involved in the city's Food Plan⁶, with numerous activities making a beneficial contribution to reducing food miles and raising public awareness.

13.1	Develop Leicester's community food network by supporting at least 9 more community growing projects	17/18
13.2	Develop and launch a new initiative, working with suppliers to achieve sustainability and social value improvements through goods and services procured by the council	15/16
13.3	Further integrate Fairtrade into our procurement activity and encourage other public sector bodies to join us	18/19
13.4	Achieve the Silver Food for Life Catering Mark for City Catering, providing 79 schools in the city with healthy and ethical food with use of some local and organic ingredients	17/18

14. Protect and enhance biodiversity

The natural environmental infrastructure of the city provides a valuable role in carbon storage and climate change adaptation. This is particularly true for the city's mature tree stock which stores large amounts of carbon in comparison to young saplings. Biodiversity plays a major role in providing habitats for wildlife and provides an indicator for sustainability in the city.

⁶ Leicester's Food Plan can be found at; <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-plans-and-strategies/environment-and-waste/leicesters-food-plan>

14.1	Increase the number of Local Wildlife Sites by 10%	18/19
14.2	Organise 150 volunteers to work on conservation projects to enhance biodiversity each year	18/19
14.3	Develop a tree strategy	18/19
14.4	Create and enhance 3 wildflower meadows each year	16/17
14.5	Designate 35 council-managed mature/veteran trees per year as Local Wildlife Sites and manage them to prolong their life and nature conservation value	18/19
14.6	Plant bulbs, 100% of which are good for pollinating insects, covering an area of over 5800m ² across the city	16/17

15. Identify and enhance green networks and water corridors across the city

Green Infrastructure can help to deliver a broad range of economic, environmental and social benefits. Pressures on green space within Leicester from population growth and housing demand are easily recognised. The council's Green Infrastructure Strategy⁷ aims to identify new Green Infrastructure provision, enhance existing green space and adapt this for multiple uses, where possible, to allow all city residents easier access to the benefits of green space.

15.1	Prepare a green network map of the city to prioritise opportunities for green infrastructure	15/16
15.2	Create and/or enhance 3 wetland/SuDS each year	18/19

16. Improve and adapt services to increase resilience to the expected impacts of climate change

In terms of climate change adaptation the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)⁸ is now complete and a range of actions preventing flooding in the city are being developed and delivered in conjunction with partners.

16.1	Reduce the flood risk to 2,000 properties through conveyance improvements along the River Soar	2018
16.2	Develop a drought plan for the city	18/19
16.3	Continue to progress with communicating the 'Do you know your own flood risk' campaign to raise awareness and increase preparedness of city residents to flooding	18/19

⁷ The Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy is in development and is due to be published in 15/16.

⁸ The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy can be viewed at; <http://publications.leicester.gov.uk/lfrms/>

Theme 6 – People

Raising awareness of environmental issues is key to encouraging Leicester residents to adopt a low carbon lifestyle and contribute to a more sustainable city. Travel, improving the energy efficiency of homes, waste, education, valuing the environmental realm, local food growing, and other activities, are all actions that involve city residents and only by working together will we make the city truly sustainable.

Priorities and key actions

17. Increase action taken by city residents in support of the Sustainable Leicester priorities

The first priority that has been identified to target this is the broader one targeting all residents in the city.

17.1	Register 100 more members to LeicesterShare to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles	16/17
17.2	Provide cycle training to 3,400 adults	2018
17.3	Have 240 people participate in the Get Walking Keep Walking Programme	16/17
17.4	Have 25,000 members of the public take part in the Ride Leicester festival	18/19
17.5	Achieve 52,000 hours of volunteer work in parks and green spaces across the city, involving 9,000 volunteers	15/16
17.6	Continue to provide a collective energy switching service to target fuel poverty	18/19
17.7	Use social media to engage with our stakeholders on climate change	18/19
17.8	Encourage city residents to participate in national environment days	18/19

18. Enhance environmental education in the city's schools

This priority is targeted at developing environmental education excellence through schools to ensure that young people in Leicester have an increasing knowledge and ability to act on it. To have a real impact on influencing the next generation it will be necessary to take an approach that involves the whole school community.

18.1	To have 90 of Leicester's 109 schools registered with the Eco-Schools programme, with 15 achieving Green Flag Eco-Schools status	15/16 (academic)
18.2	Host 3 Eco-Schools events	15/16 (academic)
18.3	Have 40 schools enrolled on to The Soil Association's Food for Life programme, offered to infant, primary, secondary and special schools	15/16 (academic)
18.4	Offer Bikeability Cycle Training to 80% of primary school pupils	2018
18.5	Involve 50 children from local schools in the annual Bioblitz event	16/17



Summary of Ambitions

Ambition 1 - Halve city wide carbon emissions by 2025

The council has set an ambitious target to reduce emissions in the city by 50% by 2025, based on a 1990 baseline of 2388.3kt CO₂. The most recent city wide emissions for 2013, published by DECC in June 2015⁹ stand at 1,719.6kt CO₂; requiring a further saving over the next 10 years of 525.5kt CO₂.

Ambition 2 - Halve the city council's carbon footprint by 2025

The council plans to lead by example in reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2025, based on 2008/09 levels, when reporting first began. The current footprint for 14/15 stands at 51,730t CO₂, requiring a further saving of 21,075t CO₂ by 2025.

Ambition 3 - Improve air quality to meet EU target levels for nitrogen dioxide at our 5 monitoring stations by 2020

The council has 5 air quality monitoring stations based at; St Matthews Way, Abbey Lane, Melton Road, Glenhills Way and Vaughan Way. Like many other UK cities, Leicester currently exceeds the EU threshold level of 40µg/m³ for nitrogen dioxide in a number of areas, primarily along routes in and out of the city centre that experience high levels of traffic. Modelling by DEFRA has indicated that air quality in Leicester may reach the EU threshold level by 2020 through introducing lower emission vehicle technology.

⁹ Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) carbon dioxide emission statistics for local authority areas can be found at; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2013>

Ambition 4 - Double every day cycling numbers by 2018 then again by 2024

The council has committed to achieving an increase in cycling numbers by 100% by 2018, raising cycling figures to 26,000. By 2024 the council has committed to achieving the same again. This will be achieved through improvements detailed in the council's Cycle City Action Plan¹⁰, including; improvements to cycling corridors and improved links across the city, public cycling schemes, implementation of cycling hubs at all transport interchanges.

Ambition 5 - Develop Connecting Green Leicester Plan to connect open space and improve connectivity to 50% of wildlife areas by 2025

Leicester's Green infrastructure Strategy will map the current status of green sites across the city in 2015. It aims to create or enhance green networks throughout Leicester which will improve connections to our wildlife sites to benefit both biodiversity and people. Regular monitoring of the number of networks and amount of green space will show how many spaces have been created and their contribution towards achieving the target of 50% connections by 2025.

Ambition 6 - Engage with over 4,000 individuals, households, schools or employers in 2015/16 in order to improve environmental awareness

A measure has been developed to identify the level of engagement on environmental awareness over 15/16. Key projects were identified covering the following 5 environmental issues; city wide CO₂ reduction, transport/air quality, waste and recycling, biodiversity, and education. This figure will be revised annually depending on which projects are given funding.

¹⁰ The Cycle City Action Plan can be found at; <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/179027/leicester-cycle-city-action-plan.pdf>



Have your say

Leicester City Council has produced a Sustainability Action Plan for consultation.

This document details the steps that Leicester City council will be taking to make Leicester a more sustainable city.

Before it is finalised, we welcome your feedback on what we have included.

You can comment by filling in an online feedback form via our website: consultations.leicester.gov.uk. Alternatively you can print out the hard copy feedback form from our website and post it back to us using the following address:

Environment Team
Leicester City Council
2nd Floor, 16 New Walk
Leicester
LE1 6UB



Glossary

Biodiversity

The variety of species within a particular type of ecosystem. In terms of biodiversity in Leicester, the council aims to conserve and enhance a range of species that characterise the city.

CHP - combined heat and power

Where conventional power stations deliberately 'waste' heat by cooling towers, a CHP unit will generate electricity whilst then using the heat produced for central heating and domestic hot water. In Leicester, CHP feeds in to the district heating scheme in order to increase efficiency.

Climate change adaptation

Action that seeks to reduce our vulnerability to the impacts of climate change that we are already experiencing. This includes increasing our resilience to flooding, drought, and other extreme weather events.

Climate change mitigation

Action taken to prevent the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere in order to avoid a change in climate.

District heating

Leicester's district heating scheme comprises underground insulated pipes carrying hot water to a number of buildings from a boiler house in order to deliver heat.

Eco-Schools¹¹

Eco-Schools is an international award programme that provides a framework for schools to help embed sustainable principles into the operations of a school and its curriculum.

Energy performance rating

These are ratings given to properties to present their energy efficiency on a scale from A - very energy efficient, to G - not energy efficient.

Green infrastructure

Networks of multifunctional green space that use vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage water and create healthier urban environments. This contributes to a higher quality natural and built environment, and helps to deliver sustainable communities.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

A pollutant formed in the atmosphere from road traffic, in particular diesel engines. This contributes to poor quality of air in Leicester and can have a damaging effect on health and the environment. Air pollution occurs when the amount of pollutant in the air exceeds the recommended levels.

¹¹ More information on the Eco-Schools scheme can be found at; <http://eco-schools.org.uk/>

Procurement

This is the action of buying goods or services. Leicester City Council has a procurement team responsible for this and it is important that this process is done sustainably by taking into consideration the environmental, social and economic impact of any decisions.

PV (Photovoltaic)

Photovoltaic panels are a type of renewable energy that convert solar energy into electricity which can then be used to power buildings.

Real time information

In terms of Leicester's bus services, real time information is the ability to access live timings for when buses are due at specific bus stops. This would let a passenger know exactly what time to expect their bus, and if there are any delays.

Resilience

In terms of climate change, resilience is the ability of the city, a community or an individual to prepare for and manage when faced with the consequences of existing climate change, for example a severe weather event.

Retrofit

Whereas some projects within the council may involve replacing old technology completely, a retrofit is the process of upgrading an existing item with an updated feature without having to replace the entire product. Leicester's traffic signalling retrofit will involve replacing the bulbs and controllers in current traffic signals with higher efficiency LED lights, without replacing the body of the signal.

SAP rating

SAP or Standard Assessment Procedure, is a national measure used to assess and compare the energy and environmental performance of housing. The assessment uses assumptions for occupancy and behaviour to provide a like for like comparison between housing.

Waste hierarchy

This demonstrates the order of preference for the disposal of waste. The more the actions at the top are prioritised, the less waste is sent to landfill.

