

Action on climate change and nature recovery

Protecting and enhancing our environment, building resilience and adapting to the effects of climate change, and leading the district to net zero

- Collaborative environmental initiatives
- Deliver action on climate change
- Enhance nature recovery
- Promote sustainable practices
- Promote green infrastructure

What we will do:

- Council-owned homes decarbonisation programme
- Nature and Climate Action Plan (NCAP) delivery
- Vale of White Horse Net Zero programme
- Proactively engage with and support businesses to decarbonise their own operations and influence others in the community
- Remove fossil fuels from council-operated leisure centres as part of our decarbonisation plans
- Sunningwell Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Technical Services delivery
- Emergency response work programme
- Following publication of Oxfordshire Climate Adaptation Route Map and Action Plan, develop district level adaptation actions for the council and integrate into annual review of the Nature and Climate Action Plan
- Fulfilment of statutory Biodiversity Net Gain obligations
- Promote the development of Habitat Banks in appropriate locations in Vale of White Horse as a key mechanism to drive nature recovery
- Seek opportunities to increase support for and the profile of the Local Wildlife Sites Project as a key mechanism to help deliver Nature Recovery
- Undertake biodiversity audit of corporate land and develop proposals to put nature recovery at the heart of our grounds maintenance operations
- Progress towards adoption of an Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and identifying actions for the council to deliver following adoption of the Strategy
- Waste Resources and Street Cleansing Strategy Action Plan
- Great Western Park (Western Valley, East and West Hagbourne) land transfers of public open and urban spaces
- Nature recovery on council-owned land

How we'll go about this

We will take a multifaceted approach based on direct action, working in partnership, and exerting influence.



How we will do it



Direct Action



Working in Partnership

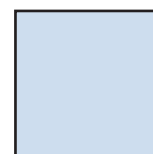


Exerting Influence

When we will do it


















Within the period of the Annual Delivery Plan 2025/26










Beyond the period of the Annual Delivery Plan 2025/26 (i.e. 2026/27 or later)



Ongoing/business as usual

| Outcomes | How we will do it | How we will measure progress | How we will report it | Reporting |
|--|---|---|--|-----------|
| Expand and scale-up decarbonisation activity to achieve net zero for the district by 2045 |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of council-owned homes with an EPC rating of C or above | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% by Q4 2026/27 / RAG & trajectory | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of council-owned homes with renewable energy systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 homes by Q1 2027/28 & RAG | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress towards net zero carbon district by 2045 (Vale of White Horse) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAG, trajectory & narrative | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of council-operated leisure facilities that have undergone decarbonisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 by 2027/28 (retrospective) | Quarterly |
| Reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in gross operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % / RAG & (downward) trajectory (2030 target) | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and percentage of council fleet vehicles that are zero emission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and % (increase) | Annual |
| Support communities to alleviate and adapt to extreme weather events |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative and number of flood and drainage alleviation schemes facilitated and/or implemented | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 & narrative Sunningwell – 2025/26 | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of other activities to reduce risk of flooding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A (narrative only) | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative and number of locations where expert advice and support provided on flood alleviation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number, location & narrative (retrospective) | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise communities on emergency response plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of emergency response plans & narrative (retrospective) | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop district level action plan and incorporate actions into annual review of Nature and Climate Action Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes/No (by Q4 2025/26) & narrative | Annual |
| Enhance biodiversity |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Net Gain reporting (including mean BNG from permitted major and minor developments) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% uplift in Area Units & narrative | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of habitat banks approved through Section 106 agreements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 per year & narrative | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of biodiversity units secured through council agreed habitat banks located in Vale of White Horse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 Area Habitat Units per year | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of local wildlife sites surveyed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 | Annual |

| Outcomes | How we will do it | How we will measure progress | How we will report it | Reporting |
|---|--|---|--|------------------|
| Enhance biodiversity |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of local wildlife sites where management advice is provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 & narrative | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of council-owned land managed for nature recovery | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % (retrospective) & trajectory (increase) | Annual |
| Collaborate to achieve our climate and ecological goals |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy adopted | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RAG & trajectory (October 2025) | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amount of residual waste per household | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• kgs per household (decrease) - target of 330kgs per household for 2026/27 | Annual |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of household waste that is sent for reuse, recycling or composting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % (increase) – ongoing target of 60% | Annual |
| Increase and enhance green infrastructure |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great Western Park (Western Valley, East and West Hagbourne) land transfers of public open and urban spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % of land transfers completed (retrospective) & trajectory | Six-monthly |
| |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managing meadows on council land | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trend of the number of meadows (increase)• Square meterage (increase) | Annual Annual |