

Cheshire East Town and Parish Council Toolkit

Climate Emergency Reading Pack



Cheshire East Council
Working together to
REDUCE CARBON

cheshireeast.gov.uk



Introduction

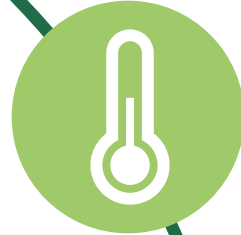
Aim

This document seeks to support Town and Parish Councils across Cheshire East to accelerate their net-zero carbon transition. Transitioning to net zero will help communities thrive, and become healthier and more economically resilient.

This reading pack represents one part of a package of resources (“Toolkit”) for Town & Parish Councils. The other parts are:

- An Excel carbon calculator tool
- An action plan checklist
- An online collaboration hub

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An introduction to the science, policy and potential impacts of climate change.



2. What is your impact? [Page 5](#)

How to measure your annual emissions for both the council and the area that you administer.



3. What is your role in providing solutions? [Page 6](#)

Looking at the role of Town and Parish Councils in achieving targets and delivering change.



4. What are some potential solutions? [Page 7](#)

An introduction to action planning and some of the key measures across 7 sectors.



1. Why act?

Science

What is climate change?

Climate change is a change in the average conditions as a result of altering the earth's system. The climate change we are seeing today is predominantly driven by humans – our activities have led to approximately 1°C of warming since pre-industrial levels.

In 2018, greenhouse gas concentrations peaked at 407 parts per million for the first time in 3 million years. As a result of these gases, we have trapped extra heat in our atmosphere. This rise in temperature impacts the whole earth system, from oceans, water cycles and ice, to land and soils.

Resource Library

- Visuals: [Climate Time Machine](#)
- Article: [Climate Change Guide](#)
- Article: [10 Myths about Climate Change](#)
- Quick videos: [Where does all the carbon we release go?](#) and [Why is the world warming up?](#)
- Video: [Tipping points](#)
- Film: [Climate Change: The Facts](#)
- Report: [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Reports](#)

Policy



The [Paris Agreement](#) target is to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C with the aim of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.



In December 2019, the EU agreed to set a target of becoming carbon neutral by **2050**.



The [Climate Change Act](#) introduced a legally binding target for the UK to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050. In 2019, this was updated to reach Net Zero by **2050**.



Cheshire East Council declared an environment and climate emergency in May 2019. The motion covered two key areas i) Target Cheshire East Council to be carbon neutral by 2025 ii) Encourage emissions reductions in the wider borough. For full strategy see [here](#).

Progress

The scale of reductions required to meet targets:

- [IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C](#) – Modelling showed that *global* emissions needed to be reduced 45% by 2030 and to net-zero by 2050 in order to achieve the Paris Agreement target.

However, progress has much been slower than required.

- [Emissions Gap Report](#) – Found that global emissions continue to rise and show no sign of peaking, meaning we are on the brink of being unable to achieve the 1.5°C target.
- [Climate Action Tracker](#) – Ranked the UK 'insufficient' for its actions and policies. If all other national contributions were the same as the UK, we would fail to meet the Paris Agreement.
- [The Committee on Climate Change](#) – Found that the UK was on track for only 4 of 21 climate indicators.

The scale of changes required becomes larger the longer it is delayed.

Global problem, local impacts



The headline changes projected for the UK under a warming climate are:

- Warmer, wetter winters
- Hotter, drier summers
- Increased frequency and intensity of extremes across wind, rain, heat & snow.

However, causes of climate change also pose a serious threat in its ability to exacerbate existing societal problems. For example:

- **Vehicle pollution** – Tailpipe emissions from vehicles are causing various forms of respiratory diseases.
- **Poorly insulated homes** – Cold and draughty homes is resulting in fuel poverty, malnutrition from food poverty and lower standards of physical and mental health.
- **Lack of green space** – Limited parks and open green space within neighbourhoods can contribute to poor mental and physical health.
- **Increased traffic congestion** – This can impact the economy though costs caused due to lost time and put businesses and talent off moving to Cheshire East.

The disruption caused by climate change is not felt equally and the most vulnerable in society are the greatest impacted.

Key Theme: Economic Resilience

Climate Action doesn't just deal with carbon emissions. In reality, actions to reduce carbon emissions deliver multiple benefits, not just wider environmental ones but significant health, social and economic benefits. This ultimately places communities in a better position to respond to shocks or stresses; such as the economic impacts felt by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a business may have opportunity to reduce their operational costs, through lower energy bills. The action planning process is not just about reducing carbon but about helping the community to thrive in a sustainable way.



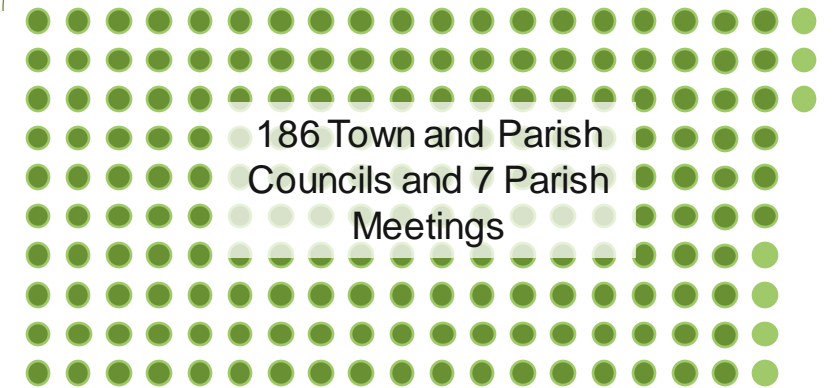
Local examples:

- **Flooding** – Nearly 3000 properties in Cheshire East are at risk from flooding. In 2019 a major incident was declared in Poynton. Local fire services rescued 11 people from the flood waters. 78 residential properties and 8 businesses reported flooding.
- **Heat waves** – There were 108 excess deaths in the North West from extreme heat last summer.

Working together under one goal

Whilst actions on their own may seem small, it is the reach and collective action of town's & parishes that make you an important actor. When you aggregate the impact of 193 groups and communities, it can contribute a significant change.

“ When you aggregate the impact of 193 groups and communities, it can contribute a significant change. ”



Key Questions to think about:

- What impacts have you already seen in your area?
- Who is most vulnerable in your area?



2. What is your impact?

Why measure?

Knowing where you are starting from – Knowing the scale of your impact and the value you will have to reduce.

Identifying biggest sources – You will be able to identify hotspots in emissions and prioritise actions in a more effective way.

Monitor Progress – It is harder to manage what you can't measure. This will allow you to evaluate the impact of interventions taken and provide transparency.

1 tonne
of carbon



1 daily round trip from
Wilmslow to
Macclesfield for a year

Carbon Emissions Calculator

To help Local Councils in Cheshire East to begin to measure their impact, a free tool is available via the online hub (details to be shared by Cheshire East Council. This helps to provide two key figures:

1. Emissions from your own assets

This means measuring the emissions associated with assets and those operations that you directly own and control. For example, energy used in any town or parish halls or any miles driven by in council vehicles.

2. Emissions from your area

This represents the area the local council represents or at least the settlement that your town or parish is part of. It includes emissions that occur from residents, business and on the land within your community boundary. Whilst there are tools available to calculate area-wide footprint at a Local Authority Level, the method applied in the excel tool uses data that is available at LSOA level to apportion the footprint for the borough into Settlements.

What to expect from the calculator

- Easy to use guidance

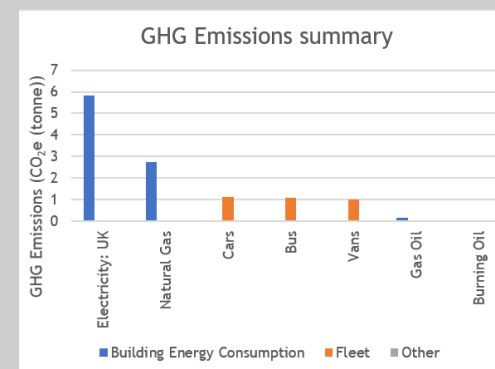
What do you want to calculate?

- 1. Emissions from your own directly owned and controlled assets
- 2. Emissions from the wider community that you serve

- Transparency in calculations

Activity	Renewable Energy?	Consumption Units (Please Select)	Consumption	Emission Factor (kg CO2e per.)
Natural Gas	No	kWh (Gross CV)	15,000	0.184
Burning Oil		kWh (Gross CV)		0.247
Gas Oil		kWh (Gross CV)		0.257
please select...		kWh (Gross CV)		0.000
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- Visual outputs



The approach applied in the Carbon Emissions Calculator tool is a top down approach where the borough-wide emissions are allocated to a smaller scale. However, some local councils may choose a bottom up approach and sum the footprints of individual households in their area together to create an overall footprint. This could make use of tools aimed at individuals such as [WWF Carbon Calculator](#). The two methods are suited to different audiences, with a top down approach focusing on emissions across sectors rather than individuals.



3. What is your role in providing solutions?

Key themes

1

To inspire others – There is opportunity for you to lead by example and ‘set the tone’ of urgency for others to follow. This may be through delivering projects on your own iconic assets and in the community, or by sharing knowledge and experiences through your local networks. Utilise your relationships and knowledge of the community to demonstrate that change is possible.

2

To provide practical guidance – You are held by many as a trusted source of information. Developing your role as an educator and conduit for best practice sharing on this topic will become more important. You may consider hosting workshops, leading campaigns, and producing guidance materials. You may also need to seek access to more information on the topic and be more curious as to how other towns and parishes have overcome barriers.

3

To develop more meaningful partnerships – No organisation is better connected to your community than your own. You are therefore well based to support local businesses, schools, communities or organisations to deliver low-carbon projects and activate positive change. This may also include working with the Borough council and other towns/parishes in new and innovative ways.

4

To support access to finance – Whether co-ordinating fund-raising and grant funding, or stimulating business sponsorship and local investment, towns and parishes have a key role to play.

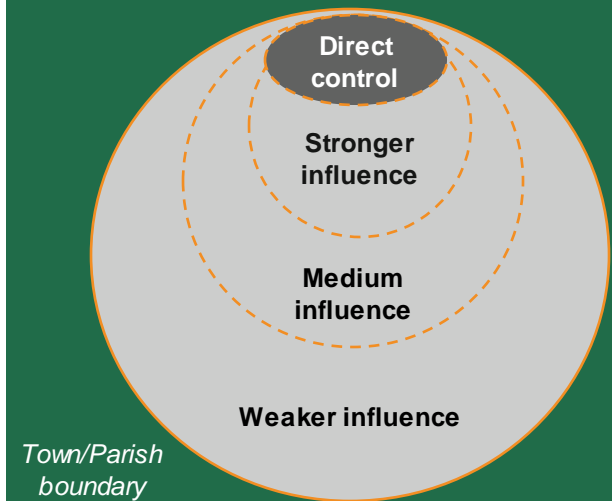
5

To collectively lobby for support – Recognising your influence will have its limitations in certain areas or sub-sectors, it is important that you voice your concerns with other towns and parishes and feedback barriers. This will involve more active or innovative engagement with Cheshire East Council on the topic, and may also include lobbying National Government on relevant existing and proposed legislation.

“No organisation is better connected to your community than your own.”

Exercise

Think about your influence and convening power. Which organisations spring to mind across each of the influence categories below?





4. What are some potential solutions?

Navigating the solutions by topic

The remaining section of this document expands on what practical things you can do in your town or parish. It is broken down by 7 key topics (A-G).

Each 'key topic' covers 4 areas of information:

- **What** – Includes an overall idea of what needs to be achieved.
- **How** – Includes key actions and technologies.
- **Why** – Discusses some of the other co- benefits to strengthen the case for action.
- **Best practice** – Case studies from other towns and parishes in the UK.

Key topics for action



A - Getting organised and educated

What needs to be achieved?

A clear and informed strategy will help local councils to involve the appropriate people in decision making and prioritising low carbon actions.

Key actions

- **Plan & set strategy** - Defining a clear goal or target can stimulate action and guide decision making. This may also include declaring a climate emergency and publicly documenting your own priorities. It can then feed in to local neighbourhood plans.
- **Educate & train** – Firstly it is important that you are carbon & climate change literate. Efforts should then be made to educate and train others in the community.
- **Engage and partner** – You can't do this alone. Look to both familiar and new organisations to explore opportunities with, very often there will be some mutual benefit to be found in closer engagement.

Key technologies

Websites & social media – Enabling local councils to join the conversation and co-ordinate actions. This can also serve as a place to share resources and successes.

Online Collaboration Platform – A place where towns and parishes can learn from each other and aggregate common feedback themes.

Carbon Literacy E-learning – To support your own education needs in line with hundreds of other councils and businesses around the UK. There is a course designed specifically for Local Authorities.

Print media – Leaflets, billboards and posters in your local community can still reach many. There may also be economies of scale if you can collaborate with other town and parishes.

Co-benefits



Health
and Social

Increased community cohesion – As demonstrated by the COVID-19 emergency, there are some new and innovative ways that communities can come together for the greater good. A shared vision and collective climate action can ensure that some of the positive outcomes to arise from the pandemic are retained and/or built upon.

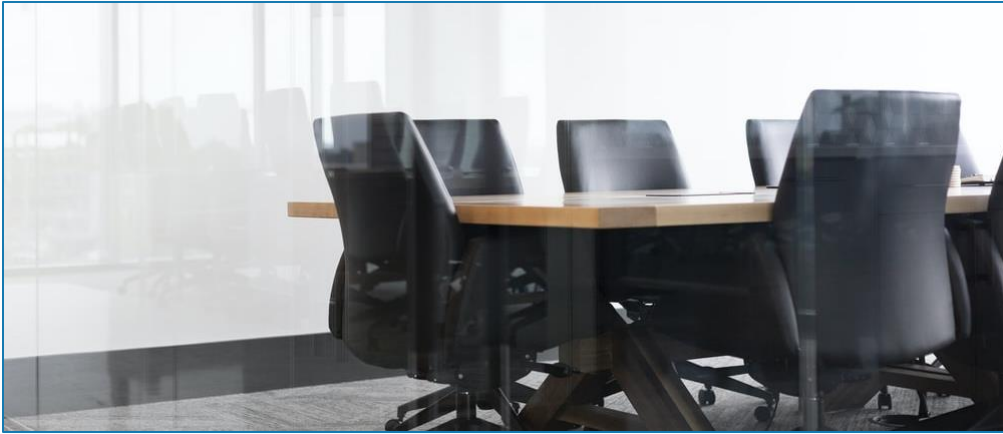


Political

More responsive, efficient political engagement – While each community is very unique, many climate mitigation challenges will be shared. This is a unique opportunity to aggregate such challenges and present a more impactful, collective voice back to local and national government.

A - Getting organised and educated

Overcoming barriers to implementation



Local example

Bollington Town Council formed a Future Resilience Sub-Committee in early 2020. They have an accepted Action List which covers 9 categories and is being used as a plan for future action. The Town Council work closely with Transition Bollington and fund projects in partnership with them.

Audlem Carbon Emissions Reduction (ACER) Project – The ACER project have identified 7 priorities that it will seek to develop over future months.

Other best practice

Kendal Citizen's Jury - Kendal Town Council are running the UK's first Climate Change Citizen's jury at town level. The project has been funded through partners as well as through crowdfunding. 20 local residents who represent a variety of ages and opinions have been brought together to hear from experts and decide on recommendations for the local climate emergency response.

Key barrier overcome:

Knowledge – The local residents selected to be part of the jury have had the opportunity to hear from and interview a range of experts on key topic areas so they could make informed decisions.

Frome Climate Change Strategy – After declaring a climate emergency in 2018 and committing to reach zero carbon by 2030, Frome Town Council produced a climate emergency strategy and Action Plan. Part of this work has also seen panel discussions on key areas of action and a climate emergency workshop.

Key barrier overcome:

Resource/Capacity – Frome Town Council have a dedicated Resilience Manager who's role is to help Frome households, organisations and businesses become more resilient, self-reliant and sustainable.

B - Domestic Housing

What needs to be achieved?

Residents live in warm affordable homes, which maximise comfort and minimise energy bills.



23% of Cheshire East emissions²⁵ are from Domestic Buildings (710 ktCO₂e)

Key actions

- **Provide guidance** - There is a need to provide information to enable people to make informed decisions about reducing their energy consumption.
- **Support upskilling** – There is a skills gap in delivering net zero housing, so you should encourage local apprenticeships and support applications for training.
- **Utilise planning** – Use neighbourhood planning to require new homes to be the highest energy efficiency standards.
- **Provide funding** – Support households to access finance and provide grants to make retrofit and home improvements more affordable.

Key technologies

Increased insulation – It is usually more cost effective to start with reducing energy demand. This means reducing the amount of heat you waste. Walls, floors, doors, roofs and windows can be insulated to much higher standards - even in new builds. Ventilation systems also play an important role in retaining heat.

Electrified heat – Residents should be looking to transfer to non-gas systems for heating (mandatory by 2025 in new builds). Air and ground source heat pumps are the most efficient options, however solar thermal and hybrid gas-electric systems can also support the transition.

Behaviour change - Emissions can be reduced through changing behaviour to reduce energy demand, select more energy efficient appliances and switching to electric cooking.

Co-benefits



Health and Social

Ill-health - Cold homes are associated with increases in respiratory conditions and poorer mental health, with 10,000 deaths each year attributable to living in a cold home.¹⁰

Fuel poverty alleviation - There are over 16,000 properties in fuel poverty in Cheshire East.¹⁵



Economy

Reduced energy bills – For 100 'average' homes on a street, around £28,000 a year could be saved through cost effective measures.²

Job creation - Two-thirds of jobs in the low carbon and renewable energy economy are in energy efficiency products sector.²

Resilience - Households will be greater protected against future energy price rises.

B - Domestic Housing

Overcoming barriers to implementation



Local example

[Transition Wilmslow](#) have been helping residents reduce emissions from their homes through energy surveys and open meetings for residents to attend. The group have surveyed 150 Wilmslow and Handforth houses using a thermal imaging camera to identify where heat is escaping.

Other best practice

[Frome's improve don't move campaign](#) – The council have run free events for residents to learn about home improvement by speaking with designers, architects and contractors. Part of the campaign includes a green directory of local providers and a thermal imaging camera which they lend out to residents.

Key barrier overcome:

Skills – Bringing together local businesses who are skilled in delivering green home improvements to provide residents with information on the options available to them.

[Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Plan](#) – The council have included a policy that developers must be able to demonstrate that it has minimised energy use and maximised energy efficiency. Developments are also encouraged to use electricity over other forms of generation.

Key barrier overcome:

Legislation/Policy – The current standards for building homes is not ambitious enough for the UK to reach it's 2050 net zero target. Without improvements to building regulations it is challenging to enforce homes being built to net zero standards. However, asking for this in a neighbourhood plan is one way to strengthen the case to developers to improve energy efficiency.

C - Non-domestic Buildings

What needs to be achieved?

Schools, businesses and other organisations occupy buildings that maximise energy savings.



27% of Cheshire East emissions²⁵ are from Non-domestic Buildings (202 ktCO₂e)

Key actions

- **Save energy in your own buildings** – Measure and reduce the energy consumption in the building you own through maximising energy efficiency. This includes street lighting which can be switched to LED and retrofitting buildings to reduce heat loss.
- **Work with businesses** – Ask businesses to implement energy saving measures and showcasing those which have achieved large reductions.
- **Support schools and community centres** – Provide support to schools and community centres to improve their buildings and reduce energy bills.

Key technologies

As for domestic buildings, energy demand from all other types of building must be reduced through better insulation, shifting off of gas and behaviour change. Additionally, key technologies for non-domestic buildings may include:

Building Management Systems (BMS) – Such ‘smart’ systems can better monitor and automate energy demand, such as turning off lights and powering down heating and ventilation when they are not needed.

District heating – Distributing heat through a local network of pipes can provide a more carbon-efficient source of heat for businesses (and also homes). Many industrial operations may produce lots of waste heat; however often it is the co-ordination and aggregation of suitable, local ‘off-takers’ that is a barrier.

Co-benefits



Economy

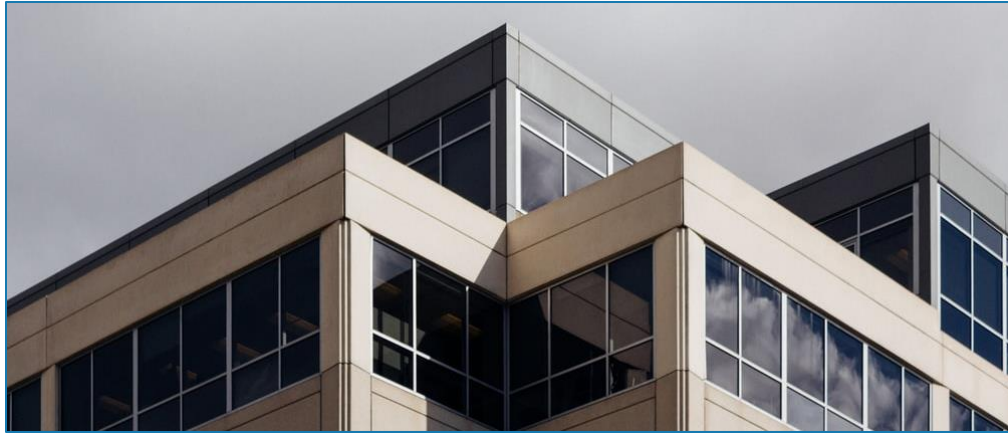
Reduced energy bills – A secondary school or college spending £100,000 a year on energy could save around £20,000 a year through implementing low cost energy efficiency measures.²

Recruitment: Having progressive sustainability policies can help to attract and hire the best talent.

Resilience - Facilitating the development of skills for local people can help reduce unemployment and help to protect businesses as the market changes.²

C - Non-domestic Buildings

Overcoming barriers to implementation



Local example

No local case studies were provided at the date of writing linked to this specific theme. However, Cheshire East Towns and Parishes are encouraged to share relevant examples on the online Town & Parish Council Climate Hub; which will be launched in due course.

Other best practice

[Blakesley Parish Council](#) - When building a new village hall, the council fitted a ground source heat pump which uses less energy. A GSHP extracts heat from the ground via a pipe which can then be used for heating or hot water.

Key barrier overcome:

Technology – The Council used the opportunity with their new hall to integrate low carbon technology into building design.

[Sywell Parish Council LED street lighting](#) - The council replaced 65 lanterns across the parish with energy efficient LED lighting which consumes 75% less power than older technologies and are reduces their annual energy bills by £2,100.

Key barrier overcome:

Finance – The council used Salix financing to support 92% of the project cost. The interest free loan allowed all the streetlights to be upgraded in a single project which allowed savings to be realised quickly.

[Wirksworth neighbourhood planning](#) - The plan includes a policy on non-residential development, requesting that those built after July 2020 are built to BREEAM gold standard.

Key barrier overcome:

Legislation/Policy – As above, new commercial or industrial buildings are subject to building regulations which are determined at a national level. But inclusion in a neighbourhood plan reiterates the priority to developers.

D - Transport

What needs to be achieved?

A sustainable transport system that enables and encourages local people and businesses to reduce miles and switch fuel type.



33% of Cheshire East emissions²⁵ are from Transport (978 ktCO₂e)

Key actions

- **Reduce emissions from your own travel** – Encourage your own employees to choose low carbon modes of transport and provide incentives. The council's owned vehicles should be electric
- **Promote active travel** – Encourage short local journeys to be by bike or foot through campaigns and the development of safe routes. As a local council you are in a good position to understand the type of journeys taking place in the area.
- **Public transport provision** – Step in to provide community transport schemes so that local people can access public transport or an electric vehicle.
- **Increase electric charging points** – Install charging points to allow residents and businesses to switch to electric vehicles.

Key technologies

Electric vehicles (EVs) - Battery operated vehicles are powered by electricity and require external charging.

Hybrid vehicles – A vehicle that typically has both an electric and internal combustion engine. Plug in Hybrids (PHEVs) are often more economic types of Hybrid vehicles.

Hydrogen vehicles – Hydrogen is an alternative fuel source which produces no direct carbon emissions when it is used. The use of hydrogen is still in development and currently the majority of hydrogen is not produced by low carbon methods.

Co-benefits



Health and Social

Increased physical activity – 65% of adults in Cheshire East are overweight. Active travel can help to reduce conditions such as heart disease and diabetes.⁴

Air quality – Reducing the release of harmful pollutants. Air quality lays a part in 40,000 early deaths every year in the UK.²

Inequality – Decarbonising transport has the potential to increase social cohesion and reduce health inequalities associated with air pollution and deprivation.²



Economy

Reduced congestion – Reduced number of vehicles on the road.

Financial benefit - Electric vehicles can offer substantial fuel savings, it costs approximately 5 times more to travel 100 miles in a petrol/diesel car.¹¹ There are also tax breaks for businesses with electric vehicles.¹⁷

D - Transport

Overcoming barriers to implementation



Local example

Bollington Town Council (among other towns) has formed a Transport Working Group which is developing a business case for a 20mph speed limit, the implementation of electric vehicle charging points and improving the safety of the Middlewood Way. Please refer to the national [20's Plenty](#) campaign for further information.

Other best practice

[The Deepings Green Walk](#) - Market Deeping Parish Council and Deepings St James Parish Council worked together to develop a green walk initiative in the neighbourhood plan. They are also planning to create 15km circuit to link community services.

[Ross on Wye Neighbourhood Development draft Plan](#) - The Town Council have included have included a policy where new houses with parking are required to have a appropriately located charge point. General car parks are also required to provide a charge point.

Key barrier overcome:

Legislation/Policy – Using the Neighbourhood Development Plan to strengthen the case in planning and development for green initiatives.

[Burnham on Sea bus service](#) – Burnham-on-sea and Highbridge Town Council granted £5,000, alongside other councils, to keep a crucial bus service running for local residents.

Key barrier overcome:

Working with others – Several Local Councils in the area came together to provide the support for the service to be continued and pooled together their funding.

[Seven Oaks Town Council](#) – The Council purchased a fully electric van which will be used by the town wardens who maintain the council's public open spaces. They also have plans to install publicly accessible charging points at their council offices.

Key barrier overcome:

Technology – The Council have adopted the new technology and developed the infrastructure to support its deployment.

E - Waste

What needs to be achieved?

Resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised.



2% of Cheshire East emissions²⁵ are from Waste (55 ktCO₂e)

Key actions

To reduce emissions from waste, the volume of waste sent to landfill must be reduced through reducing the amount we use and increasing the recycling rate.

- **Improve understanding of recycling** – Help residents and businesses to understand and adopt the waste hierarchy and consider circular economy.
- **Improve access to recycling** – Support the community to create collection points for other recycling items not collected by the Local Authority.
- **Adopt plastic free initiatives** – Build on the toolkits and resources available for becoming a plastic free community.
- **Encourage a sharing economy** – Support the community to set up initiative that support sharing of resources so that less items are thrown away.

Key technologies

Compostable packaging- Plant based packaging like Vegware are now available and being used in the food industry. The packaging must be commercially composted.

Food waste applications – As has been piloted in cities such as Manchester, apps such as Olio and Too Good To Go help businesses and residents redistributed food that would otherwise be wasted.

Repair services – Whether bikes, furniture, clothes or appliances; many specialist repair service providers already exist and are looking to scale up.

Co-benefits



Health
and Social

Food poverty – Actions to reduce food waste and recirculate surplus food can help those in need of food.



Economy

Job creation – Friends of the Earth estimate that if a target of 70% recycling rate is reached it could create 50,000 new UK jobs.¹³

Financial benefits – Lower costs associated waste collection and disposal and potential to generate income e.g. composting.

Lower bills – An average family of four could save over £60 a month by reducing food waste.²⁰



Environment

Protects eco-systems and wildlife – There is a reduced need for raw material extraction and reduction in pollution.

E - Waste

Overcoming barriers to implementation



Local examples

[Wilmslow Repair cafe](#) – Transition Wilmslow have organised a local repair café to encourage local people to fix rather than throw away. The first event in 2019 was supported by Handforth Parish Council and involved 12 volunteer repairers.

[Plastic Free Congleton](#) – Local activities tackling single use plastic and co-ordinating activities in Congleton.

Other best practice

[Yaxley Community Fridge](#) – The Parish Council have set up a community fridge to enable the local community to share food. It is free for all members of the community and operates on an honesty basis.

Key barrier overcome:

Resource/Capacity – The community fridge helps to redistribute food in partnership with local organisation Food for Nought, It is part of a network of community fridges which shares resources and guidance.

[Share Frome](#) – Frome Town Council, in partnership with other local social enterprises have set up the UK's first sharing shop, where members can borrow things from a library of 500 items.

Key barrier overcome:

Resource/Capacity – The social initiative is run in partnership with social enterprise Edventure, Sustainable Frome and Cheese and Grain. This has meant that a group of eight young people helped to set up the shop, as part of specialist training in community entrepreneurship.

[Helmdon Recycling Guidance](#) – The parish has a dedicated Recycling Warden to engage with local residents to encourage recycling and help those who are unsure on what to recycle. They also liaise with the local authority and waste partnership to identify problems and raise awareness.

Key barrier overcome:

Working with others – The Recycling Warden helps the Parish Council to work with South Northamptonshire Council and the Northampton Waste Partnership to maximise recycling by identifying problems with recycling services and raising awareness of campaigns and changes to services.

F - Natural Environment

What needs to be achieved?

Local people have access to green space and a healthy and resilient environment.



11% of Cheshire East emissions²⁵ are from Livestock (55 ktCO₂e)
 Land use acts as a net sink, taking in 68 ktCO₂e

Key actions

- **Encourage dietary changes** – Raise awareness of the emissions associated with food and inspire action by holding meat-free events, sharing recipes and campaigns
- **Support local produce and farmers** – Local produce tends to have less transport emissions associated with it so you should promote and advertise farmers markets and local produce to residents and businesses.
- **Develop community green spaces** – Support community initiatives to create green spaces such as allotments, gardens and orchards.
- **Tree management and planting** – Tree or hedgerow planting in the right place can absorb more carbon and provide habitats.

Key technologies

Trees (!) – The worlds most cheap and efficient Negative Emission Technology. Caution must be taken to ensure the species, spacing and the land for planting is appropriate; and that expectations around carbon sequestration is reasonable.

Green Walls and Roofs – Where vegetation is integrated into building design.

Sustainable farming practices – This includes lower carbon fertilizers, animal feed that can reduce emissions from livestock, and machine operation best practices.

Co-benefits



Health and Social

Liveability - Trees and other vegetation can reduce noise pollution and reduce surface run-off which reduces flood risk

Reduced air pollution - Trees can intercept harmful pollutants

Access to green space - Encourages physical activity and improves mental health.

Community – A space for communities to engage and strengthen the connection to local place.



Economy

Financial benefits - Increases in house prices between 5%-18% when a property is associated with mature trees.⁸



Environment

Biodiversity - Trees and green spaces can create habitats, support species and increase biodiversity. They can also help to intercept harmful pollutants from waterways.

F - Natural Environment

Overcoming barriers to implementation



Local example

[Knutsford Nature Action Plan](#) – The council are recruiting volunteers to map and survey trees in the area as the first stage of their plan to plant thousands of trees.

[Bollington Town Council](#) working with Transition Bollington we are intending to plant 3,000 trees in 2021.

[Macclesfield Town Council](#) have pledged to plant a tree for every new birth registered to the town's maternity ward.

Other best practice

[Chalfont St Peter' Tree Planting](#) – The Parish Council started a campaign to plant 100 new trees in the village in order to reduce pollution. They have recruited local volunteers to become tree guardians to monitor and water the new trees planted.

Key barrier overcome:

Finance - The Council sought donations to cover the costs of 100 trees, funding has come through a combination of sponsorships and patronage, commercial and private donations, community grants and legacy donations.

[Todmorden Healthy Eating Cookery demo](#) – The Town Council funded a local vegan community group to run a cooking demo on healthy eating on a budget.

Key barrier overcome:

Knowledge – The community group are able to use their knowledge and experience to educate and encourage those in local area who wish to reduce meat consumption.

[Harlington Parish Council](#) – Since purchasing an area of woodland, the council have developed a management plan and worked with local schools to create a nature trail.

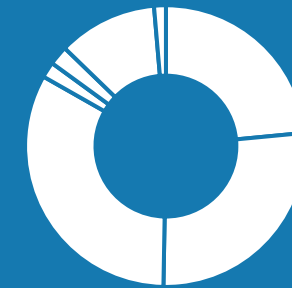
Key barrier overcome:

Land assets – Acquiring the land at the site of a former quarry allows the local council to manage the site for the benefit of the community and schools.

G - Energy Supply

What needs to be achieved?

Energy for our homes, businesses and communities is generated by green renewable technologies.



94.7 GWh of renewable energy generated in Cheshire East²⁴

Key actions

After reducing energy demand, the remaining energy used to power buildings and transport should be from renewable sources.

- **Generate your own renewable electricity** – Install solar panels or ground source heat pumps in your buildings to reduce emissions and energy bills. Investment in larger scale renewables such as wind turbines is also an option.
- **Encourage bulk purchasing** – Co-ordinate with residents to organise street or community installations which take advantage of economies of scale.
- **Community energy companies** – Encourage the set up or provide support to community led renewable energy schemes and companies.
- **Fundraise** – Raise funding or provide grants to community centres, local organisations and groups to install renewable technologies.

Key technologies

Solar panels – Photovoltaics (PV) are able to capture the sun's energy and convert this into electricity. Combined solar PV and solar thermal (for hot water) are now also available at scale too.

Micro-hydro – Small-scale renewable generation which uses the energy from fast flowing water to generate electricity.

Wind power – The blades on turbines harness the power from wind to generate electricity.

Co-benefits



Health and Social

Fuel poverty reduction - Improving access to low cost energy in council housing stock can help to reduce fuel poverty.

Community benefit – Community energy can increase autonomy, empowerment and resilience by providing a long term income and local control over finances.²



Economy

Revenue generation - Potential to reduce utility bills and generate a long-term source of income. Local projects such as community energy schemes can generate income for local people.

Job creation - Creation of jobs and upskilling of local people. In the UK, low carbon and renewable energy activities generated £44.5 billion turnover in 2017.²

Economic resilience - Local energy resilience and protection against future fossil fuel price increases.

G - Energy Supply

Overcoming barriers to implementation



Local example

Bollington Town Council – The Council work with Transition Bollington's Mad about Power group which focuses on community energy and sustainable transport options.

Other best practice

Exmouth Town Hall Solar – The Town Council decided to invest in a roof mounted solar system to power the hall and reduce electricity bills whilst also generating an income through the feed in tariff. It is estimated to deliver £750 annual savings and have a payback period of 7 years.

Key barrier overcome:

Finance - Assessing the potential for revenue generation and the payback period allowed the Council to strengthen the case for investment.

Frome Solar Streets – Frome Town Council approached IDDEA who were able to offer a discounted scheme for solar streets as they could install in bulk saving time and transport. In 2019, 70 installations were supported, including additional donations to local community projects.

Key barrier overcome:

Finance – Although unable to directly subsidise renewables installation on houses, Frome Town Council reached out to several companies asking if it would be possible to install solar panels at a reduced cost by taking advantage of economies of scale.

Summary

Other resources in this Toolkit

- Carbon Emissions Calculator (Excel)
- Town & Parish Council Climate Hub (Online)
- Practical Actions Checklist (A separate Annex)

References & Acknowledgements

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The following sources have been used to compile this toolkit:

1. [Ashden – 31 Climate Actions for Councils](#)
2. [Ashden - Climate Action Co-Benefits Toolkit](#)
3. [Cheshire East Action Plan](#)
4. [Cheshire East Borough Profile](#)
5. [Cheshire East Council – Towns and Parish Councils](#)
6. [Cheshire East Council Environment Strategy](#)
7. [Cheshire East Flood Risk](#)
8. [City of Trees: Why Trees](#)
9. [CSE Neighbourhood Planning](#)
10. [Energy Saving Trust: Energy Efficiency](#)
11. [Energy Savings Trust: Fleet Management](#)
12. [Friends of the Earth - 20 actions for Towns and Parishes](#)
13. [Friends of the Earth recycling](#)
14. [Frome Town Council – Climate Emergency What Next](#)
15. [Fuel Poverty Statistics](#)
16. [GBC - Net Zero Carbon Buildings](#)
17. [Go Ultra Low](#)
18. [HM Government – Skills in a Green Economy](#)
19. [LGA - The potential for energy efficiency and renewable energy](#)
20. [Love Food Hate Waste](#)
21. [National Association of Local Councils - Climate Change Case Studies](#)
22. [Poynton Flood Report](#)
23. [Public Health England – Heat wave report](#)
24. [Regional Renewable Statistics \(BEIS\)](#)
25. [SCATTER Emissions Inventory](#)
26. [WMO - Greenhouse gas concentrations in atmosphere reach yet another high](#)

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