



York Climate Change Action Plan

A city fit for the future



Introduction

The York Climate Change Strategy: A City Fit for the Future sets out City of York Council's commitment to tackling climate change and the ambition for York to be a net zero and climate resilient city by 2030.

This refreshed Action Plan provides a 2024 update to the original, has been produced by City of York Council in consultation with city partners to support delivery of our ambition. It contains an indicative list of over 80 potential actions covering the eight priority themes and 31 strategic objectives identified in the Climate Change Strategy.




The actions identified are based on the previous work done by Leeds University (Net Zero Roadmap for York), pathway modelling by Anthesis, best practice guidance from the Local Government Association, recommended actions for Local Authorities by Friends of the Earth, stakeholder workshops and officer engagement.

The Action Plan provides high level estimates covering carbon impacts, cost implications, timescales, co-benefits, constraints, level of council influence and current stage of implementation.

The Action Plan is itself part of the governance arrangements to track action, monitor progress, report annually and assign responsibility.

Impact

A high-level estimate of the potential impact from each action is provided. Further analysis will quantify the carbon reduction contribution; however, for simplicity and speed of action this is presented in terms of low, medium & high.

-  Low
 -  Medium
 -  High
-

Timescale

ImmEDIATE

Short

Medium

Long

Cost

A high-level estimate of the potential impact from each action is provided; for simplicity and speed of action this is presented in terms of low, medium & high.

£ Low

££ Medium

£££ High

Co-benefits

Although there are many challenges to delivering our ambition, there are also enormous opportunities of transitioning to a zero carbon, climate resilient city.

From cheaper energy bills and well-paid green jobs; to warmer homes and cleaner air; to thriving green spaces and increased biodiversity.

Social

Economic







**Health &
Wellbeing**











Skills















Culture









Environmental











Action Plan





























Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input	
Buildings	New builds	Deliver 600 new homes across the city on council-owned land to Passivhaus standards in accordance with the council Design Manual	Delivered - 140 completed above building regs In progress - 112 to Passivhaus standard Planned - 101 in for planning approval	A/M		L	£££		Housing Delivery	Planning
	Retrofit	Explore new commercial mechanisms and delivery programmes for achieving domestic retrofit at scale, including Retrofit One Stop Shop, GIB, regional loans and “comfort as a service”. Ensure embodied carbon is considered in retrofits.	Creation of a Retrofit One-Stop-Shop for York is underway through the Innovate UK funded Net Zero Living project	A/M		M	£££		Healthy and Sustainable Homes	Innovate UK Project Consortium Building Services Carbon Reduction
	Retrofit	Delivery of funding programmes: Home Upgrade Grant programme, identify new funding opportunities (e.g. Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2) to	HUG1 - 13 installations HUG2 target - 60 Local Authority Delivery (LAD) 1/2/3 - 227 installations Local Energy Advice	A/M		M	££		Healthy and Sustainable Homes	








Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
	expand the work of Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	Demonstrator (LEAD) target - 475 residents given advice SHDF - 31 retrofit							
	Complete a Council property stock condition survey and produce archetype specific plans for council homes and identify the range of works needed for the pathway from current level to EPC C and on to net zero carbon	Stock condition surveys ongoing	A/M		S	££		Housing Policy	Building Services
	Identification of “business as usual” retrofit opportunities in planned capital works, voids, and vulnerable tenant support	Ongoing	A/M		S	££		Building Services	
	Proactive engagement with landlords around current and future regulatory obligations	York Residential Landlord association Retrofit One-Stop-Shop	A/M		O	£		Healthy and Sustainable Homes	York Residential Landlords Association
	Support and enforce minimum energy efficiency standards for the private rented sector	Ongoing - 20 homes in 2 years	A/M		O	££		Healthy and Sustainable Homes	York Residential Landlords Association
	Deliver local pilots and demonstrators that highlight low and zero carbon technology	York and North Yorkshire Net Zero Fund projects Retrofit One-Stop-Shop Passivhaus	A/M		M	£££		Healthy and Sustainable Homes Carbon Reduction	York Community Energy York Climate Commission






















Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input	
	Nondomestic	Develop a decarbonisation plan for all council owned buildings (including Schools) to identify the most viable solutions to achieving net zero by 2030	York and North Yorkshire Net Zero Fund projects 40 Heat Decarbonisation Plans complete	A/M		M	££		Carbon Reduction	Schools Planning and Development Asset Management
		Consider Green Leases for council buildings	In progress	M		S	£		Carbon Reduction	Asset Management
		Deliver actions in the health care sustainability programmes	In progress	A		M	££		Public Health	Integrated Care Board
		Consider creating a register of at-risk buildings of weather events and flooding		A		M	£		Carbon Reduction	Asset Management
	Planning	Provide climate change advice and sign-off of planning conditions. Issuing guidance to developers on sustainability measures in a conservation context	55 responses in 2023	M		O	£		Carbon Reduction	Planning
		Produce a Supplementary Planning Document to raise overall sustainability standards of all developments across the city to align to Net Zero targets	In progress	M		S	£		Local Plan	Carbon Reduction
		Update Local Plan to require all new commercial	In progress	M		S	£		Local Plan	Carbon Reduction











Sector		Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
		developments to achieve highest environmental standards (BREEAM Excellent or equivalent)								
		Provide planning guidance and supporting documents for retrofit of existing buildings (including listed and historic retrofit)	In progress	A/M		O	£		Housing Policy	Planning
	Skills	Develop construction skills and promote jobs in this industry for all levels of education from school age to experienced professionals	Retrofit One-Stop-Shop Construction Skills Initiative/Green Skills Village Passivhaus project KPIs	A/M		O	££		Skills	Healthy and Sustainable Homes Carbon Reduction Innovate UK project Consortium
Transport	Policy	Develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan	In progress	M		M	££		Active Travel	Transport teams Carbon Reduction
		Develop a Movement and Place Plan; reallocating road space to make sustainable modes of travel the preferred choice for most journeys, whilst facilitating essential vehicle trips. Use reallocation of road space as an opportunity to create high quality public spaces that support nature recovery,	In progress	M		M	££		Transport Policy	Transport teams Carbon Reduction











Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input	
	climate resilience and adaptation and carbon reduction									
	Use procurement policy to encourage use of sustainable transport		M		O	£		Transport / Procurement	Carbon Reduction	
	Mandate low/zero emissions requirements into taxi licensing	European Standards will be accepted for new private hire vehicle applications, and any subsequent replacement of these vehicles, and all replacement vehicles for both taxi and private hire	M		O	£		Taxi Licensing		
	Planning	Significant new investment in cycling, walking and public transport integrating green areas and SUDs	In progress	A/M		M	£££		Active Travel / Highways	Planning
		Consider creating a register of at-risk transport infrastructure of weather events and flooding		A		M	£		Carbon Reduction / Highways	Flooding Risk
	Behaviour Change	Continuous delivery of a behaviour change programme on cycling and walking to encourage non-car modes as the best choice for short	Ongoing	M		O	££		Active Travel	Carbon Reduction



Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input	
	journeys									
	Work with schools and academies in the city to provide cycle workshops	Ongoing	M		O	£	 	Active Travel	Schools' teams Carbon Reduction York Climate Commission	
	Enforce restrictions on idling whilst running an anti-idling campaign	Kick the Habit Campaign	M		S	££	 	Public Protection	Businesses	
	Expand use of car club/share and micro-mobility options	Council Travel Plan	M	 	S	£££		itravel	Carbon Reduction	
	Create a Council travel plan	In Progress Staff travel, and home working survey complete 2023	M		S	£		itravel	Carbon Reduction	
	Public transport	Deliver Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Deliver Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) programme	Ongoing	M	  	M	£££	 	Transport Programme	
		Ensure the delivery of an efficient bus rail interchange at York Station Front	Ongoing	M	 	M	£££		Transport Capital Projects	Planning Regeneration Team
		Co-ordinate public transport services with the local tourism sector	Tourism Strategy	M	 	O	£	 	Transport Programme Tourism Advisory Board	Businesses
	Future transport	Enable a rapid shift to electric vehicles by installing significant new charging infrastructure/Increase access to EV charging	Ongoing	M	  	M	£££	 	Travel Planning	







Sector		Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
		infrastructure. Create new EV hyperhubs at Park & Ride locations across the city								
		Assess the feasibility of local distribution hubs for home deliveries in York which use low-carbon "Last Mile" deliveries following the pilot. Initiate a pilot scheme for local deliveries using e-cargo bike trial.	In progress	M		M	££		Travel Planning	Businesses
		Review policies around Resident's Parking, EV charging, access to car share/clubs and access to micro-mobility, with the aim of reducing levels of vehicle ownership		M		M	£		Travel Planning	
		Decarbonise council fleet - Four-year fleet electrification programme for all our vehicles under 3.5t and replacement of HGVs to Euro 6 standard engines	Electric 86 Hybrid Plug-In I	M		M	£££		Fleet	
Governance	Reporting	Report annually on citywide carbon emissions. Report annually on the council's corporate emissions and recommended actions for decarbonisation;	Annual reports: Internal emissions City wide emissions CDP Adaptation	A/M		O	£		Carbon Reduction	















Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
	publish on the York Open Data Platform								
	Consider improved mapping of climate risk data to support enhanced targeting		A/M		M	£		Carbon Reduction	
	Capture cost and impact of extreme weather events and flooding		A		M	££	 	Public Health	
Finances	Bid for funding opportunities to progress projects aligned to Net Zero targets	Ongoing	A/M	  	O	£		Carbon Reduction	
	Divest all investments from fossil fuels, including any pension funds		M	  	L	£££		Carbon Reduction	Finance
Integrate climate action	Implement extreme heat/cold UKHSA plan	Ongoing	A/M		M	£	  	Public Health	Carbon Reduction Integrated Care Board
	Embed adaptation into council policies, strategies and action plans, risk registers, service plans	Ongoing	A	 	O	£		Carbon Reduction	
Engagement	Increase climate change communication and provision of climate change information for residents and city partners through the council website, press	Newsletter delivery March 2024 - 731	A/M		S	£		Carbon Reduction	Communications team Website team













Sector		Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
		releases, social media and monthly e-newsletter, events								
		Support ongoing operation of the York Climate Commission	Working Groups: Biodiversity/Nature Buildings and Retrofit Connecting with Green Spaces Education and Youth Engagement Energy Food Future Green Economy Health and Climate Change Transport Waste and Circular Economy	A/M		O	£		Carbon Reduction	University of York
		Engage with networks across the city to encourage sustainability actions from a wide range of city stakeholders	Ongoing	A/M		O	£		Carbon Reduction	York Climate Commission
Waste	Policy	Produce a Waste Strategy which aligns with net zero and climate ready goals	Baseline data needed	M		M	££		Waste	Carbon Reduction
		Reduce single use plastics within the Council's buildings and events and develop a Plastic Free Strategy across the organisation		M		M	££		Waste Procurement	Carbon Reduction
		No single use plastic at the Christmas	In progress	M		S	££		Make It York	Tourism Advisory Board













Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input	
	market								York BID	
	Reduce avoidable food waste and collect food waste for separate processing		M		M	£££		Waste		
	Engagement	Work with other local authorities to share case studies from businesses on circular economy practices to maximise environmental and economic opportunities	In progress	A/M		M	£		Carbon Reduction	
		Engage with suppliers to adopt circular economy principles through procurement policies	Added to tender questions	M		M	£		Procurement	
	Circular Economy	Champion zero waste cafes and low waste business to residents to encourage behaviour change to low waste services	In progress	A/M		O	£		Carbon Reduction Tourism Advisory Board	Waste team York Climate Commission
		Support growth in the circular economy including the development of a circular economy roadmap for the city, which maps material flows to identify opportunities for circularity and co-location. Bring stakeholders together and create the conditions for a	Ongoing	A/M		O	££		Carbon Reduction	Waste team York Climate Commission













Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
	circular economy to flourish by supporting community groups to develop the local sharing/circular economy e.g. repair café, library of things, community fridge, food redistribution centres								
	Waste reduction, reuse & recycle initiatives - Reuse of household goods; Removal of organic waste from household waste collection; Trial collection of bikes from HWRCs in New Earswick for refurbishment and reuse; Recycle old bin stock.	Communications – new educational leaflets to advise residents on how to recycle - Summer 2024. Increasing our recycling provision in 2026 to include carton at kerbside, and in 2027 to include wraps and films. Reuse - The Recycle Project to take household items for reuse and upcycling within their York hub. Medequip take medical equipment e.g. commodes, for reuse in their York store. Agreement with local gardening charity to take gardening tools e.g. rakes, Collection of bikes from HWRCs by	M		O	££		Waste	

Sector		Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
			two charities for refurbishment, reuse, and training of young people in bicycle mechanics; Recycle old bin stock – for various purposes e.g. rubber wheels as playground flooring, plastic body and lids as new bins. Work with UoY ESAY Sustainability Clinic on Bulky Waste research.							
Business and skills	Support SME decarbonisation and access to green finance offering energy audits and potential grant funding	UKSPF Deliver 100 Decarbonisation plans to SMEs	A/M		S	££		Economic Growth	Carbon Reduction	
	Engage with businesses to minimise emissions across a range of business areas	Green Business Forum - quarterly meetings	A/M		O	£		Carbon Reduction/Economic Growth	Tourism Advisory Board York BID Federation of Small Businesses Chamber of Commerce	
	Develop green skills and promote green jobs for all levels of education from school age to experienced	Ongoing	A/M		O	££		Skills	Healthy and Sustainable Homes Education providers	

Sector		Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
		professionals								
		Support business to adapt to climate change		A		O	£		Economic Growth / Carbon Reduction	York Climate Commission
		Encourage regenerative and local food growing and agriculture		A		O	£		York Climate Commission	
		Encourage short, local, and consolidated supply chains				M	£		Economic Growth	
		Provide forums for business collaboration and highlighting of best practice	Retrofit One-Stop-Shop supply chain network Green Business Forum	A/M		O	££		Carbon Reduction/Economic Growth	Tourism Advisory Board York BID Federation of Small Businesses Chamber of Commerce
		Support the delivery of the Tourism Strategy and Implementation Plan	Ongoing	A/M		O	£		Tourism Advisory Board	Make It York Carbon Reduction
Natural Environment	Policy	Ensure Air quality strategy and action plan aligns with Net Zero targets	In progress	M		S	£		Air Quality	Health
		Deliver the Pollinator strategy - Conserving the UK's pollinators by ensuring the council considers the needs of pollinators in the delivery of its' duties and work in a changing climate	Ongoing	M		O	£		Public Realm	

Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
	Fully support implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain on all developments	In progress	A/M		O	££		Planning	Carbon Reduction Ecologist
	Consider Green & Blue infrastructure strategy - Assess the carbon sequestration potential of current council land and identify opportunities to increase sequestration, looking into different natural carbon capture options		A/M		M	££		Planning	
	Develop a strategy to protect and manage maintenance of existing trees in the city as well as any new trees planted		A/M		M	££		Environmental Services	Green Streets
Gover nance	Grow York tree canopy cover to 13% by 2050 - include biodiverse and developing green corridors and improving access to nature	York Community Woodland York Green Streets	A/M		L	£££		Green Streets	Forestry England
	Conduct a mapping exercise to assess which areas of the city could be designated, natural capital enhancement through innovative investment	Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) project	A/M		S	£		Carbon Reduction	York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority North Yorkshire Council
	Create a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (York and North	Ongoing	A/M		M	££		Carbon Reduction	York and North Yorkshire Combined

Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
	Yorkshire)								Authority North Yorkshire Council
	Consider a mapping exercise to create a database of ecosystem health		A/M		S	£		Ecologist	
	Develop an offsetting/insetting strategy to address residual emissions not tackled by direct actions in the city with a validated offsetting method	Ongoing	A/M		M	££		Carbon Reduction	
	Upgrade and renew the city's flood defences to better protect homes and businesses against surface water flooding	Ongoing	A/M		O	£££		Flood Resilience/Flood Risk	Yorkshire Water
	Incentivise the uptake of natural flood risk management measures across the River Swale, Ure and Nidd, Ouse catchments	Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme	A/M		M	£££		Flood Resilience/Flood Risk	Yorkshire Water Environment Agency
	Monitor water quality in rivers and consider creating a register of risks from sewage and surface water pollution		A/M		M	££		Flood Resilience/Flood Risk	Yorkshire Water Environment Agency Canal and Rivers Trust
Energy	Identify opportunities for decarbonised district heating solutions across the city	Complete for York Central Ongoing city wide	A/M		O	£		Carbon Reduction	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Sector	Action	Update 2024	Adaptation / Mitigation	Impact	Completion Timeframe	Cost	Co-benefits	Owner	Input
	Deliver City LEAP Accelerator project	In progress	A/M		M	£££		Carbon Reduction	North Yorkshire Council York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Work with stakeholders to ensure understanding and best use of the city's electric grid capacity	Ongoing	A/M		O	£		Carbon Reduction	Northern PowerGrid
	Explore opportunities for renewable generation	York and North Yorkshire Net Zero Fund projects Harewood Whin Local Plan	A/M		O	££		Carbon Reduction	York Community Energy
	Support increase of solar capacity across York including homes, schools, and community energy schemes	Solar on eight schools/academies across York two more planned for 2024	A/M		O	£		Carbon Reduction Housing	York Community Energy Solar for Schools York Climate Commission
	Assess opportunities for a Green Energy Park in York	Outline Business Plan in progress	A/M		M	£££		Carbon Reduction	Yorwaste
	Develop renewable energy skills and promote jobs in this sector for all levels of education from school age to experienced professionals	Ongoing	A/M		O	££		Skills	Universities York College

