



**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



# Our Net Zero Carbon Vision

## Our vision is to be a Net Zero Carbon Council by 2030

In March 2019, the Council signed a Climate Emergency declaration and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030. As part of this, we monitor the carbon emissions from our own operations and publish these figures annually. The Council has previously achieved a 62% carbon reduction between 2009 and 2018, and since then there has been a further 15% reduction in emissions.

There are many benefits to Net Zero and these are reflected in our policies, plans and strategies across the Council. The image below shows our vision for how we will achieve our target of a Net Zero Bedford Borough Council.

Our primary focus is on reducing Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, but our approach also tackles emissions of other significant greenhouse gases.

CO<sub>2</sub> is the main greenhouse gas emitted by humans, largely due to the use of fossil fuels to power our economy, heat our properties and for transport. Once CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted, the land surface and the ocean take some of the carbon out of the atmosphere, but a significant proportion remains for centuries to millennia. This creates warming that persists in the atmosphere for a very long time.

Each additional tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted adds more long-lasting greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and creates more warming, meaning the global temperature increases in proportion to the cumulative total emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> must therefore be brought to Net Zero to stop temperatures increasing.



**Dave Hodgson MBE**  
Directly Elected Mayor of Bedford



**Laura Church**  
Chief Executive

***“By 2030, the Council's own operations will be cleaner and more efficient, and we will play a positive role enabling the wider Borough to achieve net zero emissions. The strategy and action plans we have in place will assist the Council in reaching Net Zero by 2030 and improve the local environment through reducing carbon emissions.***

***Through our Carbon Reduction Delivery Strategy and commitment, the Council is dedicated to playing its part to take actions that will reduce its contribution to climate change.***

***This will remove or offset 6,528 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually by 2030 from the Council's own operations.”***

# Visual Journey

Next Steps...



Investment  
in agile  
working



Assess feasibility for  
fleet and building  
improvements



Ecargo  
bikes



Continue  
monitoring  
energy usage

Additional  
green travel  
options for  
staff e.g. car  
pool, cycling,  
walking

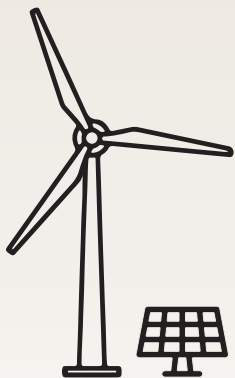


Smarter office buildings  
with improved energy  
efficiency



Retrofit  
Council  
buildings and  
schools

Install an EV  
charging network



Invest in  
renewable  
technology



Switch or refurbish  
fleet to electric or  
hydrogen vehicles



Offset  
remaining  
emissions

