



Sedgemoor District Council Climate Emergency Action Plan

When?

- Immediate - These are actions that could be carried out either in whole or may commence within the next 12 months and as such form part of the Year 1 Action Plan;
- Short term – those actions that we expect to will be carried out either in whole or at least commence within years 2-3;
- Medium term – those actions that we expect to will be carried out either in whole or at least commence within years 4-6; and
- Long term – those actions that we expect to will be carried out either in whole or at least commence within years 7-10.

Influence

1. **Internal**: the way we function as an organisation and internal alterations to our own business plan
2. **Direct action**: our own planning and policy and ways in which we can directly influence external partners through elements such as our procurement strategy
3. **Indirect**: areas that we can influence, but not directly control, such as lobbying government for funding and policy change from the top and working with other external authorities such as county council.

| Action (What?) | Details (How?) | Influence | When? | Co-benefits & notes |
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| Travel | | | | |
| Promoting active travel (walking & cycling) options by improving infrastructure and shifting towards a more cycle-friendly culture in Sedgemoor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering safe active travel routes in both our urban centres and rural areas, working with Somerset County Council, Town and Parish Council, and other local groups. This will include building on work undertaken by the Active Travel Cell as part of the Covid-19 recovery plan • Lobbying and influencing county council (the public highways authority) to increase the number of cycle paths, lowering speed limits, introducing traffic-controlling measures such as on-street gardens, widening footpaths, pedestrianising centres, installing more cycle parking in public spaces and high traffic areas <p>✓ We have worked in collaboration with SCC to use emergency funds to deliver temporary interventions in Bridgwater and</p> | Indirect action | Short term | There have been noticeable reduced symptoms of those with respiratory conditions during lockdown resulting from less traffic. Community cohesion between neighbourhoods, economic benefit in urban centres: Research has shown that retailers often overate the importance of the car. A survey conducted in spring 2015 in Lea Bridge Road Waltham Forest showed that businesses believed that 63% of their customers arrived by car; a survey of visitors to the street revealed that only 20% had arrived by car. A |



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| | <p>Burnham on Sea to aid social distancing and promote active travel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with local campaigns (such as the Bridgwater Way and the Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign) to research and implement an effective walking and cycling network throughout the district. We will continuously consider their proposals in the development of Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plans and other council strategies. Mapping out opportunities for active travel, taking into consideration the difference between rural and urban circumstances As part of the Somerset Climate Emergency Framework, lobbying central government for a dedicated walking and cycling fund as part of the Government’s new £2billion walking and cycling strategy | <p>Direct action</p> | <p>Medium term</p> | <p>study in Graz, Austria, subsequently repeated in Bristol found that retailers overestimated the number of customers arriving by car by almost 100%. Research also shows that making places better for walking can boost footfall and trading by up to 40%</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the need for car ownership and use in Sedgemoor by preserving cycle routes, managing developments within the context of the local plan, ensuring sustainable transport choices are available and implementing or participating in a scheme to facilitate car sharing in the district Addressing barriers to active travel faced by residents living in rural areas. This includes looking at how people in rural areas access shops and services in towns through cycling and walking, through linking cycle and public transport, cycle paths to bus stops and stations, and car sharing schemes. As a district council, we are well placed to understand our residents and the areas they live in, to identify opportunities for connecting areas and improving active travel options | | | |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with schools to promote awareness of active travel options and the co-benefits. Promoting publicity of cycle maps and routes to increase awareness of existing infrastructure through Bridgwater Way campaign Using our social media channels to promote positive Active Travel methods Community Engagement Actions: Promoting Active Travel in community groups | Direct action | Medium term | |
| Engaging with local employers and communities to encourage them to adopt travel plans that promote walking, cycling, car sharing and public transport with their staff, and participating in this ourselves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We are encouraging more staff to cycle to work through the Cycle to Work Scheme, providing ample cycle parking, showers, safe route information, cycle repair tools, bike workshops | Internal | Immediate | Fitter staff means sickness rates go down and productivity increases. One study found that cycling to work can almost halve your risk of heart disease or cancer. It has also been proven to reduce stress levels and promote relaxation, improving workforce wellbeing and productivity. Additionally, approximately 50% of commuters cycle to work faster than driving in rush hour. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exploring options for funding rewards for council officers who opt to use Active Travel in their commute | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigating a fleet of electric bikes for staff to use for site-visits and local meetings (although this is under review while we plan for the 'new normal' working practices after Covid-19, which is likely to involve more virtual meetings and site assessments) Exploring the possibility of making these available to the public during out of office hours | Internal | Short term | A fleet of e-bikes could ultimately save the council money due to reduced business mileage payments, saved cost of parking fees as well as time and money spent searching and paying for parking, and walking to a site. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Providing an example to local employers and communities, demonstrating how to encourage individuals to use active, carbon-neutral travel options in a way which is cost | | Immediate | |



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| | <p>effective for us as an employer, such as walking, cycling and car sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Incentivising staff to purchase their own Electric Vehicles and Electric Bikes by extending the Salary Sacrifice Scheme | | | |
| Increasing number of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points throughout Sedgemoor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have worked with the other four Somerset councils to develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, which was completed by WSP by October 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This provides guidance on how best to provide EV infrastructure in the district • Recommendations include Lead by example, Work with central government and industry to increase uptake of EVs, and focusing on home charging, workplace charging, other destination charging, on route charging • Installing charging points for staff in our own offices • Working with taxi companies to encourage and support them to make the switch to EV by 2030 • Supporting this transition by providing more EV charging points, as per the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy • Supporting businesses to make EV procurement choices | Indirect action | Achieved September 2020 | Where individuals are not able to participate in active travel options, EVs are an alternative that improve local air quality, increase energy security and reduce dependence on petroleum imports. EVs also have much lower running and maintenance costs than their fossil-fuel counterparts. |
| | | Internal | Recommendations to be implemented short term | |
| | | Direct action | Medium term | |
| Progressing our own fleet of council vehicles into Electric Vehicles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have already invested in two electric pool cars for staff to use for necessary visits and meetings. • Expanding this fleet and disincentivising staff from using their own fossil-fuelled vehicles (though this is also under review due to Covid-19). • Investigating opportunities to deliver a rapid transition of our own fleet of maintenance vehicles to electric | Internal | Achieved 2015 | This reduces the need for business mileage payment, saving the council money. It also helps to normalise EVs which will prepare us for the due increase in EV infrastructure and Clean Air Zones. |
| | | Internal | Long term | |



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| Supporting agile working and encouraging council staff to work from home when possible, reducing the need for travel | ✓ This has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen the majority of our staff successfully working from home | Internal | Achieved March 2020 | During the Covid-19 pandemic, most of our staff have been working from home. Our own survey found that staff are more productive when working from home, are able to better manage a healthy work-life balance, less commute stress, and financial savings. |
| | ✓ We plan to return to a 'new normal' which will see most staff working from home for at least 50% of their working week | Internal | Immediate | |
| | ✓ Our Customer Access Programme has transformed and digitalised our customer services activities to improve efficiency and enhance our customers' experience, including that of our staff, partners, businesses and citizens. | Internal | Achieved 2020 | |
| Support the improvement of public transport infrastructure, both increasing connectivity and supporting carbon alternative public transport options | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport is largely covered by the SCC Climate Emergency Framework Supporting the use of alternative fuel and/or electric buses on commercial routes in the region | Indirect action | Medium term | When residents choose public transport over private vehicles, this reduces congestion and local emissions, which improves air quality and reduces commute times. It increases connectivity between communities and opens up affordable employment options. Furthermore, low income communities are those most likely to be affected by poor air quality, yet are more likely to use public transport than private vehicles which predominantly cause air pollution. Improved public transport also increases employment opportunities and supports community cohesion |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing policy and process that supports the improvement of public transport infrastructure, ensuring the linking of main towns and new, as well as existing, development areas. This will also include connectivity between schools and rural residential areas Helping identify opportunities to improve connectivity between sites and green space to promote the use of public transport for tourism and leisure activities | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying county to increase cycle parking near bus stops and high footfall public transport connections | | | |

Waste



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| Reducing waste in council offices and moving to a contract which will enable more waste to be recycled | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWP are leading a project for a single contract for all local authority buildings in Somerset, working with Eunomia. • This will increase the amount of waste that can be recycled in our offices, for when reducing is not possible. Collected items will reflect the household-like service | Internal | Short term | The waste hierarchy keeps waste reduction a priority, and we therefore focus on cutting down the amount of waste we produce in the first place. Recycling should only be resorted to when reducing or reusing is not possible. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have moved towards becoming a paperless organisation, with more staff using Skype for Business, Microsoft Teams, Outlook, OneNote planning tools, and less paper ✓ Since the beginning of lockdown, we have reduced our paper usage significantly, with fewer staff in the office and reduced printing requirements | Internal | Achieved | When reducing or reusing waste is not possible, recycling results in financial as well as carbon savings. Mirroring home recycling in the workplace also makes it much easier to ingrain habits. |
| Setting out to become a 'single-use-plastic-free' authority and encourage businesses and residents to reduce/cut out their use of single use plastics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The 2019 Single Use Plastics Strategy lays out how SDC will phase out sales of Single use plastic bottles and cups and other Single Use Plastic products across its premises and events by 2021 | Internal | Immediate | Switching to reusable items saves the council money on items that are used only once, as well as the cost of appropriate waste and disposal. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have already included the council's aspirations around the use of Single Use Plastic in the procurement strategy | Internal | Achieved 2019 | Reducing Single Use Plastic used by the council will help to reduce the amount coming into the region, thus reducing litter and pollution levels from toxic chemicals in plastics. It also reduces visual disamenity of public spaces littered with plastic. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aiming for local events such as Bridgwater Fair to be a single-use-plastics-free event, and increase recycling facilities for when no alternative to Single Use Plastic is available | Internal | Short term | |
| Introducing water refill units in town centres to reduce need for single use plastic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating opportunities to provide free water refill units to residents in key points around Sedgemoor • Exploring a plastic bottle deposit scheme to reduce plastic waste across the county | Direct action | Medium term | Increased availability of water in public spaces supports the wellbeing of residents using urban centres and open spaces |



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| Supporting schools, businesses and council employees to help educate the population on the importance and possibilities of reducing, reusing and recycling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have already begun a recycling campaign for council employees, educating them about the lifecycle of plastic items and the carbon savings from opting for alternatives to single use plastic | Internal | Achieved February 2020 | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing information for the general public via the Environmental Champions scheme (more info in Business & Economy section) • Giving advice to local businesses on sustainable practices such as providing reusable packaging, where to source sustainable packaging options, and how to avoid plastic where possible • Providing information to the residents about reducing food waste and food packaging | Direct action | Medium term | |
| Increasing recycling opportunities in the district for waste that cannot yet be cut out | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementing the Recycle More service for the collection of plastic waste for recycling from April 2022 when the new waste contract is let • Replacing general waste bins in public spaces with those which have a recycling option as well will also encourage residents to reduce waste as much as possible | Indirect action | April 2022 | Energy from waste and biomass currently accounts for 10,000 jobs. Keeping recycling as a local activity creates jobs in the region and reduces the need to transport materials across large distances. A thriving recycling industry contributes to sustainable growing communities. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have introduced plastic recycling facilities for all plastic containers, tubs and trays at local Recycling Centres | | Achieved 2018 | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff at Sedgemoor District Council collected empty sweet tubs from friends and family after Christmas and gathered up 287 tubs for a recycling scheme, raising approx. £130 for Dartmoor Zoo | Internal | Achieved December 2019, ongoing | |

Energy & Buildings



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| <p>Responding to central government planning policy to support sustainable development and utilising sustainable opportunities in the local plan</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing on the local plan section on sustainability and energy to address carbon reduction opportunities in new-build commercial developments • Responding to central government climate change legislation, including building control and public standards as the UK government’s 2050 target approaches • Responding to government consultations, providing the knowledge and experience of a district council • Working on a sustainability checklist for consideration with new planning proposals | <p>Indirect Action</p> | <p>Medium term</p> | |
| <p>Delivering climate-change-ready, carbon neutral affordable housing in Sedgemoor Maximising the energy efficiency of existing council owned property and private homes, by retrofitting buildings and supporting residents to retrofit their own property</p> | <p>✓ We have produced a Retrofit Action Plan which outlines the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building thermally efficient modern affordable homes to make a positive contribution to our climate change ambitions. This will also give the authority the opportunity to encourage other affordable housing providers to build climate change friendly future homes. • One Affordable Housing priority is to establish and publish a climate-change friendly specification for all new affordable homes delivered by the Council and produce a design specification for council homes capable of achieving carbon neutral. • Working with the Centre for Sustainable Energy to submit a bid for the first round of green home grants on behalf of SHAL and Homes in Sedgemoor to arrange for contractors to fit the insulation from Matilda’s Blanket in properties. 50% of social housing properties to comply to the warm homes standards. | <p>Direct action</p> | <p>Action Plan created June 2020, to be implemented over the coming decade</p> | <p>Insulated housing helps lessen fuel poverty, reducing fuel costs to heat inadequately insulated homes. This improves equity as well as health.</p> <p>Improved living conditions in warmer homes improves mental and physical wellbeing, which reduces the need for sick days off work. This is advantageous to the economy and productivity and means children will take less days sick off school.</p> <p>Health impacts of people living in cold homes costs the NHS around £1.4 billion a year.</p> <p>Insulating homes and installing energy-saving technology creates local jobs. With more efficient homes, less money is spent on energy</p> |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have outlined the levels of each property, and the measures required to bring them to grade C | | | <p>supply from outside of the area, and the money spent locally.</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our target is for all social homes to reach Energy Performance Certificate band D by 2025 and band C by 2030. We will encourage the switch to renewable energy sources in these properties. Homes in Sedgemoor are including the viability of achieving this target through their stock condition survey | Direct action | Medium-long term | <p>Furthermore, energy-efficient homes and buildings are more able to withstand future energy price rises and are more equipped to avoid overheating.</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopting new-build principles which ensure that any council new-build housing stock will not need retrofitting in the future, with climate change in mind Cooperating with Homes England about increasing the affordable housing programmes grant to make new builds carbon neutral Working with the Local Enterprise Partnership to look into funding for carbon neutral homes Taking questions of viability back to the council to prioritise carbon reduction in new-build developments | Direct action | Short term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sedgemoor District Council Executive have agreed to buy six brand new, carbon-neutral affordable homes on a mixed ownership scheme in Tuckerton Lane, North Newton. | Direct action | Medium term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritising the retrofit of existing properties and homes. This will involve offering grants and loans to allow people to | Direct action | Short term | <p>This will save the council money on energy bills which we will be able to direct towards local renewable energy projects</p> |



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| | <p>make modifications to existing housing making them less carbon-intensive and more future-proof</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phasing out the use of gas and oil heating, to be replaced by carbon neutral heat networks such as natural gas, recognising the different approaches required for urban and rural areas | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aiming for existing properties to reach an average Energy Performance Certificate band E by 2025, and an average Band D by 2030, with as many as possible achieving Band C or above | Direct action | Medium-long term) | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Colley Lane Depot office refurbishment has introduced more efficient off-peak electric heating, as well as blinds on the windows to reduce solar gain and new doors to improve insulation | Internal | Achieved 2019 | |
| Working with regional stakeholders to build up a local workforce who are ready for a thriving green employment landscape, and developing a local supply chain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Somerset Independence Plus to build up momentum for retrofitting in the area. This will involve working with local and national partners to maximise economies of scale, rolling out insulation measures street by street and neighbourhood by neighbourhood. This links to training, research, re-skilling and development of a local workforce, and will involve applying for national funding for retrofitting of existing stock, utilising energy advisers and connections with local installers. This will tie into the council's external economic recovery plans post Covid-19 | Indirect action | Medium term | This creates jobs and educational opportunities in the local area and keeps wealth within the region |



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| Encouraging and supporting energy saving behaviour in our own operations and moving to 100% renewables as an organisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have switched to a 100% renewable energy tariff with the council's energy provider | Internal | Achieved February 2020 | <p>Energy-saving behaviour saves council money and time.</p> <p>Switching to renewables creates a demand for renewably sourced energy in the grid and gives a clear message to energy providers</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As part of our reduce, reuse, recycle campaign, we encourage council staff to think about their energy usage e.g. turning off lights, not heating unused office space, turning off computers | Internal | Achieved 2019 | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing low energy, well directed LED street lighting and issuing a procurement strategy that specifies the requirement of low-energy appliances. | Direct action | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have already begun replacing conventional sodium streetlights on council property with energy saving LED lighting units, with eighty units in car parks replaced this year, cutting energy use by two thirds and saving £7,000/year ✓ Phase 1 has now been completed, meaning all Sedgemoor District Council car parks now have LED lighting | Direct action | October 2020 | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have also been replacing mains powered ticket machines in car parks with solar powered machines at a rate of two machines per year ✓ 28 out of 30 are now solar-powered, and the remaining machines are soon to be replaced | Direct action | Achieved 2019 Immediate | |
| Supporting community energy projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many groups actively working to provide local alternative energy solutions in the Sedgemoor area. • Exploring the potential for seed funding community energy schemes and consider partnership arrangements with such groups | Direct action | Short term | This creates investment opportunities, reduces energy costs and increases openings for skill-development and training |



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| Identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources (e.g. wind, hydro) and supporting infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to work with the Centre for Sustainable Energy to support residents with their own renewable energy projects and making sustainable energy choices, such as installing solar PV or switching to a renewable energy supplier | Direct action | Short term | This redirects energy costs from distant companies towards local energy sources, keeping wealth in the area and creating jobs for local people |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigating how the Solar Streets Scheme could benefit residents in Sedgemoor to deliver low cost solar PV (photovoltaic cells) across communities, through bulk purchasing and condensed installations | Direct action | Short term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigating council land to develop our own energy projects in conjunction with local communities | Internal | Medium term | |
| Business & Economy | | | | |
| Supporting local community organisations to make their facilities greener through grant funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We currently provide small grant funding for green projects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects that support active travel (cycling/walking) Developing new community initiatives for reusing/recycling Making community spaces more energy efficient and reducing their carbon impact, such as installing insulation, greener heating systems or solar panels Raising awareness of issues surrounding climate change and educating others on solutions for how to reduce its impact Striving to increase the value and availability of this funding so more groups can reduce their carbon emissions Collaborating with external organisations to provide guidelines to communities on how they can assess their carbon footprint and identify what needs to be done to reduce it | Direct action | Achieved March 2020 | <p>This increases accessibility to community facilities by improving active travel options for organisations.</p> <p>Improving the energy efficiency of community spaces reduces energy bills and improves visibility of such projects</p> |
| | | | Medium term | |



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| Promoting climate change awareness among Sedgemoor residents, communities and businesses, and providing education on the key issues and ways to reduce carbon emissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environment Champion scheme will allow individuals to sign up to become an ambassador for climate change awareness in their community. This will involve events (online, with a view to in-person long term) to encourage networking and knowledge sharing among groups and individuals and a newsletter to share information and provide a platform for collaboration and resource sharing | Direct action | Short term | <p>This will enable the council to share information on climate change and help Sedgemoor residents to begin making the behavioural changes needed to bring down carbon emissions.</p> <p>There are a number of groups across Sedgemoor who are already working hard to fight climate change and promote awareness. This scheme will support those groups and allow them to share good practice and information with each other</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a toolkit for parishes and community groups to create their own climate emergency action plans, providing information, creating connections and sharing best practice | | | |
| Encouraging clean growth practice in business development and supporting funding for green start-ups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting businesses to access funds and knowledge to reduce their own carbon emissions through the Carbon Reduction for Business Grant Scheme. Grants of between £500 and £1000 are available to any Somerset businesses wishing to introduce and implement carbon reduction measures to their business | Direct action | Achieved 2020, ongoing until March 2021 | <p>A green recovery offers a great opportunity for Sedgemoor to rebuild its economy to accommodate for our carbon neutrality goals. We can set an example of a thriving economy based around a clean, green framework</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigating a business network with a focus on climate change, which we will support from the side-lines | Direct Action | Short term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The External Recovery group are looking into social and economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. This has a focus on inward investment and ensuring that Sedgemoor is able to attract the right type of businesses to the district | Direct action | Immediate | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracting clean growth projects to the region with projects such as Gravity | Direct action | Immediate | |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the business links we have as a district council to promote local tourism opportunities, for example the Mendip and Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee | Direct Action | Immediate | |
| Functioning as an organisation that supports climate change culture, by integrating climate change awareness into induction programmes for members and officers and providing training on the benefits and opportunities of tackling climate change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We are already demonstrating our carbon-neutral goals as an organisation by issuing a fortnightly Sustainable Sedgemoor Wellbeing Newsletter to all staff. This encourages staff to engage in environmentally friendly behaviour while in lockdown. ✓ The newsletter gives information on upcycling challenges, gardening and cycling among other activities. It also helps to keep staff in the loop while working from home and engage in a relaxed and positive working community. • Bringing this out to households in Sedgemoor through the Environmental Champions scheme | Internal | Achieved May 2020, ongoing monthly | This newsletter has been able to synergise staff wellbeing with staff sustainable behaviour. It has increased staff cohesion and helped to maintain a sense of belonging during the pandemic, while staff have been physically distant. Promoting green behaviour such as cycling and gardening for physical and mental wellbeing also reminds staff of our sustainability commitments. |
| Integrating climate change priorities and targets into all key corporate projects, programmes and strategies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change is at the forefront of Sedgemoor District Council's priorities, and it will continue to be an essential element in all our new developments, projects and investments Considering the climate emergency in all council reports as well as policy making, in the same way as finance, legal, equality, etc. implications are considered for each decision made | Internal | Immediate | This demonstrates our responsibility as an organisation to ensuring every action is taken with the climate emergency in mind, and nothing contradicts our carbon neutrality target. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking a review of all our policies to ensure the climate emergency is reflected in all of our activities, ensuring that none of the council activities are contrary to the overarching goal of carbon neutrality Assessing the impact on the council's climate emergency declaration in our own decision-making process | Direct action | Immediate | |
| Oppose fracking and fossil fuel extraction on council owned land and in our own investments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigating possible divestment from fossil fuel stocks and companies, and instead focus on opportunities in green energy and sustainability This will also include opposition of unconventional onshore oil and gas exploration on land owned by the council | Internal | Medium term | This will allow investment in clean assets that align with our attitude towards the environment |
| Food & Agriculture | | | | |
| Looking at food provided by the council and swapping to less carbon intensive food options | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the council's communication channels to promote healthy, sustainable food practices, so businesses and outlets offer low-carbon, healthy options, with fewer carbon-intensive products and more locally produced, better quality products | Indirect action | Short term | Low carbon options include locally sourced products and plant-based foods, which require less transportation and refrigeration, and do not need to be fed with plant products which are often imported from overseas. Meat and dairy local to Sedgemoor tends to have a lower carbon footprint than imported meat. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing low carbon options at SDC public events | Direct action | Short term | |
| Support local and sustainable food production | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drawing on the climate change business network to engage with local producers and support the delivery of environmentally friendly food by linking producers to information | Direct action | Short term | Access to green spaces such as allotments improves mental wellbeing (as has been seen during the Covid-19 lockdown). |



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| and minimise food waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborating with local farmers and residents with allotments to set up community markets. With climate change likely to increase the length of the growing season, we will support and encourage people to buy local and seasonal food all year round. This will not only reduce food miles, but also benefit the local economy (Recommended by Dept for Environment, 2010) | Direct action | Medium term | <p>Allotment-growing is also a great form of exercise and creates a sense of community amongst growers.</p> <p>Home-grown fruit and veg is often fresher and healthier.</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drawing on resources from the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West and National Farmers Union to help farmers to value the environmental assets on their land and move towards sustainable agricultural practices, and incorporate good practices proposed in the new Environmental Land Management Scheme. | Indirect action | Medium term | <p>Growing our own food helps educate children about where food comes from and creates an appreciation which helps reduce food waste.</p> <p>The pantry helps support families to eat low-cost meals and educate them with healthy recipe ideas to avoid wasting food.</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have set up a pilot community pantry with Fareshare who are redistributing food from supermarkets that would otherwise go to waste to provide low cost, surplus food to local residents ✓ There is now one pantry in Sydenham and one in Hamp, feeding 73 families regularly ✓ On average 300kg of food is redistributed per week in each pantry • We will continue reviewing the pilot and supporting the continuation of community pantries moving forward | Direct action | Achieved July 2020. | <p>This scheme reduces food waste from supermarkets, which helps reduce carbon emissions from creating and disposing of food and packaging</p> |
| Incentivise residents to grow their own food through education and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the amount of accessible growing space in Sedgemoor, supplying home composting kits, promoting 'companion planting' Encouraging urban farming, using all available green spaces, planting fruit trees in open spaces and supporting community orchard schemes | Direct action | Long term | |



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| accessible allotment space | | | | |
| Nature | | | | |
| Developing a Sedgemoor District Council Tree Plan , which sets out how we will increase the tree cover in Sedgemoor by 15% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tree Plan sets out how Sedgemoor District Council will engage with local businesses and stakeholders to build up a Tree Fund, which has already been seed-funded by the council. Through tree-planting days with local residents and community groups, Sedgemoor will help to increase the tree coverage in Sedgemoor, offering expertise on species and identifying locations. Community groups will commit to maintaining the trees for a minimum of 2 years after planting. Working with the highways authority to identify roadside areas where tree planting is possible | Direct action | Short term | <p>Increased trees and vegetation and provide natural cooling, mitigating the impact of heatwave and reducing surface flooring during extreme weather events.</p> <p>Trees help to improve local air quality which increases life expectancy, has a positive impact on physical and mental wellbeing, and reduces health inequality.</p> |
| Comply with the Somerset County Council Pollinator Action Plan and take local biodiversity into our own hands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting and creating pollinator habitats, ensuring appropriate recognition in our local plan and policies Focusing on local wildlife sites, parks and green spaces, and requires an investigation into the use of pesticides on council land Increasing awareness in businesses and young people of the value of local pollinators, improving knowledge and understanding of pollinators in the area | Direct action | Immediate | <p>While this action plan targets the climate emergency and focuses on actions to reduce the emissions of the district in order to mitigate against climate change, we recognise that there is a parallel ecological emergency. This section will begin to address the devastating impacts of this crisis, although more work needs to be done to focus on the impacts on wildlife and nature</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building wildflower planting projects on roads un-suitable for tree-planting. It will create habitats for insects and mitigate against the harmful impact of climate change on local wildlife. This will be covered in the Environmental Champion Scheme mentioned above, which will seek to engage with residents of all ages and backgrounds and harvest a community interest in protecting our environment | Direct action | | |



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| <p>Prepare Sedgemoor for the effects of climate change, including extreme weather events such as flooding and droughts</p> | <p>✓ We are already managing coastal erosion on the Berrow Dunes by implementing sand fencing. This is part of our duty of care as a local council, to protect local residents from the effects of climate change. This project has been thoroughly successful and has helped build up a defence against tidal flooding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that Climate Change is considered within risk management plans and business continuity plans. • Managing land, verges and flower displays using drought-resistant plants that are prepared for the changing climate, such as extreme weather events like flooding, droughts. • Using permeable surfacing in public spaces to allow for natural drainage and prevent the risk of flooding. This will also be a requirement for new planning applications • Using the UK Climate Impacts Programme to develop effective climate adaptation • Liaising with the Drainage Boards on river flooding and effects in the catchment area to ensure flooding precautions are appropriate • Minimising the risk of heathland fires, working with the fire authorities, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and domestic water saving measures in conjunction with Bristol and Wessex Water Authorities | <p>Direct action</p> | <p>Immediate</p> | <p>Adapting to the devastating impacts of climate change has a number of benefits, including making communities more independent and resourceful.</p> <p>It also has a positive impact on the natural environment. For example, planting trees not only sequester carbon and contribute to the carbon neutrality goal, but also provide substantial flood defences, improve local air quality and health, and also increase amenity in neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Furthermore, using permeable surfacing in public spaces and new developments provides an alternative which is more accessible as a habitat for local wildlife and helps improve biodiversity.</p> |
| <p>Increase community resilience</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the Parrett Barrier to improve flood resilience • Public Education: Environmental Champions scheme, Carbon Literacy Project, school and community workshops • Educating residents on the existence of Somerset Prepared | <p>Direct action</p> | <p>Immediate</p> | <p>The Somerset Levels have been estimated to become one of the UK's climate change frontlines, and we and our residents have</p> |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Working with parishes and community groups to develop knowledge of how to plan and prepare for extreme weather events caused by climate change | Direct action | Immediate | learnt a lot as a district from the devastating flooding in the winter of 2013/14. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Participating in the 30 days, 30 ways social media campaign in September which teaches about how to prepare for incidents | Direct action | Short term | |