

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

23 February 2021

Item 12 – Update on Council’s Response to Climate Emergency

From Mary Webb

**To Councillor Richard Clewer, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Heritage, Arts, Tourism, Housing and Communities
Question**

(P21-08)

As a resident of Salisbury please could you answer my question:

I understand from listening to BBC Wiltshire that Wiltshire Council has reduced its carbon emissions by 80% since 2014. How much taxpayer money has been involved in this? How will you look to cut the last 20% of your emissions and on what timescale?

Response

The measures that the council has taken to reduce its carbon footprint through energy efficiency and renewable energy installations have been carried out on an invest-to-save basis, meaning that they have saved money for taxpayers. The payback time for measures such as LED lighting replacements is often as little as two years. Where appropriate, we have accessed 0% loans from Salix finance, for example for the £12m LED streetlight replacement programme. The council’s decision to switch to a green electricity tariff has come at a premium of £23k, adding 0.5% to our typical annual electricity bill of £4.6m.

The council will be preparing a Carbon Management Plan during 2021 to develop a roadmap to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 for all scope 1 & 2 emissions, as set out in Appendix 1 of this agenda item.