

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
- Technical Services Flood Alleviation 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
- 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

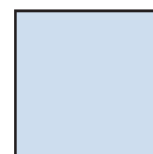


Exerting Influence

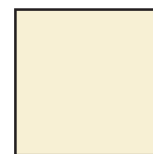
When we will do it



Within the period of the Annual Delivery Plan 2026/27



Beyond the period of the Annual Delivery Plan 2026/27 (i.e. 2027/28 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		Percentage of newly purchased council-owned homes with an EPC rating of C or above	100% by Q4 2026/27 / RAG & trajectory	Annual
		Number of council-owned homes with renewable energy systems	5 homes by Q1 2027/28 & RAG	Annual
		Progress towards net zero carbon district by 2045 (Vale of White Horse)	RAG, trajectory & narrative	Annual
		Number of council-operated leisure facilities that have undergone decarbonisation	2 by 2027/28 (retrospective)	Annual
Reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions		Reduction in gross operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions	% / RAG & (downward) trajectory (2030 target)	Annual
		Percentage of council fleet vehicles that are zero emission	% (increase)	Annual
Support communities to alleviate and adapt to extreme weather events		Narrative and number of flood and drainage alleviation schemes facilitated and/or implemented	1 & narrative - Sunningwell – 2025/26	Annual
		Summary of other activities undertaken to reduce risk of flooding	Narrative	Annual
		Narrative and number of locations where expert advice and support provided on flood alleviation actions and schemes	Number, location & narrative (retrospective)	Annual
		Advise communities on emergency response plans	Number of emergency response plans & narrative (retrospective)	Annual
		Develop district level action plan and incorporate actions into annual review of Nature and Climate Action Plan	Yes/No (by Q2 2026/27) & narrative	Annual
Enhance biodiversity		Biodiversity Net Gain reporting (including mean BNG from permitted major and minor developments)	10% uplift in Area Units & narrative	Annual
		Number of habitat banks approved through Section 106 agreements	1 per year & narrative	Annual
		Number of biodiversity units secured through council agreed habitat banks located in Vale of White Horse	50 Area Habitat Units per year	Annual

Outcomes	How we will do it	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
Enhance biodiversity		Number of local wildlife sites surveyed	7	Annual
		Number of local wildlife sites where management advice is provided	5 & narrative	Annual
		Percentage of council-owned land managed for nature recovery	% (retrospective) & trajectory (increase)	Annual
Collaborate to achieve our climate and ecological goals		Amount of residual waste per household	kgs per household (decrease) - target of 330kgs per household for 2026/27	Annual
		Percentage of household waste that is sent for reuse, recycling or composting¹	% (increase) – ongoing target of 60%	Annual
		Collection of soft plastics in recycling	Yes/No (by April 2027) & narrative	Quarterly
Increase and enhance green infrastructure		Great Western Park (Western Valley, East and West Hagbourne) land transfers of public open and urban spaces	% of land transfers completed (retrospective) & trajectory	Six-monthly
		Managing meadows on council land	- Trend of the number of meadows (increase) - Square meterage (increase)	Annual Annual

¹Due to the significant time lag between the council inputting data into Wastedataflow and then the information being published by Defra, figures are provisional and whilst there isn’t expected to be any change, there is the possibility of some small variations.