

Becoming a zero carbon council by 2025: an action plan

Residual emissions

Research suggests the council can reduce its emissions by 75 per cent by 2025, which means there is a remaining 25 per cent that will need to be off set to reach net zero.

Strategies for offsetting include:

- Forestation in partnership with other local authorities.
- Retrofitting of housing stock.
- Expansion of solar panels on council buildings and elsewhere.
- Invest in renewable energy outside the borough.



Food and forestry

Increase tree planting on council-owned land and parks.

Reduce the meat content and increase vegetarian food choices in council premises.

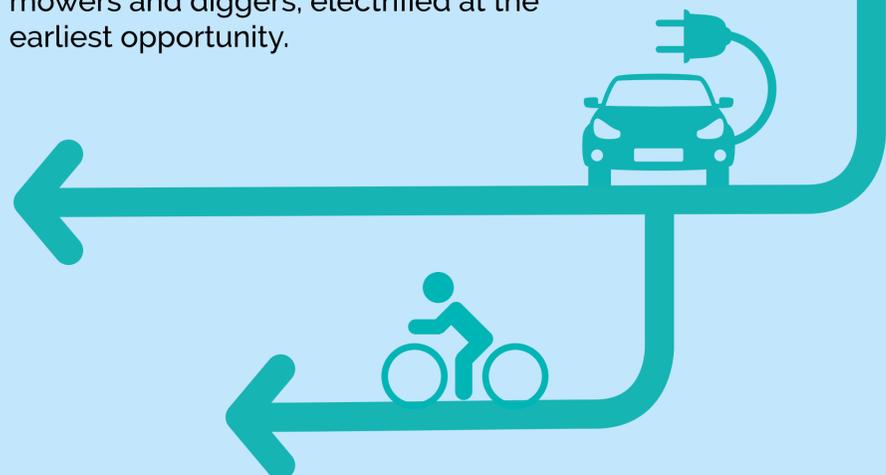


Transport

By 2025, 95 per cent of the council's diesel and petrol cars and vans, and 30 per cent of its lorries, need to be electric.

More electric vehicle charging points to support a modern fleet.

Remaining vehicles, including lawn mowers and diggers, electrified at the earliest opportunity.



Waste

Conduct a full inventory to understand where our waste comes from.

Target a 70 per cent recycling rate for all council buildings by 2021.

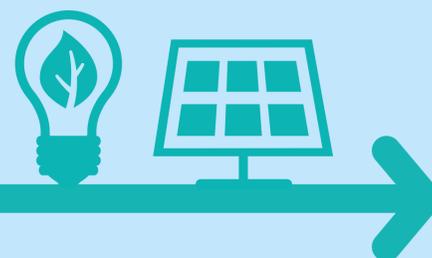
Introduce food waste bins in all office areas.



Power

We need to install extensive solar panelling on the roofs of council buildings.

The energy supply to all council assets should be on a 100 per cent renewable tariff or power purchase agreement.



Buildings

Council buildings will need to be retrofitted to achieve the following:

- Improved energy efficiency, insulation and air tightness.
- Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery.
- The installation of retrofitted heat pumps.
- Energy management to reduce energy use.
- Solar power generation.

All new buildings should be assessed against the highest energy standards and the new town hall should be a net zero carbon project.

All inefficient street and car park lighting should be replaced with efficient LEDs and improved controls.



2025