Craven District Council

Climate Emergency Strategic Plan

2020-2030

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Craven District Council - Climate Emergency Strategic Plan, 2020-2030

Introduction

On 6th August 2019, Craven District Council unanimously declared a Climate Emergency. The council has committed to work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council resolved that a Strategic Plan setting out how a carbon neutral district can be achieved should be presented to members within six months. This plan is our response to that commitment. It describes how the Council will work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030 both for its own operations and, together with partners, across the District of Craven.

Background

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 410 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity; In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO2eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible.[1]

Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm. Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption. Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050[2]

[1] Fossil CO2 & GHG emissions of all world countries, 2017: http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=CO2andGHG1970-2016&dst=GHGpc, retrieved 16/01/2020 [2] World Resources Institute: wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-needknow-about-ipcc-15-c-, retrieved 16/01/2020

The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities[3],

Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.[4]

Research completed for Craven District Council by the University of Leeds shows the rate at which emissions across the District need to continue to reduce for the District to meet a commitment to Paris Agreement targets. The District will need to reduce scope 1 and scope 2 emissions at a rate of around 12% per year to meet these targets.[5]

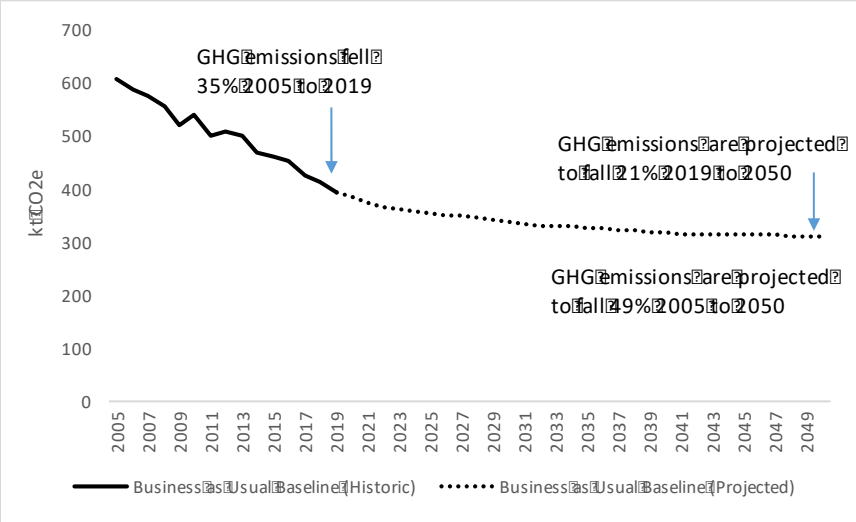


Figure 1. - Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions 2005 to 2050 for Craven

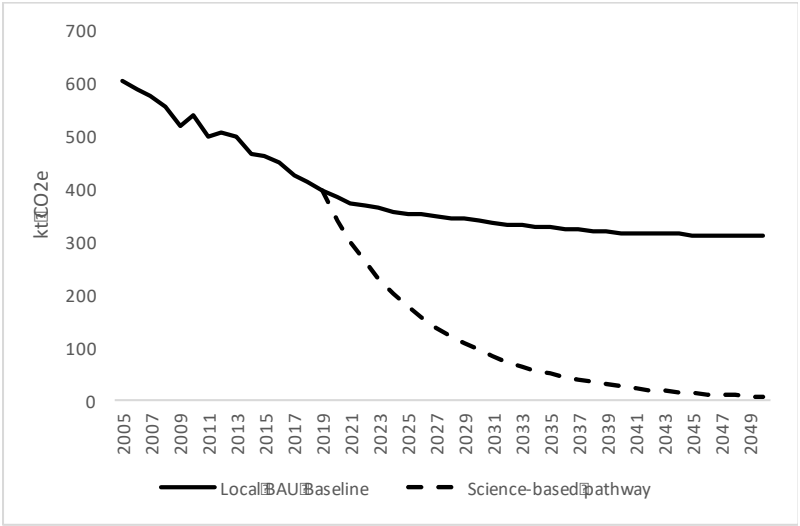


Figure 2. BAU and science-based emissions pathways

[3] The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5ºC: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/, retrieved 16/01/2020

[4] Including councils across the UK: https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/list-of-councils/, US cities Berkeley: theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/6/13/berkeley-unanimouslydeclares-climate-emergency and Hoboken: theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/4/25/hoboken-resolves-to-mobilize, and the C40 cities: c40.org/other/deadline-2020, all retrieved 16/01/2020

[5] Gouldson, A. Sudmant, A. Duncan, A. (2019). "A summary carbon roadmap for Craven". Place-based Climate Action Network, https://pcancities.org.uk/

Craven District Council first introduced a Carbon Reduction Strategy in 2009, addressing a range of areas from the use of fuel across our operations, buildings efficiency, flood mitigation and biodiversity improvement. The use of carbon for our own operations (against Scope 1 and Scope 2) peaked in 2011, at 2106 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent. Over the past 8 years CDC's use of carbon has reduced by an average of 2.1% per year. In 2018, CDC's use of carbon against Scope 1 and Scope 2 was estimated to be 1798 Tonnes, an overall reduction of 14.6% since 2011.

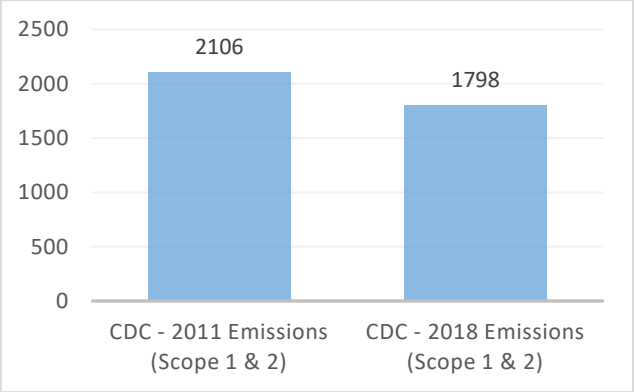
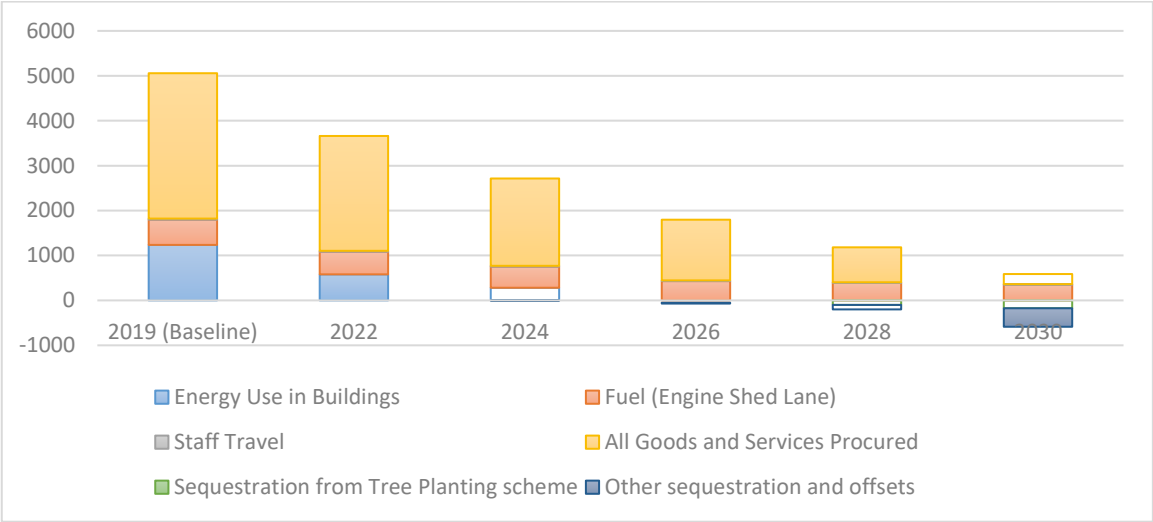


Figure 3. – CO_2 equivalent emissions for CDC operations (local estimates)

For energy use, our estimates have been provided by an expert in buildings efficiency contracted to the CDC Assets team. Other estimates are local estimates calculated by CDC's Finance Team based on fuel use and typical carbon values for categories of spending. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority have been awarded £100,000 from the regional Business Rates Pool to compile a Climate Emergency evidence base for Local Authority work in North and West Yorkshire.[6] We expect this work to include more detailed estimates of the baseline carbon cost of Local Government Operations. The intended delivery date for these estimates is May 2020.

[6] https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1140&MId=9856&Ver=4, retrieved 16/01/2020

Our 2020 commitment to Carbon reduction includes scope 3 emissions, including addressing the carbon cost of goods and services procured by the council and of staff travel. The total remaining annual emissions from CDC operations are equivalent to c. 5050 Tonnes of CO_2 per year.



Source	2019 (Baseline)	2022	2024	2026	2028	2030
Energy Use in Buildings*	1236	580	282	0	0	0
Fuel (Engine Shed Lane)	562	504	470	430	390	350
Staff Travel	24	20	18	16	14	12
All Goods and Services Procured	3236	2557	1944	1351	778	225
Sequestration from Tree Planting scheme	0	0	0	-50	-100	-175
Other sequestration and offsets	0	0	-3	-20	-100	-412

* through a combination of renewable energy and reduced energy use

Figure and table 4 – proposed emissions reduction pathway for CDC operations

CDC has committed to work towards becoming Carbon Neutral across the District of Craven, including scope 3 emissions. Estimate data supplied by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research[7] shows that the three largest areas to address in Craven are:

- Residential energy use
- Road Travel and Transportation
- Land-based Industries (particularly livestock rearing)

We will need to work with residents and with partner organisations to achieve at least a 65% reduction in emissions across these areas, and ensure that the ambitious plans for carbon sequestration activity in the District are realised, to achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2030.

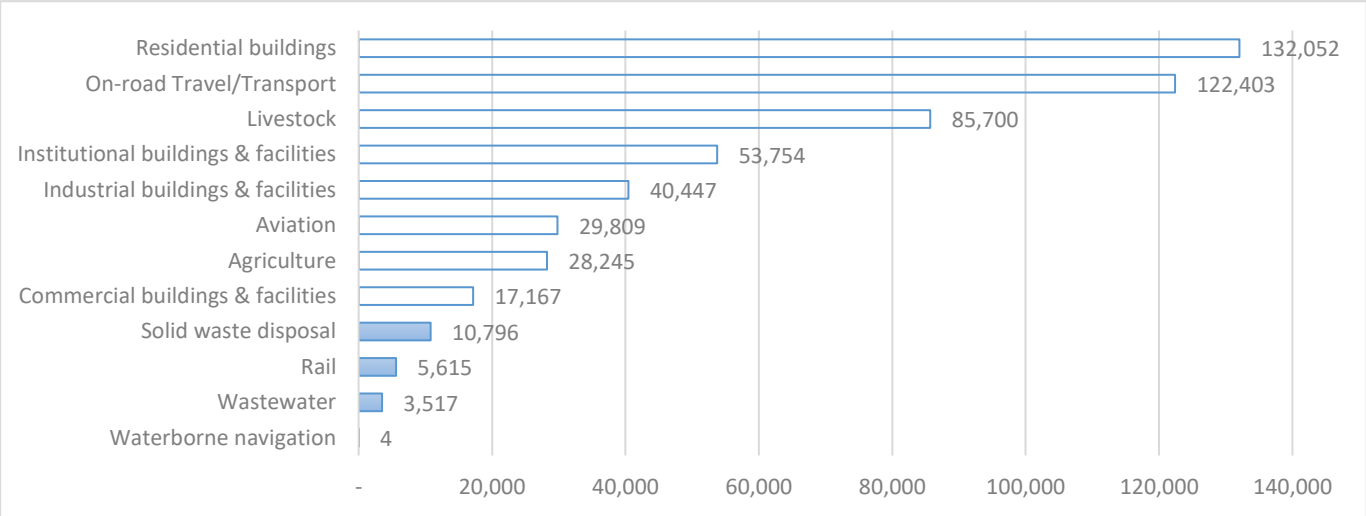


Fig. 5 – Scope 1-3 emissions estimates for the District of Craven, by source sub-sector[8]

[7] Data retrieved from SCATTER Online - https://scattercities.com/, 16/01/2020
[8] Ibid.

Our progress so far

Craven District Council has already taken action to reduce our Carbon Footprint and to improve the District's environment. During 2018 and 2019 the Council approved a range of measures that will reduce the impact of greenhouse gases.

These include:

- Approving the installation of Electric Vehicle charging points in Skipton's High Street Car Park
- Approving the planting of 7,000 trees on CDC land
- Increasing the support available to low-income households in Craven for measures to improve home insulation and energy efficiency
- Agreeing the Leeds City Region Statement of Common Ground, including a shared commitment to the development of Green and Blue infrastructure with all other authorities in the region
- Encouraging sustainable travel by approving the Skipton Railway Station growth bid and lobbying for improved rail connectivity towards Manchester and the West
- Improving the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath to a standard appropriate for casual cycling and for users with limited mobility
- Increasing the level of fixed penalty notices for littering
- Implementing the Green Apple Awards in Craven, recognising the contributions made by businesses and other partners
- Agreeing a CDC contribution to a range of measures to protect and improve biodiversity, including the DNAire project and the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan
- Approving new flood resilience measures
- Adopting and endorsing the 'Close the Door' campaign to reduce retail energy wastage

In addition to these policy measures, the Council has considered its impact on the climate in a range of buying decisions including:

- Purchasing the Council's first fully electric vehicle (a Nissan E-NV 200 van, used by our maintenance team)
- Upgrading street lighting to efficient LED lighting and starting to improve lighting efficiency across our estate
- Purchasing IT equipment with lower power consumption
- Installing dual-use public refuse and recycling bins in public spaces
- Agreeing a Disabled Facilities Grant installation contract which includes the re-use of stairlift components wherever possible
- Trialling biodegradable dog waste bags as an alternative to single-use plastics

Many of our partner organisations in the District are making strong progress, for example:

- The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) has already surpassed Carbon Neutral in its day-to-day operations. The YDNPA have introduced a range of measures including the installation of biomass boilers and other renewable energy technologies, retro-fitting of energy saving measures in all buildings and direct investment in tree planting schemes.
- The Environment Agency (EA) are advancing plans to plant 2 million trees in the Aire Valley basin, providing natural flood defences for the Leeds City Region as well as sequestering carbon. The EA plan to plant 60% of these trees in Craven.
- The Yorkshire Peat Partnership have completed restoration work on over 500 hectares of blanket bog in Craven, with over 5000 further hectares under restoration.

Carbon Reduction Strategy

Our strategy for achieving carbon neutral Craven is based on seven key themes:

Carbon Neutral Energy	Ensure that the net impact of energy used by Craven District Council reaches Carbon Neutral by: • Ensuring that the design and use of buildings owned by Craven District Council minimises energy use • Ensuring the use of renewable energy both by the Council and by our suppliers Support residents and partner organisations to reduce the use of energy across the District, with a particular focus on residential energy use
Carbon Neutral Development	Maximise the use of our planning and development powers to ensure that the energy efficiency of development in the District is as close to carbon neutral as possible
Travel & Transportation	Reduce the carbon impact of travel and transportation across the District by improving and promoting reduction in travel and take up of zero and low carbon transport options.
Low Carbon Waste	Ensure that the impact of our activity to collect, manage and dispose of waste is minimised by: • Identifying and acting on opportunities to reduce the volume of waste we collect • Ensuring that opportunities for re-use and recycling are designed in to council activities • Reviewing our waste collection and management arrangements to ensure that our operations are as low-carbon as possible Work with residents and partner organisations to reduce waste and the impact of waste across the District
Land & Nature	Work with partners across the District to ensure that our extensive natural resources are used in a carbon-efficient way, sequestering carbon wherever possible and with consideration for adaptation measures and biodiversity improvement.
Use of Materials	Take conscious steps to reduce the environmental impact of the material resources we use, and in particular single-use plastics.
Our Council	Ensure that our policies and procedures result in the most efficient use of Council resources, including carbon-efficient procurement and investment activity.

Carbon Reduction Action Plan

This section of the plan describes the action that we will take to address the Climate Emergency and to work towards becoming carbon neutral, both for our operations and (with partners) across the District of Craven.

Key to symbols

Financial cost/risk to Craven District Council: £ - under £10k ££ - £10k-£100k £££ - £100k-£500k ££££ - over £500k

Time to realise carbon benefit: - 0-2 years - 3-5 years - greater than 5 years

Potential carbon impact for Council operations: - under 1% of our emissions - between 1% and 5% 5% or over

Potential carbon impact for Craven District: - under 1% of emissions - between 1% and 5% 5% or over

Potential social impact/s of this action: - potential positive social impact/s - potential negative social impact/s

Potential economic impact/s of this action: - potential positive economic impact/s - potential negative economic impact/s

Carbon Neutral Energy

The use of energy for heat, light and power is the area resulting in our highest emissions of Greenhouse Gas. Estimates from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research indicate that 132,000 tonnes of Greenhouse Gas are currently produced every year as a result of domestic energy use in Craven. This is also a key area for reducing the carbon cost of our local government operations, by further increasing our efficiency and moving to the consumption and production of energy from renewable resources.

CNE01	Renewable Energy Contracts	Move to a 100% renewable electricity and gas supplies for all Council operations	££	⧖-⧖	◈◈◈🌍
CNE02	Improve energy use in buildings	Understand where energy is used in the council and take effective steps to reduce it	£	⧖-⧖	◈◈🌍
CNE03	Low Energy Lighting	Ensure all Council lighting (both internal and external) meets the highest possible standards of efficiency	£££	⧖	◈🌍
CNE04	Low Energy Appliances	Ensure all appliances used by the Council meet the highest possible standards of efficiency	££	⧖-⧖	◈🌍
CNE05	Insulation of Council Buildings	Ensure that all Council properties meet the highest possible standards of insulation	£££	⧖⧖	◈🌍
CNE06	Renewable Energy for CDC Operations	Install renewable energy generation facilities on Council-owned land and buildings	£££-£	⧖⧖	◈◈🌍
CNE07	Low Carbon Rural Development	Roll out and promote a new low carbon housing model for rural housing development	£££	⧖⧖⧖	🌍🌍 🧍
CNE08	High Planning Standards for Energy	Require highest enforceable standards of energy efficiency in new homes in the district	££	⧖-⧖	🌍🌍 🧍🧍
CNE09	Support and Promote Renewable Energy	Maximise the development of renewable energy in Craven	££-£££	⧖⧖⧖	◈◈ 🌍🌍🌍 🧍 💰
CNE10	Increase Home Energy Efficiency	Increase warm homes advice and ensure funding is available for basic energy efficiency improvements to bring all homes in Craven up to a high minimum standard of efficiency	£££ 🧍 💰	⧖-⧖-⧖	🌍🌍🌍
CNE11	'Close the Door'	Continue with the 'Close the Door' campaign to reduce retail energy use	£-£	⧖	🌍

Carbon Neutral Development

The LGA Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport board estimate that at least 80% of the UK housing stock likely to be in place in 2050 has already been constructed.

The remaining 20% represents a significant opportunity to build carbon neutrality into our housing, protecting future householders against the rising costs of energy as well as safeguarding the environment.

A particular challenge in Craven is reconciling our local requirement and priority to provide affordable housing with the need to achieve carbon neutral development.

CND01	Zero Carbon Housing	Review the Council's development portfolio; identify and act on opportunities to move towards the Zero Carbon housing model	££-£	⧖⧖-⧖	◈◈🌍	🚹🚺
CND02	Zero Carbon Regeneration	Work with our Joint Venture partners to include energy efficient options in our construction plans wherever possible and ensure that our regeneration projects are as close to zero carbon as possible	££	⧖⧖⧖	🌍🌍	🚹🚺
CND03	Lower Carbon Planning	Work with developers as any new sites across Craven are approved to ensure that opportunities for efficiency and carbon reduction are maximised.	££	⧖⧖⧖	🌍🌍-🌍	🚹🚺

Travel and Transportation

In Craven, the carbon cost of travel and transportation is second only to domestic energy use. The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research estimate that 122,000 tonnes of Greenhouse Gas emissions are produced from road travel and transportation in Craven each year.

TRT01	EV Charging Network	Review the availability of charging points across the District and support the installation of a complete and coherent network, including installing EV charging points in Council car parks	£££-£		
TRT02	EV Charging in Developments	Require electric vehicle charging points linked to new buildings wherever possible	£-£		
TRT03	Safer Walking and Cycling Network	Develop safe walking and cycling routes to ensure that the district is accessible for commuting and leisure	£££-£		
TRT04	Support Staff Transition to ULEVs	Revise the structure of subsidised parking for staff to increasingly incentivise the take-up of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles for commuting	£		
TRT05	Improve Car-free access to Skipton	Improve the Skipton Station area to ensure a higher proportion of journeys by train, continue to update Skipton's walking and cycling infrastructure and considering options for park & ride schemes.	££-£££		
TRT06	A coordinated approach to Public Transport improvement	Implement a District transport plan containing a co-ordinated series of improvements to public transport into and around Skipton & The Dales, using Craven's network of railway stations as local travel hubs.	££-£££		
TRT07	Incentivise active staff travel	Provide and promote incentives and alternatives for employees to walk and cycle to work and on business	£-£		
TRT08	Car sharing and car clubs	Support and promote a coherent approach to lift-sharing and car clubs which maximises coverage	£-£		
TRT09	Incentivise Low Emissions Taxis	Use taxi licensing arrangements to encourage and incentivise Low Emissions Vehicles	££		
TRT10	Low Carbon Fleet	Replace Council vehicles with Electric Vehicles as part of the rolling replacement programme	£££-£		

Low Carbon Waste

For Craven District Council, one of our most significant challenges is reducing the amount of fuel used by our Waste Management fleet. It is likely that some Refuse Collection Vehicles will be still be diesel vehicles in 2030; we must aim to reduce this to a level where these emissions can be sequestered or offset by other activity.

Across Craven, reducing the amount of waste produced and collected, and finding new ways to sustainably use and process waste, will help us to reduce our carbon footprint.

LCW01	Efficient Route Planning	Review routes to increase efficiency through reduced fuel/energy use	£		
LCW02	Electric RCV Components	Replace RCV hydraulic and pneumatic components requiring engine use with electric components	£££		
LCW03	Reduce average fuel consumption	Replace some vehicles with small compaction vehicles to optimise fuel use	£££		
LCW04	ULEV Vans	Replace vans with Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles	£££		
LCW05	Anaerobic Digestion Facilities	Build or support the building of anaerobic digestion facilities for food waste and/or agricultural products	££-£££		
LCW06	Workplace Recycling	Ensure recycling facilities are available for all staff	£		
LCW07	Reduce Waste in the Workplace	Staff awareness campaign to reduce waste	£		
LCW08	Retail Waste Reduction	Communicate and work with local retailers to minimise the impact of plastic and other non-recyclable waste for products sold in Craven	££-£££		
LCW09	Circular Craven	Work with Towns and Villages across Craven to create local circular economies	£££-£		
LCW10	Waste reduction advice	Produce practical waste reduction tips that can be shared across business in the region	£		

Land and Nature

In Craven, we are lucky to have access to a wealth of natural resources. The effective management of land across the District has a key role to play, both in sequestering carbon emissions and in mitigating the effects of climate change. The Environment Agency's natural flood defence programme, including an intention to plant over 1 million trees in Craven, is a key example of this.

LAN01	Increase Tree Cover across Craven	Supporting the Northern Forest scheme by supporting and accessing investment in tree planting across the District; Supporting large-scale planting by the Environment Agency and by the Woodland Trust	£-£-£			
LAN02	Increase Tree Cover across our estate	Identifying opportunities for tree planting and increasing tree cover across Craven District Council's estate	£-£			
LAN03	DNAire	Complete the DNAire biodiversity scheme	£			
LAN04	National Park Habitats	Accelerate the restoration of natural habitats in the Craven area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park including meadows, woodland and peatland	£-£-£			
LAN05	Diversify Land Use	With partners, put in place and implement a plan to support land use diversification and impact reduction whilst maximising economic development opportunities for local land-based businesses	£-£-£			
LAN06	Woodland Memorial Site	Reducing the environmental impact of our Bereavement Services by offering a Woodland Memorial site	£-£-£			
LAN07	Promote native species	Adopt and support planting and land management approaches that support native species and pollinating insects	£-£-£			

Use of Materials

A more intelligent use of our material resources is a key part of achieving sustainability. In particular, we will focus on reducing the use of single-use plastics which are fossil-fuel intensive to produce and recycle, and result in long-term environmental pollution.

UOM01	Stop using Plastics at CDC	Remove the use of single-use plastics across Council operations	££-£			
UOM02	Reduce plastic use across the District	Work with partners to reduce the use of single-use plastics across the District	££-£			
UOM03	Reduce retail plastics	Contact and work with retail partners to reduce the amount of packaging sold across the District	££-£			

Our Council

Careful use of Craven District Council's funds for procurement and for investment will reduce our carbon impact. We will also work collaboratively with local government partners as well as other organisations and community groups, and regularly review our policy decisions to ensure we are monitoring our changing carbon impact.

CDC01	Low Carbon Procurement	Consider carbon cost as part of procurement scoring, working towards near zero carbon procurement by 2030	££-£	-		
CDC02	Low Carbon Investments	Update our investment portfolio to include Carbon Neutral and Carbon Negative investments	£-££-£	-		
CDC03	Sustainable Skipton	Support and promote Skipton Town Council's activity to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals and become Britain's first Sustainable Development Town	£	-		
CDC04	Review policies for carbon impact	Review upcoming policy decisions to ensure that the full carbon cost of the Council's activity is accounted for				
CDC05	Support Local Partnerships	Support local partnerships for climate improvement, to ensure that community and civic organisations receive the backing and resources they need to lead on change				
CDC06	Respond to surveys and consultations	Ensure that where Central Government agencies consult on issues relating to the Climate Emergency, CDC presents a clear, evidence-based response				
CDC07	Events Programme	A programme of awareness-raising and information-sharing events across the district				

Value for Money – Activities reducing the carbon cost of Council Operations

Low Cost, High Carbon Impact

These activities are each likely to cost below c. £50,000 in total and to realise a carbon saving of at least 500 tonnes by 2030. They should be prioritised unless there is a disproportionate economic or social risk from doing so.

CDC02	Low Carbon Investments
CND02	Zero Carbon Regeneration
CNE02	Improve energy use
LCW01	Efficient Route Planning

High Cost, High Carbon Impact

These activities are each likely to cost over c. £50,000 by 2030. Each activity is likely to each realise a total carbon saving of at least 500 tonnes of carbon by 2030.

CDC01	Low Carbon Procurement
CNE01	Renewable Energy Contracts
CNE06	Renewable Energy for CDC
LCW02	Electric RCV Components
LCW03	Reduce fuel consumption
LCW04	ULEV Vans
TRT10	Low Carbon Fleet

Low Cost, Low Carbon Impact

These activities are each likely to cost below c. £50,000 in total, but are unlikely to realise a carbon saving above 500 tonnes by 2030. Given their low cost and their contribution to the plan, they should be completed unless there is a strong social or economic reason for not doing so.

CNE04	Low Energy Appliances
LCW06	Workplace Recycling
LCW07	Reduce Workplace Waste
TRT04	Support Staff Transition to ULEVs
TRT07	Incentivise active staff travel
UOM01	Stop using Plastics at CDC

High Cost, Low Carbon Impact

These activities are each likely to cost above c. £50,000 in total, and are unlikely to realise a carbon saving above 500 tonnes by 2030. These may still be good options for improvement, particularly if grant funding is available, if they have wider social or economic benefits, and if further benefits will be realised in the longer term.

CND01	Zero Carbon Housing
CNE03	Low Energy Lighting
CNE05	Insulation of Council Buildings
LAN02	Increase Tree Cover
LAN06	Woodland Memorial Site

Value for Money – Activities reducing the impact of carbon across the District of Craven

Low Cost, High Carbon Impact

These activities have the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of the district by over 10,000 tonnes by 2030 and are likely to cost CDC below c. £100,000 in total.

CND03	Lower Carbon Planning
CNE08	High Planning Standards for Energy
TRT02	EV Charging in Developments

Low Cost, Low Carbon Impact

These activities are unlikely to realise a total carbon benefit to Craven of above 10,000 tonnes by 2030, but are likely to cost CDC below c. £100,000 (in most cases well below this amount).

CDC03	Sustainable Skipton
CNE11	'Close the Door'
LAN03	DNAire
LAN07	Promote native species
LCW10	Waste reduction advice
TRT08	Car sharing and car clubs
TRT09	Incentivise Low Emissions Taxis
UOM02	Reduce plastic use across the District
UOM03	Reduce retail plastics
LCW08	Retail Waste Reduction

High Cost, High Carbon Impact

These activities have the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of the district by over 10,000 tonnes by 2030 but are likely to cost above c. £100,000 in total. It is likely that other sources of funding may be available to support many of these activities.

CNE07	Low Carbon Rural Development
CNE09	Support and Promote Renewable Energy
CNE10	Increase Home Energy Efficiency
LAN01	Increase Tree Cover across Craven
LAN04	National Park Habitats
LAN05	Diversify Land Use
LCW05	Anaerobic Digestion Facilities
LCW09	Circular Craven
TRT01	EV Charging Network
TRT06	A coordinated approach to Public Transport improvement

High Cost, Low Carbon Impact

These activities are unlikely to realise a total carbon benefit to Craven of above 10,000 tonnes by 2030 and are likely to cost above c. £100,000 in total. It is likely that other sources of funding may be available. These activities may also realise wider social and economic benefits.

TRT03	Safer Walking and Cycling Network
TRT05	Improve Car-free access to Skipton

Adaptation Strategy

Even if the global increase in temperatures is restricted to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, this is likely to present serious risks to the lives and livelihoods of our residents. Our strategy for adaptation is based on the national adaptation programme.[9] We will work with residents and partners to minimise the following risks:

Flooding	Working with partners to review and update information about flood risk; supporting and implementing flood defence and flood risk minimisation measures; support the Environment Agency's flood risk management programme
Health, wellbeing and productivity risks from high temperatures	Using planning powers and responsibilities to ensure that local development considers future needs including appropriate building insulation measures and shade in public spaces; working with the Leeds City Region on the development of blue-green infrastructure; continuing to work with local NHS partners to ensure that future provision meets local need
Water supply for agriculture, energy generation and industry	Support and promote work by the Environment Agency, local water companies and ecological organisations to protect and enhance water storage capacity; continually review our statutory role in private water supply testing to ensure that issues resulting from climate adaptation are considered
Natural capital – ecosystems, soils and biodiversity	Working with partners to maximise the ecological, economic and adaptation benefits of the Environmental Land Management scheme; protect natural carbon stores within the District
Food production	Work with partners, particularly local communities and the National Farmers Union, to ensure that food production in Craven is resilient to the effects of a changing climate
New and emerging pests and diseases and invasive non-native species	Support the protection and management of native habitats and tackle invasive non-native species on our sites

[9] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf, retrieved 16/01/2020

Communities and the impact of Climate Change

Residents on low incomes

Our approach to addressing the Climate Emergency will help to improve circumstances for residents on low incomes, and not further disadvantage them. Our energy efficiency advice scheme and access to funded efficiency improvements through Better Homes Yorkshire offer low income households the opportunity to reduce their energy bills at the same time as reducing their impact on the environment.

Constructing energy-efficient affordable houses will allow young people and families on low incomes to access the housing ladder whilst helping to reduce their bills and reduce their carbon impact.

Local renewable energy projects reduce local vulnerability to fluctuating prices in energy markets. Electric vehicles have lower running and servicing costs than conventional vehicles.

One risk of requesting higher energy efficiency standards is the potential trade-off between higher standards and affordability of housing for local residents. We will closely monitor the impact of energy efficiency policies on the affordability of suitable housing.

Health and Wellbeing

Many measures addressing climate change also have benefits for the health and wellbeing of residents. The Better Homes scheme helps to ensure that vulnerable residents are warm and well, and is available via social prescribing.

A move away from petrol and diesel vehicles, towards electric vehicles, public transport and active travel, will result in improvements in air quality for all residents. The ‘Close the Door’ scheme also helps to protect the health of retail workers by reducing air pollution in retail environments. Enabling active modes of travel (particularly walking and cycling) also helps to improve the level of public health by increasing exercise rates.

Increasing the availability of public transport helps to reduce the risk of social isolation, which has many associated health and wellbeing benefits.

Tree planting and biodiversity schemes increase access to natural resources for residents; this is found to have particular benefits for mental health and wellbeing.

Developing a thriving green economy

Implementing the Climate Emergency Strategic Plan presents many potential opportunities for Craven's local economy:

- Expanding markets in energy efficient technologies, low carbon construction, electric vehicles and small-scale energy generation will provide new opportunities for local businesses.

- Many actions resulting in carbon reduction also offer efficiency and cost savings to businesses (for example, direct renewable energy generation, waste reduction, the reduced cost of fuel and servicing for vehicles, and better insulation).

- Reduced energy bills for consumers should result in more disposable income, and more money spent on local goods and services.

- Health benefits related to improvements in air quality and to increased exercise from active modes of travel should reduce ill-health and increase productivity.

- The local economy should also benefit from the retention of younger people, who are likely to cite environmental sustainability as a high priority, particularly as the Council begins to offer lower carbon affordable housing units.

Some of the commitments in this plan may result in an increase in the cost of goods and services purchased by the Council. For example, the cost of energy is likely to increase slightly as a result of purchasing energy from 100% renewable sources. This may introduce some additional pressures on the Council budget. However, some activities (and particularly those which increase efficiency) may result in a reduction in the revenue budget requirement and a long-term saving for the Council. Each activity will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis, to ensure a balanced approach which maximises carbon reduction within the Council's available budget.

Conclusion

This Strategic Plan describes Craven District Council's approach, priorities and activities to address the Climate Emergency.

Working towards Carbon Neutral by 2030 will require hard work and persistence from CDC and its partners across the District and beyond. Over the next 10 years, technology will develop, our understanding and experience will improve and there are likely to be challenges that we have not yet considered.

As well as regular monitoring via the Council's performance management process, a full annual update and review of the plan will be presented to Council.

With particular thanks to the many groups and organisations who have contributed to the development of this plan, and continue to work together with us to address the Climate Emergency.