



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Carbon Reduction Delivery Action Plan Update

FY 2023/24 – 2024/25



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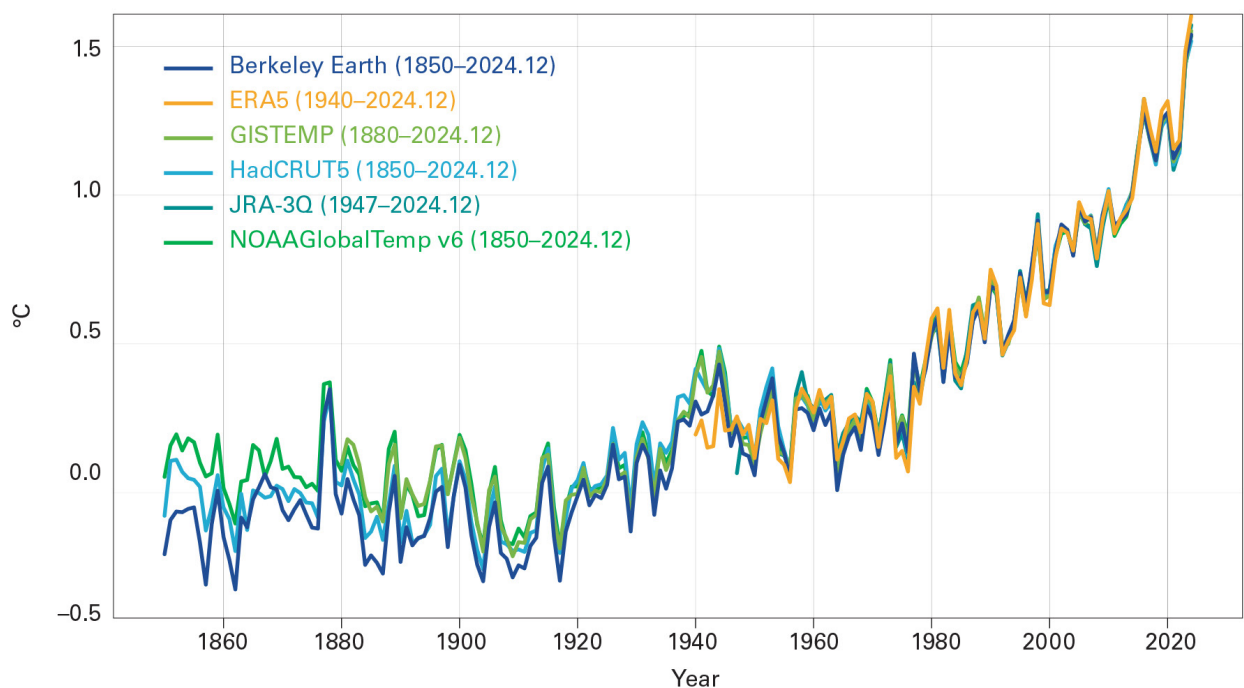
1. LOCALISING A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

1.1 UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

As part of our ongoing commitment to reduce carbon impact of the Council's operations and assets and tackle climate change, this annual update is set to outline the progress made on the Council's Climate Reduction Delivery Strategy and its supporting Action Plan. Since the announcement of the climate emergency in March 2019, the Council endeavours in a collective effort to meet both local and national carbon reduction goals, recognising the impact of our own activities and inspiring a sustainable future for a thriving community in Bedford Borough.

Councils are required to operate within international and national policy frameworks to fulfil their local obligations. Nationally, such as the Climate Change Act 2008, amended in 2019 by the UK government, sets the target for achieving net zero by 2050 in order to align with the 2015 UN Paris Agreement, which sets the climate goal of limiting global warming well under 2°C above pre-industrial levels, pursuing the objective of 1.5°C.

As of 2024, according to five different datasets, the global warming levels have reached +1.6°C above 1850-1900 levels, with constant trend of record-breaking for the warmest year over the past decade.¹



Graph 1: Annual global mean temperature anomalies relative to a pre-industrial (1850–1900) baseline shown from 1850 to 2024. Source: State of the Global Climate 2024, WMO

1. Source: WMO State of the Global Climate 2024, p. 3.

Available at: <https://library.wmo.int/records/item/69455-state-of-the-global-climate-2024>

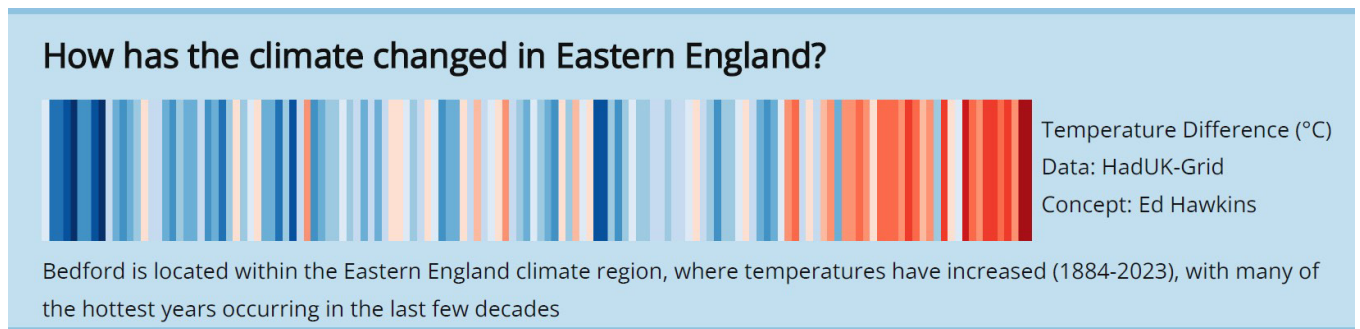


Figure 1: Temperatures increase in East of England (1884-2023), MET Office & Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, Climate Report for Bedford.

The East of England Region currently sees the lowest rainfall average and the highest temperature average when compared with the rest of England.² Bedford will be at risk of water scarcity during the summer with decreased rainfalls, and higher risk of flooding during winter with precipitations projected to increase as the temperatures rise.³ If the global temperature reaches +4°C, this will result in between 4 and 8 summer days above 35°C, posing high risks for all residents' health and generating significant disruptions to the road and transport infrastructure.⁴ Climate risk as well as adaptation are being investigated as part of the wider work of the Council in its goal to net zero.

The purpose of this update is to provide the reader with an insight into the climate action achievements consolidated by the Council, providing an insight on ongoing projects and future aspirations for the Council's path to net zero by 2030. The different sections will reference the actions in the Carbon Reduction Action Plan, by key priority areas identified:

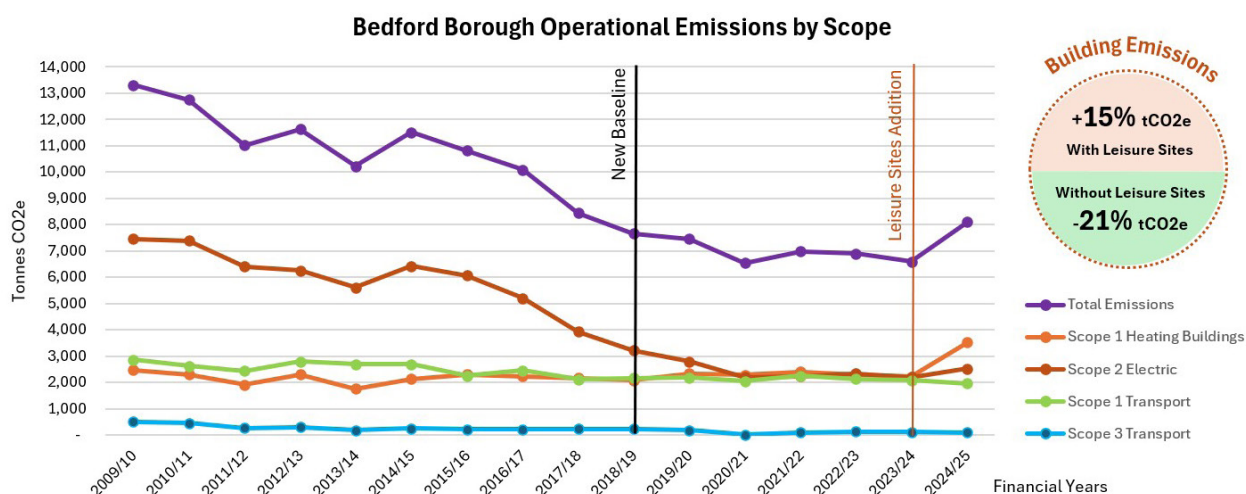
- Operational Council Buildings
- Owned Transport
- Business Travel
- Working Practices
- Carbon Offsetting and Climate Resilience through Council practices

2. Source: <https://tyndall.ac.uk/reports/the-east-of-englands-vital-offer-to-the-uk-as-it-progresses-towards-net-zero-and-some-priority-asks-regarding-mitigation-and-adapting-to-climate-change-risks/>

3. Data Source: MET Office & Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, Local Authority Climate Service Report for Bedford. Available at: <https://climatedataportal.metoffice.gov.uk/pages/lacs>

4. MET Office & Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, Local Authority Climate Service Report for Bedford. Available at: <https://climatedataportal.metoffice.gov.uk/pages/lacs>

1.2 OUR PATH TO NET ZERO



Graph 2: Bedford Borough Council Overall Emissions Trend by Scope in the period between 2009/10 and 2023/24 FY.

This graph outlines the Council's carbon reduction progress, reported on a yearly basis on the Council's website, which focuses on the following areas.⁵

Council Owned Buildings (Gas and Oil)	Scope 1
Council Owned Transport (Fleet)	Scope 1
Council Owned Buildings (Electric)	Scope 2
Council Staff Business Travel	Scope 3

2009/10 to 2018/19: This decade has been characterised by a significant decline in the overall emissions, exceeding the aspirational 40% carbon reduction target set by the Council's Carbon Management Plan. Indeed, in 2018/19 Bedford Borough achieved a 50% total reduction, including a 62% carbon reduction from the 2009/10 baseline on its own operated Council buildings. This was possible thanks to numerous energy efficiency projects delivered successfully through the RE: FIT programme on the Council buildings, fleet route optimisation, and streetlighting upgrades across the Borough.

2018/19 to date: The Council has amplified its net zero ambition, declaring a climate emergency with a commitment to achieve net zero by 2030. In 2019 a new baseline was set for the calculation of the carbon reduction. This period has been characterised by numerous challenges arising from the adverse COVID-19 impacts, followed by an unprecedented increase in energy prices. The national lockdown measures temporarily lowered the buildings and business travel emissions, and carbon efficiency projects have resumed in the aftermath of the geopolitical fuel shortage context.

In spite of uncertainty on the possibility to sustain the carbon reduction trend due to effects of the pandemic, the total emissions have declined by 14% between 2018/19 and 2023/24. However, the addition of the leisure sites back into the council's ownership, making up 31.52% of our current scope 1 and 2 emissions (excluding schools), has led to a 15% increase from the baseline in non-schools buildings due to the very high usage of the sites added on our portfolio, negatively impacting the Council's carbon emissions reduction trajectory. Without the leisure sites addition back to the portfolio, the Council would have seen a further decrease in Council building emissions by 21% compared to the baseline.

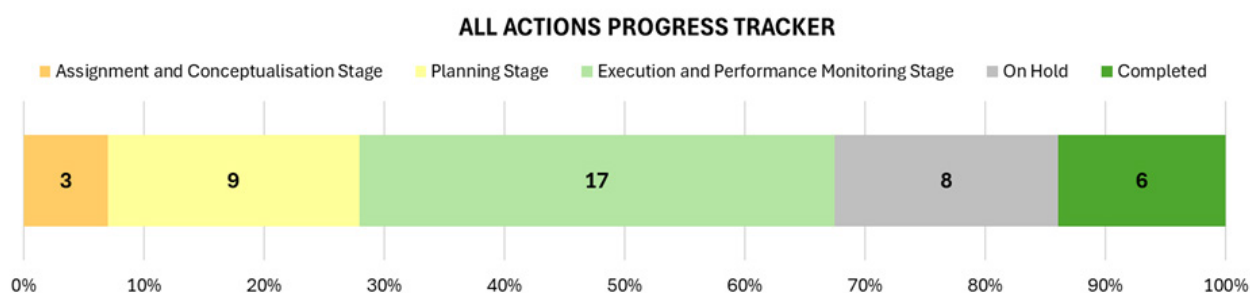
5. Data source: Annual Emissions Report <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/sustainability/energy-management-and-sustainability-reports>

2. AT A GLANCE

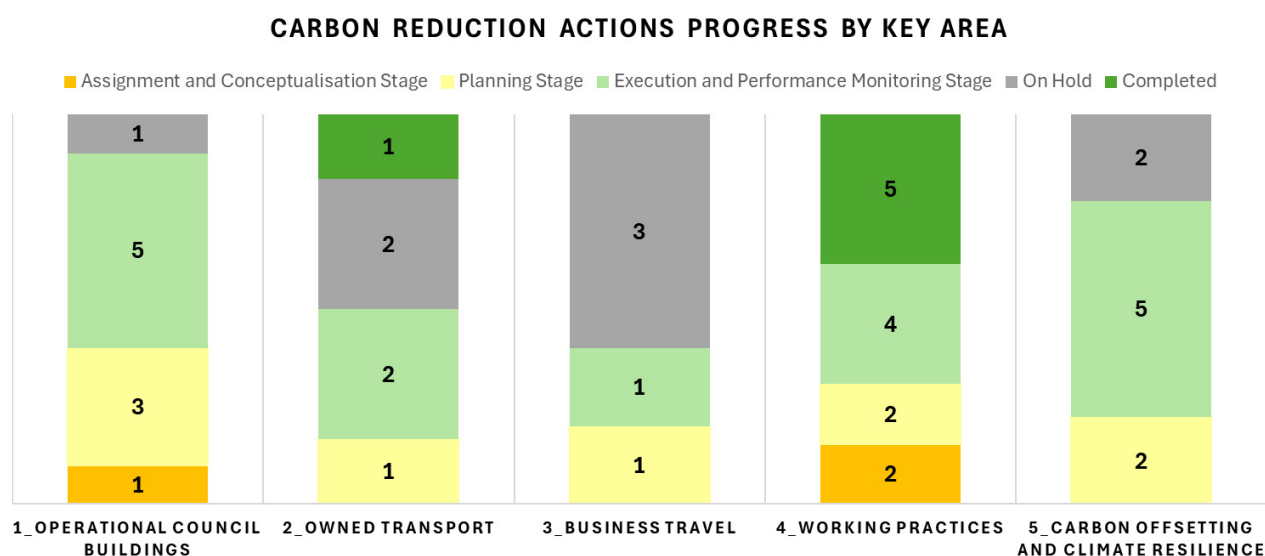
The Council is proactively refreshing the agenda with new actions being added on public health, Council service optimisation and increased cooperation. As our path to net zero unravels, the Council has completed 11% of its actions and is currently progressing on 75% of its set tasks, with project stages ranging from an initial conceptual phase to the monitoring phase. However, 16% of the actions are currently on hold due to delivery constraints.

The refreshed approach and the measures taken to streamline the progress on the set actions will enable us to leverage our collective resources towards an integrated approach that values internal and external cooperation, generating the feedback loops needed to accelerate our progress to Net Zero Council operations by 2030.

Below you can see an infographic which breaks down the progress to date on the Carbon Reduction Delivery Action Plan, according to the following categories which are extracted from internal reporting processes:



Graph 3.1: Council's progress on Carbon Reduction Delivery Action Plan Agenda by Grand Total.



Graph 3.2: Council's progress on Carbon Reduction Delivery Action Plan Agenda by Key Priority Area.

Key for Graphs 3.1 and 3.2:

- Assignment and Conceptualisation Stage – moving from inception to conception
- Planning Stage – action between conceptual and operational phase
- Execution and Performance Monitoring Stage – operational phase, trials being undertaken to assess impact and feasibility
- Completed – completed or successfully implemented
- On Hold – on hold due to lack of resources or feasibility challenges, to be reassessed

3. SUMMARY - KEY UPDATES

3.1 ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Operational Council Buildings



APSE Energy Awards 2025 Winner for the **4.2MW Elstow Solar Farm** completed in 2022, which will generate local green energy equivalent to powering up over 1,000 homes.

In 2023, over 1 million pounds (including £500,000 PSDS funding) invested to switch Brookside Care Home from oil to air-source heat pumps and solar panels, saving the Council a total of 96,222kWh.



Implemented **14 carbon-reducing measures for Council-owned buildings**, including:



4 insulation projects;



4 energy efficient boilers installs;

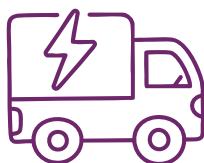


2 double/triple glazing projects;



4 led lighting upgrades.

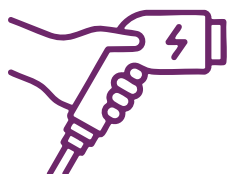
Owned Transport



All diesel compact sweepers in the Council's fleet are now electric.



The number of **Council-owned EVs fleet** has increased more than 6x, growing from 3 to 19 vehicles.



The Council has installed **269 electric vehicle charge points** on the territory, of which 106 are Council-owned. In 2023, the car parks charging points were used by about 1 in 4 plug-in EV hybrid users in Bedford Borough.

Working Practices

Hybrid working and teleconferencing has been embedded in the Council's operations.



The Council has shifted to **paperless parking permits** in 2024.

The Council has reduced **printing volumes by 84% between 2020 and 2024.**



We are raising staff awareness with **1,201 certified staff members via internal Climate Change, Sustainability, Environmental Issues training**, with an additional **86 members of staff completing voluntary internal training on Net Zero modules.**

All Council **reports are now considering the carbon and environmental impacts for recommendations and decisions.**



All tenders over £100,000 must undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment, considering the energy, waste, and transport impacts.

Carbon Offsetting and Climate Resilience through Council Practices



A total of **41,983 trees have been planted to date.** The Council has planted a quarter of the total trees in 2023/2024, amounting to 11,144 trees.

A **£50,000 investment in watering programmes** has increased the trees survival rate to 92.5% (+2.5% compared to the previous year).



In 2024, we have **increased our green spaces designated to support local pollinators by 42%.** The Council now has **21 areas with reduced grass cutting and native wildflower meadows, and 4 perennial wildflower meadows sites.**

3.2 WORK IN PROGRESS & AMBITIONS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS

OUR WORK IN PROGRESS	AMBITIONS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS
Operational Council Buildings	
• Over £500,000 invested in two rooftop car park solar projects with battery storage. • £242,800 awarded through the Government and Sports England Fund to install solar PV on Kempston Swimming Pool, with an estimated saving of 116,429kWh. • Developing a Corporate Asset Action Plan to reiterate the zero-carbon ambition for new builds and newly acquired properties.	• We are scoping funding for the installation of smart technology, and battery storage projects. • We are looking to establish a zero-carbon ambition for new builds, with no new gas supplies from 2025. • Internal resources committed towards improvement works necessary to ensure the achievement of minimum EPC standards.
Owned Transport	
• £100k initially committed to a trial testing the performance of shifting the fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). The trial has been paused pending investigation of the technical difficulties encountered. • More EV charge points to be installed by 2027, using LEVI funding, in response to an increased need for electrification of transport. • All non Euro6 vehicles to be removed from the Council's fleet no later than the end of 2026.	• We are investigating the optimisation of our operational fleet's routes. • We are assessing the feasibility of upgrading the depot substation to unlock opportunities to upscale the use of alternative fuel and electric vehicles.
Business Travel	
• In the process of setting up a dedicated Sustainable Transport Team to raise awareness and increase the uptake of sustainable modes of transport, monitor, and improve the local sustainable mobility provision.	• We are looking to establish a salary sacrifice scheme to support sustainable staff travel.

OUR WORK IN PROGRESS	AMBITIONS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS
Working Practices	
• Home and hybrid working is encouraged wherever practicable, maximising the usage of the space available, leasing out vacant spaces. • The nexus between public health and climate change is being embedded in Council strategies and consultations. • We are integrating electric handheld equipment in our frontline operations. • A new Staff Carbon Reduction Delivery Group is set to start in 2025, overseeing and streamlining the delivery of the Council's Carbon Reduction Delivery Action Plan.	• We will continue to engage with other Local Authorities and organizations such as BLMK to share expertise and form partnerships for a stronger Climate Action. • Public Health Officers are working on forming climate change across their service area and aligning with regional guidelines. • We will endeavour to further reduce the printing figure wherever hard copies are not mandated by current legislation. • Analysis is currently underway to identify best practices to reduce emissions through healthy and sustainable food procurement strategies
Carbon Offsetting and Climate Resilience through Council Practices	
• The Council has secured a food waste contract in 2024. • A kerbside glass collection trial is being offered to about 2,000 households in the Borough, soon to be expanded to 12,000 households, which has seen a 27% increase in glass recycling. • We have started the process of incorporating climate risk into our corporate risk register, and we are looking to partner with external organisations to generate a knowledge base for future adaptation strategies.	• As a last resort, from 2028 we will consider opportunities to offset the remaining carbon emissions, with potential arising from the local generation at Elstow Solar Farm. • We will investigate ways to capture internal resources to track our waste emissions performance.

4. DETAILED UPDATES (with Actions References)

4.1 ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

This section includes details on completed projects quantifying wherever possible the impact of each accomplishment.

4.1.1 Operational Council Buildings

- We have invested over 1 million pounds, including £500,000 secured through PSDS funding, to install air source heat pumps, new windows, internal LED lighting, roofing, and PV, and improving the energy efficiency of Brookside Care Home. The project, completed in June 2024, has saved the Council a total of 96,222kWh.⁶ Ref 1A, 1B, 1H.



Photos: Brookside Care Home Energy Efficiency measures installed in 2024

- We build BREEAM ratings into our designs wherever practical and possible. Ref 1C
- We have reduced building opening hours implemented dependent on service delivery. Ref 1D
- We complete an Asset Management task annually to evaluate retention, condition and maintenance required to Council owned buildings. Over the last three years the Estates team have completed 4 insulation projects, 2 double/triple glazing projects, and have installed energy efficient boilers in 4 sites, as well as upgraded the lighting to LEDs in 4 projects. Ref 1E
- In 2022 we have completed the installation of the 4.2MW Elstow Solar Farm. The Council will be able to generate power to supply an equivalent of 1,000 homes.⁷ Ref 1F, CORP6.



Photo: Birds Eye View of Elstow Solar Farm and close-up of solar PV installed.

6. Source: Agenda Reports Pack <https://councillorsupport.bedford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=675&Mid=6510&Ver=4>

7. Source: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/sustainability/sustainability-projects/sustainability-projects>

4.1.2 Owned Transport

- All fleet diesel compact sweepers have been replaced with electric vehicles, with other smaller fleet vehicles (up to 7.5t) being replaced as they are due renewal with electric alternatives. As part of the Council's plans to electrify its operational fleet, 16 new electric vehicles (EVs) were recently acquired, raising the total number of owned EVs to 19.⁸ Ref 2A.
- We are delivering CPC training modules inhouse and fuel-efficient driving is currently part of the syllabus, subsidised by the Department for Transport. Courses are free for instructing drivers on electric vehicle driving (Energy Saving Trust). Ref 2C
- The Council owns 106 EV charging points across the Borough (56 located in car parks, and 50 on-street). According to 2023 data, the car parks charging points are used by about 1 in 4 plug-in EV hybrid users in Bedford.⁹ Ref 2A (Indirect)



Photos: EV Car charging in Riverside Car Park (left and middle), EV Chargers in Rope Walk Car Park (middle).

4.1.3 Working Practices

- All Council reports are considering the carbon and environmental impacts from any recommended decision, and the observations are included on all executive reports. Ref WP1
- The procurement policy includes decarbonisation, environment, and social considerations for all tenders over £100,000, tracking, measuring, and monitoring all contractual environmental and social commitments made through the Council's robust e-tendering service. Specifically, the Environmental Impact Assessment enables considerations on energy, waste management (including landfill and recycling) and transport. Further, social value creation constitutes an integral of the tendering process, with a focus on capturing opportunities for local employment and upskilling, prioritising local businesses where possible, and businesses with capacity to projects which generate social and environmental value beyond the projects' contractual commitments. Ref WP2
- Hybrid working continues for other team members, many only visiting Borough Hall once a week. Ref 3B, WP3
- **NEW Action** - Bedford Borough Council is committed to reducing paper usage across the Borough. Examples of actions already undertaken include reduced printing equipment driven by the switch from office-based working to remote, which has decreased our overall emissions by 84% between 2020 and 2024, down to 6.5 tCO₂e. Additionally, all parking permits have been digitalised from September 2024, shifting to paperless form, which will generate a positive environmental impact both for Council staff and the wider Borough. Ref WP8

8. Source: <https://fleetvisionintl.com/2023/11/bedford-borough-council-opts-for-electric-sweepers-from-aebi-schmidt-to-help-meet-green-targets/>

9. Agenda Reports Pack, Table 3, p. 37. Available at: <https://councillorsupport.bedford.gov.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?CId=675&Mid=651>

- We have successfully rolled out training on Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Impacts as part of the mandatory induction pack to 1,461 enrolled users with an 82% completion rate. 86 members of staff have shown interest on Net Zero training engaging with the voluntary internal training. *Ref WP10*
- The ICT and Facilities teams have successfully implemented a teleconferencing system, partly as a consequence of the uptake of remote working, which will save £240 per person per year compared to travelling to an office setting. *Ref WP11*

4.1.4 Carbon Offsetting and Climate Resilience through Council Practices

We continue to have increased planting numbers with a total of 41,983 trees planted. The Council participated in the planting of 11,144 trees during the 2023/24 planting season, providing 5,000 trees to residents, businesses, and organisations, and greening our urban areas with thanks to our partnership with Trees for Streets. This year has also seen the planting of the second Miyawaki forest thanks to the support of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation UK¹⁰ *Ref CORP1*



Photos L-R: Newly planted trees on Maskell Drive, trees on Park Avenue, and first Miyawaki forest (Longholme, Bedford) after 6 months.

£50,000 is being invested to facilitate our watering programme. There has been an increase in survival rate from 90% up to 92.5%. *Ref CORP2*



Photos L-R: Established flowered trees in Bedford Park, trees with seasonal interest in Wenworth Drive.

10. Sources: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/TreeGiveaway2024>; <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/news/2024/bedford-borough-residents-and-businesses-plant-nearly-100-new-trees-trees-streets>; <https://sharnbrook-pc.gov.uk/bedford-borough-council-plants-second-miyawaki-forest-with-the-sri-sathya-sai-organisation-uk> ; Agenda reports pack <https://councillorsupport.bedford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=675&MIId=6511&Ver=4>

The Council is committed to support pollinators. Reduced grass cutting to promote wildflower meadows has been implemented in 21 sites among parks, open spaces, and streets, with 6 new additions in 2024. We also have 21 native wildflower perennial meadows, with 3 new additions to open spaces in 2024. 4 wildflower perennial meadows are regularly maintained.¹¹ Ref CORP3

A SELECTION OF WILDFLOWER MEADOWS IN BEDFORD

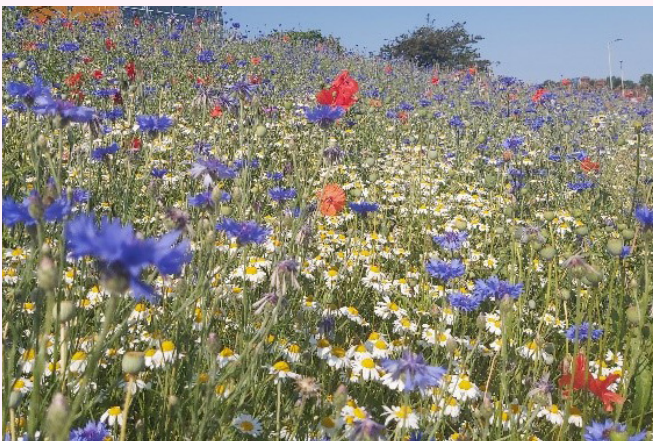


Wentworth Drive Sown Wildflowers

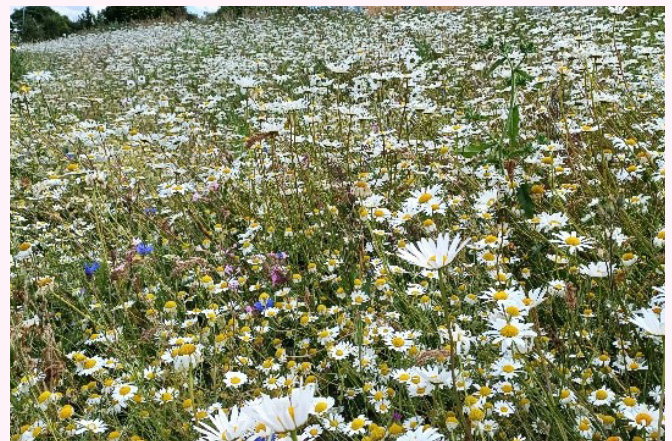


Thor Drive Reduced Mowing

Did you know? Where wildflowers are sown, they are always really colourful in their first year as we sow a crop of annual seeds in with a perennial mix. As perennial flowers take over, the display is more toned down with primarily white displays.



Cardington Road Sown Wildflowers in 2023



Cardington Road Wildflowers in 2024

11. Source: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-sport/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-management-and-maintenance/bugs-and-bees>

4.2 OUR WORK IN PROGRESS

This section will provide an overview of the current projects being implemented across different departments in the Council, which are directly relevant to the reduction of the emissions from Council operations but could also contribute a significant impact to the wider community in Bedford.

4.2.1 Operational Council Buildings

- The Council is actively seeking opportunities to further renewable generation schemes. £500,000 have been allocated to install two large rooftop solar arrays with battery storage on Council-owned multi-storey car parks (Queen Street and Lurke Street). £242,800 were secured through the Government and Sports England as part of their Swimming Pool Support Fund to install PVs on Kempston Swimming Pool, which will save the Council an estimate of 116,429 kWh. The three new solar PV projects are underway, with an expected completion date between 2024 and 2025. The combined carbon savings of the projects will be determined and published in due course. *Ref 1A*



Photos: Brand new solar panels and battery storage installed at Queen Street Car Park (left and centre); Solar panels installed at Kempston Swimming Pool (right).

- Property Services are currently developing a Corporate Asset Management Action Plan, which reiterates our commitment and plans for new builds and newly acquired properties to contribute positively to our zero-carbon ambition, rather than creating new barriers that need to be overcome. *Ref 1B, 1D*
- We are committing an allocation in the budget for the next 5 years to deliver improvement works and ensure Minimum EPC Standards are achieved across the Council's estate, pending monitoring the latest regulatory developments. *Ref 1I*

4.2.2 Owned Transport

- We have initially committed £100k in a trial seeking to analyse the performance of greening Bedford Borough's fleet through Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). The project has been operationalised with the Domestic Waste and Refuse fleet, which accounts for over 60% of the Council's fleet emissions. It is expected that shifting to HVO will reduce the Waste and refuse fleet's CO₂ emissions by 90%. However, the trial has been paused due to technical difficulties encountered, and we may run forthcoming trials pending investigation of the issues associated with HVO. The Council is reporting the findings of the trial to the Climate Change Committee on a regular basis.¹² *Ref 2B.*

12. Source: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/news/2024/bedford-borough-council-secures-ps242800-funding-boost-kempston-pool>

13. Source: Agenda Reports Pack <https://councillorsupport.bedford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=675&MIId=6510>

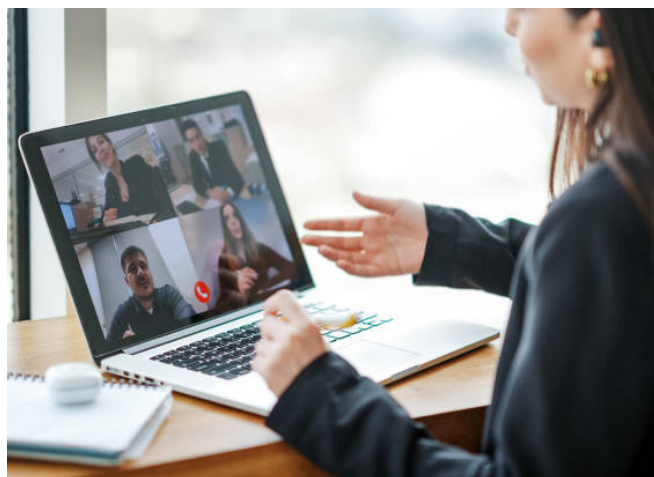
- We are continuing the work to remove all non Euro6 vehicles from our fleet, which is expected to be completed during the 2025/2026 financial year, and no later than the end of 2026. *Ref 2D*
- Consultations are underway to deliver the installation of new on-street charge points in Bedford by 2027 using LEVI funding, along with investigations on opportunities for EV Car Sharing, Gullies and other opportunities arising from discussions. This will have an impact on staff travel and catalyse opportunities for deployment of EVs across the Borough.¹⁴ *Ref 3A.*

4.2.3 Business Travel & Working Practices

- We are in the process of setting up a Sustainable Travel team who will be dedicated to raising awareness and promoting sustainable modes of transport to increase its uptake by staff members, reviewing the cycle network and improving its provision, assessing the status of the facilities and implementing opportunities to monitor and improve the current provision of sustainable travel. *Ref 3B-E, WP4*

4.2.4 Working Practices

- Staff are still being encouraged to work from home in order to reduce energy requirements and vehicle usage. In addition, this contributes to our wider ambition of making space in Borough Hall available to be leased out. Where possible we are making the most of hubs and have linked this to the rationalisation of our estate to avoid keeping sites open when they can be better utilised and where carbon savings can be achieved. *Ref WP3*



- **NEW Action:** The Public Health team is providing ongoing support to consider carbon/environmental impacts across Council reports and strategies. Recent examples include the development and implementation of Bedford Borough Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy and drafting a briefing for the Council's Climate Change Committee that summarises the latest evidence on climate change and health and possible local implications.¹⁵ *Ref WP5*
- **NEW Action:** We are assessing opportunities available for moving to electric handheld equipment for frontline operations. We are currently in the process of implementing this for grounds maintenance, with a planned purchase of circa 60 equipment devices with 20% of these being electric. We will look for opportunities to implement this in other service areas, such as waste and recycling. *Ref WP6*
- We are in the process of setting up a Carbon Reduction Delivery Group starting in 2025, formed of tier 3 staff members that have completed the internal training on Climate Change. The group will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss and streamline the progress on the Carbon Reduction Delivery Action Plan. This space will enable us to leverage our collective resources to implement solutions that reduce our carbon footprint, while also ensuring that sustainability is woven into the Council's own operations. *Ref WP 9*

14. Source: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/news/2024/bedford-borough-council-unveils-electric-vehicle-charging-strategy>

15. Source: Agenda reports pack <https://councillorsupport.bedford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CID=675&MId=6511&Ver=4>

4.2.5 Carbon Offsetting and Climate Resilience through Council Practices

- A Kerbside Glass Collection Trial started in September 2024, involving circa 2,000 households in the project. The early analysis indicates a 27% increase in recycling collected by weight without any net impact on vehicles. The Council will be adding a further c12,000 properties to the trial area from December 2024, to determine if this remains true for a larger number of households at a busy time of the year for glass waste production. *Ref CORP8*
- Food Waste treatment contract awarded in 2024. Carbon impact from vehicles will need to be calculated using Local Partnerships Waste Emissions Calculator once the Waste Operations Team has identified the specific fleet characteristics and size. *Ref CORP9*



Photo: Bedford Borough Waste Operations Staff loading the Food Waste Truck

- **NEW Action:** We have started an internal review of our corporate register with the purpose of assessing the existing climate risks present and identifying knowledge gaps that need to be addressed. This is part of a broader scope to generate a knowledge base for future adaptation strategies, partnering with external organisations to share research expertise. *Ref WP12*

4.3 OUR AMBITIONS FOR 2025-2030

4.3.1 Operational Council Buildings

- The 2025/26 corporate programmes are to be reviewed by Estate Management using the Faithful and Gould Roadmaps to identify where energy efficiency can be achieved through smart technology. *Ref 1B*
- We will continue to identify battery schemes and large renewable investment potential either via Council internal resources or Power Purchase Agreements. *Ref 1F*
- We are exploring ways to move away from gas, with the intention of halting the installation of new gas supplies from 2025. *Ref 1G*

4.3.2 Owned Transport

- We will assess the feasibility and opportunities available to implement a new or upgraded substation for the Council's depot infrastructure, which would unlock the potential of increasing the number of EV, hydrogen, or alternative fuel fleet vehicles. *Ref 2A*
- We are conducting a review of the fleet audit to assess the feasibility of replacing the vehicles with zero emissions alternatives. The outcome will be pending on considerations pertaining to the operational setting of each vehicle. *Ref 2E*
- NEW Action: consultants are supporting us to assess the opportunities available for the optimisation of fleet routes for the Grounds Maintenance and Street Scene service areas, looking at saving costs and carbon emissions from reduced vehicle use. *Ref 2F*

4.3.3 Business Travel

- The HR team is in the process of establishing a salary sacrifice scheme, in order to enhance the cross-departmental efforts to support sustainable staff travel. *Ref 3A*

4.3.4 Working Practices

- **NEW Action:** We are looking into formalising climate change and sustainability responsibilities and activities across Public Health Department, linking to the wider BLMK NHS Integrated Care System sustainability strategy. *Ref WP4*
- Although we have achieved a significant reduction in printing since 2020, most of the current printing is required by legislation. We will endeavour to further reduce the printing figure wherever practical and possible. *Ref WP8*
- The Public Health team is examining the best practices of healthy food procurement policies in other Local Authorities with the intention to replicate in our own operations, if appropriate. *Ref WP13*

4.3.5 Carbon Offsetting and Climate Resilience through Council Practices

- From 2028, we will assess opportunities for offsetting residual CO2 emissions, if necessary. There might be a potential to offset electricity against the exported generation from the Elstow Solar farm. *Ref CORP6*
- We are planning to use the Local Partnerships Waste Emissions Calculator to identify carbon emissions and reduction opportunities arising from waste collection and removal across the Borough. This is pending securing resources to complete task. *Ref CORP7*

Finding out more

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us and our services, please contact us at our address below.

Për Informacion

معلومات کے لئی

برای اطلاع

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Informacja

Per Informazione

Za Informacije

তথ্যের জন্য

للمعلومات



Environmental Services

Bedford Borough Council
Borough Hall
Cauldwell Street
Bedford
MK42 9AP



Energy.Team@bedford.gov.uk



www.bedford.gov.uk