

Armagh City | Banbridge | Craigavon

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

2025 - 2030



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Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council

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Introduction

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council wants to ensure that the borough remains a progressive and vibrant place to live, work and visit. Committed to a low-carbon borough, where operations and services are future proofed, ensuring efficiency.

The UK climate change projections, published in 2018 (UKCP18), projects hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters with more extreme weather and rising sea levels. These impacts can damage property and crops, disrupt infrastructure, and overwhelm existing drainage systems and have a negative impact on health and other local services. Over the long term, Northern Ireland will not be immune, with predictions that sea levels in Belfast will potentially rise by 94cm by 2100.

Council's Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027 aims to make a positive impact within the Borough, with environment and place featuring as one of 5 key priorities. The Plan highlights Council's commitment to continuous improvement for the betterment of "Our People – Our Place – Our Future".

Council wants to ensure that the borough remains a progressive and vibrant place to live, work and visit. Council is committed to a low-carbon borough, where operations and services are future proofed, ensuring efficiency.

Council is directly responsible for around *14,901 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year (*2018 / 2019 statistics). Council recognises that activities carried out to cut carbon emissions will also contribute to better working and home environments, encouraging innovation and unlocking opportunities for commercialisation.

Council's Climate & Sustainability Action Plan's purpose is to address, improve and complement sustainable development and tackle climate change during the 2025 – 2030 period.

This Action Plan adopts a themed approach bringing social, economic and environmental resources together for the benefit of the borough. Within each of the key themes, there are SMART actions that will help Council progress towards Net Zero by 2050.

Council is committed to meeting moral and legal responsibilities in terms of sustainable development and climate change; this action plan strengthens Council’s vision of developing a sustainable society interlinking with Councils Corporate, Community and Place Plans. This document sets out Council’s objectives and SMART actions for the next five years, which will be monitored and formally reported through committee.

VISION

Council is dedicated to making a positive impact within the Borough to achieve Net Zero by 2050, for the betterment of Our People, Our Place and Our Future, helping to build a more resilient, sustainable future for the next generations.

AIMS

- To champion Sustainability and be an exemplar to others.
- To help the borough achieve Net Zero by 2050.
 - To build climate resilience within our communities.
 - To improve operational efficiency.

THEMES



Implementation, Monitoring & Review of Action Plan

Leadership

A Climate Working Group will be established to oversee delivery of this plan. Progress will be reported to EMT on a quarterly basis and to ES Committee every 6 months. Senior Management and all staff have a responsibility to ensure that objectives & actions are implemented and communicated across all departments.

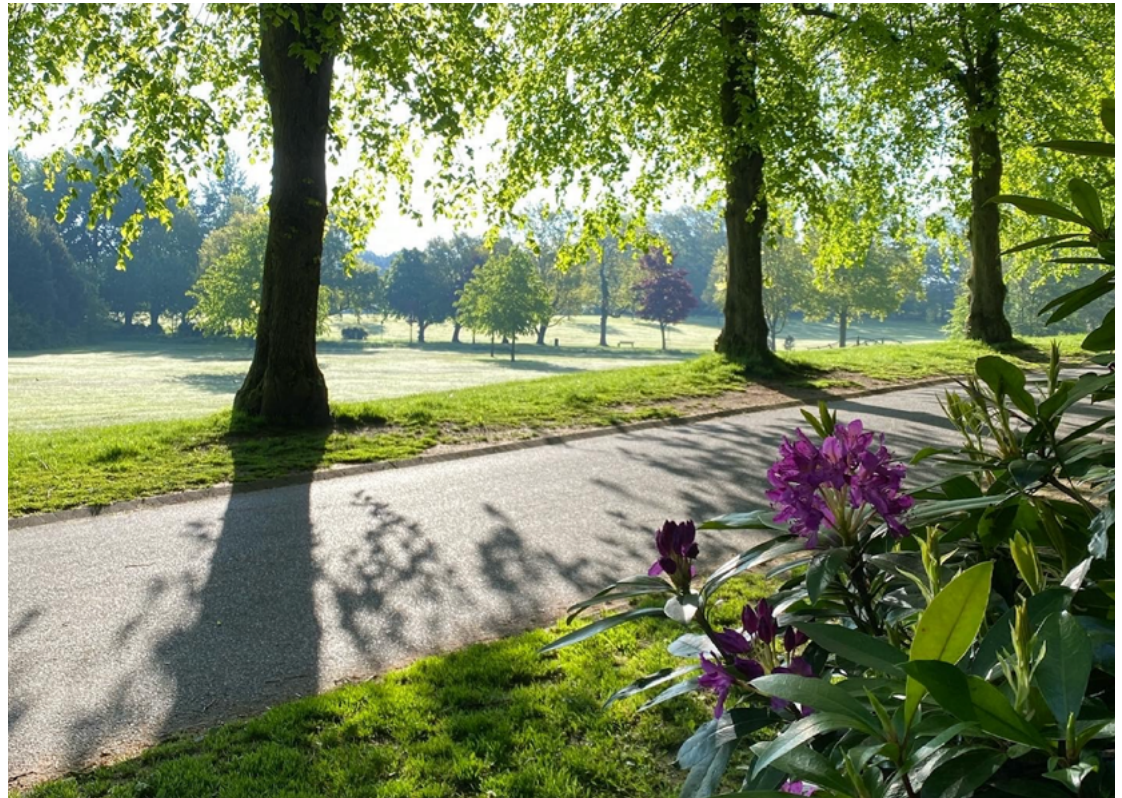
Funding - The action will be costed, established within next budget estimates 2026/27, external funding will also be sought to take forward key actions.

Action Plan

This Action Plan will be submitted to committee and ratified by Council, released for consultation with respective officers, detailing departmental responsibilities, targets and key performance indicators. All actions will be embedded in the relevant department business plan and reviewed. The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated accordingly.

Audit & Review

The Action Plan will be audited in line with Council's Environmental Management System (EMS). Reviewed in 2026 to ensure that it continues to meet our needs and every 5 years going forward. Officers will report progress on the action plans to the Climate Working Group, who, in turn will report to the Executive Management Team and Council, as detailed above.





THEME					
ENERGY - IMPROVE BUILDING EFFICIENCY AND INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND USE OF LOW AND ZERO CARBON ENERGY.					
OBJECTIVE	REF	ACTION	LEAD DEPT(S)	ESTIMATED REVENUE (£)	ESTIMATED CAPITAL (£)
Reduced Energy Consumption & Carbon Emissions in Buildings.	1	Conduct Energy Audits and complete PPF / Business Case Complete energy audits for all council buildings and determine cost-effective improvements (e.g., LED lighting, insulation, HVAC upgrades). Performance Measure: Audit - 5 Largest Facilities by 2026 e.g. SLLC, Carn Depot, Civic Centre, BLC, OLC & Armagh Palace.	ESTATES / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	TBC	No cost
	2	Install Solar PV Systems & Solar Panels on suitable council buildings to increase zero-carbon electricity generation. Review - *Action Renewables Report SLLC & Element Consulting Reports - Green Energy District Project; 1) Craigavon Civic Centre 2) Carn Depot 3) SLLC & determine best 'Business Case'. Performance Measure: PPF submitted pending outcome whether to proceed with Business Case – to install 200KW capacity on suitable rooftops by 2030	PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	-	Subject to Council Project Proposal Procedures
	3	Reduce Energy Consumption - in-house lead by Facility Managers. Performance Measure: Achieve a 10% reduction either consumption / cost across Council facilities through monthly or quarterly 'Facility Managers Meetings' & EMS putting emphasis on 'operational efficiency' using BMS & Meter Readings ref Meter Monitoring Targeting (MMT) • Site Specific training for Facility Managers focusing on 'buildings energy management' responsibilities and the potential cost savings for the organization. • Facility Managers being shown and knowing how to read their utility meters & BMS, understanding consumption esp spikes in use e.g. water leak A specific energy reduction target will be set for each facility, with progress monitored monthly and the results reported to senior management for review and evaluation by 2027	CORPORATE	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	4	Implement SMART Energy Monitoring Systems & Review Facilities CHP, BMS & Meters (upgrading and/or renewing systems) Explore – Sustainable Solutions referred to in Elements Consulting Reports eg. GridDuck https://www.gridduck.com/ Review – Atlas Survey & Reports – 1) OLC 2) Craigavon Civic Centre 3) BLC 4) Banbridge Civic Building 5) SLLC & 6) Palace Stables – supply, install & commission AMR equip (Query 1½ hourly meters) Performance Measure: Introduce real-time energy tracking and management systems in high-consumption buildings by 2026. In conjunction with Performance Improvement Plan & staff training.	ESTATES / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	-	Subject to Council Project Proposal Procedures



THEME					
TRANSPORT - CUT TRANSPORT-BASED SOURCES OF EMISSIONS AND AIR POLLUTION.					
OBJECTIVE	REF	ACTION	LEAD DEPT(S)	ESTIMATED REVENUE (£)	ESTIMATED CAPITAL (£)
Fewer vehicle trips and increased rates of sustainable and active travel.	1	Use Route Optimisation software to reduce miles travelled by Council bin lorries. Consider – Telematics or fuel monitoring systems detailed analysis of fleet performance. Review – Fuel Tanks / Fuel Cards / Jigsaw – require a consistent approach (HVO / DERV / Petrol) Performance Measure: 15% reduction fuel used by HGV lorries during 2026	ENV SERVICES WASTE / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	2	Carry out a baseline audit of business mileage claimed per year and use information to carry out a staff survey for suggestions to cut business travel. Performance Measure: Complete Pilots x 3 and provide Analysis Report on Findings by Dec 2026	ENV SERVICES WASTE / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	3	Establish an Active Travel Team (Blue / Green) within Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces and work in partnership with stakeholders e.g. NIHE, DfI AT, Translink, PHA Performance Measure: Complete Active Travel Team Dec 2025. Develop a Blue & Green Active Travel Strategy reflecting DfI Active Travel Strategy and include a maintenance schedule for network of paths throughout Council Estate. Performance Measure: Complete draft strategy by March 2027.	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PARKS	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	4	Cycle to Work Scheme – purchase new bike & accessories. Reward employees – reduce carbon footprint, improve health fitness & energy, reduce absence or stress. Promoting Commuting to Work - picking bike up from local train or bus station or car park. Performance Measure: Number of Staff applied to Scheme	FINANCE / CLIMATE	TBC - admin cost	-
	5	Move all heavy vehicles to HVO biofuel (Waste & Grounds Maintenance) Subject to Fleet Review – cost & target date TBC Performance Measure: Certified carbon reduction of ktonne CO2 per year	ENV SERVICES / FLEET	TBC	TBC



THEME					
TRANSPORT - CUT TRANSPORT-BASED SOURCES OF EMISSIONS AND AIR POLLUTION.					
OBJECTIVE	REF	ACTION	LEAD DEPT(S)	ESTIMATED REVENUE (£)	ESTIMATED CAPITAL (£)
Fewer vehicle trips and increased rates of sustainable and active travel.	6	Replace light council vehicles with electric vehicles Consider – opportunity Depot Charging Scheme - GOV-UK Find a grant complete PPF Review – *Weev Scope Proposal Document – short term transition to EV at Depots. Subject to Fleet Review – cost & target date TBC (Fleet Manager to confirm) Performance Measure: Certified carbon reduction of ktonne CO2 per year	ENV SERVICES / FLEET / ESTATES	TBC	Subject to Council Project Proposal Procedures
	7	Purchase of electric vehicles Replacement of 4 diesel vehicles by March 2027 - cost & target date TBC Performance Measure: Certified carbon reduction of ktonne CO2 per year	ENV SERVICES / FLEET	TBC	TBC
	8	Deliver driver efficiency training for all council staff Performance Measure: 40% staff trained by June 2026	LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT / FLEET	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	9	Research viability of a salary sacrifice scheme for staff wishing to purchase electric vehicle by 2027. Performance Measure: Findings from research regarding viability, report to EMT May 2026.	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / FINANCE	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	10	Support the expansion, upgrade & introduction of charge fee for all Council EV Charge Points withing existing Council estate e.g. public car parks (RINGO) Consider – 2022 - NI EV Consortium ORCS 100% funded project – 12 proposed locations within Borough, contract awarded to Weev. Performance Measure: Implement a cost for using EV Charge Points Number of EV Charge Points with Plug & Pay Charge Performance Measure: % of new or existing charge points upgraded by May 2027.	ESTATES / CLIMATE	Charge Point Revenue – TBC	-



THEME	GOVERNANCE - EMPOWER, ENHANCE AND ORGANISE DECISION MAKING AROUND THREE PILLARS: MITIGATION, ADAPTATION AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION.				
OBJECTIVE	REF	ACTION	LEAD DEPT(S)	ESTIMATED REVENUE (£)	ESTIMATED CAPITAL (£)
Embed climate change into corporate decision-making and reporting	1	Implement guidance or policy on use of sustainability screening in decision making – planning & project delivery i.e. capital, contracts etc (where applicable) Performance Measure: Number of decisions made using sustainable screening per annum & 20% of staff trained in the use of sustainable screening by April 2026	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	2	Produce an annual GHG emission report for the council and borough. Referencing The Climate Change (reporting Bodies) Regulations (NI) 2024. Communications Plan as per Performance Improvement Plan and also feed into future annual self-assessment reports along with other statutory data. Performance Measure: Report submitted to Nov Committee 2026	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
Ensure that necessary funding and resources to accelerate progress.	3	Budget to be established within next budget estimates & reviewed, alongside external funding will be sought externally for training and Invest to Save Project Proposals Performance Measure: Completed by Budget Estimates 2026/27 (% of Training / % of Funding / % of invest to save projects)	FINANCE / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	TBC	Specific Annual Corporate Budget Deliver Action Plan X-Dept. Depts apply through PPF via Climate Section
	4	Consider alignment of Council investments to net zero. Performance Measure: Completed by Feb 2026	FINANCE / PROCUREMENT / ICT	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
Create decision makers & encourage collaboration through training & outreach programs	5	Empower staff, senior management and elected members to implement the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan. Performance Measure: SLT/Elected Members completed Carbon Literacy Training by 2028 → 90%	LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	6	E-Learning Platform for Mandatory Training for statutory & legislative requirements – internal & external with stakeholders Promote awareness through Council Events & build capacity Performance Measure: 70% of all staff by 31st March 2026 & Develop Outreach Education Programs	LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	-	Annual Budget Research / Consultancy / Feasibility Study
	7	Greater engagement and collaboration on climate action. Performance Measure: Establish a Climate Champion(s) with Democratic Services / Lord Mayors Office.	LORD MAYORS OFFICE / DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS SERVICES / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house



THEME					
ENVIRONMENT - ENHANCE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO RESTORE NATURE AND ENSURE THE DISTRICT IS RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS.					
OBJECTIVE	REF	ACTION	LEAD DEPT(S)	ESTIMATED REVENUE (£)	ESTIMATED CAPITAL (£)
Protect and restore our natural spaces and improve environmental quality.	1	Further the conservation of Biodiversity in the planning process, including new planning policies. Performance Measure: Species Targets by 2030 - net gain in the planning system	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PARKS / BIODIVERSITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	2	Expand the network of local green spaces and enhance biodiversity through development of new LNR's / SLCNI's Performance Measures: Developing Local Nature Reserve designation procedure by 2025 Designation of 4 new nature sites by 2027 Survey 10 protected and priority species by 2029 to establish range and habitat Develop a range of protected and priority species targets by 2029	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PARKS / BIODIVERSITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	3	Develop and implement a range Nature based solutions (e.g. trees etc) including develop pilot projects e.g. NAVAR / Ballymatrim Catchment Progress – Peace+ Partnership Funding 100% Performance Measure: Development of a Nature Based Solution with regional impact by 2028 Minimum of 5,000 trees planted by 2030 and 25,000 by 2050. Minimum 60km of local rivers improved by 2028 Introduce a New Peat Free Policy by March 2026 - advocate to stop the sale of peat products in the Borough Draft a Herbicide Reduction Policy completed by March 2026 & Pilot natural alternatives to treat invasives and noxious weeds	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PARKS / BIODIVERSITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	4	Contribute to overall Lough Neagh restoration plan (Wetlands) Progress – NIEA 100% Funding Application Performance Measure: Develop a shoreline plan and implement recommendations for Lough Neagh islands and ASSI/Ramsar and SPA plan by 2030 Implement recommendations for Lough Neagh islands and ASSI/Ramsar and SPA plan - ongoing Draw up a new SPA/ASSI/RAMSAR plan for Lough Neagh by 2028	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PARKS / BIODIVERSITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	5	Undertake actions to restore local peat and fen habitats Progress - Peace+ funding 100% - 4 sites – 83 hectares peatland restoration Performance Measure: Survey all our designated peatland sites by 2028	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PARKS / BIODIVERSITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	6	Develop a Nature Recovery Strategy & associated Action Plan Progress – application funding towards NIEA Nature Recovery Network Performance Measure: Draft Action Plan by 2026 & Strategy completed by 2030	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PARKS / BIODIVERSITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	7	Manage all council owned Nature designated sites to maximise biodiversity Performance Measure: Council Nature sites managed as exemplars meeting all statutory obligations by 2027	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PARKS / BIODIVERSITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house



THEME					
RESOURCES - REDUCE WASTE, INCREASE RECYCLING, AND WATER SAVING INITIATIVES, PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT AND CONSUMPTION.					
OBJECTIVE	REF	ACTION	LEAD DEPT(S)	ESTIMATED REVENUE (£)	ESTIMATED CAPITAL (£)
Sustainable purchasing practices adopted.	1	Enable social value relating to climate impacts to be factored into specifications & assessment, including relevant training. Performance Measure: Procurement Policy & Procedures updated and ratified by December 2026 Number of contracts procured under new policy Budgets allocated specific to Climate through budget estimates Aug 2025	FINANCE / PROCUREMENT / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
	2	Encourage responsible consumption, buying fewer and better-quality products, supporting the circular economy. Performance Measure: Deliver 2 innovative circular Economy Projects by March 2027 Report – Number of Council initiatives supporting circular economy	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-house
Less waste due to a step change in rates of recycling.	3	Reduce single use plastic at external events on council land, property or in public spaces such as parks. Progress – Shared Island Funding – *3 Refill Water Stations Performance Measure: Develop and publish SUP Guidance and publish on Intranet by March 2026 Report - No. of water refill stations installed	ESTATES / PMO / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	New water refill stations Require costs for other Town Centre Refill Water Station Costs	No Cost In-house
	4	The Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 requirement is for at least 70% of waste to be recycled by 2030 with an Interim target of 55% by 2025. Increase rates of recycling in alignment with Environmental Services Waste, 2023/24 validated recycle rate was 55.61% - (associated cost River Ridge – Head of Waste to confirm) Performance Measure: Improve on previous validated recycling rate and submit an analysis report to committee	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES WASTE	TBC	TBC



THEME					
RESOURCES - REDUCE WASTE, INCREASE RECYCLING, AND WATER SAVING INITIATIVES, PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT AND CONSUMPTION.					
OBJECTIVE	REF	ACTION	LEAD DEPT(S)	ESTIMATED REVENUE (£)	ESTIMATED CAPITAL (£)
A low-carbon, circular, local economy.	5	Fully embed resource efficiency and the re-use of materials as part of an established low carbon circular economy, facilitating the expansion of green jobs and skills. Performance Measure: Implement SNI Screening Tool by March 2026 & monitor / report number of Projects using Toolkit quarterly	CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	No Cost In-house	No Cost In-House
Sustainable food a defining characteristic of the local area.	6	Support sustainable quality food initiatives, along with an anti-poverty focus. Performance Measure: Achieve Sustainable Food Places, Bronze Award by October 2026 Support 2 Community Growing Schemes & Sign-up 2 Social Supermarket Providers through Councils Community Food Hub during 2026 / 2027. Report – number of participants attending Free Training Courses / Number of Community Fridges	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY	No Cost In-House	No Cost In-House
Water Consumption	7	Water is a valuable resource within council with a significant cost and associated emissions via heating of water etc Consider – quotes from 3 rd party to assist with plan & associated costs Performance Measure: Draft Water Action Plan completed by December 2026	FINANCE / ESTATES / CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PARKS		Budget Feasibility Study -



For further information please contact
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