**Climate and Environment Action Progress Report 2022.**

**(Abridged for SDDC Website)**

**Project:** Climate and Environment Action Plan

**Date:** July 2022

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# Version Control

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Version | Description of version | Effective Date |
| 0.1 | DRAFT | June 2022 |
|  |  |  |

# Approvals

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Approved by | Date |
| Matt Holford |  |
| Committee |  |

# Associated Documentation

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| --- | --- |
| Description of Documentation |  |
| Climate and Environment Action Plan 2021-30 |  |
| SDDC Carbon Report 2021/22 |  |

# Executive Summary

This Action Progress Report examines the Climate and Environment Action Plan 2021-30 using the outcomes from the external audits, the Council’s quarterly service feedback of the progress being made on all the climate actions detailed in the Action Plan 2021-30 and the Councils annual carbon emission reduction report 2021/22.

Overall the progress made is positive and show that:

* The external audits verify the climate mitigation and decarbonisation actions that the Council are taking, and the governance of Climate and Environment Action Plan passes external scrutiny.
* The progress that the Council’s Services are taking in delivering the actions is on track with 62% of the 55 actions in progress or completed.
* There are some significant successful actions that the Council is taking and illustrate the commitment that is being made by the Council around the Climate and Environment agenda, these are highlighted in the report.
* The results from the Council’s annual carbon report for 2021/22 illustrate that carbon emissions from both In-house and District-wide activities are reducing in-line with the carbon reduction roadmap set out in the Climate and Environment Action Plan 2021/30.

Significant progress has been made in the delivery of the Climate and Environment Action Plan in 2021/22 and this report details the progress made and recommendations that will improve the capability of individual actions, the overall action plan and its performance in achieving the Council’s carbon neutral commitments.

# Climate and Environment Action Plan 2021-30.

The South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) Climate and Environment Action Plan 2021-30 (C&E Action Plan) was approved by Council in July 2021 and agreed that it would be reviewed on an annual basis.

The C&E Action Plan details the 55 actions South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) has approved to reduce its in-house carbon emissions to carbon neutral by 2030 and to support the reduction of the district-wide carbon emissions to zero in line with the UK Governments 2050 target.

The 55 actions within the C&E Action Plan to deliver carbon neutrality are categorised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Climate and Environment Actions.** | **Number of actions** | **Number of committed actions\*** |
| **Transformative Actions**  High cost, high impact actions to reduce the carbon footprint of the Councils largest emission sources. The completion of these actions will deliver in-house carbon neutrality. | 8 | 2 |
| **In-house Service Actions**  Actions that each Service will deliver through their annual service plans to reduce the carbon emissions aligned to and resulting from their service area. | 29 | 13 |
| **District Wide Service Actions**  Actions that each Service will deliver through their annual service plans to reduce the carbon emissions across the District that are aligned to their service area. | 18 | 12 |
| **Total Actions** | 55 | 27 |
| **\* Committed actions are those that have financial budgets attached to them** |  |  |

## 1.1 Action Progress Methodology

### The 2021/22 action progress report uses the performance management processes already structured into the governance of the C&E Action Plan 2021/22, which are the output from the following:

1. External and internal audits of the C&E Action Plan in 2021/22, these were:
   1. ISO14001 Audit
   2. DCC C&E Action Plan Audit
   3. Climate Emergency UK League Table
2. The Quarterly Service Action Plan progress feedback
3. The 2021/22 Annual Carbon Report

The outputs from these three processes give a clear indication of:

1. The measure of governance that SDDC has around its Climate and Emergency strategies, policies and processes
2. External verification of the climate change mitigation and adaption actions that SDDC has selected to deliver its carbon neutral commitments.
3. The annual progress of the actions that SDDC has selected to deliver carbon neutral
4. The progress SDDC are making on its carbon neutral roadmap

## 1.2 Governance Progress - Outcomes of External Audits.

During the 2021/22 period the SDDC C&E Action Plan was part of three external independent verification processes whose outcomes are detailed below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Audit 2021/22** | **Outcomes for 2022/23** |
| ISO14001 | ISO14001 is the accreditation of SDDC’s Environmental Management System, used as a framework to measure and improve the way SDDC use/dispose of their natural resources and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.  The ISO14001 Audit was passed with no Climate and Environment Action non-conformities and two areas received commendations:   1. The Project Management Approach to carbon accounting and action delivery 2. The degree of knowledge and understanding shown by all Heads of Service within the Climate and Environment Action Plan agenda.   The outcome of the ISO14001 Audit verified the Governance and Project Management process of the Climate and Environment Action Plan which will continue without change into 2022/23. |
| Central Midlands Audit | The Central Midland Audit team was commissioned by SDDC to conduct an audit on the Climate and Environment strategy, carbon reporting, actions taken, processes used and the overall governance of SDDC’s climate and environment approach. A total of 22 controls were evaluated with 19 being deemed adequate or above.    The Audit concluded that SDDC has a sound system of governance, risk management and controls existing within the C&E Action Plan and its Project Management Programme. All internal controls are operating effectively and being constantly and consistently applied to support the achievement of SDDC’s objectives in the Climate and Environment agenda.    There were four controls identified as low risk, that should be included in the 2021/22 review to be acted on in 2022/23:   1. Environmental Sustainability should be a standard item on Committee Reports 2. Low uptake of Climate and Environmental Training for Councillors needs to be addressed. 3. The Terms of reference for the Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group should be updated. 4. The formulae in the Council’s carbon and energy data spreadsheet need annual formatted checks and appropriately protected. |
| UK Climate Emergency  League | Climate Emergency UK is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) set up to evaluate every published local authority climate change action plan across England, evaluating them on nine specific categories (governance, actions, commitment, engagement, measurements, co-benefits, diversity and social inclusion, education and biodiversity).  SDDC scored 70% (against an average of 43% for all districts and borough councils) in the assessment their C&E Action Plan coming joint 10th district council out of 181 and the top District in the East Midlands. SDDC scored highly in ‘governance, assessing funding, commitment, measurement setting, engagement and communication.’  There were three areas where the scores were lower:   1. Detailing the co-benefits of the climate actions and reducing carbon emissions 2. Diversity and Inclusion – outlining within the C&E Action Plan the parts of the population that will be most impacted by climate change and how the Council intends to focus resources to support vulnerable communities. 3. Education, skills and training of Climate and Environment – especially around the carbon literacy training for councillors and education for the public. |

## 1.3 Progress of the individual C&E actions

The 55 C&E actions spread across all the SDDC’s Services are aligned to the Council’s Annual Service Plans. The progress of these 55 actions is fed back on a quarterly basis and the progress is shown below:

**Progress of action delivery in 2021/22.**

The progress feedback of all 55 actions is evaluated in terms of what stage they are at; completed, in-progress or not started as illustrated below:

Considering the C&E Action Plan was approved in July 2021, the above chart illustrates the good progress that SDDC Services are making in delivering the C&E actions.

**Actions completed in 2021/22**

The action progress report details the illustrates the 12 actions that have been completed in 2021/22, the success of these is shown below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Completed** |
| **Buildings and Heating** |  |
| ISP1 – Housing Stock Efficiency Impact Assessments | Completed by Nottingham City Council and used in the successful SHDF Wave 1 bid for a fabric first retrofit programme. |
| ISP17 – Housing Revenue to be part of the decarbonisation funding | Housing Revenue has been modelled as part of the funding for the delivery of retrofitting a fabric first programme for the Housing Stock. |
| ISP13 – Implement a green lease void programme for housing stock | As part of the void process, the energy supplies are switched to Scottish Power tariffs which are 100% renewable |
| **Biodiversity** |  |
| DSP9 – Creation of a SDDC Action Plan for nature | An SDDC Action Plan for Nature has been developed and approved to maximise biodiversity and carbon sequestration across South Derbyshire |
| **Planning and Land use** |  |
| DSP6 – Promote rollout of broadband across South Derbyshire | SDDC has supported the promotion of broadband, in 2021/22 South Derbyshire is showing a 97.8% superfast fibre coverage which is above the UK average and second highest coverage in the Derbyshire CC area. |
| **Governance and Finance** |  |
| ISP23 – Review and quantify all SDDC Scope 3 emissions | SDDC Scope 3 emissions have been quantified and reported on in the Annual Carbon Review 2021/22 |
| ISP24 – Annual carbon emission reporting – changed to ongoing. | The first SDDC Annual Carbon Report for 2021/22 has been developed that collates all Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions for the Council with recommendations - this should be completed annually |
| **Transport** |  |
| ISP6 – Commissioning of fleet mileage optimisation software | Operational fleet has the software installed |
| ISP4 – Delivery of current Staff Travel Plan – changed to ongoing. | Delivered a 2021/22 Travel Survey that supported the flexible working feasibility and delivered all active travel KPI’s – this should be completed annually. |
| **Partnership/Communication** |  |
| ISP26 – Create a hybrid/flexible employee working model post Covid | Hybrid working model has been created that aims to be relevant, effective, productive and will lead to carbon emission reductions |
| **Food and Waste** |  |
| ISP28 – Waste collection review | Waste collection service review to increase recycling rates and reduce foodstuffs going to landfill waste disposal. |
| **Renewable Energy** |  |
| DSP3- Mine water feasibility – changed to The Promotion of appropriate renewable energy sources across South Derbyshire. | Mine water feasibility has been completed and shows that currently the development of mine water as a renewable energy source is too costly to develop. This action should be changed to promotion of renewable energy sources. |

**Successful Actions in 2021/22**

There are a further 18 actions that although not completed have shown real progress and success in 2021/22 either by showcasing SDDC’s ability to innovate or by delivering significant reduction in carbon emissions. These successful actions are shown below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Success** |
| **Transport** |  |
| DSP5 – Public EV Infrastructure expansion | In 2021/22 SDDC now have installed 30 EV charge points in four car parks across South Derbyshire with funding for an additional 16 charge points in two more car parks |
| ISP5 – Review of fleet procurement to embed low/zero carbon vehicles | In 2021/22 SDDC purchased its first fully electric utility vehicle for its Rosliston Centre and hired a fully electric car for the Covid Marshal Team. |
| **Buildings and Heating** |  |
| ISP12 – ongoing programme to improve F Gas efficiency | F Gas emissions have reduced by 44% (216 tCO2e) from the 2018/19 baseline emission level to the 2021/22 level |
| T8 – programme to decarbonise worst performing housing stock | SHDF Wave 1 funding has been sourced to retrofit 110 sheltered bungalow to improve their EPC ratings to C or above and reduce tenants energy bills. This programme, when complete is estimated to reduce carbon emissions by 227 tCO2e per year |
| DSP4 – programme to improve energy efficiency of private and tenanted houses | In phase 1 of this programme, 56 properties have had measures to increase their energy efficiency and a further 75 properties are programmed to be completed. On current numbers of houses being decarbonised, this programme is estimated to reduce carbon emissions by 278 tCO2e per year. |
| DSP2 – energy efficiency regulatory enforcement of rented properties | 130 compliance notices have been issued to private landlords |
| **Biodiversity** |  |
| ISP21 – Altering grounds maintenance practices to maximise biodiversity gain | In addition to the verge mowing trials approved in 2021, certain green space areas were designated as ‘no mow’ areas in late Spring, early summer where either limited or no mowing regimes have been launched. The results of this trial will be reviewed, and lessons learned for implementation in the future. |
| DSP8 – Utilise all free tree planting schemes | In 2021/22, SDDC distributed a total of 887 trees that have been planted by community groups, residents and schools. SDDC have planted a further 1,320 tree whips as part of the Jubilee meadow hedgerow. |
| **Partnership/Communication** |  |
| ISP19 – Engage with local businesses to support carbon emission reduction | In 2021/22, SDDC supported two small local business win funding to install Solar PV installations and engage with 30 plus businesses to provide decarbonisation expertise |
| DSP13 – Promoting sustainable travel plans to support job creation | SDDC supports a bus link from Swadlincote and Melbourne through to the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway to meet the needs of employers and their staff |
| ISP18 – Ongoing Environmental Training | This has been extended to eight Parish Councils in 2021/22, with 22 parish members accepting an invitation for carbon literacy training that was co-ordinated by SDDC |
| DSP17 – Support the community engagement in the climate and environment agenda | SDDC has delivered the following community engagement in 2021/22:  Carbon Literacy Training for Parish Councils  Reducing household energy consumption at the Delph event  Reducing household energy consumption and carbon emissions at the Fire Station open days  Improving home insulation at the Liberation Day event  COP26 climate change event at Derby City Centre in collaboration with Derby City Council |
| ISP29 – Develop a Climate and Environment communication plan | An Environment Hub has been created on Connect with a new climate tile to support the understanding of climate change and to showcase the actions the Council is taking to mitigate and build resilience |
| **Governance and Finance** |  |
| ISP22 – Ongoing identification of carbon reduction funding | In 2021/22, SDDC was successful in winning funding for: Private Housing decarbonisation – Green homes grants and Homes Upgrade Schemes  Council Housing Stock decarbonisation – Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding to retrofit 111 Council properties  Electric Vehicle Infrastructure – 24 additional charge points installed across the District  Consultancy funding support for decarbonisation planning of public buildings |
| ISP27 – Annual review/verification of SDDC Climate and Environment Action Plan | The Climate and Action Plan has been verified by the ISO14001 Audit, the Internal Central Midlands Audit and has been scored at 70% by the Climate Emergency UK organisation which placed it a 11th position in its league of all the Local Authority Districts in England. |
| ISP15 – Review of Council’s finance and investments to embed carbon neutrality | Derbyshire Pensions and Investments Committee approved a climate strategy that included clear targets for reducing carbon emissions of the fund’s equity portfolio and increasing investment in low carbon and sustainable investments |
| **Renewable Energy** |  |
| DSP7 – Review of Hydrogen infrastructure in South Derbyshire | SDDC was successful in securing funding for a hydrogen innovation project for 2022/23 |
| ISP8 – Phased replacement of grounds maintenance plant to electric | 75% of all grounds maintenance machinery has now been transitioned from petrol fuel power to electric |

## 1.4 Progress from the 2021/22 Annual Carbon Report

The Annual Carbon Report gives an outline of the progress SDDC is making on reducing its in-house carbon emissions in 2021/22, the District-wide trending of carbon emissions and the overall roadmap of SDDC’s journey to carbon neutrality by 2030.

The annual carbon report are a significant measure of the C&E Action Plan and its 55 actions, indicating whether the actions taken are effectively reducing both in-house and district-wide carbon emissions and the likelihood on whether SDDC will deliver its carbon neutral commitments.

The table below shows the achievements SDDC have made in 2021/22 in reducing their in-house and District-wide carbon emissions.

**Carbon emissions reduction achievements in 2021/22**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Achievement** | **Summary** |
| Overall in-house carbon emissions have reduced year-on year | Against 2018/19 benchmark, the 2021/22 in-house carbon emissions have reduced by 21.5% |
| Individual in-house Scope 1 and 2 emissions sources are reducing year-on-year since 2018/19 | * Heat (gas) reduced by 20% * Electricity reduced by 52% * Refrigerant reduced by 44% * Fleet (diesel) increased by 17% |
| Most in-house Scope 3 emissions are reducing year-on year | Emissions from waste, water, employee commuting and grey fleet are showing 50% reductions from 2018/19 baseline.  Supply chain Scope 3 emissions have increased by 32% against 2018/19 baseline. |
| District-wide emissions are reducing year-on year | District-wide emissions have reduced by 4% since the 2017/18 benchmark by 4% and by 9% per head of population |
| Compared to other Districts in Derbyshire | Although the total emissions of South Derbyshire are the third highest in Derbyshire, the reduction in emissions per head of population is the third highest. |

Overall it can be seen from the graph below that illustrates the planned reduction in carbon emissions from the 2018/19 baseline to the committed target of carbon neutrality in 2030.

From the annual carbon report, the overall in-house carbon emissions in 2021/22 have reduced by 22% (542 tCO2e) from the baseline figure of 2495 tCO2e in 2018/19, showing that SDDC are on track to meet its targets because of the actions it is taking.

## 1.5 Additional Actions to be included in the C&E Action Plan for 2022/23

Through the Audit, Project Management and the C&E Action Plan review process there are additional actions that should be included in the C&E Action Plan for 2022/23. These are shown below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Additional New Actions** | **Detail** |
| **Biodiversity** |  |
| SDDC carbon sequestration | Estimation of carbon sequestration of green areas owned by SDDC |
| Monitoring biodiversity net gain | The GIS mapping of the green spaces, parks, woodland, forests owned by SDDC across South Derbyshire should be used to maximise biodiversity net gain in new proposals as new legislation comes into force. |
| **Transport** |  |
| Low carbon taxi’s | Feasibility of supporting the transition of South Derbyshire taxi’s to low carbon emission vehicles. |
| **Planning and Land use** |  |
| Renewable energy monitoring | Monitor and track renewable energy development across South Derbyshire |
| New Economic Development Plan (ISP19) | Embed carbon emission reductions into the new Economic Development Plan |
| Green Tourism DSP10 | Support the promotion of green tourism throughout South Derbyshire |
| **Buildings and Heating** |  |
| Improving Stock condition data ISP1 | Ongoing improvement/digitalisation of the Housing Stock Condition data |
| Low carbon heating education | Guidance for Housing Tenants that are switching to low carbon heating |
| **Governance and Finance** |  |
| Equality, diversity and inclusion | EDI impact assessment of Climate and Environment Actions |
| Climate Adaption actions | Add a Climate Adaption category to the Climate and Environment Action Plan (Tree planting and Flooding measures) |
| **Partnership/Communication** |  |
| Energy consumption advice for South Derbyshire residents | Create a communication/signposting channel detailing energy consumption reduction advice for residents in South Derbyshire |
| Setting up a Low Carbon Homes Team | Creating a Low Carbon Homes Team that supports the delivery of the decarbonisation of both the public and private sector housing throughout South Derbyshire. |

## 1.6 Summary of recommendations for C&E Action Plans 2022/23

These are the recommendations from this 2021/22 review of the C&E Action Plan 2021-30 that should be incorporated into the 2022/23 version.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Recommendations** |
| 1 | Transformation Actions – Although initial wok on scoping most of these Transformation actions is complete, it is recommended that focus and decision making on high-cost actions should continue over the 2022/23 period to ensure carbon emissions from the high emitting sources are reduced with the intention of carbon neutral being delivered by 2030. |
| 2 | The service actions that are classed as ‘action planning has commenced but delivery not started’ are prioritised to ensure they are moved through to delivery ‘in-progress’ by the close of 2022/23. |
| 3 | The completed actions should be recorded as ‘complete’ and continue to be included in the C&E Action Plan as an appendix along to demonstrate the successful progress SDDC are making along with other additional actions highlighted as necessary in this review. |
| 4 | The success of the 18 actions detailed are showcased as part of SDDC’s demonstration of the work it is doing to reduce the carbon emissions resulting from its own activities and support the reduction of emissions across South Derbyshire |
| 5 | The 12 new additional actions recommended because of this review should be incorporated into the current 55 actions as part of the C&E Action Plan for 2022/23 |
| 6 | The co-benefit of reducing carbon emissions should be clearly detailed in each of the 55 actions and the reduction of energy consumption and subsequent operational costs should be highlighted |
| 7 | An Equality, diversity and inclusion feasibility should be completed on the C&E Action Plan, indicating which residents of South Derbyshire will be most impacted by climate change and how the Council intends to focus resources to support vulnerable communities. |
| 8 | Education, skills and training of Climate and Environment should be continually improved, especially carbon literacy training for councillors and awareness for the public. |
| 9 | The highest in-house carbon emission sources (SDDC Fleet and Heat/Gas consumption) should be prioritised for decarbonisation actions. |
| 10 | Continued focus on the high carbon emission Public Building:   1. Greenbank Leisure Centre 2. Etwall Leisure Centre 3. Rosliston Centre 4. Civic Offices   The advantage of progressing the carbon reduction action planning and delivery of these locations, especially in the current energy crisis will lead to a reduction in operating costs as well as carbon neutrality progress. |
| 11 | Awareness of the scale of SDDC’s Scope 3 Supply Chain carbon emissions and how these can be reduced in a measured way on the journey to 2050. |
| 12 | Ensure that continued action is taken on supporting the District-wide carbon emission reductions and the highest District-wide carbon emission sectors are prioritised. |