



Climate Change Strategy summary 2021-25

Derbyshire County Council is leading a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reduce carbon emissions generated in Derbyshire to help meet ambitious targets needed to tackle climate change.

The following pages give you a summary of our Climate Change Strategy, which sets out how we are going to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions over the next few years. You can read the strategy in full on the county council's website at derbyshire.gov.uk/netzero

In 2019-20, Derbyshire County Council produced 19,206 tonnes of greenhouse gases directly from its buildings and services. This is a 55% reduction from when we first started measuring emissions in 2009-10.

What do we mean by Net Zero?

When the greenhouse gas emissions we all produce are the same as the greenhouse gas emissions removed from the atmosphere.

In 2018, Derbyshire households and businesses produced 10.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gases from transport, gas and electricity use in homes and other emissions from business and industry. Although these emissions across the whole of Derbyshire are gradually falling, a lot more needs to be done to ensure the county is on track to become net zero by 2050 at the latest.

Our Climate Change Strategy sets out how we will play our part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It describes the actions we will take over the next four years to achieve our ambition to be a net zero organisation by 2032, or sooner, and to help the county to be net zero by 2050, or sooner.

Other work is being done to plan how we will adapt our council services to a changing climate and to understand how we can best manage our natural environment like woodlands and vegetation so that they can continue to help by absorbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Taking action on climate change and reducing emissions can benefit our communities in many ways including improving our homes, creating local jobs, reducing fuel poverty, improving health and wellbeing, avoiding flood damage costs, enhancing green spaces and improving air quality. But it's clear that the council cannot reduce emissions to net zero on its own. We need everyone to play a part.

We want to work with residents, communities, businesses and other councils and organisations across the county to complete many of the actions in our Climate Change Strategy.

We'll get in touch with groups and individuals across the county to discuss the best way to work together to achieve these goals and to agree how different people can get involved in the various activities. Each action will be treated separately and will begin at different times.

We want to make sure our communities benefit from these actions and make sure that the things we do to reduce emissions do not bring about inequalities or significantly increased costs for households.

There are 28 key actions in the Climate Change Strategy and another 120 supporting actions split into five areas:

- The Council's Estate and Operations
- Low Carbon Economy
- Decarbonising the Domestic Sector
- Transport, Travel and Infrastructure
- Waste



Where we want Derbyshire to be

We want the council to become a net-zero carbon organisation that leads by example by working and running the services we provide in a sustainable and low carbon way. This includes everything from energy efficiency in our buildings and cutting emissions from the vehicles we use, to the supplies we buy as part of our everyday work to run services for local people. As part of this commitment, we'll make sure that our staff and suppliers understand the importance of reducing our emissions, and their role in achieving these reductions.

What we're going to do

- Make our buildings more energy efficient including using the latest net zero design standards for our existing properties and any we build in the future.
- Generate renewable energy, such as solar power, on the buildings and land we own.
- Complete our LED streetlighting replacement programme.
- Install electric vehicle charging points at more of our depots, office car parks and other property.
- Continue to replace vehicles in our fleet with low and zero carbon models.
- Establish new sustainability requirements in our contracts and reduce the carbon impact of the goods and services that we buy.
- Run a climate change training programme for staff and councillors.

Low carbon Economy



Where we want Derbyshire to be

The industrial and commercial sector is Derbyshire's largest employer and also accounts for 68% of the county's emissions. These sectors have a crucial role to play in helping the county to meet its net zero target, and also in developing a green economy – which will be low carbon and provide skilled and well-paid jobs for our community.

We want to continue to work with other local councils in Derbyshire, and other organisations across the county, to support, encourage and promote the development of low carbon business and industry in Derbyshire.

Our focus will be on creating more and better jobs in the low carbon and clean technology sectors, making sure that there is education and training available to provide people with the skills for these jobs and support low carbon innovation in Derbyshire.

We also want to help business and industry in Derbyshire to reduce the amount of energy they use. And we want to rapidly expand renewable energy generation across the county using natural resources such as solar power, wind or geothermal heat.

What we're going to do

- Work with other councils in Derbyshire to deliver a Renewable Energy Study for Derbyshire to understand the renewable energy opportunities and increase the amount of renewable energy generated in the county.
- Include new guidance in Local Plans – the local guide to what can be built and where – to make sure that any future developments are built in the best place and in the right way.
- Continue to run our Green Entrepreneurs grant fund for businesses interested in developing and investing in green energy and carbon reduction schemes.

- Provide additional advice to businesses for reducing their environmental impact, support environmentally-friendly innovation and create sustainable growth opportunities.
- Work with local schools, colleges, universities and training providers, trade unions, local businesses and the regional Chamber of Commerce, to assess and develop the necessary low carbon skills and qualifications needed to help the low carbon industry to grow in Derbyshire.
- Work with Western Power Distribution to ensure our electricity grid is able to adapt to changing energy demands.

Decarbonising the Domestic Sector



Where we want Derbyshire to be

There are around 360,000 homes in Derbyshire. In 2018, these properties accounted for 14% of Derbyshire's total emissions. A higher than national average percentage of these properties were built before 1980, with only 25% being built in the last forty years. At present, around 63% of existing homes in Derbyshire have a poor energy efficiency rating (Energy Performance Certificate category D or below).

We want to work with local councils and other organisations to make housing in Derbyshire more energy efficient and encourage residents to change their habits around energy use. As well as reducing emissions, this will help to reduce energy bills and improve the wellbeing of residents by making houses warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

We want all fossil fuels used for heating, hot water, and cooking to be removed from homes. We're also aiming to support national decarbonisation efforts by helping the expansion of small-scale renewable energy generation such as solar power for electricity and heating water in the housing sector.

What we're going to do

We'll work with local councils and other organisations to:

- Understand the current condition of Derbyshire's homes, agree a plan for decarbonising homes and put this plan into action.
- Work with landlords and homeowners to offer support and advice to reduce emissions from their homes.
- Ensure building net zero homes is included into Local Plans and that the planning system supports an increase in low-carbon energy generation and a reduction in the demand for energy.
- Help improve skills within the house-building industry to help meet our needs for energy efficient new homes, as well as help increase and improve the skills needed across the county to make existing homes more energy-efficient.

Transport, Travel and Infrastructure



Where we want Derbyshire to be

To drastically cut emissions from vehicles in Derbyshire we need reliable and affordable zero and low emission alternatives, where and when people need them. That's why we're aiming to work alongside others to improve transport options across Derbyshire and help people get from A to B easily, whether it's walking, cycling, using low emission public transport or electric vehicles.

What we're going to do

- Look at how we can make better connections between cycling, walking, electric vehicle charging, bus and rail travel so that people can travel without relying on carbon-emitting vehicles.
- Help improve bus services and information for passengers.
- Make it easier for drivers to switch to zero emission vehicles, such as electric cars.
- Plan a transport system for the future, including new fuels and technologies.



Waste

Where we want Derbyshire to be

Responsibility for dealing with waste in Derbyshire is split between district and borough councils which collect waste and the county council which treats and disposes of it.

We intend to work with other councils in Derbyshire, and other organisations, to reduce the amount of resources that go to waste – and the raw materials needed to produce goods – through continual reuse and recycling of materials. This is called a circular economy.

What we're going to do

- Continue to work with other councils in Derbyshire, and other organisations, to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.
- Continue to run countywide campaigns aimed at changing the habits of households and businesses and encourage them to waste less.
- Work with local producers and businesses to restrict the use of single use products and support the market for remanufactured goods.
- Continue to explore opportunities for increasing the segregation and redistribution of good quality products from our Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Keeping track of progress



We will check our progress against the targets and actions within our Climate Change Strategy and report on this on a regular basis.

We're making sure that climate change is considered in all we do:

- We're asking our staff to consider climate change when planning projects.
- We have set up a new committee with councillors from the different political parties to scrutinise work being carried out on climate change and biodiversity.
- The Leader of Derbyshire County Council is also the person with overall responsibility for leading our climate change programme.
- Our Climate Change and Environment Programme Board oversee the delivery of our climate change programme and make sure we do what we say we'll do.

Councils across Derbyshire are working closely together in a new way through the Vision Derbyshire approach to deliver priority projects, such as tackling climate change. The delivery of various actions in the Climate Change Strategy is a core part of the work being carried out through the 'Living and Working Sustainably' workstream of Vision Derbyshire.

For more information visit derbyshire.gov.uk/netzero