

Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan 2023-2027

How we will work together to deliver a Net Zero Leicestershire



Lead, enable, inspire

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1. Introduction



This action plan sets out how Leicestershire County Council will work in partnership with residents, businesses, public sector, voluntary and community organisations and other stakeholders to deliver a Net Zero Leicestershire as defined in our Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy. The action plan covers five years of delivery from 2023-2027.

1.1 Why do we need a plan?

There is a need to take urgent action to avoid the worst consequences of climate change including drought, flooding and species decline; we must act at scale and pace without delay. To achieve this, we will deliver a Net Zero Leicestershire - this means reaching a balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it, requiring significant reductions in the greenhouse gas emissions we release from our homes, public buildings, industry, transport, and the products we buy. A clean, green Leicestershire has benefits for health, business, and nature - by tackling climate change we will help to build strong, healthy and green communities and habitats, creating jobs and boosting skills.

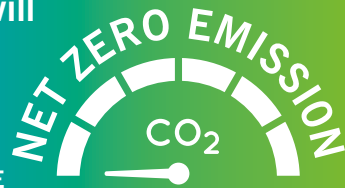
Vision

In 2045, Leicestershire has ended its contribution to global warming and has adapted to the impacts of climate change. The transition to net zero has created a cleaner, greener Leicestershire for people, prosperity and planet; supporting healthy, resilient communities, enabling sustainable growth, and enhancing biodiversity.

Leicestershire County Council will work with others to achieve

NET ZERO CARBON

FROM LEICESTERSHIRE BY 2045 OR BEFORE



Leicestershire will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK target to cut greenhouse gas emissions:

↓78% By 2035 compared to 1990 levels

This means a further reduction of 65% between the baseline year 2019 and 2035



1.2 Who needs to be involved?

To deliver a Net Zero Leicestershire, action is required from everyone across the county. Leicestershire County Council is committed to demonstrating leadership by achieving Net Zero for its own operations by 2030, enabling and facilitating carbon reduction across the county, and engaging and inspiring others to act. The action plan indicates who may need to be involved with delivering each action, including the district and borough councils who have responsibility for local planning, housing, waste collection and more, businesses who operate buildings and supply goods and services, and residents who can take action to support our targets. There are also actions where we will seek to influence others, for example Government policy and funding to support Net Zero. The actions in the plan identify whether the Council will “Lead” the action, “Ask” others to deliver or “Influence” policy and decisions. A glossary of stakeholders included in the action plan is found in Appendix A.

1.3 How can you help?

There are a range of actions that individuals can choose to take to cut carbon and support a Net Zero Leicestershire. Here are our top recommendations but you can find out more and get involved by visiting: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/netzero.



Active travel

Choose to walk or cycle when you can. You could save £11 a year for every mile travelled, save 29kg of carbon and improve your health at the same time.



Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle

Lower the amount you throw away. Follow the four 'R's' to conserve natural resources.

Conserve water

An average person unknowingly wastes up to 30 gallons of water daily. Reduce usage by turning off taps when not in use and reusing waste water in the garden.



Try plant-based alternatives

Consider substituting meat with plant-based alternatives for some of your meals. A meat rich diet generates more carbon emissions than a plant-based diet.

Love Food Hate Waste

In Leicestershire, around a third of rubbish in black bins is food waste. Taking simple steps, like meal planning, can help reduce waste and save you money.

Shop local

By buying local, in-season produce, the goods you buy have not travelled the distances imported goods will have.



Recycle clothing

Give clothes another life by swapping, borrowing, renting or buying second-hand and wash clothes less, and at lower temperatures to give them a longer life.

Take fewer flights

Take a train rather than a plane for shorter journeys as it emits less carbon.



Switch off and unplug

Cut costs on your energy bills and reduce carbon by switching off appliances and avoiding stand-by when not in use.



Reduce single use items

Seek alternative reusable items where possible - from carrier bags to bottles to food packaging - to help cut waste and reduce emissions.

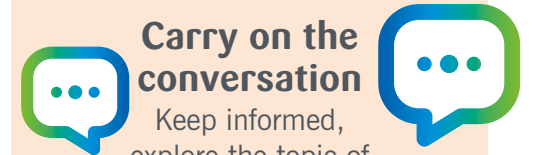
Check energy labels

Buy efficient appliances with top energy ratings. The scale goes from A (efficient) to G (least efficient).



Carry on the conversation

Keep informed, explore the topic of climate change and share what you've learnt. Search #NetZeroLeicestershire on social media.



2. Framework



The action plan will be delivered within a framework to ensure effective and successful delivery. This includes actions to cut carbon and achieve net zero split across six key areas, cross cutting actions to enable delivery, a method for prioritising actions to ensure we can act at pace and scale, governance, monitoring and reporting to make sure that we are tracking and challenging progress, alongside being open and transparent about our performance.

2.1 The Net Zero Actions

To achieve net zero, we must avoid and reduce carbon emissions and increase the amount of carbon that is removed from the atmosphere. Actions for carbon reduction are identified in six key areas within this plan:

Transport

Road transport emissions in Leicestershire, including minor roads, A roads, and motorways, accounted for 37% of all Leicestershire's territorial emissions in 2020. The county's transport emissions are above average when compared with the UK, resulting from the rural nature of the county and key role of Leicestershire roads as through-routes and interchanges in national logistics and distribution networks, due to its central location and excellent transport links.

The Department for Transport's (DfT) Decarbonising Transport Plan provides a breakdown of fuel consumption based on vehicle type, by local authority. This breakdown shows that most of the fuel consumed is by petrol and diesel cars (54%) - approximately 20% of all Leicestershire's 2020 territorial greenhouse gas emissions. The second largest source is HGVs, which account for 26% of road transport energy consumption in Leicestershire - approximately 10% of Leicestershire's 2020 territorial emissions.

We aim to deliver low-carbon, affordable transport choices for all.

Buildings and Energy

Leicestershire buildings including domestic, public, industrial and commercial buildings contribute a significant proportion of the County's emissions - 47% of scoped 2020 emissions. Of this, industry and commercial buildings contribute the greatest share (21%), followed by the County's 264,000 domestic properties (24%). The County has a high level of owner-occupier households (77%), with 13% privately rented and 10% socially rented. The remaining 2% of building emissions originate from the public sector.

As well as addressing the energy efficiency of our buildings and switching to low carbon heat, achieving net zero will require a regional-scale energy transition to deliver low carbon infrastructure that is secure, reliable and resilient. Not only will new electricity supplies be needed, renewable energy to contribute to national grid decarbonisation must be built.

We aim to reduce demand for energy, support the switch to low carbon energy and heat, and increase renewable energy generation.

Resources and Waste

Waste management emissions across Leicestershire contribute 6% of territorial emissions. Although consumption of resources and the products and services we buy in Leicestershire are outside of our reporting scope, emissions from these sources still contribute to climate change. It is estimated that 772 thousand tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂e) were emitted from food, drink and tobacco consumption in 2019, 746 ktCO₂e from other transport including aviation, 334 ktCO₂e from restaurants and hotels, 291 ktCO₂e from recreation and culture, as well as emissions from clothing and footwear, electronics and other items.

There are also emissions associated with the water we use, embodied carbon in construction of buildings and infrastructure and delivery of education, health and other services.

We aim to support the transition to a circular economy including the sustainable extraction, use and end of life management of natural resources.

Business and Economy

Achieving net zero will bring about structural changes to Leicestershire and the UK's economy, with entirely new economic sectors being created. The low carbon sector (including wind power, solar systems, alternative fuels and building technologies) will grow and expand, whilst carbon intensive sectors of the economy will shrink or shut down. This will require the training and upskilling of Leicestershire's workforce.

The 2045 Net Zero Roadmap identifies that capital investment costs of between £3.1 and £3.8 billion will be required to undertake building retrofits, solar PV installation and heat switching. Many investments in net zero can lead to economic co-benefits for the county's residents, businesses and public sector, providing a return on investment. For example, it is estimated that capital investments in solar PV installations across the county could provide a return on investment of £1.16 and £1.66 billion between 2020 and 2045, 36% of total capital investment required to get to net zero.

We aim to help businesses to "Go Green", grow the county's low carbon economy and increase demand for low carbon goods and services.

Communities

Technological solutions alone will not be enough to achieve net zero. Residents and communities must be supported to make sustainable choices, playing their part in shaping a greener county for future generations. Provision of information, engagement and participation are key to ensuring meaningful and long-lasting behaviour change is achieved, and it is important that we have an ongoing dialogue to hear and respond to a diverse set of views to understand what works, and what doesn't.

There are already many active community groups involved in protecting and enhancing the environment in Leicestershire, and we are committed to working with these groups to enable them to fulfil their ambitions.

We aim to inform, engage and involve residents and communities in identifying and delivering local solutions to achieve net zero carbon.

Nature and Land Use

Leicestershire is predominantly a rural county, dominated by farmland (65% of land area), valuable grasslands (8%), woodland (5%) and gardens (5%), with just 6% of the land area classed as 'built'. Agricultural emissions in Leicestershire account for 12% of scoped 2020 emissions, meanwhile it is estimated that ecosystems across the County absorb 45 ktCO₂ per year, equivalent to 1% of the scoped 2020 baseline. The Council itself manages 321,000 trees which are estimated to sequester 2,400 tCO₂e per year.

The 2045 Roadmap identified that even the most ambitious pathways to net zero will leave some annual residual emissions, particularly in transport, industry and buildings. As a result, it is important to look ahead at the opportunities for nature to remove these emissions from the atmosphere, alongside a wealth of co-benefits, including nature, biodiversity and health.

We aim to develop a growing and resilient network of land and water that is richer in plants and wildlife, optimises carbon storage and supports climate resilience.

2.2 Cross Cutting Actions

There are a number of enabling actions which will ensure that net zero can be delivered.

Leadership

1. Achieve net zero carbon emissions for the council's operations by 2030 by delivering the Council's Carbon Reduction Programme.
2. Assess the emissions the council has a wider influence on, including the council's supply chain and investments, to develop a prioritised action plan for carbon reduction, including working with our supply chain to reduce carbon emissions and developing tools and guidance to integrate carbon impact into procurement decisions.
3. Strive to provide easy to understand climate information to educate and inform stakeholders, businesses and residents about the need to act with urgency.

Collaboration

1. Develop and promote a Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact to inspire other organisations and individuals to join together in setting targets and delivering climate action.
2. Develop an engagement plan which considers the role of stakeholders, businesses and residents, including how they can be encouraged and supported to take action through informing, engaging and involving.
3. Work with others to engage with national government to call for urgent action to deliver net zero carbon, including a clear framework and the resources required to define and support the role of local authorities in tackling the climate emergency.

Research and Innovation

1. Work with partners, particularly knowledge-based institutions to support research, development and demonstration of low and zero carbon technologies.
2. Take an evidence-based approach to assessing options and decision making to support the net zero transition.
3. Support the development and deployment of carbon capture and storage approaches.

Funding

1. Produce a funding plan for net zero, considering and taking maximum advantage of the diverse range of grants, finance, investment and other innovative models to deliver action.
2. Prioritise projects with multiple benefits, that save money and/or provide income.
3. Consider the impact of delivering action on residents and ensure that solutions are affordable and fair for all.

2.3 Prioritisation

It is important that we use our resources wisely for effective delivery of net zero, taking cost-effective action that has the greatest impact on emissions. We have highlighted key actions in the Plan which will be important to deliver as a priority, based on the reasoning below.

Emissions Mitigation Hierarchy

We will follow the internationally recognised mitigation hierarchy, an approach to cutting carbon in the most efficient way.

Hierarchy	Description	Example
Eliminate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent greenhouse gas emissions from being produced at their source Assess and adopt different models and ways of doing things 	This could include travelling by bike or foot instead of by car.
Reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real and relative reductions in greenhouse gas emissions Efficiency in buildings, operations, processes, fleet and energy management Use of digital and technology 	This could include adopting fuel efficient driving behaviours like avoiding high speeds, accelerating and braking gently and regularly maintaining your vehicle.
Substitute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the carbon intensity of energy used and energy purchased Adopt renewable energy and low carbon technology Purchase goods and services with lower carbon impact across the lifecycle 	This could include swapping your vehicle for an electric vehicle or switching your home electricity tariff to a renewable provider.
Compensate and neutralise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate measures to remove carbon from the atmosphere to permanently neutralise carbon emissions (carbon capture) Compensate carbon emissions by helping wider society to eliminate or reduce emissions (carbon insetting and offsetting) Support climate action and developing carbon markets to go beyond net zero 	This could include buying carbon credits for every mile you travel to fund carbon reduction projects in other localities.

Our Approach to Carbon Compensation and Neutralisation

As indicated in the mitigation hierarchy, removing carbon from the atmosphere and offsetting carbon by funding projects elsewhere will come last in our plans; we aim to tackle our emissions at source. However, it is expected that compensation and neutralisation will be required to balance any residual emissions in the future – we expect that 5-10% of emissions will remain from transport, buildings and agriculture for example. In this action plan, only local nature-based sequestration and carbon insetting will be considered to compensate and neutralise emissions.

What does this mean?

Nature-based sequestration - the long-term storage of carbon in plants, soils, geologic formations, and the ocean. We can increase storage by improving management of existing habitats like forests and agricultural land, creating new habitats and prioritising those that store the most carbon such as wetlands.

Carbon insetting – a form of carbon offsetting where emissions reduction projects take place within an organisation’s value chain. In this instance, investment could be raised to fund local projects, retaining co-benefits within the county and contributing to Leicestershire’s net zero targets.

Deliverability Ratings

We have assessed each action for how quickly it can be started or delivered, how much it will cost the county to implement and an estimate of the carbon it could save. It should be noted that these are best estimates for now – each action will require a full scoping exercise to accurately estimate costs and carbon savings and will be subject to a business case and delivery plan. We have used the following criteria to score actions and multiplied scores to generate a deliverability rating. For example, an action that can be started immediately, is low cost and saves a significant level of carbon, will achieve the maximum deliverability score of 27.

Timescale - when can the action be started or completed?

Short (3)	Year 1 2023
Medium (2)	Year 2-3 2024-25
Long (1)	Year 4-5 2026-27

Cost to Leicestershire - how much will the action cost the council or partners to implement, which cannot be sourced from existing external grant or investment?

Low (3)	£0-000s Free or low cost measures
Medium (2)	£000s-00,000s Some investment needed
High (1)	£00,000s-Ms Large capital projects

Carbon saving - how much carbon will be saved by completing the action?

Low (1)	Limited carbon saving, single intervention
Medium (2)	Significant project or multiple interventions
High (3)	County wide reduction

2.4 Governance

To achieve net zero, the importance of collaboration and engagement cannot be underestimated. Ultimately, the successful implementation of the action plan is the collective responsibility of all residents, businesses, local authorities and other organisations in the county. However, a critical success factor is that the plan is overseen, championed, and enabled by an engaged group of key stakeholders.

A stakeholder mapping exercise has been undertaken, identifying key stakeholders who will have a high level of contribution or influence over the county target. These stakeholders were invited to take part in a workshop during the Strategy consultation period and governance of the target discussed.

It is proposed that a new Stakeholder Forum is convened to support progress towards the target and delivery of the action plan. The Forum could include representation from local government, business, statutory/governmental bodies, infrastructure providers, voluntary organisations, communities, health, education and universities. The council will seek to initiate the Forum during quarter one of this action plan.

The key objectives of the Forum will be to:

- Promote and champion cross-sector climate action in the county
- Co-ordinate delivery of identified actions in the action plan through collaborative working and ownership of actions
- Oversee and monitor progress of the action plan and key strategic objectives
- Support the review and development of the Strategy and action plan.

It is envisaged that task and finish groups will be required and created by the Forum, as well as utilising and embedding net zero into existing groups such as the Planning Officers' Forum, Local Economic Development Officers' Network, Sustainable Food Partnership, Waste Partnership, Local Nature Recovery Partnership, LLEP Innovation Board, Integrated Care System Green Board, District Environment Group and Expert Reference Group. The Forum will also seek opportunities to increase resident engagement and representation for example through a Citizens' Panel or Youth Voice group.

Internally, the council will regularly monitor the action plan at a senior officer board which brings together representatives from each of the Council's departments and is supported by colleagues from across the council. This board will report into the Council's Strategic Plan Clean and Green Outcome Board. Further responsibility for the development of business cases for new projects and programmes will be devolved where appropriate to individual Programme Delivery Boards and Departmental Management Teams.

2.5 Monitoring and Reporting

The Net Zero Strategy sets out a long-term vision, approach and objectives to set the county on a pathway to net zero by 2045 and will be regularly reviewed (every 5 years) to ensure it reflects the latest strategic changes including national policy, legislation and technology.

The action plan outlines shorter-term delivery plans (5 years) which will be reviewed annually to ensure that updates can be included as interventions develop and in order to keep pace with new opportunities.

An end-of year progress report against the Net Zero 2045 Action Plan will be provided to the Forum, the Council's Corporate Management Team, Cabinet Member for the environment and the green agenda, and the Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This will allow a cycle of Plan - Deliver - Review - Revise to ensure the plans are delivering the change required and are up to date.

The UK Government Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) produces a local authority territorial carbon emissions data release annually each summer. This data is produced 2 years in arrears, for example, 2020 carbon data will be published in 2022. Each year, Leicestershire's emissions will be assessed against the trajectory set by the 2035 interim target and 2045 target to assess whether carbon reduction is 'on track'. In the future, we will look to develop five year carbon budgets to sit alongside each action plan.

Leicestershire County Council will also investigate reporting annually through the Carbon Disclosure Project's (CDP) climate and environmental reporting platform for area wide emissions. This internationally recognised questionnaire will help identify major risks, opportunities and sources of emissions that need to be accounted for. Annual submissions to CDP will allow tracking of Leicestershire's progress, including identifying actions with the greatest impact, and support benchmarking of Leicestershire's performance against other counties.



3. The Plan



Transport

Aim: To deliver low-carbon, affordable transport choices for all.

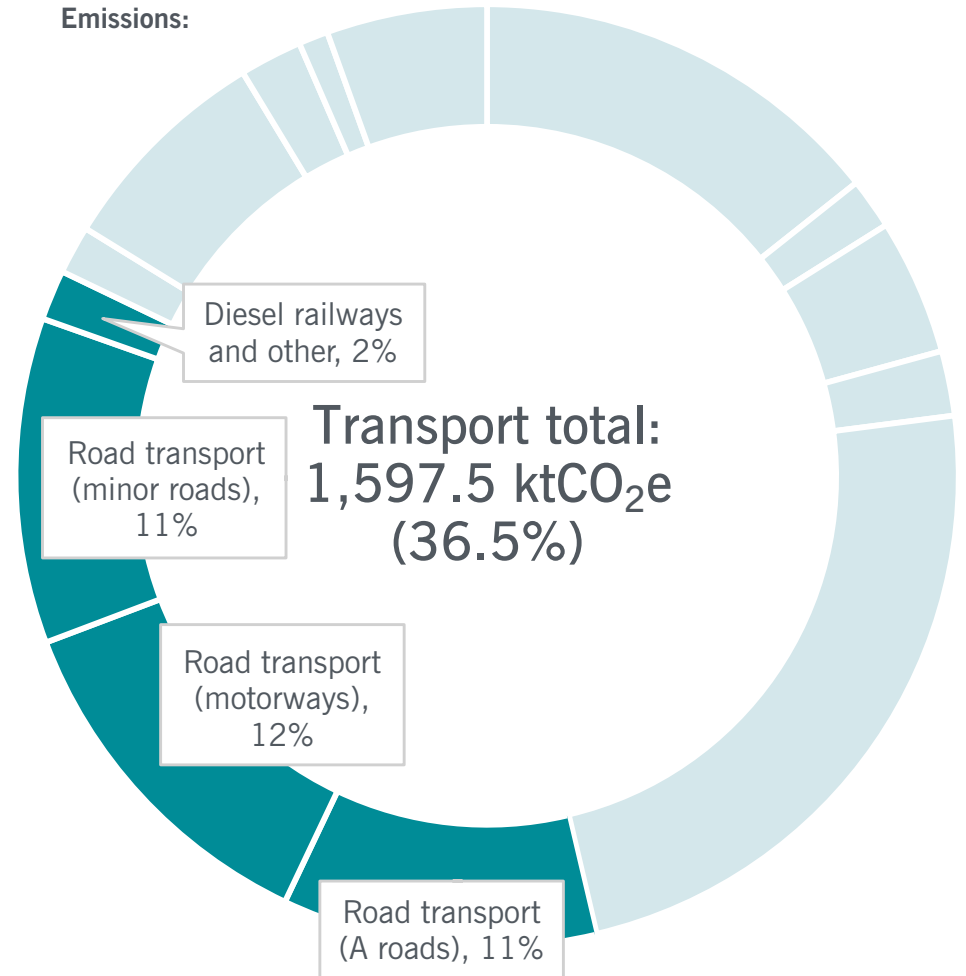
Objectives:

1. Encourage and enable more cycling, walking and other active travel
2. Reduce the need to travel by car
3. Encourage changes to travel behaviours, including fuel-efficient driving
4. Support people to choose public transport
5. Support the transition to ultra-low emission vehicles for example, electric and hydrogen fuelled
6. Reduce the impact of freight movement within and across the county

Co-benefits:

- Improved air quality
- Less traffic noise
- Footpaths and cycleways offer opportunities for green space for people and nature
- Improved health and fitness from increased active travel
- New economic opportunities from charge point and hydrogen infrastructure and maintenance of vehicles
- High street vitality and social cohesion
- Reduction in running costs as the public switch from petrol and diesel to electric vehicles

Emissions:



Case Studies:

In August 2022, the Council was successful in a partnership bid with 4 other local authorities to secure £1M funding for electric vehicle charging points. The Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure fund will see up to 100 charge points installed in Leicestershire, targeting those areas with low % off street parking.

Leicestershire County Council in collaboration with Leicester City Council launched a partnership project called Choose How You Move, funded by Department for Transport. Choose How You Move helps people get fit, save money, and help the environment – by leaving cars at home. The website offers a one-stop shop for travel information in Leicester and Leicestershire, with an integrated journey planner that allows residents and visitors to explore the different travel options available to them. Choose how you move by walking, cycling, using public transport or car sharing for everyday journeys.



Department for Transport



Office for Low Emission Vehicles



ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Policy and Strategy								
T1	All	Develop a vision and strategy for decarbonised transport for Leicestershire in the new Local Transport Plan 4.	Lead	Transport Partners Business Residents	S	M	H	18
T2	All	Continue to engage with the public and stakeholders to crowd source suggestions for travel improvements and infrastructure opportunities.	Lead	Transport Partners Business Residents	S	L	M	18
T3	All	Work with others to investigate models and tools to quantify the carbon impact of policy decisions and scheme design.	Ask	Midlands Connect MHA	S / M	L	L	7.5
T4	All	Identify opportunities for research into clean transport technology and local demonstration projects.	Ask	Universities Enterprise Zones LLEP Midlands Connect	M / L	H	H	4.5
T5	All	Support planning policies for development that reduce the need to travel for essential services and promote walking, cycling and public transport.	Ask	Districts	M	L	H	18

Highlighted actions will be important to deliver as a priority, as described in section 2.3.

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
T6	All	Revise the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide to incorporate environmental and net zero carbon objectives.	Lead	Developers Districts	M	L	M	12
T7	All	National government policy and long term funding allocations to support the delivery of capital schemes and promotional activity to decarbonise transport and to clarify its role.	Influence	Leicester City LLEP Midlands Connect Transport for East Midlands ADEPT	S	L	H	27

Active Travel and Reducing Mileage

T8	1, 2	Deliver the Cycling and Walking Strategy, in line with national policy and funding, to enable the Leicestershire to become a county where walking and cycling are safe, accessible and obvious choices for short journeys and a natural part of longer journeys.	Lead	Districts Leicester City Developers Public transport providers	S	H	H	9
T9	1, 2	Identify and build key walking and cycling infrastructure in line with national policy and funding.	Lead	Districts	S	H	M	6

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
T10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Continue to deliver sustainable travel planning advice and support to businesses and residents through the Choose How You Move campaign.	Lead	Business Districts Health partners Residents Leicester City	S	M	M	12
T11	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Work with local employers to encourage remote and flexible working to reduce the need for business travel.	Ask	Business Districts Health partners LLEP	M	L	L	6
T12	All	Work with partners to promote sustainable travel and transport choices with their staff, customers, suppliers, residents and service users.	Ask	All partners Business LLEP	M	M	M	8
T13	2	Work with local employers to develop shared office space and work hubs	Ask	Business Districts	M / L	H	M	3
T14	3	Encourage businesses, to educate drivers in fuel efficient driving and other fuel efficiency strategies such as route planning, vehicle maintenance etc.	Ask	LLEP Energy Saving Trust Business	M	M	M	8

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Public Transport								
T15	2, 4	Improve public transport through the delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan for Leicestershire in line with national policy and funding.	Lead	Public Transport providers	S	M	M / H	7.5
T16	2, 4	Trial modern IT enabled, dynamically routed Demand Responsive Transport service to improve passenger transport offer in rural communities, improving rural mobility.	Lead	Residents Public Transport providers	M	H	M	4
T17	2, 4	Subject to appropriate mitigation, facilitate new rail services and other rail improvements (e.g. electrification), including exploring schemes such as the Ivanhoe Line.	Ask	DfT Districts Neighbouring Authorities LLEP Midlands Connect Transport for East Midlands Great British Rail Network Rail HS2 Ltd	M	H	H	6
Ultra Low Emission Vehicles								
T18	5	Develop a strategy for increasing the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles.	Lead	Midlands Connect Business Residents Districts	S	M	H	18

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
T19	5, 6	Work with others to plan for low emission vehicle fuelling infrastructure at a regional level.	Ask	Midlands Connect Neighbouring authorities Districts	S / M	H	M	5
T20	5	Develop and adopt policy to support the uptake of electric vehicles and highway planning policy to promote the deployment of charging infrastructure.	Lead	Districts	S	L	M	18
T21	5	Collect and collate information on demand for public charging in Leicestershire from residents.	Lead	Districts Residents Business	S	L	L	9
T22	5	Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing c. 100 on street charge points and seek opportunities to secure further LEVI funding to install further public charging points across the county.	Ask	Midlands Connect Neighbouring Authorities Districts Residents Business WPD	S	M	M	12
T23	5	Increase public charge point infrastructure at Leicestershire County Council sites e.g. country parks.	Lead	Districts Energy Saving Trust	S	M	L	6

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
T24	5	Deliver the FLEX-D project to develop a business case for charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP	S	H	M	6
T25	5	Work with partners to consider options for joint procurement of low emission vehicles and refuelling infrastructure.	Ask	Districts Health partners Energy Saving Trust	S	H	H	9
T26	5	National investment in the electricity supply network to reduce the cost of connections to the grid linked to electric vehicle charge point infrastructure.	Influence	WPD Ofgem ADEPT Districts	S	L	L	9
T27	5	Investigate opportunities to provide incentives for green number plate vehicles.	Ask	Districts	M	M	L	4
T28	5	National framework for charge point suppliers to provide consistent, simple payment options and support interoperability across networks.	Influence	ADEPT Government Business - charge point operators	S	L	M	6
T29	5	Investigate and support opportunities to deploy EV car clubs in Leicestershire.	Ask	Districts Local councils VCSE Residents	S	H	M	6

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Freight								
T30	6	Investigate opportunities for reducing the impact of long-haul freight road mileage such as shift to rail freight.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP	M / L	M	L	3
T31	5, 6	Investigate opportunities for low emission alternatives for freight and logistics.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP	M / L	M	L	3
T32	5, 6	Support national investment and policy to enable the transition of freight movements to low carbon alternatives with less impact on the environment, including through a new Freight Energy Forum.	Influence	LLEP Midlands Connect Midlands Net Zero Hub	S / M	L	H	22.5
T33	5, 6	Work with others in the H2GV project to develop a business case for use of Hydrogen in HGVs, apply for funding to pilot the project, disseminate knowledge and seek to develop local demand and supply chain.	Ask	H2GVMids project group	S / M	H	H	7.5
T34	1, 2, 5, 6	Investigate opportunities for reducing the impact of local delivery hubs and alternative 'last mile' delivery e.g. cargo bikes.	Ask	Local Councils District Councils Leicester City LLEP	M / L	M	L	3



Buildings and Energy

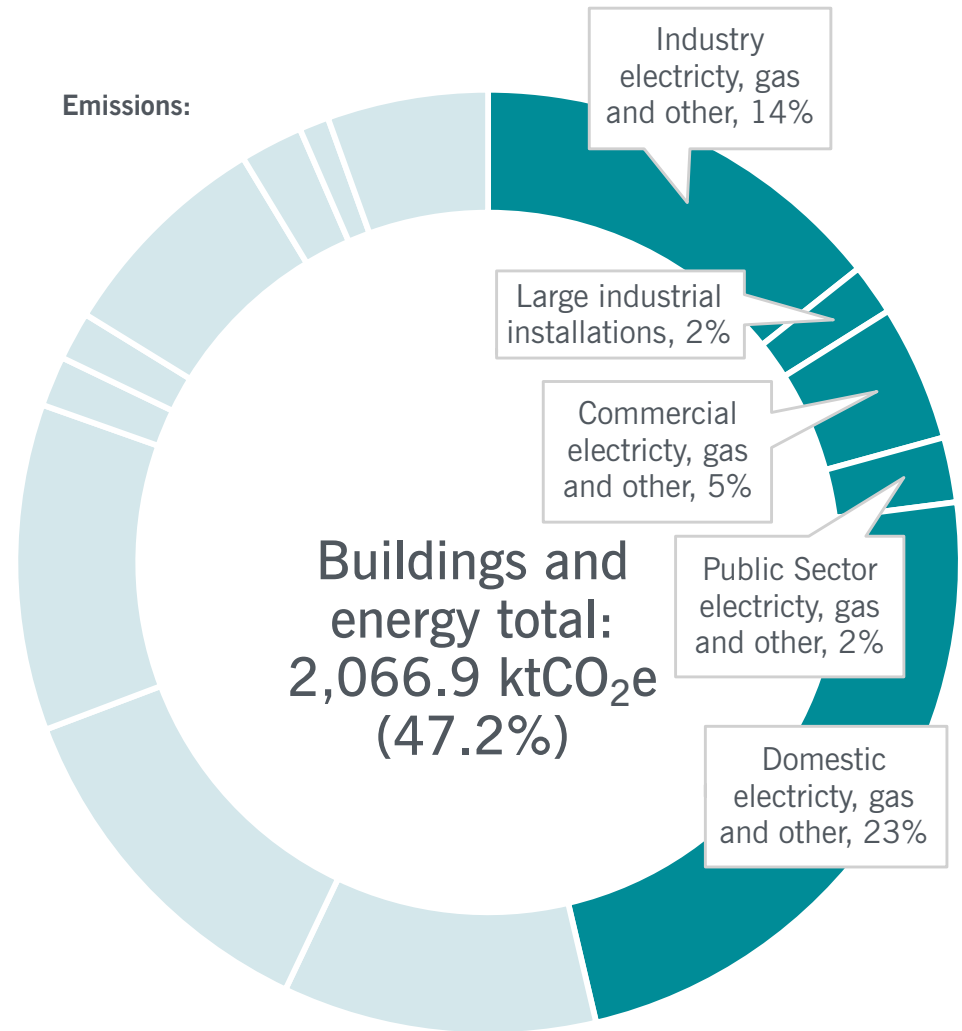
Aim: To reduce demand for energy, support the switch to low carbon energy and heat, and increase renewable energy generation.

Objectives:

1. Change behaviour to reduce demand for energy
2. Improve the energy efficiency of homes and other buildings
3. Decarbonise heat supply
4. Minimise emissions from new builds in construction and use
5. Modernise the grid and ensure capacity is available to support net zero
6. Increase local renewable energy capacity

Co-benefits:

- Reduction in energy costs and protection against future price rises
- Reduction in fuel poverty and associated health impacts including excess winter deaths
- Improved building quality and public realm
- Improved air quality
- Compliance with legislation
- Unlock high quality, sustainable growth which increases the attractiveness of new homes and commercial properties
- Increased energy security
- Encourage innovation, skills, job creation and investment



Case Studies:

In 2022, the Council completed a £3.5 million portfolio of projects across three of its main buildings to further extend the biomass network (90% of which is sourced within The National Forest under management plans and felling licences), install solar panels and heat pumps, as well as upgrade LED lighting and building management systems. These projects produce a carbon saving of 388 tCO₂e and save the Council £137,000 a year.

The Public Health Warm Homes Team secured funding in 2021 to deliver energy efficiency measures to hundreds of low income and energy inefficient households across the county. The measures included double glazing, external wall, loft and cavity insulation, as well as low carbon air source heat pump heating systems and solar panels generating free clean renewable energy. The programme continues in partnership with the districts under Green Living Leicestershire.



ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Engagement								
B1	1, 2, 3	Provide information and materials to educate and engage residents in behaviour change, energy efficiency, low carbon sources of heating and renewable energy.	Lead	Low carbon industry Government Districts	S	L	M	18
B2	1, 2, 3	Continue to provide information, advice and signposting to households at risk of Fuel Poverty through First Contact Plus and Warm Homes Teams.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	S	L	L	9
B3	2, 3, 6	Engage with commercial building owners to share best practice on building retrofit and low carbon solutions including energy storage and renewables.	Lead	Low carbon industry Midlands Net Zero Hub Government	S / M	L	M	15
B4	1, 5	Continue to deliver and expedite smart metering programmes and introduce opportunities for new tariff structures which support flexible energy solutions.	Influence	BEIS Energy Companies	S	L	M	18

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Retrofit								
B5	2, 3, 6	Apply for future funding to support building retrofit for homes and other buildings.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	M	L	H	18
B6	2, 3, 6	Improve and extend the funding programmes for clean heat and energy efficiency.	Influence	BEIS	S	L	H	27
B7	2, 3, 6	Deliver the Sustainable Warmth programme for Leicestershire to increase the energy performance of homes across the county, reducing emissions and fuel poverty.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	S	L	M	18
B8	2, 3, 6	Secure funding to deliver retrofit programmes to social housing, increasing the energy performance of homes across the county and reducing emissions.	Ask	Districts Social Housing Providers	S	L	M	18
B9	2	Promote ECO funding, including utilisation of LA Flex mechanism.	Ask	Districts	S	L	M	18
B10	2	Enforce private rented and non-domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards regulations.	Ask	Districts	S	M	M	12
B11	3	Promote and encourage the uptake of government incentives for low carbon technologies including the Renewable Heat Incentive, Heat Pump Ready etc.	Lead	Government Residents Districts	S	L	M	18

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
B12	2, 3	Deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation of heat projects to a range of buildings including schools and education, health sector, public sector and business premises.	Ask	Districts LLEP	S / M	H	H	7.5
B13	2, 3, 4, 6	Explore opportunities for the Corporate Asset Investment Strategy to support net zero targets through retrofit, low carbon development, increased renewable energy generation and zero-carbon flagship development.	Lead		M	H	M	4
B14	2	Develop a new programme of business support for energy efficiency and carbon reduction to build on the success of Green Belle and Zellar pilot.	Ask	Leicester City LLEP Growth Hub	S	M	H	18
B15	2	Work collaboratively to deliver efficiencies or fuel switching to industrial processes	Ask	Businesses Universities	M / L	H	H	4.5
B16	2, 3	Improve the understanding of the building/ housing stock quality in Leicestershire.	Ask	Districts	S	M	L	6
B17	2, 3, 4, 6	Provide support to develop retrofit and renewable energy supply chains and skills.	Influence	BEIS	S / M	L	L	7.5

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Policy and Strategy								
B18	4, 6	Implement national planning policy and building standards that support net zero, including a high level of energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment.	Influence	DLUHC	S	L	H	27
B19	4, 6	Develop consistent local planning policies to support the net zero transition using an evidence-led approach to infrastructure, buildings and homes (including embodied carbon in new builds).	Ask	Districts Leicester City	S / M	M	H	15
B20	4, 6	Develop a vision and key principles for green growth and sustainable development in Leicestershire. Work with partners and as the County Planning Authority to adopt and integrate the vision into policies to protect and enhance the environment and support net zero.	Lead	Districts Leicester City	S	M	L	6
B21	4, 6	Review and update the Strategic Growth Plan to ensure it supports the transition to net zero carbon.	Ask	LLEP	S	M	L	6
B22	2, 6	Explore opportunities for developer contributions to support net zero infrastructure and carbon reduction projects in the revision of the County Council Planning Obligations Policy.	Lead	Developers Districts	S	M	M	12

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
B23	All	Investigate options for developing a Local Area Energy Plan including decarbonised heating and low carbon energy, working with key partners.	Lead	Districts Leicester City Public Sector Universities Business WPD National Grid	S	H	H	9
B24	3, 5, 6	Undertake research including heat mapping and identification of potential locations for energy projects, and secure funding to test innovative technologies to reduce carbon.	Ask	Universities Government Midlands Net Zero Hub	S / M	M	M	10
B25	3	Provide support with identifying potential locations for low carbon heat networks across the county.	Influence	HNDU	S / M	M	L	5
B26	2, 3	Review the Midlands Net Zero Hub commissioned District Eating findings and consider opportunities for delivery in Leicestershire.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub	M	M	M	8
B27	3	Explore opportunities and plan for Hydrogen Infrastructure.	Ask	Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub LLEP ERA	M / L	M	L	3

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
B28	All	Continue to support the Local Electricity Bill.	Influence	Parliament	S	L	L	9
B29	2, 3, 6	Provide an evidence base for new business models and financing options for low carbon technologies including Heat as a Service models.	Influence	BEIS	S / M	L	L	7.5
B30	All	Rebalance environmental levies between electricity and gas bills.	Influence	OFGEM	S	L	L	9
B31	All	Consider carbon pricing and its role in achieving net zero.	Influence	BEIS OFGEM LGA	S / M	L	L	7.5
B32	All	Deliver the Air Quality Partnership Action Plan to support carbon reduction.	Ask	Air Quality Partnership National Highways	S	M	L	6

Renewable Energy and Infrastructure

B33	6	Work collaboratively to increase renewable energy generation and storage through innovative business models, sourcing of investment and technical solutions.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub LLEP Districts Investors Universities	S / M	H	H	7.5
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ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
B34	6	Deliver the Solar Together Leicestershire group buying project to support householders to install solar photovoltaics and battery storage.	Ask	Districts i-Choosr	S	L	M	27
B35	2, 3, 6	Provide support for community energy including investment and business models.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub LLEP Government Investors	S / M	L	M	15
B36	5	Complete research to support investment in the electricity network in Leicestershire to deliver the capacity required for electrification of heat, transport and connection of generation assets.	Ask	WPD National Grid Ofgem	M / L	L	L	4.5
B37	5, 6	Promote and incentivise flexible energy and demand side management and facilitate increased energy storage capacity.	Ask	WPD National Grid Ofgem	L	L	M	6
B38	5, 6	Create fair and consistent markets and regulatory frameworks for low carbon generation and storage.	Influence	BEIS OFGEM	M	L	H	18



Resources and Waste

Aim: To support the transition to a circular economy including the sustainable extraction, use and end of life management of natural resources.

Objectives:

1. Reduce use of resources by encouraging circular economy principles and sustainable, local production and consumption goods.
2. Minimise waste, increase re-use and repair and increase recycling rates and low carbon waste disposal.
3. Facilitate a sustainable and resilient supply of water.

Co-benefits:

- Reduction in pollution to air, land and water
- Reduction to demand on natural resources
- Reduced costs
- Increased consumer choice
- Skills and job creation
- Improved health outcomes
- Increased social cohesion



Case Studies:

In 2021, the Council trialled new recycled and low carbon products and techniques in necessary highway improvements which recycled 5,000 tyres and saved 30 tCO₂e, compared to conventional resurfacing techniques. The Council's pilot project will go on to inform other local authorities as a case study on how to reduce emissions within highways projects across the UK.

The Leicestershire Food Plan looks at how we can reduce the environmental footprint of food, including carbon emissions associated with food production and consumption. Leicestershire Traded Services (LTS) is the Council's trading arm and provides school meals to over 32,000 children a day. LTS achieved Gold Food For Life Served Here for these meals, which includes 15% spend on organic produce, 5% on free range pork and poultry and reformulation of recipes to include 20% less meat by adding beans and pulses.



ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Waste								
R1	1, 2	Complete the review and adoption of Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy	Ask	Districts	M	H	H	6
R2	1, 2	Develop an action plan to deliver the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy	Ask	Districts	M	M	L	4
R3	1, 2	Continue to support residents to reduce food waste through national campaigns such as "Love Food Hate Waste"	Lead	Districts Government VCSE	S	M	L	6
R4	1, 2	Continue to support residents to implement home composting through provision of advice and guidance	Lead	Districts VCSE	S	L	L	9
R5	1, 2	Continue to deliver a programme of initiatives to increase reuse and prevent waste from arising	Ask	Districts VCSE	M	L	L	6
R6	1, 2	Continue to encourage residents to recycle right and reduce contamination in kerbside recycling	Lead	Districts	S	L	L	9
R7	1, 2	Continue to deliver a volunteer scheme to support and encourage residents to make positive behavioural changes	Lead		S	L	L	9

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Materials								
R8	1	Explore the opportunities for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan to support the move to a circular economy.	Lead	Districts Business	S	L	L	9
R9	1	Implement policy which seeks to eliminate single use materials.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9
R10	1	Support national resource reduction campaigns such as “Refill” and “long live the lunchbox”.	Ask	Districts Businesses	M	L	L	6
Food								
R11	1	Deliver the Sustainable Food Plan to reduce the carbon impact of food production, distribution and food waste	Ask	Sustainable Food Partnership	S	H	H	9
R12	1	Explore options for local procurement of sustainable food for Local Authority and Schools catering to increase demand and stimulate supply chains.	Lead	Businesses	M	L	M	12
R13	1	Support residents to grow their own food and buy local seasonal produce through the provision of advice and signposting.	Ask	Sustainable Food Partnership Districts	S	L	L	6

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Water								
R14	3	Ensure a sustainable and resilient supply of water through leak reduction, customer education, provision of water efficiency measures, smart metering.	Ask	Water Companies	S	L	M	18
R15	3	Introduce more stringent water efficiency targets in national policy and regulations.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6
R16	3	Consider water consumption in local plans including provision for water efficiency metrics in new developments.	Ask	Districts	S / M	L	L	7.5
R17	3	Support residents and businesses to reduce water consumption through provision of advice and signposting.	Ask	Districts VCSE	M	L	L	6
R18	3	Introduce water efficiency product labelling.	Influence	Government	L	L	L	3



Business and Economy

Aim: To help businesses to “go green”, grow the County’s low carbon economy and increase demand for low carbon goods and services.

Objectives:

1. Support businesses to go green and benefit from the low carbon economy
2. Attract low carbon business, industry and investment and develop local supply chains and circular economy
3. Identify and develop skills to support the net zero transition
4. Stimulate demand for low carbon goods and services
5. Encourage the uptake of green tourism and opportunities for green spending

Co-benefits:

- Creation of jobs
- Increased Gross Value Added
- Increased inward investment
- Increased productivity
- Place marketing opportunities including incentive packages, increased attractiveness to businesses and visitor economy
- Increased job variety and opportunities and associated wellbeing benefits
- Increased consumer choice

Emissions from Business and Economy are included within Building and Energy emissions graph.

Case Studies:

Since 2017 Leicestershire County Council has been a delivery partner with Leicester City Council in the Green BELLE project. The project provided 50% grant funding, up to a maximum of £10,000, to Small or Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) across the city and the county, to support them in reducing carbon emissions from their businesses. The project aims to fund over 200 businesses and reduce annual carbon emissions by over 1,500 tonnes of CO₂e. Measures supported included the installation of LED lighting, insulation, double glazing, solar panels, and improved heating and lighting controls. The grant awarding phase of the project ended in mid-August 2022 with the project due to close at the end of June 2023 after completion of the installation and data monitoring phases. Almost £1m has been awarded to businesses during the life of the project.

H2GVMids is helping the Midlands make the transition to hydrogen powered HGVs. H2GVMids is a project working across the Midlands to develop a strong business case for investing in a physical trial of hydrogen fuelled 44 tonne HGV's, hydrogen generation and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure. The project has drawn together a strong partnership led by EDF and Midlands Engine and included many public and private sector partners including LEP's, vehicle manufacturers, clean tech innovators, renewable generators and hydrogen refuelling station operators. Leicestershire is well placed with a number of key partners based here, and the majority of freight movements passing through the county.



ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Policy and Strategy								
E1	1, 2, 3, 4	Deliver the Economic Growth Strategy and ensure economic plans and programmes support the net zero transition.	Ask	LLEP Leicester City Universities Chamber	S / M	L	L	7.5
E2	1, 2, 3	Develop a Digital Strategy and consider the role of digital technology and skills in delivering net zero targets, including smart metering, artificial intelligence, weather modelling, smart grids, 5G rollout, enabling flexible working solutions etc.	Lead	LLEP	S	L	M	18
E3	1, 2, 4	Develop an Inward Investment Strategy which considers low carbon goods and services.	Lead	Leicester City LLEP	S	L	L	9
E4	1, 2, 3	Develop the Freeport around East Midlands Airport integrating low carbon solutions and pilots.	Lead	Freeport partners	M	L	L	6
E5	2, 4	Develop a pipeline of projects to enable raising of capital and innovative investment models, linking to development of the Net Zero Funding Strategy and specific opportunities such as the Levelling Up agenda and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	Lead	Districts LLEP	S / M	L	M	15
E6	4	Provide consistent policy which stimulates growth in the low carbon goods and services sector.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Business Support								
E7	1	Provide support to businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and develop low carbon goods and services through the Growth Hub provision.	Ask	LLEP Growth Hub Leicester City Chamber Business	S / M	H	H	7.5
E8	1	Explore opportunities for business training, education and events.	Ask	Chamber Growth Hub LLEP	S / M	L	L	7.5
E9	1	Evaluate the Zellar platform pilot and determine next steps.	Ask	LLEP	S / M	L	L	7.5
E10	1, 2, 3, 4	Support businesses to reduce costs and mitigate against energy price rises and ensure continued growth and job creation within the renewable energy sector, through generation of on site renewable energy and development of joint ventures for large scale local energy projects.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Government	M	H	H	6
E11	1	Support landowners and land managers to access economic support including the Environmental Land Management Scheme, and Biodiversity Net Gain opportunities.	Lead	LRP NFU LLEP	M	M	M	8

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
E12	1, 5	Promote green tourism and green business opportunities in the county and review the tourism growth plan to support net zero ambitions and opportunities.	Lead		S / M	M	M	10
E13	1, 4	Promote best practice through case studies and communications.	Lead	LLEP	M	L	L	8
E14	1, 2	Consider options for low carbon business to business mentoring, peer support and knowledge share.	Ask	LLEP Leicester City Districts Chamber	M	M	L	2
E15	2	Enable innovation through innovation pilots and dissemination of knowledge.	Influence	BEIS Innovate UK KTN	S	M	L	6
E16	1	Work with others to gather evidence on the large greenhouse gas emitters in Leicestershire.	Ask	LLEP Universities Leicester City	S	M	M	12
E17	2	Seek opportunities to increase SME incubation, business development provision and consider how to optimise links between R&D funding and investment in industry, to attract venture capital, start-up entrepreneurs and investors to grow a larger and dynamic start-up community.	Ask	Districts LLEP	L	M	L	2

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Supply Chain								
E18	1	Work with supply chains to reduce carbon and increase the offering of low carbon goods and services.	Ask	Districts Universities Business	S / M	M	H	15
E19	All	Consider how council investments can support the net zero transition, including development of a Pension Climate Strategy.	Lead	Leicestershire LGPS Committee/ Board	S	L	M	18
E20	2	Promote circular economy principles to industry to decouple economic growth from the consumption of finite resources.	Ask	LLEP Universities	M / L	M	M	6
E21	3, 4	Support the delivery of zero carbon new builds and energy efficiency retrofit by building the supply chain for local skilled labour, low carbon products and retrofit skills, including securing funding for delivery programmes and considering social value requirements in procurement exercises.	Lead	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP Developers Business	S / M	L	M	15
E22	2	Support industrial innovation in renewable energy technology through research and pilots.	Ask	CREST Universities	L	H	M	2

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
E23	4, 5	Consider approaches to maximising natural capital in the county, with economic benefits, including growth in visitor economy, creation of forestry and land management jobs, and sale of carbon credits.	Lead	National Forest Woodland Trust LRWT Land owners and managers LRP NFU LLEP	M	M	M	8
E24	1, 2, 4	Support the delivery of low carbon transport by promoting and expanding existing advanced manufacturing facilities and research organisations.	Ask	Industry Business Universities	L	M	M	4
E25	2, 3	Build the hydrogen value chain in the county including hydrogen skills, production, distribution and demand, particularly within the logistics sector, including participation in the Hydex project, launch of the Freeport hydrogen skills hub pilot and building on the success of existing projects such as H2GEAR and H2GVMids.	Ask	ERA Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub Midlands Connect	S / M	M	M	10
E26	9	Work with partners to investigate and support the delivery of scalable carbon capture and storage technologies.	Ask	Universities Districts Business Energy Companies	M	H	M	4

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
E27	1, 2, 4	Use of Enterprise Zones to support low carbon sector industry and business clusters and increase R&D capacity in the county through securing investment and delivery of pilot projects.	Ask	LLEP Universities	L	H	L	1
E28	1, 2	Incentivise the low carbon economy through financial mechanisms such as VAT and other tax relief, enhanced capital allowances etc.	Influence	Government	S	L	M	18
Skills								
E29	3	Develop a Skills Strategy, addressing the skills shortages and weaknesses in training provision identified in the Midlands Energy Hub Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services Market Insight Study, and promoting acceleration and diversity in upskilling and reskilling.	Ask	LLEP Universities FE Colleges	S	M	M	12
E30	3	Work with partners to raise awareness of green jobs with school age children.	Ask	LLEP Careers Hub Business	M	L	L	6
E31	3	Work with partners to promote green courses and increase availability of different courses.	Ask	FE colleges	M	L	L	6
E32	3, 4	Continue to provide funding for skills and product development and long-term programmes of delivery.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6



Communities

Aim: To inform, engage and involve residents and communities in identifying and delivering local solutions to achieve net zero carbon.

Objectives:

1. Raise awareness of the climate emergency and the net zero targets
2. Promote and enable sustainable consumption and behaviours that reduce carbon emissions
3. Deliver a fair and just transition to net zero carbon emissions that maximises the co-benefits for health, the economy and nature
4. Deliver inclusive information, engagement and consultation, and embrace innovative methods, to help everybody to have their say on our plans and take action
5. Enable community climate action

Co-benefits:

- Active, healthy lifestyles
- Reduced costs
- Improved local environment for wellbeing and health
- Increased social cohesion
- Community development, connection and inclusion
- Participation in public life
- Skills development and employment opportunities

Emissions from Communities are included within other emissions graphs.

Case Studies:

Participation People engaged with over 500 of Leicestershire's young people throughout Leicestershire County Council's Net Zero Consultation. Their team of young researchers created a bespoke survey for young people, held listening labs and ran a creative competition, in order to find out young people's views on climate change. LCC incorporated the results and priorities into the final version of the Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan, and will continue to explore ways to incorporate young people's views in net zero decision making.

Environment Action Volunteers

Environment Action Volunteers (EAVs) are Leicestershire residents who actively support the work of the County Council Waste and Environment teams on a voluntary basis. They actively engage with Leicestershire residents to raise awareness of key issues including household food waste prevention; home composting, recycling and contamination; biodiversity loss and climate change. EAVs work with individuals, community groups, charities and educational establishments and can perform a range of tasks including the provision of advice, educational talks, workshops and classes, attending events with stalls, and lending practical support and expertise on a range of topics.



ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Engagement								
C1	All	Develop a Leicestershire Climate Pact for organisations, businesses and residents to join and pledge action.	Lead	All partners Business Residents	S	L	L	9
C2	All	Develop a public engagement plan to facilitate an ongoing two-way conversation on climate change action to understand and respond to community experience.	Lead	Districts and local councils Health partners Businesses Residents Education Universities	S	L	M	18
C3	3, 4	Deliver public and stakeholder engagement that is representative and inclusive to develop and deliver a just transition to net zero with widespread public participation.	Lead	Districts Universities	S	L	L	9
C4	3, 4	Explore options for innovative community governance, including a Citizens Panel, Youth Co-creation and Challenge Group.	Lead	Residents VCSE	S	M	L	6

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
C5	All	Develop a coordinated and integrated information campaign to help residents make environmentally sustainable choices for their homes, travel and consumption.	Lead	Districts and local councils Health partners Businesses Residents Education Universities	S	L	L	9
C6	1	Explore opportunities to increase training, education and events, including carbon literacy.	Ask	Districts VCSE Education Universities	M	L	L	4
C7	All	Provide information and training to the County Council's Environmental Action Volunteers to support net zero.	Lead	EAVs	S	L	L	9
C8	4	Integrate net zero into linked consultation and engagement activity to test public attitudes and experience.	Lead		M	L	L	6
C9	1, 2, 5	Develop targeted campaigns and opportunities to involve young people in shaping climate action, including working closely with schools.	Lead	Voice Network LLEP Careers Hub Youth Council Children in Care Council Education Youth groups	S	L	L	9

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
C10	All	Work with Public Health services e.g. Local Area Coordinators, community recovery, green social prescribing, Warm Homes, Good Food Leicestershire to maximise the opportunities to promote climate action with co-benefits for health.	Lead	Health partners	S	L	L	9
C11	2, 5	Develop tools and guidance to support communities to reduce carbon.	Ask	Universities Districts	S / M	L	L	7.5
C12	2, 5	Production of national campaigns and toolkits to support consistent messages and promote personal action.	Influence	Government VCSE	S	L	L	9

Enabling Action

C13	5	Support community action to reduce carbon through the SHIRE Environment Grants programme.	Lead		S	M	M	12
C14	5	Explore opportunities for community sector organisations to support on net zero activities.	Lead	VCSE	S / M	L	L	7.5

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
C15	5	Investigate funding opportunities to increase the capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector for net zero in Leicestershire, for example, the National Lottery Climate Action Fund.	Lead	National Lottery	M	L	L	4
C16	1, 2, 5	Enable local Parish and Town councils to act on carbon reduction through information and training.	Ask	Local Councils	S	L	L	9
C17	1, 2, 5	Share best practice case studies of community action and disseminate useful information.	Lead	Districts VCSE	M	L	L	6
C18	2	Improved product labelling to help consumers identify green / climate friendly options.	Influence	Government	M	L	M	12
C19	2	Share information on local businesses to encourage residents to “shop local”.	Ask	Districts Growth Hub LLEP	S / M	L	I	7.5
C20	2	Harness the purchasing power of individuals, business and communities to stimulate and grow green supply chains.	Influence	All partners	M	L	M	12
C21	2	Explore incentive schemes to facilitate behaviour change.	Ask	Districts	M / L	L	L	4.5



Nature and Land Use

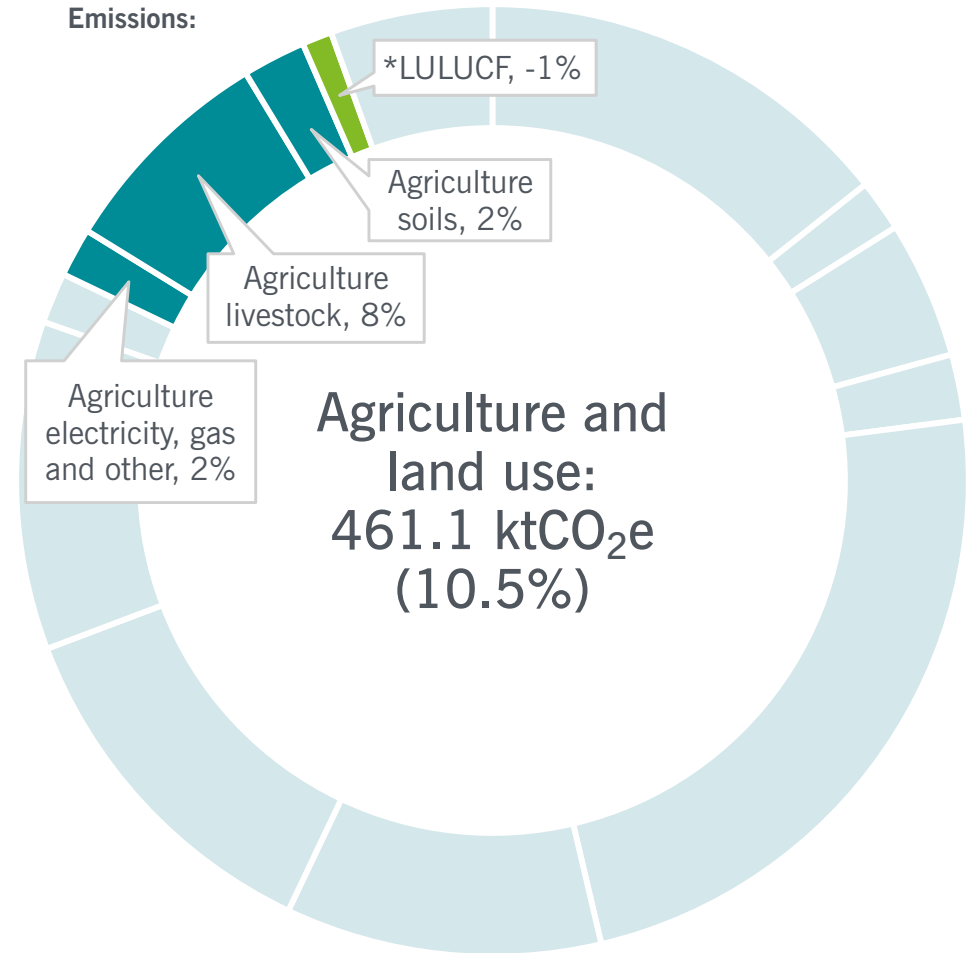
Aim: To develop a growing and resilient network of land and water that is richer in plants and wildlife, optimises carbon storage and supports climate resilience.

Objectives:

1. Develop and maintain high quality data to inform decisions and action for nature and carbon storage
2. Protect and enhance existing spaces for nature that may also remove and store carbon as an additional benefit
3. Create new, well-connected spaces for nature that provide the greatest opportunity for nature recovery and other public goods
4. Promote land management practices that benefit nature, increase carbon storage and generate energy to support the net zero transition

Co-benefits:

- Ecosystem preservation and enhancement in biodiversity
- Contributions to climate change adaptation (e.g. flood resilience)
- Reduced air and noise pollution
- Improved soil quality
- Reduced water demand
- Improved green spaces
- Improved wellbeing



*Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

Case Studies:

Leicestershire is one of the least wooded areas of the country, currently around 6% woodland - well below the national average of 10%. The Council's ambition is to help to plant 700,000 trees - a tree for every person who lives in the county, vastly increasing its tree cover. Trees and woodlands play an important part in carbon reduction, and help to enhance the environment, provide clean air, improve soil quality and reduce flooding.

Leicestershire County Council in partnership with local wildlife charity NatureSpot is working with Parish Councils and local communities to improve biodiversity and encourage wildlife, by leaving wildflowers to flourish on urban roadside verges across Leicestershire. More than 50 parishes have signed up to the scheme, which involves volunteers and parishes giving their time to restore the verges, including the sowing of native wildflower seeds where needed and learning about the local wildlife within these important habitats which now cover an area equivalent to two standard football pitches.



ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
Nature and Carbon Storage								
N1	All	Develop a Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire in line with government guidance when available.	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest LRWT Neighbouring authorities and Local Councils Leicester City Land owners and managers VCSE Natural England Environment Agency	S / M	M	L	5
N2	All	Publish national guidance and best practice on Nature Recovery Strategies.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9
N3	1	Complete further research to develop a comprehensive baseline evidence base of the state of nature and carbon storage for Leicestershire.	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest LRWT	S / M	M	L	5

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
N4	1	Build on the work of the Leicester and Leicestershire Natural Capital Strategy Assessment to develop opportunity mapping and create a natural capital investment plan to support net zero carbon.	Ask	LLEP Districts LRWT National Forest	M / L	M	L	3
N5	All	Implement the Action for Nature Delivery Plan and seek to identify carbon storage benefits where appropriate, particularly on the council's own estate.	Lead	Tenants	S	H	M	6
N6	All	Develop and implement Biodiversity Net Gain policy and approach for Leicestershire.	Lead	Districts	S	M	M	12
N7	All	Explore opportunities for the council to be a biodiversity and carbon offset provider.	Lead		S / M	M	L	5
N8	1	Bid for funding to develop the evidence base for ecosystem services including carbon sequestration.	Lead	LRWT Districts National Forest	M	L	L	6
N9	2, 3	Restore wet woodlands and other carbon rich habitats on council sites and promote case studies.	Lead		S	H	L	3
N10	2, 3	Deliver natural flood risk management schemes which support nature and offer carbon storage benefits where appropriate.	Lead	Environment Agency Landowners and Managers	S	H	L	3

ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
N11	4	Promote natural flood risk management to landowners, highlighting the wider benefits for the local area.	Ask	VCSE Environment Agency	M	L	L	6
N12	2, 3	Deliver the County Council's Tree Strategy and commitment to plant 700,000 trees by 2030.	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest Business Residents	S / M	M	M	10
N13	1	Complete the Value of Trees project and consider rollout of toolkit.	Lead	ADEPT	S	L	L	9
N14	1	Continue work to quantify the carbon storage benefits of planted versus naturally regenerated woodland.	Ask	Forestry Research Council	S	M	L	6
N15	4	Investigate natural negative emissions processes e.g. biochar.	Ask	Universities	M / L	M	L	3

Land Management and Use

N16	4	Provide information and support to landowners and tenants wishing to maximise the benefit of land assets for public goods such as biodiversity, carbon reduction and climate resilience.	Ask	NFU Natural England LLEP Districts	S / M	L	M	15
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ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon saving	Deliverability score
N17	1	Explore opportunities to gain a better understanding of the carbon and nature benefits of local food procurement and improved land management and how to measure and monitor improvements, particularly on the council's own farms.	Lead	Tenants	S / M	L	L	7.5
N18	1	Invest in additional research to improve understanding of carbon impact of different land management.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9
N19	2, 3	Develop a single council policy to reflect the multiple objectives for land use and the need to ensure 'additionality' is gained for nature, particularly where several benefits are to be claimed e.g. biodiversity net gain, climate resilience, carbon storage.	Lead		M	L	L	6
N20	All	Consider nature and land use in local plans and requirements for developers e.g. Street trees, preservation and creation of green spaces, prioritisation of brownfield sites for development and land for energy generation assets.	Ask	Districts	S / M	L	M	15

4. Next Steps

We will continue to develop and improve the Net Zero Strategy and Net Zero Action Plan over time, including formal review points as set out above. We have identified the following areas where additional work is required, which will be delivered alongside the action plan.

- Improve accuracy of priority ratings to better quantify the cost of delivering the plan and the carbon that will be saved.
- Add co-benefits and savings into scoring
- Map delivery against the decarbonisation pathways to determine how successful the plan will be in achieving the pace and scale of change required
- Set five year carbon budgets to track progress and drive action
- Develop Key Performance Indicators to improve tracking of performance of key actions
- Develop a Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy to demonstrate how we will address the impacts of climate change that are locked in.



5. Appendices



Appendix A: Stakeholders

We have identified a range of stakeholders that will support and lead on delivering action, a glossary is found below:

ADEPT

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport; place directors who are responsible for providing day to day services including local highways, recycling, waste and planning

Air Quality Partnership

Multiagency partnership supporting air quality improvements in Leicestershire

BEIS

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; government department

Business

All commercial businesses operating within Leicestershire

Careers Hub

LLEP led careers support

CCN

Countryside Climate Network; UK100-led local authority network

Chamber

East Midlands Chamber of Commerce; business network and support

Children in Care Council / Voice Network / Youth Council / Youth Groups

Groups or partnerships supporting and engaging young people in Leicestershire

CREST

Centre for Renewable Energy Systems Technology; Loughborough University department

Developers

Organisations constructing, redeveloping or refurbishing buildings and infrastructure.

DfT

Department for Transport; government department

Districts

Leicestershire's District and Borough Councils: Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinkley and Bosworth, Oadby and Wigston, and North West Leicestershire

DLUHC

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; government department

EAVs

Environment Action Volunteers; a network of volunteers supporting environmental projects and education in Leicestershire

Education

Schools, colleges and other education providers in Leicestershire

Energy Companies

Organisations responsible for supplying energy to customers

Energy Saving Trust

Energy advice organisation

Enterprise Zones

Designated areas across England that provide tax breaks and Government support

Environment Agency

Government body

ERA

Energy Research Accelerator; university-led research and project delivery partnership

FE

Further Education; colleges and other further education providers in Leicestershire

Forestry Research Council

National forestry and tree-related research organisation

Freeport

East Midlands Freeport; Freeports are special areas within the UK's borders where different economic regulations apply

Great British Rail

Government body

Growth Hub

Leicestershire business support organisation

H2GEAR

Hydrogen research project.

H2GV

The Hydrogen Heavy Goods Vehicles Midlands research project

Health Partners

Organisations offering health services such as the NHS (National Health Service)

HNDU

Heat Network Delivery Unit; government department

HS2 Ltd

High Speed 2; company responsible for developing and promoting the UK's new high speed rail network

iChoosr

rganisation delivering the Solar Together collective purchasing project

Innovate UK

Government body

Investors

Organisations seeking to fund projects

KTN

Knowledge Transfer Network; government funded organisation supporting innovation

Land owners and managers

Individuals or organisations owning or managing land in Leicestershire

Leicester City

Leicester City Council

Leicestershire LGPS

Local Government Pension Scheme; managing pensions in Leicestershire

Leicestershire Waste Partnership

Partnership (Leicestershire County Council and the district councils)_ delivering Leicestershire's municipal waste management strategy

LEVI

Low Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure fund

LGA

Local Government Association; local authority membership organisation

LLEP

Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership; leads economic prosperity activity across the Leicester and Leicestershire area.

Local Councils

Town and Parish councils in Leicestershire

Low carbon industry

organisations providing services and advice relating to low carbon solutions

LRP

Leicestershire Rural Partnership; improving services and support to rural communities and businesses

LRWT

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust; environmental charity

MHA

Midlands Highway Alliance; partnership promoting excellence in the delivery of highway services,

Midlands Connect

Transport research and project delivery organisation

Midlands Net Zero Hub

Government funded local authority support organisation

National Forest

Leads the creation of the National Forest, a wooded landscape for the nation across 200 square miles of central England

National Grid

Energy company focussed on transmission and distribution of electricity and gas

National Highways

Organisation managing motorways and major roads

National Lottery

Funding body

Neighbouring authorities

Local authorities neighbouring Leicestershire for

example Rutland County Council

NFU

National Farmers' Union; organisation representing farmers

OFGEM

Office of Gas and Electricity Markets; government department

Public Transport providers

Organisations operating public transport such as buses in Leicestershire

Residents

All residents of Leicestershire

Social housing providers

Organisations responsible for providing and managing social housing

Sustainable Food partnership

Partnership supporting sustainable food production and supply chains in Leicestershire

Tenants

Tenants of LCC owned farms or buildings

Transport for East Midlands

Provides collective leadership on strategic transport issues in the East Midlands

Universities

Universities based in Leicestershire or with a specialism which can support delivery

VCSE

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations based in Leicestershire or operating nationally

Water Companies

Organisations responsible for supplying water to customers

Woodland Trust

National environmental charity

WPD

Western Power Distribution; electricity distribution network operator

Appendix B: Associated Strategies and Schemes

We have referred to a range of associated strategies and schemes in the action plan. Links to these are found below.

Transport

Local Transport Plan: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/local-transport-plan

Leicestershire Highway Design Guide: <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/leicestershire-highway-design-guide>

Cycling and Walking Strategy: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2021/7/27/Cycling-and-walking-strategy.pdf

Choose How You Move: www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/

Bus Service Improvement Plan: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/buses-and-public-transport/bus-service-improvement-plan-bsip

Buildings and Energy

First Contact Plus: <https://firstcontactplus.org.uk/>

Sustainable Warmth: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-schemes-and-funding/green-living-leicestershire-home-energy-grant

Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2021/8/2/MTFS21-Appendix-H-CAIF-Strategic-Report-21-25.pdf

Strategic Growth Plan: www.l1strategicgrowthplan.org.uk/

County Council Planning Obligations Policy: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2019/8/16/Planning-Obligations-Policy.pdf

Air Quality Partnership Action Plan: <https://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s155032/Appendix%20-%20Air%20Quality%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Resources and Waste

Draft Resources and Waste Strategy: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2022/1/27/draft-resources-and-waste-strategy-2022-2050.pdf

Minerals and Waste Local Plan: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/minerals-and-waste-local-plan/local-plan-adoption

Sustainable Food Plan: www.leicester.gov.uk/media/swwbnp/leicester-s-food-plan-2021-2026.pdf

Business and Economy

Economic Growth Strategy: <https://lep.org.uk/economic-growth-strategies/economic-growth-strategy/>

Communities

Environmental Action Volunteers: www.lesswaste.org.uk/community-engagement/volunteering/

SHIRE Environment Grants: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-schemes-and-funding/community-grants/shire-environment-grant

Nature and Land Use

Leicester and Leicestershire Natural Capital Strategy Assessment: <https://lep.org.uk/our-economy/natural-capital-strategic-assessment/>

Action for Nature Delivery Plan: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2021/8/16/action-for-nature-strategic-approach-to-biodiversity.pdf

Tree Charter: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2021/11/30/Leicestershire-tree-charter.pdf

Tree Management Strategy: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2021/2/16/Tree-Management-Strategy-2020-2025.pdf

To find out more about Leicestershire's Net Zero plans visit:
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/netzero

