



# Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy

**Progress Report – Spring 2022**

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Greener, cleaner Dorset

# Introduction

This report gives a summary of progress against the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEES) adopted by Dorset Council in July 2021. The strategy contains over 40 objectives and 190 actions identified over the next 2-3 years and beyond.

The CEES is a long-term strategy which sets out 41 objectives under nine topic headings. It sets long and short-term carbon targets and identifies key areas where the council can both reduce its own carbon footprint and support the whole of Dorset to become carbon neutral. Over 190 detailed actions have been identified, to be delivered by services across the council. It specifically highlights this is a starting point, setting out the direction of travel required to address these emergencies in the long-term. It notes that urgent and sustained action is required to meet the challenging commitments, and the action plan needs to be dynamic and evolve over time to take account of progress and an evolving scientific, technological and legislative landscape.

Two key long-term targets were identified:

- **Making Dorset Council carbon neutral by 2040 (operational)**  
Carbon emissions from our own operations only account for approximately 1.5% of Dorset's wider footprint, but the council has direct control over these emissions, and it is critical that Dorset Council shows leadership in this area. This has therefore been a key focus of our activities to date.

- **Helping Dorset to become carbon neutral by 2050 (facilitation)**  
The strategy recognises that Dorset Council has a far wider sphere of influence through the range of services it provides (statutory and non-statutory), its partnership work with a range of organisations and its influence on national policy agenda.

This report does not give an action-by-action account of progress or cover all the work which is happening across the Council but aims to give an overview of some of the areas of work underway and developing over time to deliver the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy & Action Plan.



## Making Dorset Council operations carbon neutral by 2040

In autumn 2021, we reported that we had reduced the council carbon emissions by 17%, an excellent step towards our interim target of 40% reduction by 2025. Work continues to gather pace and become more embedded in our activities, helping to reduce our travel, energy use in buildings, street lighting and the embedded carbon in our highway's construction projects.

In the past year a major area of focus has been to decarbonise the council's own estate, responsible for around a third of the council's whole emissions. A further update on our carbon footprint will be available in Autumn 2022.

### Key progress and next steps

#### Buildings

##### Building retro fit

- Secured £19m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) fund to support a retrofit programme - heating control upgrades, solar PV installations, LED lighting upgrades, electricity infrastructure strengthening and heat pumps - all for installation by end June 2022. To include:
  - Over 40 roof mounted solar PV arrays tendered, designed, and installed, with an additional 50 due for installation before end of June 22
  - Analysis of suitable properties for Building Management System (BMS) expansion completed - identifying 14 additional sites across estate requiring new systems. All new BMS installations awarded to contractor, designed and underway. 4 installations completed, 10 due for completion by Summer 22
  - Existing BMS controls upgraded/future-proofed in 69 properties. Further 18 due for completion by end of Summer 22
  - Window upgrade at County Hall underway
  - Surplus furniture from office rationalisation re-used in other DC offices, depots and schools

##### Decarbonisation plans

- Estate decarbonisation plans being developed for all buildings receiving measures through the PSDS fund
- Decarbonisation plans developed for all remaining off gas schools



### Reducing impact of ICT activities

- Study underway to baseline ICT consumption impacts
- Activity underway to embed carbon impacts and targets within ICT function value for money consideration, and ICT operations balanced performance scorecard

### Supporting decarbonisation of schools

- Large number of solar PV installations in schools planned and to be delivered through Salix PSDS as per above.
- Decarbonisation plans produced for off gas grid schools
- Significant engagement with schools via Salix PSDS programme and council's Energy Procurement and Contract Management Service

## Next Steps

- Complete successful delivery of the PSDS programme of work by June 2022
- Further analyse building energy performance and complete decarbonisation plans to inform ongoing building retrofit programme to meet carbon targets
- Continue retrofit works within available capital funds
- Apply for future rounds of PSDS or other available funds to support ongoing programme of work
- Continue process of estate transformation and rationalisation

## Street Lighting

### Reduce electricity use in streetlighting

- Majority of streetlights upgraded to efficient lighting through long running PFI programme
- £1.4m funding and private investment secured to undertake upgrades to LED technology - undertaken in priority areas in 2020 - 2022

## Next Steps

- Continue to explore funding opportunities to increase proportion of lamps upgraded to LED

## Renewable Energy

### **Increase renewable energy installation on our buildings**

- Number and scale of renewable energy installations significantly increased on Dorset Council buildings through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). This includes:
  - 40 PV installations installed and 50 more planned for completion by end June 2022
  - Number of heat pump installations complete or due to complete by end June 2022

### **Increase renewable energy generation to power our estate**

- Exploring opportunities for large scale renewable energy generation in Dorset and utilising our land assets
- Undertaking scoping exercise to explore opportunities for renewable energy generation at the Dorset Innovation Park

## Next Steps

- Continue to expand opportunities for renewable energy generation in our buildings
- Secure additional funding
- Continue to explore and secure large scale renewable generation to cover current electricity demand
- Develop opportunities and undertake further feasibility of viable option for Dorset Innovation Park

## Dorset travel

This area of work has been particularly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and other national issues and a programme of work to explore opportunities for carbon reduction in this area is still evolving. There is no update for this report in this area of our operational carbon emissions, but future reports will include further details.

## Next Steps

Identify and develop opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through transport covered by Dorset Travel activities.

## Fleet

### **Improve infrastructure to support use of electric vehicle (EV) fleet and pool cars**

- Capital allocated to support expansion of the EV charging infrastructure at council sites
- 2 sites upgraded with new and additional chargers to date, further planned for this year
- Alternative fuel vehicle project group established to better coordinate alignment of infrastructure with expanding EV fleet and explore other alternatives

### **Switching fleet vehicles from fossil fuels**

- Alternative fuelled fleet strategy under development to set out strategy to shift fleet away from use of fossil fuelled fleet
- Several EVs trialled to test capability and suitability to include electric road sweepers and refuse vehicles
- Trials being undertaken of HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel for use in heavy vehicles, particularly refuse vehicles
- Vehicle replacement programme to include schedule for replacement of small fleet vehicles (up to 1 tonne) with EVs - starting in 2022/23.

## Next Steps

- Finalise and agree Alternative Fuelled Vehicle strategy
- Expand EV infrastructure a key site - aligned with location of expanding EV fleet
- Purchase or lease additional EVs to support expansion of the pool fleet and replacement of petrol / diesel vehicles
- Expand use of HVO as a stop gap (funding permitting)
- Keep other technological developments under review, particularly opportunities for hydrogen in heavy vehicles
- Improve data systems for monitoring/managing fleet



## Business travel

The Pandemic has fundamentally changed the way we travel for business and commute to work, and this area of work is still evolving and being re-framed within our new hybrid working arrangements. More news on this will follow in future additions of progress reports.

To support this work, we have already:

- Developed a draft travel plan (pre-pandemic)
- Undertaken a review of our grey fleet (business and commuting) with the Energy Saving Trust
- Have a small number of EV pool cars
- Begun to expand the EV charging infrastructure at our sites (see fleet above)
- Facilities in place to support active travel in a number of our sites
- Schemes to incentivise staff to purchase bikes and electric lease cars
- Adopting hybrid working arrangements to ensure we maximise the use of digital technology to remove the need to travel and lock in the gains made through working at home during the Covid 19 pandemic

## Next Steps

- Embed travel plan requirements within the council's transformation programmes, particularly the way we work and digital
- Hybrid working arrangement to continue to support sustainable travel arrangements, working from home and active travel
- Continue to develop incentives and facilities to support and encourage staff to utilise public transport and shift to active travel patterns
- Continue to improve systems for monitoring and managing business travel
- Increase opportunities for expansion and greater utilisation of the electric pool fleet

## Highway Materials

### **Reducing carbon emissions from transport infrastructure, construction, and maintenance**

- 49% asphalt laid was Energy Reduced Asphalt (warm mix) – saving 15% embodied carbon in material production and saving 4kg of carbon per tonne of asphalt laid overall
- 21,639 tonnes warm mix asphalt out of a total of 55,224 tonnes of asphalt laid in 2020/ 21 compared to 20,351 tonnes of warm mix asphalt out of a total of 43,451 tonnes of asphalt laid in 2021/ 22
- Key improvement is the introduction of more types of Energy Reduced Asphalt into surface course materials as the majority of warm mix asphalts have been limited to base and binder course (lower layers of surfacing) until Spring 2022
- The use of primary surfacing material has use reduced by 30% in 20/21, being replaced with recycled products



## Next Steps

- 15% of all surfacing materials are made of material recovered from Dorset's former roads
- Continue to work with partners to explore further opportunities to reduce emissions from materials use, material recovery and construction techniques
- Expand on the use of bio-binders in surfacing materials to create carbon sinks. Bio-binders offer the potential to reduce embodied carbon levels by up to 20%
- Deliver pilot 'carbon neutral' highways schemes to challenge the way highway maintenance and construction is conducted

## Natural Assets

### Increasing ecological value of roadside verges

- Expanded cut and collect to cover more areas of Dorset – now Weymouth and Portland, West Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck and some areas in East Dorset are all receiving cut and collect management in urban areas
  - Space management for biodiversity benefit increased by 350,000m<sup>2</sup> through cut and collect programme

### Encouraging best practice in County Farms

- Worked with farms liaison panel to develop draft guidance of county farms
- Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, run by Dorset AONB is supporting several farms to implement sustainable management practices and schemes, this will include ecological surveys of some Dorset Council's County farms looking at potential for habitat restoration and creation. (see below)
- County Farm barn owl project to establishing owl boxes at some sites

### Reduce carbon impact of managing green space

- Electric ATV in operation at Thorn combe Wood
- Solar PV and Battery Powered Tools at Moors Valley Country Park - annual saving of 43 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e / £5,000-£10,000
- Cut and collect verge green space management reduces grass cuts from 7 per year to 1 or 2 reducing travel and carbon emissions

## Next Steps

- Continue explore & implement viable opportunities for cut and collect and electrification of green space management
- Work with county farms tenants to continue to explore ecological improvements
- Integrate climate and ecological best practice into future county farm management strategy

## Making it happen

### Leadership and governance

- Climate and ecological emergency prioritised within Dorset Council corporate plan
- Climate and ecological emergency key priority in the Leader's 10-point plan
- New Corporate Director of Climate and Ecological Sustainability appointed (started 9 May 2022)
- Governance structure agreed and being put in place to ensure delivery, monitoring and development of strategy and action plan in long term. Will include:
  - Senior level steering group
  - Clear roles and responsibilities across services
  - Robust monitoring and report framework
  - Integration with council performance management framework
- Corporate project groups being established to work collaboratively on delivering strategy objectives in the long term
- Staff training programme being developed
- Senior managers and council's carbon literacy training begun through Local Government Association
- Strategy in place to decarbonise Dorset County Pension Fund's investment portfolio and reduce investment in all high carbon emitting companies, with at least 7% year on year reduction in weighted average carbon intensity of the portfolio.
  - Estimated value of the pension fund's investment in companies primarily involved in the exploration, production, mining and/or refining of fossil fuels has reduced from £128 million to £41million since 2019. This means that only 1.2% of the total investment assets are currently in fossil fuels.
- Pro-active lobbying of Government for powers and funding to support strategy delivery through direct representation to government, letters to, and lobbying of, MP's and representation through national groups

### **Embedding in decision making**

- Draft impact assessment tool developed to support decision making process

### **Ensuring Adequate resources are available to deliver our ambitions**

- Significant budget commitment in 2022/23 Dorset Council budget
  - £10 million capital climate change budget
  - £750k revenue priority commitment
- Significant external funding secured since declaration of climate emergency to support activities addressing the climate and ecological emergency investment to include –
  - £4.8m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – to extend Low Carbon Dorset programme to 2023 (£8.25million in total ERDF)
  - £79m Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) with BCP Council - to deliver sustainable travel in DC and BCP areas
  - £19m Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) - Building retrofit
  - £859K Green Homes Grants (with BCP Council) to support Healthy Homes Dorset
  - £1.9m through combination of Government, planning contributions and private sector investment to expand public EV charging infrastructure
  - £1.3m Farming in Protected Landscapes – to support appropriate farming practice in AONB
  - £1.39m Grant and private investment – To continue streetlighting upgrade to LED

### **Monitoring and reporting**

- Autumn public progress report published November 2021
- Internal audit of climate strategy and action plan included in programme for 2022/23 internal audit by Southwest Audit Partnership (SWAP)



## Next Steps

- Fully embed governance structure and programme management approach
- Re-focus and prioritise action on climate change and ecology to support strategic ambition and deliver long term objectives and emerging policy framework
- Build key performance indicators into corporate performance management system
- Continue to lobby Government for greater support and powers
- Finalise robust monitoring process for regular monitoring and programme manage the climate and ecological emergency strategy and action plan
- Finalise and deliver staff training programme, staff awareness and briefing and continue carbon literacy training for senior staff and members
- Identify future funding opportunities on the horizon and develop funding applications as opportunities arise
- Fully embed climate and ecological performance monitoring in corporate performance framework
- Embed climate and ecological ambitions and opportunities within the council's transformation programme
- Finalise decision making tool and ensure integration with other assessment tools such as EqiA.

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## Helping Dorset to become Carbon Neutral by 2050

A significant amount of work is being undertaken to support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions across Dorset, as well as strengthening the focus on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. However, **further** opportunities to strengthen the strategic links between the climate and ecological strands need to be explored. Recent changes in legislation and guidance such as the Environment and Agriculture Acts and the requirement to produce Local Nature Recovery Strategies will significantly influence this work over the coming year and hopefully offer further opportunities for financial support. Some of our key **activities** to date are noted below:

### Key progress and next steps

## Buildings

### Improving energy efficiency of homes

#### Healthy Homes Dorset (HHD)

- Healthy Homes Dorset programme is delivered by Ridgewater Energy on behalf of Dorset and BCP councils and Public Health Dorset. [Healthy Homes Dorset | Home](#)
- It has received 728 enquiries since April 2021 (around 16 – 20 new enquires per week)
- Resulted in 645 initial home visits for advice and/or insulation surveys
- Of which 130 homes have had installation completed
  - 37 Cavity wall and 93 Insulation
- 94 of these properties had additional enablement measures fitted to help improve the home's ventilation alongside the cavity and loft insulation measures
- 497 homes still being processed

#### Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP)

- 50 LEAP referrals generated through Healthy Homes Dorset advice calls or home visits. A further 8 referrals have come from promotional work related to HHD that applied directly to LEAP. Estimated 280 LED bulbs installed, 200 radiator reflectors installed, 14 doors draught proofed, 25 windows draught proofed, 9 chimney balloons installed
- Combined lifetime savings of £41k and 193 tonnes of carbon

#### ECHO- boiler replacement scheme



- 86 ECHO boiler replacement referrals (70 installed) - 23 of these are directly attributed to Health homes Dorset interactions

### **Safe and Well Visits**

- We have made 31 Safe and Well visit referrals directly to Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service

### **Green Homes Grants - LAD 2**

The current round of Green Homes Grants through the Local Authority Delivery programme LAD 2, is being delivered by Eon Energy in Dorset and BCP area, offering grants for eligible household for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.

[Green Homes Grant](#) | [Help with home Improvements](#) | [E.ON \(eonenergy.com\)](#)

- Over 240 households in Dorset and BCP area have already received Green Homes Grants in this round of funding to install over 330 energy measures including insulation, ventilation, and solar panels. A very strong pipeline of ongoing projects is being processed.

### **Improve energy efficiency of rented accommodation**

- Dorset Council awarded £98,000 of Government funding, to improve the most poorly insulated rented homes in Dorset.
- All landlords owning F or G rated properties have been contacted and are in the process of either improving energy efficiency of their homes or applying for an exemption as we enforce minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rental sector

### **Facilitate low carbon new homes**

- An officer working group is exploring what can be done under existing planning policy framework to be as proactive as possible on increasing energy standards of new developments

## **Next Steps**

- Continue to identify and secure funding streams to support energy efficiency
- Work with partners to continue to provide and expand energy efficiency advice and support to household
- Continue to work with partners and landlords to raise minimum energy efficiency standards in the rented sector

- Continue to lobby for strengthening of energy efficiency standards
- Maximise opportunities to increase energy standards of new developments within existing planning policy framework
- Work with partners to explore opportunities and develop approach to accelerate retro fit of housing

## Supporting business to reduce carbon emissions

- With £4.8 Million secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Dorset Council has been able to extend the Low Carbon Dorset programme to June 2023 - offering more technical advice and grants to business, community, and public sector organisations to install low carbon technologies. So far -
  - 645 applications for support
  - 164 grants have been awarded totalling £5.4 million. Some of these projects have yet to complete but it is estimated that these projects will lead to:
    - £16.1m of investment in low-carbon projects in Dorset
    - An annual carbon reduction of 9,400 tonnes of CO<sub>2e</sub> in Dorset
    - The installation of 11.92MW of renewable energy capacity in Dorset
    - Improvements in the energy efficiency of 65 houses in Dorset
    - The development of 6 new low carbon products in Dorset
    - The reduction of energy used in public-sector buildings by 1,178,122 kilo watt hours per year
- In addition, the programme has already created 28 case studies to share examples of what can be done and promote replication <https://www.lowcarbondorset.org.uk/case-studies/>
  - As well as a [Guide to Reducing Emissions](#) for organisations
  - And active social campaigns:
    - [#DorsetFootprint](#)
    - [#7SimpleSteps](#)
    - [#LowCarbonLearningList](#)

## Expanding Gigabyte broadband coverage

- Working with partners, the gigabyte coverage has increased in Dorset by nearly 7.2% last year to 19.5% - supporting economic activity, innovation, collaboration and reducing the need to travel



## Next Steps

- Continue to successfully deliver the Low Carbon Dorset Programme with the current ERDF funding
- Share lessons and encourage replication across Dorset
- Plan for development of the Low Carbon Dorset programme into the future
- Ensure close alignment of economic activities with the Climate and Ecological Emergency aspirations to maximise opportunities for a clean growth economy in Dorset.
- Work with partners to maximise opportunities for deployment and development of low carbon technologies

## Transport

### Expanding EV infrastructure across Dorset

- Phase 1 public EV installs completed - 42 EV charging sockets/bays at 21 locations
- Estimated £1.4m private investment from Mer to deliver 36 fast charge points (22 kW) and 6 rapid (50kW) chargers at 21 locations
- Phase 2 to deliver 44 fast (22kW) and 7 rapid/ultra-rapid chargers (up to 150kW) underway
- Approximately £39K CIL and S106, £125K award of On-Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS) funding from Office of Zero Emission Vehicles, £544K private investment from Mer
- Feasibility study undertaken for potential of two 2 x ultrarapid EV hub locations
- Dorset Council capital funding allocated to support further expansion of county EV charging network

### Reducing the need to travel

- Working closely with Dorset Business Travel Network and Digital Dorset to promote the use of ICT to individuals and businesses to avoid travel / encourage working from home
- Created an Enhanced Partnership with local bus operators to help improve the quality & availability of public transport
- Undertaken feasibility studies for two small scale Park & Ride Hubs
- Discussions underway to strengthen 'internal consultation protocol' for all planning applications, to ensure that the Transport Planning team are directly consulted for all planning applications and pre-application enquiries for major developments, to provide input on sustainable transport



### Supporting Active Travel

- £79m Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) underway to improve infrastructure and facilities for sustainable and active travel across East Dorset and BCP areas - range of schemes underway
- Southeast Dorset bikeshare scheme commissioned from Beryl Bikes
- Expanded cycle training and independent travel training programmes
  - In 2021/22 Bikeability delivered 3,648 courses (levels 1–3)
- Bikeability has secured £94,250 of DfT funding for 2022/23

### Freight and logistics

- Freight Strategy being pursued as a joint project between the Western Gateway Sub National Transport Body (STB) and Peninsula STB to provide a SW Freight Strategy

## Next Steps

- Use the Digital Dorset channel to promote technology to avoid travel and add to the Digital Dorset communications plan to re tweet/share information on the benefits of digital to reduce impact on the environment/travel
- Agree 'internal consultation protocol' so that the Transport Planning team are directly consulted for all planning applications and pre-application enquiries for major developments, to provide input on sustainable transport
- Continue to improve low carbon travel infrastructure to include expansion of EV charging network across Dorset and park and ride network where feasible
- Work with partners to develop, expand and deliver funded programme supporting active travel and reducing the need to travel
- Continue to work with partners of development of SW freight strategy



## Food & Drink

- Actions within the strategy in this area are identified as longer-term actions beyond 2023. Further updates will be provided in future progress reports
- As noted within the Autumn report much work continues to support Dorset's food sector through the Dorset Food and Drink and Dorset AONB

## Next Steps

- Future actions beyond 2023

## Water

### Protecting water supplies

- Not what to flush campaign underway to raise awareness and change behaviour in what should not be flushed in order to protecting streams, local rivers and beaches from damage and pollution [What Not to Flush – Litter Free Dorset](#)

### Flood protection & resilience

- Portesham Flood Alleviation Scheme completed
- 9 projects helping to reduce flood risk - being supported through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme managed by Dorset AONB
- Supporting natural flood management – Over 40 natural flood management structures installed to slow the flow of flood water in two catchments
- Climate resilience project for Weymouth - BRIC Building resilience in flood disadvantaged communities - (£106K).
- Sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) working group established

## Next Steps

- Continue to explore and expand opportunities for natural drainage and flood management schemes
- Work with partners to continue to raise awareness of water use, pollution flood risk
- Work with partners and through the Dorset Local Resilience Forum to raise awareness of climate risks and strengthen community resilience

## Waste

### **Encouraging waste reduction and support transition to a circular economy**

- 60% recycling achieved. Dorset Council is now the eight best performing council in England and the third best unitary council in England for recycling and composting
- 155 communal site improvements - predicted to save £125K through increased recycling, less rubbish and less recycling contamination
- 6,000 residents spoken to through door-to-door project
- Introduction of a washable nappies starter pack to the council's incentive scheme
- Introduction of home compost bin subsidy
- Communication campaigns - multiple messages through numerous mediums including social media, vehicle advertising, talks programme, schools work, partnerships with other organisations (e.g., Litter Free Dorset)
- Planning permission for new waste management centre for Blandford granted
- 264 enforcement actions undertaken for fly tipping
- Established 'internal consultation protocol' for all planning applications. As part of this, the Waste Team are consulted on pe-apps and planning applications for new residential development and commercial developments to ensure that appropriate provision is made for collection vehicles for access to collection points.

## Next Steps

- Continue to improve waste facilities & schemes to encourage greater waste reduction, reuse, and recycling
- Undertake targeted campaigns to encourage waste reduction and increase re-use and recycling



## Encouraging best practice in farmed landscape

- Dorset AONB secured £1.3 million funding from Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. In the first year, distributed £212K to 40 projects. This includes, amongst other projects, supporting:
  - 0.77 ha of woodland creation
  - 1482 ha of land being managed with regenerative farming techniques
  - 6 projects to improve the soil quality
  - 9 projects helping to reduce flood risk

## Protecting and enhancing ecological value, sequestration & resilience in Dorset

- Litter Free Dorset (LFD) with Dorset Council delivering #Loveyourverge campaign to reduce litter and improve quality of verges
- Dorset coast forum (DCF) delivering engagement messaging with the flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) to make communities more resilient and informed
- DCF project at Studland on eco moorings and the protection of seagrass beds (carbon sequestration) - (£35K)
- Sustainable Swanage - a range of projects delivering ecological benefits or climate resilience (£50K for 3 years)
- Studland eco moorings and the protection of seagrass beds (carbon sequestration) - (£35K).
- BBQ campaign work around awareness and effects of wildfire and how this affects the climate
- Working with partners, such as the Waste Partnership, to remove roadside detritus, where viable, which was causing a fertile base for roadside weeds. With this removed, weeds are less prevalent and in turn, less chemical treatment is required.
- Developer contributions used to sustain quality greenspace in Wimborne, Ferndown, Verwood, Stoborough
- Draft Interim Advice Note written (not published) guidance provided in the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol technical guidance for consultants. To ensure all new developments conform the Environment Act's requirement for 10% biodiversity gains for all new development
- Planting more trees - development of mapping and data analysis that will form the baseline for ambitions set out in the Nature Recovery Plan

### Increasing accessibility and maintain of Right of Way network (ROW)

- A record number of ROW issues were resolved last year keeping our ROW maintained to a high standard
- ROW improvement plan being reviewed and updated
- Significant increase in off road routes by developing old railway lines for sustainable transport in West and East Dorset

### Next Steps

- Work with partners to deliver opportunities through the evolving legislative framework for natural environment such as Environment Act and Agriculture Act - in particular development of Local Nature Recovery strategies and net biodiversity gain.
- Further explore opportunities to strengthen the strategic links between the climate and ecological stands of this work
- Continue to work in partnership to deliver and develop specific projects and schemes

## Renewable Energy

- Deployment of renewable energy technology continues to increase, particularly from large scale solar projects – figures to be reported in Autumn report
- Dorset Council significantly increasing deployment of renewable energy on its own estate (above) , to include Solar PV and heat pumps
- Dorset Green H2 project supported by Dorset Councils Low Carbon Dorset programme, LEP and Net west Bank, to install 5MW solar farm and electrolyser to produce green hydrogen (above)
- Low Carbon Dorset Programme supporting organisations to deploy renewable energy technologies – 11.9MW. To include solar PV, heat pumps, biomass and green hydrogen.

- An officer working group is exploring what can be done under existing planning policy framework to be as proactive as possible on increasing renewable energy deployment in Dorset
- Initial wind resource mapping undertaken to help inform developing Dorset local plan

## Next Steps

- Explore options for strategic planning or renewable energy growth to support accelerated deployment and ensure alignment with grid capacity
- Develop opportunities to support renewable energy through existing planning policy framework
- Work with partners and developers to bring forward large scale renewable energy projects
- Explore opportunities for Hydrogen

## Making it happen

### Encouraging behaviour change

- Draft communication plan and brand developed
- Dorset Council website Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan webpages updated
- Media releases focusing on climate change messaging issued to local and national media outlets:
  - [Dorset Council proposes more money for social care, housing and tackling climate change](#)
  - [Dorset Council letter to Government – Help us tackle the Climate Emergency](#)
  - [Recycle Week 2021: Dorset Council is ‘Stepping It Up’ in the fight against Climate Change](#)
  - [New funding for climate, nature and people in the nation’s special landscapes](#)
  - [Reduce your food waste, help combat climate change and save money!](#)
  - [Overview Committee to consider reports tackling Climate and Ecological change](#)
- Engaging social campaigns to educate and inform residents:
  - #GreenerCleanerDorset
  - #DorsetClimateHeroes
  - #DorsetFootprint
  - #LoveYourVerge
- Involvement in national campaigns focusing on key climate topics:
  - Love Food Hate Waste
  - Recycling Week
  - Reusable Nappies
  - Active Travel
- Paid advertising campaigns to support climate messaging
- Key focus of Dorset Council’s Festival for the Future - featuring climate change topics & live discussions

- Creation of media assets (incl. video) to support climate strategy action

### **Engaging key stakeholders**

- Consulted on strategy and action plan in Autumn/Winter 2021
- Working with range of partner organisations to deliver various key activities
- Some initial engagement with key groups (town and parish councils, schools)
- Engaging with key groups and community organisations such as DorsetCAN
- Working with DorsetCAN to promote 'Greener Homes' event in Dorset - taking place in October 2022
- Engagement with business community through Low Carbon Dorset programme

## **Next Steps**

- Revise council website pages to strengthen messages and include relevant climate and ecological information and sign posting
- Strengthen ongoing communications on key climate and ecological strategy messages, utilising existing communication channels and creating new ones where required
- Identify how best to support and work with key groups such as town and parish councils, schools and community organisations
- Strengthen partnership working

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