



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Name and date of Committee	Council: Wednesday 23rd February 2022
Report Number	Agenda Item No. 14
Subject	Climate Action Biannual Report
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Climate Change Email: david.harvey@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Ness Scott, Climate Change Manager Tel: 07525 802994; Email: vanessa.scott@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	This paper presents to Full Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A biannual report on the climate action taken by West Oxfordshire District Council in response to the climate and ecological emergency during the last six months: July 2021-January 2022.
Annex	Annex 1: Results of the Land Management Plan community engagement exercise carried out, Winter 2021. Annex 2: Hedgehog Highway poster Annex 3: Carbon Account for WODC 2020/2021
Recommendations	(a) That the contents of the biannual report on climate action for West Oxfordshire be noted for information.
Corporate priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To protect the environment whilst supporting the local economy2. Working with communities to meet the current and future needs and aspirations of residents3. To provide efficient and value for money services, whilst delivering quality front line services
Key Decision	N/A
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	The climate action biannual report has been developed by officers working as part of the Council's climate team.

I. BACKGROUND

1.1. This paper presents to Full Council:

- A biannual report on the climate action taken by West Oxfordshire District Council in response to the climate and ecological emergency during the last six months: July 2021-January 2022.

2. CLIMATE ACTION REPORT

2.1. Progress and activities for climate action are reported under two headings:

- i) Climate Change Strategy for West Oxfordshire, 2021-2025 (published Feb, 2021)
- ii) Carbon Action Plan (published Oct, 2020)

2.2 These two documents provide the Council's framework for prioritising and taking forward a programme of work in response to the climate and ecological emergency.

2.3 Actions taken forward for the Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Action Plan are also captured, at a high level, in the Council's Local Recovery Plan (October 2020). This Plan gives further resources and subsequent impetus to the climate work programme.

Table I: A report of the last six months.

Climate Change Strategy for West Oxfordshire, 2021-2025.	
2.4. CCS Theme one: Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems	The Land Management Plans Following a baseline assessment of twelve key WODC sites, five-year Land Management Plans (LMPs) have now been completed. These contain two key elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biodiversity enhancements on a site-by-site basis to be incorporated as part of a revised grounds maintenance schedule being implemented by Ubico on behalf of the Council. Changes to land management carried out by Ubico have been targeted as cost-neutral and have been given agreement in principle by Ubico. They include actions such as a reduction in the number of annual grass cuts across WODC estates, the creation of meadow areas, the establishment of historical grass cutting regimes on floodplain meadows and additional support for volunteer groups managing some of the sites. The changes are intended to be embedded as part of an updated grounds maintenance schedule from April 2022.• Longer-term biodiversity projects on a site-by-site basis, with schemes being costed individually and including an allowance for five years' management. These look to restore and improve existing natural habitats and biodiversity of the sites and/or look to create new wildlife habitats increasing ecological value further. The longer-term projects are proposed to be resourced through external funding opportunities. Initial funding contributing towards a small number of short-term, one-year projects has been identified as best value for money and funded through the Council's climate change budget (as agreed at Full

	<p>Council on 27th October 2021). These projects include a mix of: i) habitat creation schemes such as tree and hedgerow planting; ii) public engagement projects such as the encouragement of hedgehog highways; and iii) a public wildlife recording day at Kilkenny Lane Country Park and are all planned for implementation during the financial year 2022/23.</p> <p>The LMPs are designed to achieve multiple co-benefits as a result of changes to the way the land is maintained, improving natural capital assets across the Council’s estate including carbon storage, flood management and pollination.</p> <p>A public engagement exercise on the LMPs - running from November 2021 to January 2022 - has concluded that the new plans are well supported by West Oxfordshire’s residents. The results also confirmed that local communities want to take part in future community engagement projects working in partnership with local environmental organisations. An overview of the results of the community engagement exercise carried out on the LMPs is provided in Annex 1 to this report.</p> <p>Biodiversity Work Programme, 2021-2023</p> <p>Actions from the Biodiversity Work Programme, 2021-2023 (approved by Full Council in July 2021) continue to be successfully completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tree planting event, following a wildflower planting, at Kilkenny Lane Country Park as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative. ● The design and implementation of a public engagement exercise on the Council’s newly-created LMPs. ● The integration of recommendations from the site’s Natural Capital Assessment as part of the Council’s LMPs. ● Climate action bulletins with strong emphasis on biodiversity projects and a spotlight on community projects supporting nature’s recovery at a local level. ● The Council’s Biodiversity and Land Management Officer has now launched a new campaign called the ‘Hedgehog Highway’ project. This project now invites residents to create holes in their garden fences and connect with neighbours to create longer stretches of accessible habitat for hedgehogs to forage and breed in - those in areas of recent and frequent hedgehog sightings will be targeted in particular. The Hedgehog Highway scheme poster can be referred to in Annex 2 of the report. More information is available: https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/hedgehoghighway
<p>2.5. CCS Theme two: Energy</p>	<p>In the summer of 2021, the Council led a successful joint Publica bid to BEIS’s Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (PRS MEES) competition. The £80,000 grant was awarded to deliver a six-month programme on PRS MEES enforcement in all three councils. This project has now been made live with new resources provided online: https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/MEES; a press release published on WODC’s news feed; and details advertised through the local media.</p> <p>The project identifies non-compliant landlords and seeks to engage with those landlords to raise awareness of their obligations to improve the minimum energy efficiency of their rented properties. Non-compliant landlords are being offered free energy assessments as part of the project to facilitate and target energy efficiency improvements and be directed to grant funding to support enhancements, thus reducing the likelihood of landlords being listed on an exemption register. Those non-compliant landlords unwilling to engage with their obligations will be taken through enforcement and compliance action by the Council.</p> <p>NEF (National Energy Foundation) and SWEA (Severn Wye Energy Agency) are working with the three Publica councils to provide free home energy surveys for Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire landlords, respectively. These surveys are being made available as a component of the project, funded by BEIS, and are designed to stimulate proactive steps being taken by landlords to improve the</p>

	<p>energy efficiency of their properties. The project runs from 1st September '21 to 31 March '22.</p> <p>The Council continues in 2021/22 to fund the Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) service, providing residents access to support and advice on reducing fuel poverty. Impartial energy advice and free home energy visits are available via a freephone telephone helpline. The service is designed to provide low income families access to grants for energy efficiency improvements. In Q2 and Q3 of 2021/22, thirty four Warm and Well home energy assessments were delivered to residents and five energy-efficiency installations were completed.</p> <p>In June 2020, the Council allocated £20,000 for Fuel Poverty Grants. With the total available grant funding not yet spent in its entirety, grants of £1,000 are still being made available to West Oxfordshire's residents who are in receipt of means-tested benefits. Five fuel poverty grants to a value of £6,350 have been issued so far this financial year helping householders in fuel poverty make essential energy-efficiency improvements. The grants continue to be advertised on the Council's social media, via the BHBH service, and through the Council's climate action seasonal bulletins.</p>
<p>2.6. CCS Theme three: Low-carbon transport and active travel</p>	<p>Park and Charge Oxfordshire</p> <p>The Park and Charge Oxfordshire project will soon be installing electric vehicle (EV) charging points in five of the Council's public car parks. These sites include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Woodford Way in Witney 2. New Street in Chipping Norton 3. Black Bourton Road in Carterton 4. Hensington Road in Woodstock 5. Back Lane in Eynsham <p>The Council has been working closely with the Park and Charge team at Oxfordshire County Council and EZ-Charge - the Charging Point Operator - to roll out the new charging point infrastructure across the District. This project is mainly government funded, and will provide up to 280 fast, EV charging points across the whole of the County with work taking place during late 2021/early 2022. New EVCPs in the Council's public car parks will facilitate greener modes of travel, helping local residents, visitors and commuters make a transition to an electric vehicle.</p> <p>A minimum of six charging points, serving 12 parking bays, are currently being installed in West Oxfordshire. Park and Charge Oxfordshire will see 32 EV charging units, providing a total of 64 EV charging bays, across all five public car parks. This makes a significant contribution towards the District Council's Climate Change Strategy and objectives under "Active Travel and Low-Carbon Transport" where there is a commitment to: "delivering EV infrastructure across the District, at sites in Council ownership, meeting the policy ambitions and standards set out within the Oxfordshire EV Infrastructure Strategy and aspire to reach a target of 7.5% of local-authority-managed car-parking spaces providing EV charging by 2025."</p> <p>In line with the Park and Charge Oxfordshire Innovate-UK funding requirements, car park locations have been selected based on a variety of key criteria, including the suitability of the electrical connection to the grid, the proportion of nearby households without off-street parking, the population and car ownership levels of surrounding neighbourhoods, and consideration of the crime and vehicle crime statistics of the area.</p>

2.7. CCS Theme four:
**Standards in new
development**

Since joining WODC in April 2021, Hannah Kenyon - the Council's Sustainable Planning Specialist - has achieved the following:

- The **Sustainability Standards Checklist** for i) major applications, ii) minor and householder applications, and iii) heritage asset and traditional buildings has been fine-tuned for publication online. Supporting online text and resources in the form of a sustainability statement template has been developed and published as part of an informal launch of the Sustainability Standards Checklist in May 2021. This can be found online here: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-permission/make-a-planning-application/sustainability-standards-checklist/>
- At the same time the Sustainability Standards Checklist was informally launched, reference to the Council's new expectations was included in all pre-app letters going out to new applicants making them aware of the new standards and resources being made available to them.
- The Sustainable Planning Specialist carried out two months' training on the job whilst processing minor planning applications to assist the DM team, building an overall understanding for the mechanisms and decision making involved in the processing of planning applications whilst also contributing to the team's caseload.
- Sustainability comments have been provided on minor and major planning applications being considered by the DM team, and an assessment made on how these schemes have met the Sustainability Standards Checklist requirements. Applicants have been challenged on their submissions where necessary to raise standards and ensure consistency with definitions and methods of assessment being recommended by the Council: scrutiny into the quality of measures for sustainability has been a particular focus.
- Day-to-day working relationships have been built with other specialist officers within DM in order to coordinate responses to, in particular, major applications. Regular liaison is carried out with the Council's Biodiversity Officer, Landscape and Forestry Officer and Design Officers.
- Three technical webinars on subjects aligned with the Sustainability Standards Checklist have been organised for colleagues in DM as a means of in-house awareness raising and informal training. More are planned for the future.
- Strong links with County planners, specialists in their fields, have been formed and consultations carried out to coordinate on responses to major planning applications within the District.
- As a revised planning validation checklist for WODC is the point at which the Sustainability Standards Checklist can be launched as a formal requirement for all applicants submitting applications for development, the Sustainable Planning Specialist has also contributed time to reviewing the existing validation checklist and has been a part of the team developing a new validation checklist. The publication of this new validation checklist for WODC will mark the point at which planning applications will only be validated if a Sustainability Statement is provided in support of the application and Sustainability Standards Checklist. This will represent a significant turning point, when the Checklist will move from a pilot initiative funded through the Covid Recovery Plan to a standard expectation in all planning applications from this point forward and part of the operational, day-to-day, delivery of the service area.

On the 5th January '22, Informal Cabinet gave support to the business case recommending an extension of the Sustainable Planning Specialist's position for a further twelve months, fixed-term. Funds from the Council's climate change project budget have been

	<p>allocated for this purpose and will enable the Council to continue its work implementing the Sustainable Planning Checklist through planning,</p> <p>Salt Cross Garden Village and Strategic Development Areas (SDAs)</p> <p>The Climate Change Manager and Sustainable Planning Specialist continue to work closely with colleagues in the Council’s planning policy team to provide evidence and specialist input into Master Plans and policy development.</p>
<p>2.8. CCS Theme five: Engage, support & educate</p>	<p>Summer 2021, Autumn 2021 and Winter 2022 editions of the Climate Action Bulletin have been produced and issued to all 353 members of the Council’s Climate Action Network. The number of people subscribing to the Council’s Climate Action Network continues to increase. Back editions are available online: https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/</p> <p>Climate action webpages are continually updated to reflect new resources and progress being made on climate initiatives.</p> <p>During COP26 in November 2021, the Council developed and implemented its own communications campaign with local topics and climate action relevant to, and aligning with, the programme for the United Nations Climate Change Conference. News, events and ways to get involved in local climate action were shared by the Council via its social media channels on a daily basis helping to raise awareness of the climate emergency and encourage everyone to take part.</p> <p>During the Winter of 2021/22, a public engagement exercise on the Council’s newly-created Land Management Plans was undertaken to allow West Oxfordshire’s residents, councillors and parish council members the opportunity to view these and provide feedback on both individual sites and the plans as a whole. A summary of the responses received can be referred to in Annex 1 to this report.</p> <p>In terms of capacity building and partnership working across the District and County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Climate Change Manager remains a stakeholder and Steering Group member in the Low Carbon Hub pilot initiative developing a Zero Carbon Energy Action Plan for Eynsham - this project will demonstrate the role of community action in driving carbon reduction and zero-carbon goals. ● Cllr David Harvey is a member of the newly-formed Environment Advisory Group (EAG) for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and the Climate Change Manager represents WODC on the officer group supporting EAG activities. This group has been formed as both an advisory function and group stimulating action in partnership across all councils towards a net-zero Oxfordshire.
<p>Carbon Action Plan: The Pathway to Achieving Carbon Neutral by 2030</p>	
<p>2.9. Priority for action: Council offices, property and sites</p>	<p>The Council’s carbon account for financial year 2020/21 has now been completed by the Climate Change Officer and has been incorporated as part of the Council’s Annual Monitoring Report. Refer to Annex 3 for a copy of the carbon account.</p> <p>Council offices</p> <p>Decarbonisation and sustainability strategies have been developed for Woodgreen and Elmfield offices focusing on reduced energy and water use, renewables and increased access to forms of active and low-carbon travel. These were completed by Heaton Design and Engineering Ltd in April 2021.</p>

	<p>In Autumn 2021, the original energy-efficiency improvements, building fabric upgrades and decarbonisation strategies, modelled and put forward for Woodgreen, were set against the criteria of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), Phase 3, a source of funding launched by Salix Finance (acting on behalf of BEIS.)</p> <p>On the basis of an assessment into the financial viability of decarbonisation proposals, it was concluded that an application would not be progressed at that time and all attention would be given to a decarbonisation strategy for Carterton Leisure Centre (refer to 2.10 below). The opportunity for energy and sustainability measures at the Council offices is being considered as part of the Agile Working Strategy and is currently a work in progress.</p> <p>Further to the above activities, engagement and awareness raising with Publica and Council staff and Councillors has been carried out in the form of carbon literacy (both Councillor and staff) training, staff Q&A, staff volunteering sessions, online resources and information disseminated via the climate emergency staff portal.</p> <p>Roof-mounted solar PV viability</p> <p>Alongside work packages designed to help reduce, replace and remove carbon emissions from the Council’s buildings it operates from, work is also underway to assess the viability of Solar PV as a renewable energy supply on the roofs of the Council’s buildings it owns and lets. Assessing the viability of Solar PV on these roofs is currently work in progress and is being done to understand in more detail whether this will present as an opportunity for the Council. Issues relating to roof orientation, pitch and ability for a roof to take the load of Solar PV are being considered in order to have a complete picture of potential for return on investment.</p> <p>Carbon offsetting strategy</p> <p>The Climate Change Manager and Officer are also working up a Carbon Offsetting Strategy as evolving guidance for the Council in circumstances where service design will require an agreed mechanism for offset to achieve carbon-neutral status before 2030. This work is currently in its early stages and will come forward as a deliverable of the Recovery Plan during the course of the next twelve months.</p>
<p>2.10. Priority for action: Leisure centres and facilities</p>	<p>Leisure centres and facilities</p> <p>In June 2021, energy assessment and decarbonisation reports, including Solar PV studies, were completed for Carterton Leisure Centre, Witney ATP, and Carterton Pavilion.</p> <p>The Climate Change Manager and Officer drew from this high-level energy assessment, sought additional cost consultancy and mechanical and electrical engineering input, to develop a PSDS3 detailed application with supporting evidence outlining proposals for the decarbonisation of Carterton Leisure Centre. A bid with a total value of £1,309,661 was submitted in October 2021.</p> <p>The Council received confirmation in January 2022 that its PSDS3 application had passed the technical assessment stage and that a grant offer letter was due to be issued for the full value of a decarbonisation strategy.</p> <p>To support this application and to provide additional information which the Council needs in order to make an informed decision on accepting the PSDS3 grant offer, a Stage 2 assessment of Carterton Leisure Centre has now been procured.</p> <p>The scope of this work will be to give the Council a detailed building energy model and low-carbon heating system design for the delivery of a successful replacement of the existing fossil-fuel heating system which is currently approaching its end of life. It will build on the high-level assessment already completed and provide:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A detailed building energy model to calculate the savings associated with decarbonisation strategies for the leisure centre. The proposed plans currently include installing air source heat pumps (ASHPs) to replace the existing gas boilers and CHP, a heat recovery system to the pool ventilation in conjunction with the ASHPs, and Solar PV. ● A detailed low-carbon heating system design informed by the building energy model outputs, including sizing and technical calculations, schematics, product lifetime, and associated maintenance cost considerations. The selected strategy will balance carbon reduction with capital, maintenance and running costs. ● An assessment of the structure and loading capacity of the existing leisure centre roof identified for Solar PV to confirm the viability of this measure, and a review of storage options to optimise the use of electricity generated on site. ● An assessment of the existing grid capacity serving Carterton Leisure Centre and calculations to determine the additional electrical infrastructure required as a result of the decarbonisation proposals. This is due to proposals for additional Solar PV, potential storage of renewable electricity, and shifting to an electrical heating system. This information will inform an application to the District Network Operator (DNO) for costs and timeframes associated with upgrading the electricity supply to the building. ● An evaluation of the future running cost implications to the Council of electrifying the building and decarbonising the heating systems. This will include the level of financial risk to the Council based on the estimated maintenance cost of the ASHPs and heat recovery system, the operational cost of electricity versus gas based on current energy market volatility, and the role of Solar PV in helping to protect the Council from energy price risks. <p>Stage 2 assessment outputs will be used by the Council in its decision on a capital works programme, a low-carbon system design and a final decision on whether to move forward with the works.</p>
<p>2.11. Priority for action: Council vehicle fleet, machinery and transport</p>	<p>ESIP - the Environmental Services Innovation Programme - focuses on efficiency measures which in turn deliver CO2e savings, e.g. Ubico are currently looking to reduce fuel consumption through driving awareness courses, and are now also using in-cab technology to minimise missed collections.</p> <p>Changes to ground maintenance proposed in the Land Management Plans will generate benefits in terms of reducing fuel demand from Ubico vehicles, such as relaxed mowing regimes which reduce the number of times the grass is cut.</p> <p>There is preparatory work now underway to inform the Council's waste service review – this will consider environmental and CO2e impact. The outputs of an options appraisal will in turn feed into waste vehicle fleet replacement plans. This work package remains on track to inform decision making processes and the climate team is working closely with the contracts team as part of the review process.</p> <p>EV was purchased in 2021 by WODC as a new addition to the Council's waste vehicle fleet.</p> <p>Publica staff benefits continue to support and incentivise staff in leasing an electric vehicle through the provider Tusker (where staff are eligible for the scheme) and in choosing active travel through the national Cycle to Work scheme.</p>

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The Council's 2020/21 budget originally included a provision of £200,000 and a commitment to review the possibility of adding further funds to climate projects in the subsequent two financial years.
- 3.2. Approximately £130,000 has, to date, either been spent or allocated in financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23 to the implementation of climate projects.
- 3.3. As with all capital projects, the budget available for climate projects is constrained: which is the reason why the Climate Change Manager and the team have dedicated a large proportion of their time to Government-funded partnership projects (such as Park and Charge Oxfordshire), fundraising activities and specialist bid development as a means of delivering work contributing towards the Council's climate priority.
- 3.4. The Council's Local Recovery Fund (October 2020) is funding the four, fixed-term positions within the Council's climate team and provides the resource and capacity to not only deliver the agreed deliverables as part of the Local Recovery Plan, but also the capacity to carry out fundraising activity.
- 3.5. Although £130,000 has been set aside from the climate change budget, the team have - in the last six months - been successful in securing a grant offer of £1,309,661 from PSDS3 and another £80,000 for PRS MEES.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. There are no perceived legal implications associated with the proposals within this report.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. There are no immediate risks considered to be arising from the contents of this report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1. The design of all projects as a response to the climate and ecological emergency have an equal impact across Council functions, for all customers and staff.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The proposals within this report will have a direct, positive impact on the Council's operations with regard to energy and resource efficiency, water efficiency, waste reduction and recycling and associated carbon reduction. In addition, multiple cross-benefits towards climate change mitigation and adaptation are planned district-wide through work across functions and with partner organisations.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 8.1. One alternative option is to take no action at all.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1. The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:

- Meeting minutes and motion agreed at Full Council on 26th June 2019.
- Meeting minutes and motions agreed at Full Council on 22nd January 2020.
- Climate action biannual report at Full Council on 29th July 2020.

- Carbon Action Plan and report at Full Council on 28th October 2020.
- Local Recovery Plan and report at Full Council on 28th Council 2020.
- Climate action biannual report at Full Council on 24th February 2021.
- Climate action biannual report at Full Council 28th July 2021.

9.2. These documents will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at Woodgreen during normal office hours for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. Please contact the author of the report.

Land Management Plans - what you thought



West Oxfordshire District Council launched a public engagement exercise on its new Land Management Plans, to gather the views of people who live and work in the area. We received 80 responses from a mix of local residents, councillors and environmental groups. The results of this survey have been analysed and key recurring ideas and suggestions incorporated into the Land Management Plans. Here are some of the insights we have gained from your responses.

Do you agree with the plans?



Of the 80 responses received, 71 people were in overall agreement with the Land Management Plans.

Those that responded were primarily West Oxfordshire residents, i.e., those who will be directly affected by the changes made.

Positive feedback

“The more habitat work and education work you can do along with” community the better”

“Pleased to see wildflower area and verges”

“Welcome any plan to help our ever decreasing wildlife by means of improving biodiversity”

“Will be good to see a voluntary group set up at Kilkenny Country Park”

“Great to see places opening up, more awareness of them and people accessing their local green space”

Constructive comments we would like to implement

“Improved signage, car parking and footpaths at the site”

“Promote the sites more for people to discover them”

“Minimise disturbance and to leave some areas of cover/ nesting sites such as brambles.”

“Would be nice to see more of the river at Langel Common”

“Would be good to see land management do more with our local river and water authorities”

West Oxfordshire URBAN HEDGEHOG HIGHWAYS

WHY DO WE WANT TO CREATE HEDGEHOG HIGHWAYS?

One of the main reasons that hedgehogs are declining in the UK is because fences and walls are becoming more and more secure, reducing the amount of land available to them to forage, hibernate and breed. Creating 'Hedgehog Highways' or a network of holes in fences large enough for hedgehogs to travel through will start to remove such barriers and increase the range of this declining species across urban landscapes.

To help boost our key urban hedgehog populations, we are offering **residents of Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton** free hedgehog highway signs when you send us a picture of a newly created hedgehog highway hole – this can be created in any boundary of your front or back garden. These signs are laser cut from recycled plastic with pre-drilled hole, and can be pinned above your hedgehog hole as a reminder to keep the hole open for your prickly neighbours.

HOW YOU CAN CLAIM YOUR FREE HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY SIGN

Create a **hole** in your garden fence – this should ideally be around 13cm x 13cm to allow a hedgehog to pass through. Make a hole by;

- Cutting or drilling out hole in a wooden fence.
- Removing a brick from the bottom of the wall.
- Digging a channel under your wall, fence or gate.

The holes are best created next to some vegetation where hedgehogs will feel safest to scuttle through. If you can get a hole on either side of your garden, even better!

Take a **picture** of your hole and send it across to our team at Climate.Action@westoxon.gov.uk

Our team will take a look at your hedgehog hole, give you any **tips** on making your hole even better if needed, and will then be able to post out your free hedgehog highway sign.

DID YOU KNOW HEDGEHOGS ROAM AN AVERAGE DISTANCE OF 2KM ON A SINGLE NIGHT. THAT'S AS FAR AS WOODGREEN TO WITNEY LAKE!

ASK YOUR NEIGHBOURS!

If you would like to put a hole in where you share a garden boundary with a neighbour, please ask their permission first before making any holes. We have a template letter on our website if you would like to put something through their letterbox that explains the scheme and why it's important to connect up our gardens for hedgehogs. Why not try and get all of your neighbours involved to make a super-highway along your street!

Annex 3: Carbon Account for WODC 2020/2021

Carbon Account Breakdown: By Scope

Table 1: Total Emissions by Scope

01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021		Kg CO2e
Scope 1 (Gas and liquid fuel)		1,617,853
Scope 2 (Purchased electricity)		217,742
Scope 3 (T&D, WTT, water consumption, staff mileage)		474,371
TOTAL		2,309,967

Scope 1 emissions, associated with gas and liquid fuel, account for 70% of Council emissions.

Scope 2 emissions associated with the purchase of electricity from the National Grid account for 9% of Council emissions.

Scope 3 emissions associated with the transport of gas, electricity and liquid fuel (referred to as T&D, transport and distribution, and WTT, well-to-tank), water consumption, and transport miles for staff and Councillors account for the final 21% of Council emissions.

Figure 1: Total Emissions by Scope

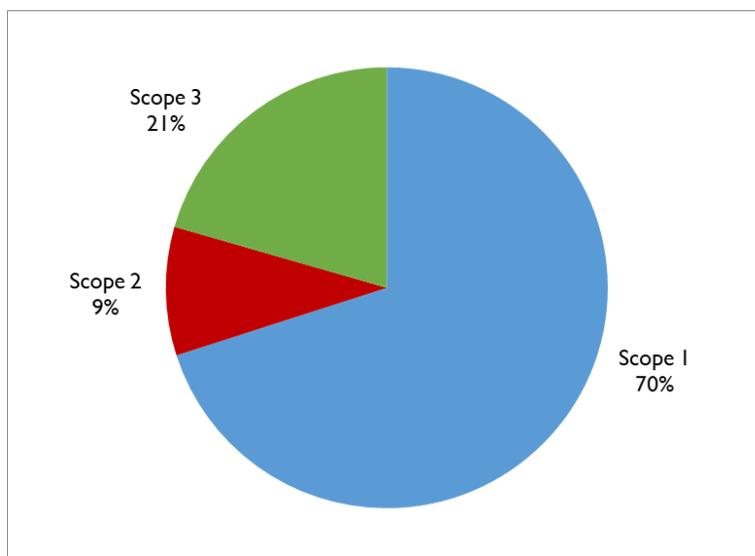
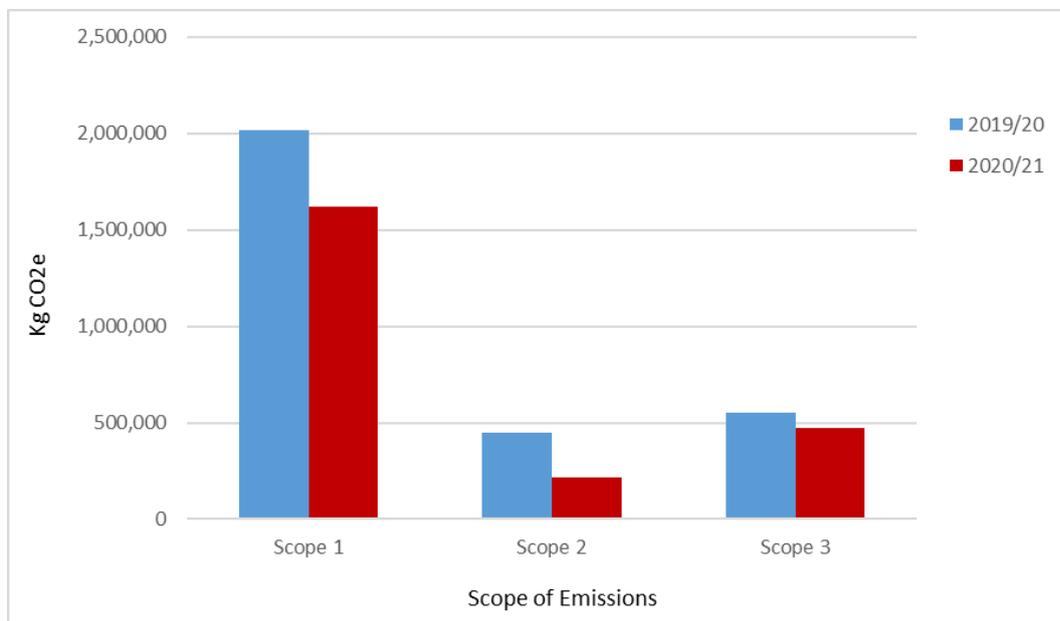


Table 2: Comparative Emissions between 2019/20 Baseline Year and 2020/21

Scope	Kg CO2e 2019/20	Kg CO2e 2020/21	Change in Kg CO2e	Percentage Change
Scope 1	2,020,220	1,617,853	- 402,367	-20%
Scope 2	447,126	217,742	- 259,384	-51%
Scope 3	554,853	474,371	- 80,482	-14.5%

Figure 2: 2020/21 Emissions by Scope Compared to 2019/20 Baseline Year



Scope 1 emissions have fallen 20% from the baseline year as a result of reductions in gas consumption from leisure centres.

Scope 2 emissions have fallen 51% from the baseline year. This reduction in electricity use reflects the reduced building usage during the pandemic as more people stayed at home.

Scope 3 emissions have fallen 14.5% from the baseline year. This reflects reductions in T&D and WTT emissions which fall in line with energy consumption in Scope 1 and 2. There has also been a reduction in business travel among staff and councillors.

Carbon Account Breakdown: By Location

Table 3: Total Emissions by Location

01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021		kg CO ₂ e
Council offices, property and sites (excluding leisure)		311,805
Leisure centres and facilities		432,673
Council vehicle fleet and transport		1,565,489
TOTAL		2,309,967

Council offices, property and sites represent 13% of total emissions across Scope 1, 2 and 3.

Leisure centres and facilities account for 19% of Council emissions, across all scopes.

Council vehicle fleet, machinery and transport, including Council-owned waste trucks currently operated by Ubico, account for 68% of Council emissions.

Figure 3: Total Emissions by Location

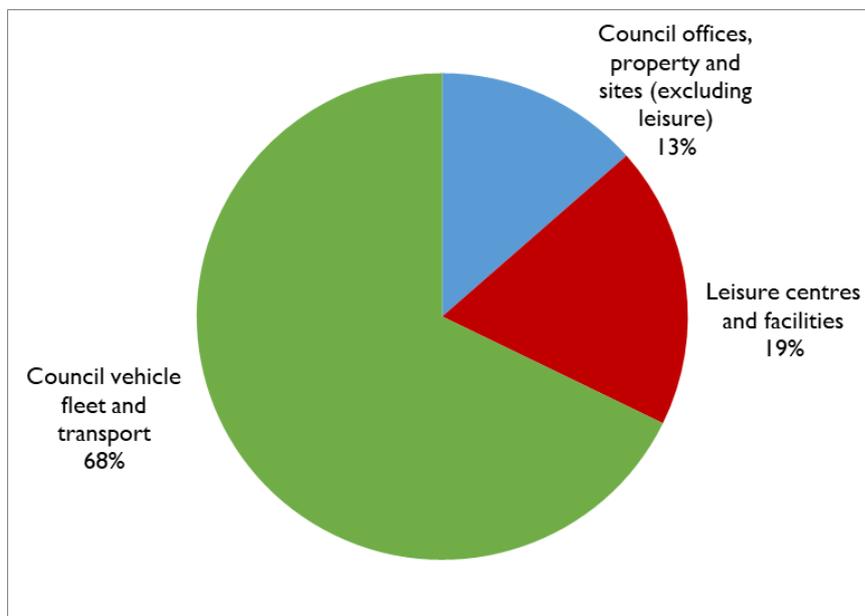
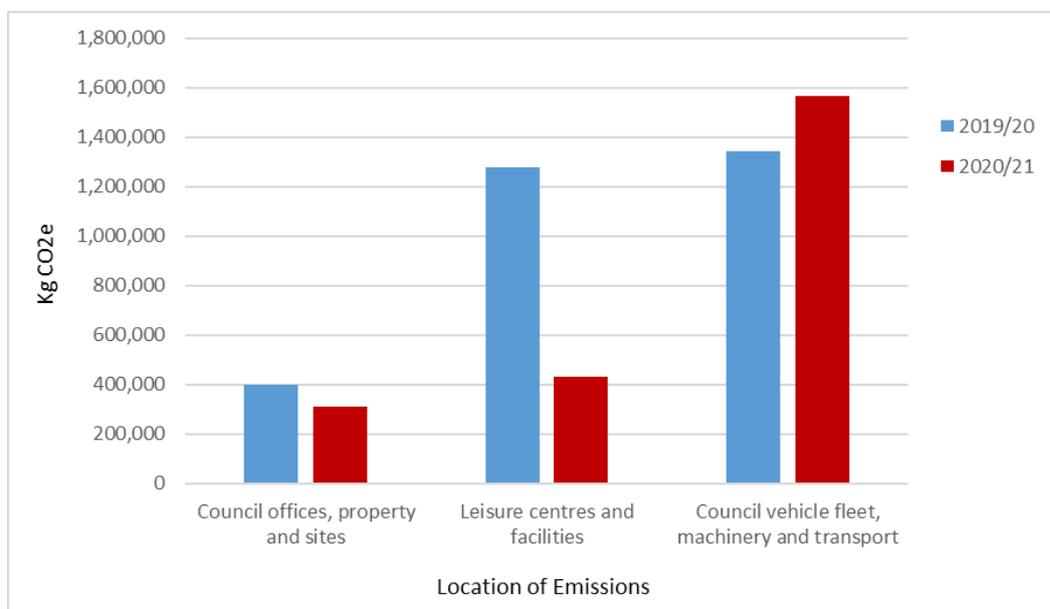


Table 4: Comparative Emissions between 2019/2020 Baseline Year and 2020/21

Location	Kg CO2e 2019/20	Kg CO2e 2020/21	Change in Kg CO2e	Percentage Change
Council offices, property and sites (excluding leisure)	400,418	311,805	- 88,613	-22%
Leisure centres and facilities	1,276,260	432,673	- 843,587	-66%
Council vehicle fleet and transport	1,345,521	1,565,489	+ 219,968	16%

Figure 4: 2020/21 Emissions by Location Compared to 2019/20 Baseline Year



Emissions from Council offices, property and sites (excluding leisure) have fallen 22% from the baseline year. This is considered to be a result of changes in behaviour during the pandemic which resulted in reduced building use.

Emissions from leisure centres and facilities have fallen 66% from the baseline year as a result of reduced energy consumption during the pandemic.

Emissions from Council vehicle fleet, machinery and transport have increased 16% from the baseline year. This is due to the Council-owned waste trucks, currently operated by Ubico, accommodating the increased waste flows during the pandemic as more residents stayed at home.