

Wiltshire Council Climate Emergency update

October 2023

climate@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council Mission

“ We are on the path to carbon neutral (net zero)...

The council has acknowledged a climate emergency and committed to becoming carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030. Through its leadership, it must now seek to make the whole of Wiltshire carbon neutral too.

- Become a Carbon neutral organisation by 2030.
- Assist the county to have a smaller carbon footprint
- Support decarbonisation of existing transport and increased use of public transport options as well as walking and cycling.
- Prepare the county for the impact of climate change.
- Invest in assets to support our lowering carbon output ...”

Wiltshire Council Business Plan 2022-2032

October 2023 climate update to Cabinet and Full Council

- The [report](#) provided an update to council on climate action since the last update in May 2023. [Listen](#) to Cllr Nick Holder at the cabinet meeting [from 30:16 to 38:45]
- Council is on track to be carbon neutral by 2030
- Council and county-wide indicators were presented on a [scorecard](#) as a basis for Wiltshire organisations and individuals to work in partnership towards net zero.
- A report on the [Solar Together scheme](#) was included.
- Council resolved to adopt the proposed [Environmental Policy](#). The policy says how the council mitigates the environmental impacts from its operations.
- The annual [Greenhouse Gas Report](#) was also published in September.
- [Press release](#) - provides a summary of recent climate action. Some highlights are shown on the following infographics. See also [Latest Updates and News Releases](#)

Supporting Wiltshire to become carbon neutral

Updated: October 2023

 **243**

energy efficient measures installed in council houses, including insulation and solar panels

£978k



of funding received to create new cycling and walking routes in the county.



Working with schools and pupils to create toolkit to raise awareness of climate change, air quality and impact of transport



Recycling: Let's Sort It campaign launched – supporting the county to recycle as much as possible

5 new Wiltshire Connect bus services launched

 **Wiltshire Connect**



£480k

funding awarded to catalyse delivery of local electric vehicle charging points



Tree warden scheme launched following successful bid for almost **£300k**



700+

residents expressed interest in purchasing solar panels for their homes via Solar Together



Consultation on the council's Air Quality Action Plan completed

#WiltsCanDoThis

Wiltshire Council

Our progress to becoming a carbon neutral organisation

Updated: October 2023



Council greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 85% since 2014- on track to be carbon neutral by 2030

⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡ **1,745,060 kWh**

The amount of renewable energy produced from council buildings has trebled in the last year - from 550,000 kWh to 1,745,060 kWh



Highways contractor using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil for their fleet - **reducing emissions by 90%**



100+

members of staff complete carbon literacy training to help them become more energy efficient in their work and lives



Installing **12 electric vehicle charging points** at a leisure centre powered from solar panels



284kw

Have installed solar canopies at a leisure centre car park - generating 284kw of power and reducing costs by more than 10%

#WiltsCanDoThis

Wiltshire Council

What else is the council doing?

- To see what the council is doing on climate change going forward
 - [Climate Strategy](#);
 - [Climate Strategy Delivery Plan](#);
 - [Carbon Neutral Council Plan](#)



Upcoming highlights

- Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) and EV Strategy - team being recruited.
- Draft Local Plan includes policy on net zero development and renewable energy. Following consultation in November 2023, any necessary changes will be made and the plan submitted for examination by planning inspector.
- Tree wardens scheme and council GAPS team will be ramping up tree planting.
- Adaptation and Resilience to climate change impacts – plan being reviewed.
- Carbon Literacy – for council officers, councillors, community
- Council chosen for SSEN's Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator. Using a map-based tool to help understand and plan energy demand & supply, and grid capacity

Retrofit Highlights

- HUG Home Upgrade Grant Scheme – government fund for low-income households. Communications and marketing to start in January and installations to start in early Q1 2024.
- Retrofit Energy Advice for able to pay households – Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (led by Centre for Sustainable Energy)
- Solar Together. Scheme 1 success (700 households participated); Scheme 2 up and running and 124 installations completed so far.

How to keep up to date on the council's climate action

- Council has decided to move to annual reporting instead of six-monthly. This will help the council to spend more time on delivery rather than compiling a report.
- Next full report on the council's response to the climate emergency due October 2024.

In the meantime –

- [Sign up](#) for council e-news (newsletters for residents, businesses, schools, town and parish councils)
- View the council website for [updates](#) on what the council is doing and for information for residents, businesses and schools on taking climate action and finding grants [Climate change - Wiltshire Council](#).
- Look out for press releases and social media posts.

Click on the Facebook or Twitter icons:



Information for Area Boards and Parish Councils

- All Area Boards have environment and / or climate among their priorities. The council's climate and environment teams will connect with Area Board Environment Leads to support their action planning.
- Town and Parish Councils – please look out for updates via the e-newsletter to clerks and monthly online meetings.
- Following the successful action planning workshops earlier in 2023 the Climate Team will contact local councils to find out how the climate action is going, and how to support towns and parishes with making an impact and sharing their experiences.
- Please share: School [resource](#) for creating effective Active Travel plans. Watch the video here [Active travel toolkit for schools – YouTube](#)
- Tree planting – the council is looking for land and local volunteer Tree Wardens to help plant trees, orchards and woodlands.



Contact

Climate Team
Tree Planting

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Grant Application and Planting Support GAPS@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council