



Bolton Climate Change Strategy

Annual Report
2021-2022

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1 Introduction

Taking steps to reduce our carbon emissions does more than just tackle climate change.

It also brings huge opportunities to improve people's health, grow our economy and make Bolton a cleaner and greener place to live.

Bolton Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and, working with our partners in the Bolton Vision Partnership, we have set out an ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Our Bolton Climate Change Strategy was shaped by businesses, schools, the voluntary and community sector and residents. It sets out our local

priorities and how we as a town can all play our part in acting on climate change.

This first annual report highlights some key projects and achievements from the last year and outlines our intentions for the coming year.

We have much to be proud of, but we also have much to do. Together we can take action to reduce carbon emissions and improve our environment in Bolton.

Sue Johnson
Chief Executive
Bolton Council

2 Reaching net zero

Bolton's climate change strategy was prepared by Bolton Council on behalf of the Bolton Vision partnership and approved in September 2021.

The partnership brings together organisations from across Bolton, including Bolton at Home, the University of Bolton, Bolton Community and Voluntary Service, Bolton College, NHS Bolton Foundation Trust and the council.

To reach our target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030, we first need to get our collective emissions as close to zero as possible. Then, any remaining emissions will need to be removed from the atmosphere by carbon capture, such as by planting trees.

This is a huge challenge. One of the first tasks is establishing our starting position or carbon baseline for the Bolton Vision partnership. Once we have this, we can then prioritise projects that have the most potential to reduce carbon emissions.

This is an important step because we are all at different stages in baselining our carbon emissions and mapping our pathway to net zero.

As this work evolves over the coming year, we will establish a 'carbon baseline' for the whole of the partnership, which will allow us to track our progress to net zero.

This report provides an overview of progress to date and lists our priorities for the next year for each of the six pillars of our climate change strategy.

This year's progress...



Climate change is now one of the four priority programmes for the Bolton Vision partnership.

This is because the partners recognise that we all need to be working together to tackle this important issue. Over the last year we have set up a multi-agency climate change delivery team that will help us to work collaboratively towards the targets in our climate change strategy and associated delivery plan.

We have also established a clear governance structure to ensure we have a strong focus, clear direction and are held to account.

We are joining national, regional and local environmental campaigns, projects and initiatives to help us encourage everyone across Bolton to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint.

Achievements

A climate change hackathon took place in November 2021 in collaboration with the University of Bolton.



Bolton's Fund has awarded **£37,409** for eleven climate change projects.

An additional **£2,948** was awarded to six youth-led climate change projects.



The Bolton Food and Drink Festival was the most sustainable ever.



Priorities for next year...

The Youth Environment Summit, covered by Granada news, took place in June 2021.

Over 300 children from 76 schools around Bolton joined in a range of climate change awareness activities, including building bug hotels, learning about plant-based meals, practical sessions on recycling and greenspaces and many more. All young delegates also had lots of opportunities to discuss their ideas and priorities for the environment.

Places for Everyone, the joint development plan for nine of Greater Manchester's districts, including Bolton, set the target for all new development to be net zero from 2028.

Bolton Council, Bolton at Home and Bolton NHS Foundation Trust launched carbon literacy training to equip staff with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to make greener choices at work and at home.

NHS Bolton launched its Green Plan.



Bolton businesses continued to be supported by Greater Manchester's Business Growth hub. Between September 2021 and September 2022, eight Bolton SME's registered for the Journey to Net Zero programme, along with 12 SME's accessing resource efficiency grants.

Bolton at Home launched its climate change strategy.

- Develop a climate change impacts tool for all council reports.
- The University of Bolton will launch its Climate Environmental Sustainability strategy.
- Update the council's website to include more information on climate change.
- Continue to roll out carbon literacy training across the Bolton Vision partnership.
- Expand plant-based menus at Bolton schools.
- Survey council staff on climate change.
- Hold another Big Climate Conversation public survey.



Homes, communities, health and wellbeing

Transport accounts for 40% of Bolton's carbon emissions.¹

Active travel schemes, which make it easier for people to get around by walking and cycling, are vital to reducing this and are being delivered across Bolton.

For example, on Manchester Road work has started on segregated cycle lanes to make it safer for people to ride their bikes.

We also continue to work with Transport for Greater Manchester to promote campaigns that encourage our residents to leave the car at home. Over the last year this has included the Get on Board campaign, aimed at promoting the use of public transport, and the Let's Get Moving campaign, which encourages people to walk and cycle more.

The energy used in homes accounts for nearly 24% of all carbon emissions in Bolton.² We have encouraged Bolton residents to take up national or regional housing efficiency schemes such as the Green Homes Grant.

Bolton's largest social housing provider, Bolton at Home, continues to support its tenants in making their homes energy efficient through retrofit schemes, advice and support.

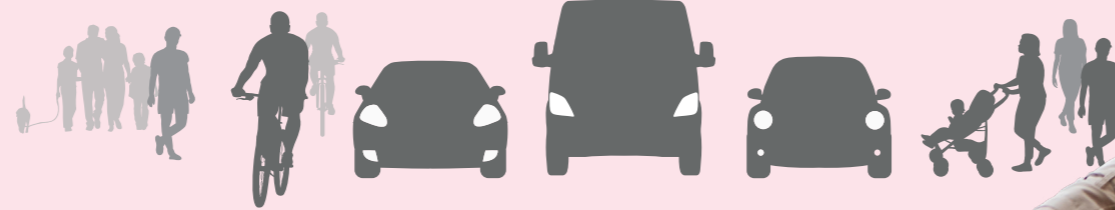
¹UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions - data.gov.uk
²UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions - data.gov.uk

Achievements



Public consultations took place on active travel schemes for Horwich, Farnworth and Bolton town centre west.

A public consultation was held on Phase 1 of the Farnworth Streets for All scheme.



A fully segregated pedestrian and cycle network was installed along the Trinity Street corridor and includes the first cyclops junction in Bolton.



Priorities for next year...

- Apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation fund for funding to install energy efficiency measures in properties owned by Bolton at Home.
- Continue to promote energy efficiency schemes and support services.
- Engage with companies that provide charging points and infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- Roll out zero emission buses in Bolton under Greater Manchester's plans to bring bus services back under local control.
- Continue to grow Bolton's Bee Network cycling and walking schemes.

140 energy efficiency and renewable energy measures were installed in Bolton homes, funded through the Green Homes Grant scheme.

32 Bolton at Home electric heated properties were fitted with air source heat pumps.



The Greater Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure strategy was launched.





Buildings, transport and operations

The challenge in this area is for the organisations in the Bolton Vision partnership to reduce the carbon emissions from their activities.

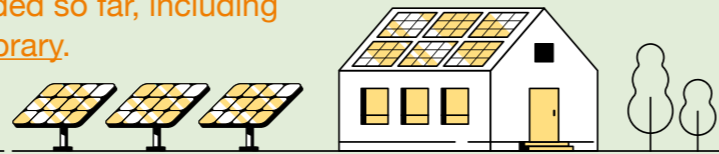
This includes the energy we use in our buildings, the waste we produce, what we buy, how we use our land and how we operate our vehicles. It also includes how our staff travel to and from work and when going about their jobs.

We are working to decarbonise the buildings and land we use. This means moving from fossil-fuel based heating systems in our buildings towards low carbon or renewable alternatives. This is vitally important if we are to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

We have continued to adopt digital technologies that allow people to work flexibly, including from home. This helps to reduce the amount of travelling that staff have to do, whether to meetings or for commuting. When people need to commute, we are helping them to

Achievements

The council was awarded £2.41m as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. This is to make the council's estate more energy efficient by installing renewable technologies such as solar panels and air source heat pumps. Thirteen school and corporate buildings have been upgraded so far, including [Westhoughton Library](#).



choose cycling, walking and public transport by installing cycle shelters and promoting cycle to work schemes.

Recycle4GM continues to provide information and advice to Bolton residents and businesses. The [Recycle4GM Community Fund](#) is a joint initiative from Recycle4GM and waste company Suez that helps to deliver projects aimed at reducing household waste, increasing recycling and encouraging reuse.

Every year, it gives out £220,000 to community and voluntary projects.

We are also working to maximise social value when going about our business, by including it in our procurements and contracts. Social value is about the additional value created in delivering services that have wider benefits for communities and the public. It's not just 'value' in the financial sense, but in a wider social, environmental and economic sense.

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust has established its carbon baseline and its progress is highlighted in the recent Bolton NHS Green Plan.

Initiatives include:

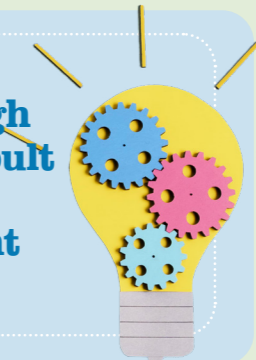
- ✓ Introduction of digital systems to facilitate remote working, reducing travel emissions
- ✓ Providing community staff with wi-fi enabled devices to avoid unnecessary travel
- ✓ Reuse of walking aids
- ✓ Introduction of digital menus to reduce food and paper waste
- ✓ Diversion of food waste to anaerobic digestion



19 new refuse collection trucks that emit less CO₂ have been added to the council's fleet, replacing older and less efficient vehicles. They also improve air quality by reducing emissions of particulates and nitrogen oxide by **90%**.

Social value is a priority for the Bolton Vision partnership. It has been joined by the Chamber of Commerce and the Bolton Family, which is a business membership group whose central purpose is to maximise social value within Bolton's businesses and communities.

A local area energy plan has been produced for the borough by the Energy Systems Catapult and council officers are considering how to implement the recommendations.



Little Lever's new community centre and library has solar panels on the roof, electric car charging points and a design that makes the most of natural light, significantly reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and ensuring a BREEAM rating of very good.

Priorities for next year...

- Develop a council-wide carbon management plan.
- Carry out a study into the potential for renewable energy on council land and buildings.
- The University of Bolton will produce its roadmap to net zero.
- The Bolton Vision partnership will develop ways to measure social value.
- A project to use vegetable oils in fuels for the council's refuse collection trucks will be piloted.





Natural environment and climate resilience

Achievements

Alongside the council and the Bolton Vision partners, a huge number of environmental groups and organisations work to improve Bolton's green spaces and biodiversity.

The £2.6m Greater Manchester Green Spaces fund opened in 2022, seeking community projects to improve local green spaces or create new ones where they are needed most. Bolton had one of the 21 successful projects announced in round one.

Air pollution concentrations have improved over the last ten years.

Queens Park benefitted from a further **750 trees** to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and contribute to the Queens Green Canopy project.

Bolton and Bury Swifts is working with the council to incorporate swift boxes into the new Jubilee building on Crompton Way.

Blackrod community orchard was planted in March 2022, one of five orchards to be planted throughout the borough.

Bradshaw Brook Fly Fishing Club has received a grant of **£5,000** to eradicate Japanese knotweed below the Jumbles dam.

13,500 new trees were planted creating **7.6 hectares** of new woodland in 2021, as tree planting continued in partnership with City of Trees.

Priorities for next year...

- Continue with tree planting schemes in partnership with City of Trees, which is also bidding for DEFRA funding to help landowners identify projects.
- Hold a public consultation on the new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan proposals in early 2023, subject to government feedback on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's case for a new investment-led clean air plan.
- Lancashire Wildlife Trust will deliver nature recovery projects as part of the Greater Manchester wetlands programme.

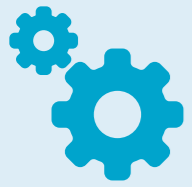
Lancashire Wildlife Trust continues to operate the Hive at Moss Bank Park, which encourages young people to make lasting connections with nature through creative play. The trust is also continuing its nature restoration projects including the work at Red Moss.

The council and Bolton at Home have been awarded **£85,000** from the Levelling Up Parks fund to improve access to greenspace in deprived communities that have low levels of open space.

Bolton Forum for Greenspaces is working with Greater Manchester Natural Course to map and treat invasive non-native species in the River Irwell catchment.

Bolton North East Wildlife Trail was one of the 21 successful projects that received funding from round one of the Greater Manchester Green Spaces fund. It will enhance the biodiversity of Leverhulme Park.

Bolton Green Umbrella organised two natural environment activities at the Youth Environment Summit in June.



Skills for a sustainable future

We want Bolton residents to be able to take new and emerging job opportunities in the green sector.

We are supporting projects and initiatives that aim to help our residents gain the knowledge and skills that will be needed as we move to a low carbon economy.

Low carbon jobs include construction and engineering jobs such as installing heat pumps and retrofit. They also include jobs in waste management, energy, transport, the natural environment and the many jobs needed to support these emerging sectors.

A Retrofit Skills Academy has been established for Greater Manchester offering courses to upskill people into green jobs and we will encourage Bolton residents to access these training opportunities through the Skills for Growth programme.

Achievements



Bolton Green Umbrella continues to support local environmental groups and, in conjunction with the council, held an Eco Volunteer Celebration to commend and recognise all the hard work of the volunteers.

The University of Bolton and Bolton College are continuing to embed sustainability into the curriculum.



Through an application to Bolton's Fund, Little Bats Learning Forest School has trained 12 adult members of the local community to become Forest School volunteers.

Bolton at Home is working with skilled trades people to offer training to fit and maintain microgeneration technologies.



The University of Bolton and the Bolton NHS Foundation Trust are encouraging their students and staff to go green by creating networks of sustainability champions.



Priorities for next year...

- The university and the council will take part in the Design Differently project, run by the Local Government Association and the Design Council. This project aims to use design to tackle local climate change issues.
- The council is carrying out a research project on climate change in conjunction with the University of Salford. It aims to understand how we can bring communities together to take collective action to cut our carbon emissions.



Employment, entrepreneurship and innovation

Achievements

The tasks in this area include plans to grow Bolton's low carbon economy, create new jobs and enable people to learn new skills.

We continue to support schemes that are available to Bolton businesses and residents, such as the Proper Good programme for social enterprises. Through our networks, including Business Bolton, we also promote opportunities such as the recently launched Bee Net Zero, which provides support to Greater Manchester's businesses on their green journey.

Here in Bolton, a key project will be the Greenworks low carbon business park, which is set to become an environmental centre of excellence for the region.



Turn up the value!

The Proper Good Support programme continues to provide training and support to social enterprises.

Proper Good

No-nonsense support to start or grow your social business

Planning permission has been granted for the **Greenworks project.**

The Bolton Business Connect Portal provides a central website for industries, sectors and businesses of all sizes to share business and networking opportunities.

The portal has promoted several environmental support programmes and initiatives and **318** Bolton businesses are now registered on the site.



Priorities for next year...

- Transform two units at the Trinity retail park into the Greenworks low carbon business park.

What next?...

For further information on Bolton's climate change strategy including our delivery plan, progress and key performance indicators, [click here](#).

Please note that some data is currently unavailable due to the way in which it is collected. As more information becomes available the performance indicators will be updated.

We are very lucky to work on climate change projects with lots of different organisations across Bolton including...

- Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- City of Trees
- Bolton Green Umbrella
- The Woodland Trust
- Little Bats Learning
- ...and many others.

This first annual report provides an update on the important work and many projects taking place across the town to tackle climate change.

While it is impossible to mention everything that is happening in Bolton, we hope this report provides a helpful update on some of our successes and forthcoming priorities and actions.

Bolton 2030

Active, Connected & Prosperous



**Bolton
Council**