





Climate Change Emergency – Progress against action plan in 2021/22







This report provides an update on each of the individual actions in the plan. 2021/22 is the second year of the action plan, which was formally approved by full council in September 2020. The plan is to be delivered in three phases - Phase 1 2020 – 2023; Phase 2 2023 – 2026; and Phase 3 2026 -2029.





Key




Progress	Meaning
	On track / ahead of schedule / complete
	Programmed in/ slightly behind schedule/ still to be complete
	Not programmed in/ significantly behind schedule /unable to complete





Action Plan




Local Commitment “We will..”	Local Action “by..”	Impact H/M/L	Phase	Progress	Notes
<u>Carbon Reduction</u>					
work towards becoming net carbon zero by	Maintain (and refine) the carbon baseline for Council emissions	High	Phase 1-3		Calculated using Government Emissions Factors and following the Green House Gas Protocol methodology. Carried out an




2030.					additional sense check against LGA methodology as an audit.
	Identify all current/planned projects and evaluate their contribution/risk to the climate emergency agenda	High	Phase 1		Climate change impact assessment now a requirement in all council decision making reports.
	Explore options to improve thermal efficiency at council sites through retrofit.	High	Phase 1		Retrofit of Bootle and Southport Town Hall (glazing and roof insulation) have completed this year, improving the thermal efficiency of the heritage buildings (100% grant funded).
	Reduce electricity and gas usage : no/low cost energy saving and reduction schemes e.g. Education and awareness campaigns	Low	Phase 1		COP26 communication internally with staff, including a video and 'I pledge campaign'. Roll out of mandatory climate change e-learning rolled out to all staff.
	Reduce electricity and gas usage : medium / high cost energy saving and reduction schemes e.g. Street lighting LED upgrade	High	Phase 1 & 2		LED street lighting project begun to install this year. The lighting at the Atkinson has been improved with LED installations.
	Explore the opportunities and feasibility for expanding sustainable transport networks and facilities such as cycle routes.	Medium	Phase 1 - 3		A Low Carbon Transport Strategy is being developed by the Highways department.
	Reduce fuel consumption through promoting ecodriving, and reduced travel via agile working etc.	Medium	Phase 1		The Council is working on the Future Ways of Working Project with completion planned for the end of June. This will set out the approach to agile working in the future and to ensure that a return to the office is






					done in a way which is sensitive to the environment.
	Move to low carbon fleet vehicles	Medium	Phase 3	N/A	Not a Phase 1 workstream.
achieve 100% clean energy by 2030	Investigate self-supply of Biogas (generation) - e.g. through use of municipal waste streams and agricultural waste stock.	High	Phase 2 -3	N/A	Not a Phase 1 workstream
	Develop renewable energy (electricity) generation across Sefton – solar, on shore wind.	Medium	Phase 1 -2		Working with stakeholders using the Rural Community Energy Fund to explore feasibility of a wind turbine community energy project in Southport.
	Supply of Biogas via Gas purchase agreement / renewable electricity - purchase REA & REGO certificates with a direct agreement between company generating and Sefton.	High	Phase 2 (elec.) Phase 3 (gas)		On track to secure REGO backed electricity for Phase 2. Supplier has been procured.
	Investigate Carbon offsetting options – local then global	Low	Phase 3	N/A	Not a Phase 1 workstream
Leadership					
Provide clear direction in our approach	Lobby central government for increased funding for climate related projects	High	Phase 1		Senior Leadership have lobbied for more consistent reporting/requirements for Council on carbon/climate change emergency.
	Review new policies and strategies, forthcoming budget proposals, Treasury Management Strategy and all cabinet and	Medium	Phase 1		Climate change impact assessment now a requirement in all council decision making reports. This will


	council decisions to ensure they have considered climate change adaptation and mitigation issues.				capture new policies, strategies and budgets.
	Sharing expertise and advice with our community, providing details of the Council's commitments and encouraging behaviour change in local homes, businesses and schools.	High	Phase 1 - 3		Lots of community engagement during COP26. Invest Sefton hosted a Net Zero Carbon Event for businesses, we ran a mock COP26 conference with schools and climate change focused coastal walks for residents. In addition to social media campaign 'I pledge'.
	Work with local partners across the LCR to a co-ordinated approach and to identify areas for collaboration and resource.	High	Phase 1 - 3		Work collaboratively with partners in the Borough, for example, Sefton worked with Sefton CVS to host their climate change focused annual conference. We work closely with the Liverpool City Region, promoting and bidding for the Community Environment Fund and sitting on committees and working groups. We have also worked with the LCR in significant investment projects, for example – retrofit and highways.
	Use our role as a large organisation to encourage change in the borough, by requiring large suppliers to report on climate impact of activities carried out on our behalf.	High	Phase 1 - 3		All significant projects are required to include social value questions, including environmental. They are often set and assessed by the Energy and Environmental Management





					Team at Sefton to help ensure we procure suppliers which have least environmental impact.
	Assess the impacts of local events and activities via the Southport Master Plan and seek to mitigate where necessary	High	Phase 1		Work in ongoing with the Events Team to ensure our events have the least environmental impact possible eg. Looking at offset for the air show and restrictions on single use plastic.
Innovation					
consider and adopt new & different approached	Explore options for investment in low carbon energy & innovative technology and seek innovative low carbon options for any new developments.	High	Phase 1 - 3		Heat Decarbonisation Plans for 18 council sites have been developed, looking at how to move away from fossil fuels on the sites using new low carbon technologies such as water source heat pumps.
	Approach the climate emergency with a long term mindset, exploring 'spend to save' methods of climate action.	High	Phase 1 - 3		Evidence of this in the LED street light project.
	Explore options for local offset via climate adaptation programmes and local landscape enhancement	Medium	Phase 1 - 3		Green Sefton have begun to review and map available land suitable for local offsetting and will develop this over the next year.




	Identify and channel the existing enthusiasm for climate action in the workforce	High	Phase 1		Staff Climate Emergency Officers Group and engagement with One Council continues.
	Continue to invest in Sustainable IT systems to allow for flexibility for agile and home working	Medium	Phase 1		Cloud Migration of applications and Services to both SAAS based services (software as a Service) and cloud hosting in Azure is well underway with the majority of the migrations due to complete by the end of May this year. The secondary stage of the project will then commence, which involves the reduction of the onsite data- Centre and resizing of the server requirements, which will in turn reduce energy consumption. 8x8 telephony technology rolled out to better enable agile working.
	Develop a Green Sefton membership scheme for our communities to inspire them to take action and buy into the approach being taken by the Council	Medium	Phase 1		A Business Supporter Scheme has been created with some small-scale investment and volunteer time being delivered to undertake new planting within the parks.
Mobilisation					

prepare and organize our workforce to support climate change action	Develop and deliver training & awareness raising for staff at all levels, to encourage low carbon and adaptation measures and informed decision making, among our workforce.	High	Phase 1		E-learning was rolled out this year to all Sefton staff and made mandatory.
	Support departments to assign responsibility and actively contribute to the officers/members working group(s)	High	Phase 1		The Staff Climate Emergency Officers Group helps ensure work is spread throughout the council. Energy dashboard to show energy use in buildings have been created for departments to understand their role in energy management/carbon reduction and manage it.
	Provide timely reporting to members (Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committees) and staff on progress and other developments	High	Phase 1 - 3		Climate Change Member Reference Groups have been held in which members are updated on progress and they provide direction and challenge. Highlight reports are produced to update staff and members on progress.
	Improve knowledge and understanding of how the Council is affected by extreme weather events in terms of providing its services and financial impacts.	High	Phase 1 - 3		A new Flood Risk Strategy has been adopted by the Council. Updated surface water flood model maps have been produced. A coastline future prediction report has been produced and the potential impacts assessed.

Adaptation					
Access and implement measures to build resilience	Complete a full risk assessment of Climate Change impacts, identifying threats and how they can be managed as well as realising the opportunities (such as offsetting emissions and assessing carbon capture).	High	Phase 1		Climate Change is now a risk in the Corporate Risk Register. Green Sefton is assessing the likely impacts against its operational activities and sites it manages.
	Develop a place based strategy/framework for Sefton's landscape portfolio for the delivery of any carbon offsetting, adaptation and mitigation measures whilst working with natural processes.	Medium	Phase 1		The strategy is in development and is looking to incorporate climate challenges as well as biodiversity challenges.
	Identify and quantify opportunities for carbon offsetting, urban greening and improved site sustainability; through local landscape management	Medium	Phase 1		Carbon offsetting maps produced to show the required carbon capture by ward.
	Review impacts of measures on air quality outcomes.	Medium	Phase 1		It is too early to review the impact of the changes we have made this year on Air Quality. However, we have received LCR funding to improve and roll out our Clean Air Crew website – education tool to all primary schools.
	Work with the Planning Authority on developing guidance for development, that includes climate benefits, for the built and natural environment.	Medium	Phase 1		One of the twelve objectives of Sefton's 2017 Local Plan is "to respond to the challenge of climate change, encouraging best use of resources and assets". Policies to secure sustainable

					<p>travel, minimum housing densities, low carbon and energy efficient design, infrastructure for low emissions vehicles, flood risk and sustainable surface water management (SuDS), waste management and protection of trees and open space as part of Sefton's green infrastructure are implemented on an on-going basis. Electric vehicles charging infrastructure is sought as part of parking provision for all development in line with the Travel Supplementary Planning Document. Any future review of the Local Plan could be an opportunity to strengthen climate change policies. A Local Plan review is provisionally programmed to commence later this year.</p> <p>The recent issues and options consultation for the Bootle Action Area Plan highlighted possible responses to climate change adaption, reduction and mitigation in Bootle.</p>
Transformation					
Change our behaviour	Align our climate work with the 2030 vision and other transforming principles.	High	Phase 1 - 3		The climate change emergency strategy, approved by full council in September 2020 aligns with the Sefton 2030 vision, in particular the clean and beautiful borough. The

					reporting templates used for this workstream mirror those used by Framework for Change.
	Utilise existing groups and tools internally to engage staff and raise awareness of low carbon & adaptation activities and encourage action.	Medium	Phase 1		Work also beginning to involve One Council, E-learning for all staff compulsory this year. COP26 engagement with staff
	Reducing commuting and business travel impacts through the implementation of a council travel plan and associated policies.	High	Phase 1		This action has been affected by the pandemic. The benefits of agile working are looking to be continued as part of the council's new agile working policies currently being developed.
	Embed responsibility for delivery this agenda at all levels. Support those people to fully understand the expectations of their position in relation to the climate emergency.	High	Phase 1		Climate change emergency groups have been set up at several levels from members, senior management through to staff level. Training has also provided to all in 2021-22. The climate emergency will also feature in new starter training going forward.
Engagement					
work with communities and	Ensure all information on our climate emergency is available in an easy read format and is accessible to all our residents	High	Phase 1		Information about our strategy and action plan is available on our website.

partners	Establish and engage with an expert panel and a diverse citizens panel (including youth)	High	Phase 1		Involvement with LCR engagement/consultation. Work will progress on this and will be back on track by end of the Phase. Plans for consultation this summer.
	Work with partners (Schools, New Directions, Businesses etc) to adopt low carbon & adaptation measures	High	Phase 1 - 3		COP26 events. Multi Agency Partnership Meetings. LCR.
	Engage our communities to raise awareness of the Council's commitments and encourage appropriate behaviour change	High	Phase 1 - 3		COP26 events.