

# Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan

May 2025

## Introduction

The purpose of this action plan is to give direction to the council on actions it can take to ensure the council is operating as sustainably as possible, and on the actions the council can take to achieve carbon neutrality within the borough as a whole. In order to achieve this, the council is using Sustainability West Midlands's Sustainability Benchmarking questionnaire to inform the actions the council is going to take in respect of sustainability.

By using Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking questionnaire, the council are using independent criteria for setting sustainability targets, ensuring the council are responding to best practice in this field. In addition to the questions posed by Sustainability West Midlands, this action plan has also had regard to Warwickshire County Council's Sustainable Futures Strategy, which sets sustainability targets for the county as a whole. Further to this, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's action plan seeks to address the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2020), which sets out the risks posed by climate change to the country, and presents questions which will need to be answered in order to address the council's declared climate emergency of 4th December 2019.

## Sustainability West Midlands

Sustainability West Midlands is the sustainability advisor for the leaders of the West Midlands. Their vision includes addressing health inequality and inclusive growth, which are priorities set out within the council's corporate plan. This vision is reflected in the West Midlands Sustainability Roadmap to 2030, and by following this roadmap, we can make changes to our activities in the knowledge that we will be contributing to the wider regional ambition in terms of sustainability.

Sustainability West Midlands focus on enabling the public sector to demonstrate innovation and leadership on sustainability, and this is something that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council are also fully committed to.

## Sustainability West Midlands Benchmarking

In order to achieve the West Midlands Sustainability Roadmap to 2030, Sustainability West Midlands have created a benchmarking system which helps local authorities to progress a sustainability agenda to improve their areas in various ways. This action plan will use good practice from other local authorities that can be replicated in the borough to influence our activities. The action plan also aims to identify gaps in progress where further support or funding is required through reports into specific areas.

The advantage of using the benchmark is that we can annually assess our progress on sustainability and quickly identify where we should be taking further action.

The benchmarking system covers various themes, which include the following.

- Resource efficiency: Supporting a system that minimises resources whilst maximising productivity
- Clean and active travel: Promoting an active, accessible and connected lifestyle for everyone regardless of demographics
- Clean air and water: Creating a cleaner environment for all generations to come
- Natural environment: Protecting and conserving the environment so that it thrives with our presence
- Sustainable growth: Empowering the economic development of the borough whilst encouraging environmental improvement
- Social equity and health: Addressing health inequality to give everyone an equal opportunity in life
- Sustainable energy use: Meeting the energy demand of today and tomorrow

## Corporate Plan

The aims of the Climate Change Sustainability Action Plan are closely aligned to the corporate plan, in particular, the following aims of the corporate plan will be met through this strategy.

- Promote residents' health and wellbeing
- Enable appropriate housing development
- Sponsor a sustainable green approach
- Grow a strong and inclusive economy
- Embrace new and emerging technology
- Support local businesses
- Create vibrant and diverse town centres
- Stimulate regeneration
- Improve the physical environment

For each Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan action in the table below, their links to the above corporate aims have been set out. The purpose of this is to show how the actions are necessary in order to achieve the ambitions of the corporate plan.

## Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan delivery

In order to ensure the action plan is delivered, timescales for completion have been placed against all actions. The timescales fall into three categories as follows.

- Short term – to be completed by 2026 (within one year)
- Medium term – to be completed by 2028 (within three years)
- Long term – to be completed by 2031 (within five years)

In addition to the timescales for the action plan, estimated costs have been included, with costings described as low, moderate, moderate/high and high. The estimates for these descriptions are as follows.

- Low – up to £1,000
- Moderate – up to £10,000
- Moderate/High – between £10,000 and £100,000
- High – more than £100,000

To ensure the action plan is driven forwards, responsibility for each action has been assigned to the most appropriate role within the council.

The officer responsible for each action will need to ensure progress is made on each action they have, and as part of this, the action plan will be reviewed every year to check on progress against all actions.

## Priority actions

As the action plan contains a wide range of actions, priority actions have been highlighted in yellow. The priority actions are those which are either required before further actions can be advanced, or those which will deliver the biggest benefits in relation to sustainability. It is essential that these actions are given priority, and progress against these priorities will be a key aspect of the yearly Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan progress reports.

## Climate Change and Sustainability Actions

Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
1	A1	Has your local authority declared a climate emergency, and when did it declare?	Add the following text to the council's climate emergency declaration: "Make decisions and take actions which will help deliver the government's target for the UK to reach Net Zero by 2050"	The council's current climate emergency declaration refers to making the council's activities carbon neutral by 2030, however there are decisions and actions the council can take to reach Net Zero for the whole borough, which will cover a wider range of issues than the council's own activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Planning
2	A2	Does your local authority have a clear picture of its carbon emissions within its control?	<p>Hire a consultant to assess the council's and borough's carbon footprint, and our capacity to reduce it.</p> <p>This should include the use of the Local Government Association's Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool.</p>	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Moderate	2026	Assistant Director – Planning
3	A4	Has your local authority set a carbon reduction target for its own estate and functions?	Review the carbon footprint assessment and set a carbon reduction target for our estate and functions	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Planning
4	A4	Has your local authority set a carbon reduction target for its own estate and functions?	Investigate and report on the viability of offsetting embodied carbon of all new development undertaken by the council / on the behalf of the council	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	High	2028	Service Manager – Regeneration and Economic Development; Capital Projects Investment Manager

Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
5	A4	Has your local authority set a carbon reduction target for its own estate and functions?	Re-route all waste collection rounds in the most efficient way possible.  This will require the use of traffic modelling and simulation software by a consultant.	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Moderate	2028	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods
6	A9	Does your local authority's planning policy include sustainability / climate change targets and mandatory sustainability requirements?	Create new policy preventing development on the best and most versatile agricultural land within the next review of the Borough Plan	<p>The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2020) states that there is a risk to UK food availability as a result of climate change overseas, therefore we need the best and most versatile agricultural land to be able to meet the UK's food needs.</p> <p>There is also a risk to agricultural land from sea level rise and saltwater intrusion, therefore protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land as far away from the coast as possible reduces this risk. Additionally, there will be increased opportunities for exports when other countries' agricultural land is reduced as a result of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable appropriate housing development</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2031	Assistant Director – Planning
7	A9	Does your local authority's planning policy include sustainability / climate change targets and mandatory	Update Green Infrastructure and Open Space SPD to integrate climate adaptation into the design and specification for new	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Low	2028	Assistant Director – Planning; Parks and Open Spaces Manager

Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
		sustainability requirements?	public open space and green infrastructure assets					
8	A10	Has your local authority implemented targets for waste reduction, recycling, composting or digestion for your own estate?	Investigate and report on appropriate targets for the council for waste reduction, recycling, composting and digestion	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods
9	A13	Has your local authority set targets to reduce air, water and/or noise pollution in your local area?	Investigate and report on capacity to carry out additional tree planting in the borough's Air Quality Management Areas.	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
10	A14	Has your local authority defined and implemented any targets that focus on improving biodiversity, natural capital or tree planting?	Define a target for tree planting, utilising land supplied by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust or the Woodland Trust	<p>The 2025 Biodiversity Duty Report may set specific targets on tree planting, therefore this target should be used if established.</p> <p>There is potential to deliver woodland in a new country park using biodiversity offsetting money, in addition to woodland grant schemes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
11	A14	Has your local authority defined and implemented any targets that focus on improving biodiversity, natural capital or tree planting?	Investigate feasibility of meeting the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Plan by requiring a minimum 30 % tree canopy cover target for new development, for example requiring a minimum of 10 trees planted for every new house. This could be	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Enable appropriate housing development</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Low	2028	Assistant Director – Planning

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			achieved through a Net Zero DPD.					
12	A14	Has your local authority defined and implemented any targets that focus on improving biodiversity, natural capital or tree planting?	Investigate the potential to use the Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Offer to fund tree planting in the borough, with £10,200 funding for every hectare planted, and £8,000 for public benefits.	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
13	A14	Has your local authority defined and implemented any targets that focus on improving biodiversity, natural capital or tree planting?	Apply to the Local Authority Treescape Fund in order to gain capital funding for tree planting.	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
14	A16	Has your local authority implemented targets to strengthen the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector in the local area?	Review business rates charged for businesses adding solar panels to their property, and whether they can be reduced.	The addition of solar panels to a business site causes a change in the property's business rates, which can lead to the scheme becoming financially unviable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Grow a strong and inclusive economy</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> <li>Support local businesses</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Service Manager-Regeneration and Economic Development
15	A19	Does your local authority have targets on using energy sourced from renewables on your own estate?	Review capacity within our own estate for the installation of renewables	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Service Manager – Regeneration and Economic Development; Plant Maintenance and Energy Officer
16	A20	Has your local authority established any targets that focus on climate adaptation in your area, such as reducing flood risk or excess heat-related deaths?	Increase tree planting in town centres to reduce urban heat island effect	With the increasing move towards the conversion of retail/office properties to residential properties in town centres, many of these residential properties will only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Enable appropriate housing development</li> </ul>	Low	2028	Service Manager – Regeneration and Economic Development

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				<p>be single-aspect. Single-aspect buildings only have windows on one side of the building, which reduces residents' ability to cool the property in hot weather. This is because as opposed to dual-aspect properties, within single-aspect properties, air cannot flow through the building from one side to the other, which makes it more difficult to cool single-aspect properties.</p> <p>As a result of this effect, these properties will therefore be more susceptible to the effects of climate change in the form of extreme heat.</p> <p>Increased tree planting would help reduce the urban heat island effect in town centres, and therefore would help reduce the incidences of heat stress / heat exhaustion for residents in town centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Create vibrant and diverse town centres</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>			
17	A20	Has your local authority established any targets that focus on climate adaptation in your area, such as reducing flood risk or excess heat-related deaths?	Investigate and report on the potential effectiveness of increased tree planting in flood zones in order to	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Planning

Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
			reduce the severity of flooding events		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>			
18	A20	Has your local authority established any targets that focus on climate adaptation in your area, such as reducing flood risk or excess heat-related deaths?	Investigate and report on the potential to increase tree planting and natural flood defences along new riverside park as part of the Nuneaton Train Station Masterplan in order to reduce flood risk	Reducing the flood risk to riverside land/properties could increase their attractiveness for investment. This would be as a result of both the reduced risk of damage to the buildings, and the reduced insurance premiums on the properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Grow a strong and inclusive economy</li> <li>Support local businesses</li> <li>Create vibrant and diverse town centres</li> <li>Stimulate regeneration</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Service Manager – Regeneration and Economic Development
19	A20	Has your local authority established any targets that focus on climate adaptation in your area, such as reducing flood risk or excess heat-related deaths?	Ensure climate adaptation is a consideration within any review of the Open Space Strategy	One aspect that can be addressed in the next review of the Open Space Strategy is the diversification of tree, shrub and plant species needed for the purposes of climate adaptation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Low	2031	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
20	B2	Does your local authority ensure that sustainability objectives are considered by Councillors when they are committing to implementing any project or programme?	<p>Add climate change impacts to templates for business cases and cabinet summaries, including guidance on how to appropriately assess climate change impacts.</p> <p>As part of this, review Warwickshire County Council's new cabinet summaries, which include consideration of climate change impacts, and provide</p>	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2028	Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance



Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
			guidance on how to assess this.					
21	B4	Are sustainability objectives and tackling climate change key priorities within your local authority's strategic/corporate plan?	<p>Add "Address the council's declared climate emergency" to the council's values, and reduce the overall number of values to give climate change action more prominence.</p> <p>Also update values posters in all offices to reinforce the importance of taking action on climate change.</p>	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Chief Executive
22	B4	Are sustainability objectives and tackling climate change key priorities within your local authority's strategic/corporate plan?	Produce a yearly report on progress against the Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Enable appropriate housing development</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Grow a strong and inclusive economy</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> <li>Support local businesses</li> <li>Create vibrant and diverse town centres</li> <li>Stimulate regeneration</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Low	Yearly	Assistant Director – Planning
23	B6	Is your local authority preparing, or had already adopted, a specific Climate Change focused	Create a Net Zero Development Plan Document (DPD)	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Enable appropriate</li> </ul>	Low	2028	Assistant Director – Planning

Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
		Planning Policy document such as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>housing development</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>			
24	B7	Does your local authority have sustainability champions allocated across a variety of delivery teams to support the implementation of sustainability outcomes across the organisation?	Create sustainability champions in each team, whose role is to ensure all office equipment is turned off when not in use, and remind others of their responsibilities to turn equipment off	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Planning
25	B7	Does your local authority have sustainability champions allocated across a variety of delivery teams to support the implementation of sustainability outcomes across the organisation?	Add climate change item to all team meetings	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	People Service Manager
26	B7	Does your local authority have sustainability champions allocated across a variety of delivery teams to support the implementation of sustainability outcomes across the organisation?	Create an awareness campaign around energy saving within council buildings	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Planning
27	B9	Does your local authority provide training to staff about climate change and sustainability issues?	Ensure all officers responsible for Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan actions take the	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Moderate	2026	All officers responsible for Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan actions

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			IEMA "Environmental Sustainability for Managers" course					
28	B9	Does your local authority provide training to staff about climate change and sustainability issues?	Ensure Planning team attend climate change and sustainability training sessions provided by the RTPi and other planning organisations	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Planning
29	B10	Does your local authority lead or contribute to a district/county-wide sustainability working group with external local partners that aims to identify opportunities for joint working to accelerate and implement sustainability activities at a district/county level?	Ensure a member of the Planning team engages with the West Midlands Public Sector Sustainability Energy Network, and attends their events	There are a lot of aspects of climate change that can be tackled through Planning, and the Planning team need to be fully involved in all high-level discussions the council has on climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Planning
30	B16	Does your local authority have a waste management policy or plan in place that details how waste will be reduced and how recycling can be improved across the area?	Use the Local Government Association (LGA) Waste Routemap	The Waste Routemap helps to identify interventions which can embed sustainability in council's waste services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods
31	B17	Does your local authority have a sustainable procurement policy in place, including targets and tangible actions around sustainable and ethical sourcing of products and services?	Update procurement policy to include assessment of climate change impact of tenders	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Grow a strong and inclusive economy</li> </ul>	Low	2028	Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance
32	B17	Does your local authority have a sustainable	Update procurement policy to assess circular economy	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2028	Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance

Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
		procurement policy in place, including targets and tangible actions around sustainable and ethical sourcing of products and services?	specifications of tenders		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grow a strong and inclusive economy</li> </ul>			
33	B22	Does your local authority have a renewable energy implementation plan, or contribute actively to a local area plan produced by the LEP/WMCA?	<p>Create a renewable energy implementation plan.</p> <p>The outline of this plan should follow Woking Borough Council's Renewable Energy Plan as an example from a long-time leading council in this field.</p> <p>The plan should also follow the goals of the Low Carbon Energy Plan (March 2016), published by the Greater Birmingham &amp; Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, in addition to the goals of Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan (March 2023), published by central government.</p>	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> </ul>	Moderate	2026	Plant Maintenance and Energy Officer
34	B27	Has the local authority implemented an adaptation action plan to ensure continuity of service delivery in a future climate?	Create a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Plan (CVRA)	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Moderate	2026	Chief Executive
35	B27	Has the local authority implemented an adaptation action	Report on what should be planted and where, in order to ensure continuity	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Parks and Open Spaces Manager

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		plan to ensure continuity of service delivery in a future climate?	of service. This will include consideration of issues such as treespace resilience, reducing the effect of droughts and fire safety borders.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>			
36	C1	Has the local authority mapped out current and future funding options that could help with the implementation of sustainability projects?	Research and identify suitable funding and financing opportunities using the Crown Commercial Service's "Carbon net zero funding and grants" webpage on a quarterly basis.	Funding and financing opportunities need to be checked regularly in order to ensure the council do not miss out, therefore quarterly checks should ensure opportunities are not missed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	Quarterly	Strategic Director – Place and Economy
37	C1	Has the local authority mapped out current and future funding options that could help with the implementation of sustainability projects?	Apply for HUG and ECO grants in order to assist with the delivery of energy efficiency measures for residents in the council's private sector housing. The funding will be targeted towards those residents in the poorest housing stock who are experiencing fuel poverty, or are vulnerable due to physical or mental ill health.	<p>ECO is the Energy Company Obligation, which a government energy efficiency scheme offering financial assistance to support energy saving measures in households and in turn help climate change. It is paid for by energy companies, and the heating measures covered include boiler upgrades; air source heat pumps with solar panels; electric storage heater upgrades with solar panels; and insulation measures.</p> <p>HUG is the Home Upgrade Grant, which is a government funded scheme designed to improve the comfort and energy efficiency of lower income</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	Yearly	Home Energy Team Leader

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				homes that are off gas heating.				
38	C2	Does the local authority encourage staff participation in sustainability / low carbon activities via implementation of behaviour change programmes?	Provide recycling bins in each individual office within council buildings	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Head of Waste and Transport; Service Manager – Corporate Assets and Surveying
39	C2	Does the local authority encourage staff participation in sustainability / low carbon activities via implementation of behaviour change programmes?	Designate space within the Town Hall and Depot for the storage of bulky waste, and arrange transport to a recycling facility on a minimum bi-yearly basis	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Head of Waste and Transport; Service Manager – Corporate Assets and Surveying
40	C2	Does the local authority encourage staff participation in sustainability / low carbon activities via implementation of behaviour change programmes?	IT team to provide laptops and IT training to all councillors, so that paper copies are not needed for any council meetings	A large amount of paper is used in printing agendas for council meetings, and as these papers are only used once, this is a very unsustainable use of paper. In contrast, laptops could be used to access these documents, which would greatly reduce the carbon footprint of council meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> </ul>	Moderate/High	2026	ICT Client Manager
41	C4	Does your local authority insist on high sustainability standards in new builds (e.g. Passivhaus, renewables) and existing housing (e.g. retrofit, energy efficiency)?	Review “Retrofit Technical Briefings” and “Building Housing Retrofit Skills Leadership and Learning” as part of the Local Retrofit Action Planning Resources through the Local Government Association	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents’ health and wellbeing</li> <li>Enable appropriate housing development</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Strategic Housing; Capital Projects Investment Manager
42	C6	Has your local authority delivered projects that have	Carry out a waste composition analysis to understand the	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods

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		notably contributed to the reduction in waste or better recycling of waste?	make-up of waste across the area, the capture rates for current recycling schemes, and the opportunity to divert more waste from landfill or incineration					
43	C6	Has your local authority delivered projects that have notably contributed to the reduction in waste or better recycling of waste?	Run an awareness campaign on what can and can't be recycled in the borough, including posters/stickers for residents to keep	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Moderate	2026	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods
44	C6	Has your local authority delivered projects that have notably contributed to the reduction in waste or better recycling of waste?	Run an awareness campaign on what can and can't be recycled in council buildings, including posters at recycling points	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Planning
45	C6	Has your local authority delivered projects that have notably contributed to the reduction in waste or better recycling of waste?	Introduce food waste collection from all properties	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	High	2026	Assistant Director – Environment and Enforcement
46	C7	Is your local authority involved in a re-use scheme, designed to ensure that products and consumables (stationery, furniture, electronics, etc.) that are no longer needed can be re-used elsewhere?	Create a list of local charities who accept the types of products and consumables we replace, and contact them whenever items are available	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Customer and Client Services Manager
47	C8	Has the local authority introduced low emission vehicles into its own fleet?	<p>Investigate and report on feasibility of increasing the number of low emission vehicles into the council's fleet.</p> <p>As part of this, apply to the government's</p>	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods

Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
			OVEZ electric vehicle chargepoint and infrastructure grants programme to accelerate the rollout of a cleaner fleet.					
48	C8	Has the local authority introduced low emission vehicles into its own fleet?	Investigate and report on feasibility of using HVO bin lorries.	<p>HVO bin lorries are powered solely by waste oil not used by supermarkets, restaurants, and other suppliers.</p> <p>HVO is a diesel-quality drop-in fuel, meaning it can be utilised in almost any vehicle that runs on traditional diesel without affecting the day-to-day running of the vehicles. While HVO does not lead to a 100 % reduction in emissions, this makes it a perfect interim option for the council to use in current diesel vehicles whilst the feasibility of ultra-low emission vehicles is considered for future years.</p> <p>The use of HVO reduces carbon emissions from bin lorries by 90 % and nitrous oxide emissions by up to 26 %. As well as reducing emissions, the switch to HVO improves air quality, particularly for waste collection workers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods



Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
49	C9	Is the local authority embarking on any projects to encourage uptake of low emissions vehicles in the community, such as installation of rapid EV charging points?	Undertake surveys of the average number of electric vehicles using each of the council's car parks, and allocate and acquire funding to install enough EV charging points for the average number of electric vehicles using each council car park	<p>Providing EV charging points in council car parks will attract more electric car users to the town centres.</p> <p>As electric cars are on average more expensive than petrol/diesel cars, these drivers will likely be more affluent and have more disposable income, which will in turn help sustain businesses within the town centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Grow a strong and inclusive economy</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> <li>Support local businesses</li> <li>Create vibrant and diverse town centres</li> <li>Stimulate regeneration</li> </ul>	Moderate/High	2026	Assistant Director – Economy
50	C9	Is the local authority embarking on any projects to encourage uptake of low emissions vehicles in the community, such as installation of rapid EV charging points?	Allow electric vehicles to park for a reduced charge in council car parks	<p>Reducing charges for electric vehicles in council car parks will attract more electric car users to the town centres.</p> <p>As electric cars are on average more expensive than petrol/diesel cars, these drivers will likely be more affluent and have more disposable income, which will in turn help sustain businesses within the town centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Grow a strong and inclusive economy</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> <li>Support local businesses</li> <li>Create vibrant and diverse town centres</li> <li>Stimulate regeneration</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Economy
51	C9	Is the local authority embarking on any projects to encourage uptake of low emissions vehicles in the community, such as installation of rapid EV charging points?	Remove time limits on electric vehicle parking spaces at council car parks	<p>Currently electric vehicle charging points can only be parked at for a maximum of two hours.</p> <p>This is off-putting for people considering purchasing electric vehicles, as they</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Grow a strong and inclusive economy</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Economy

Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
				<p>know if they wanted to charge their car and park for more than two hours, they have to go back to the car park after two hours to move it, which is very inconvenient.</p> <p>Additionally, as electric cars are on average more expensive than petrol/diesel cars, these drivers will likely be more affluent and have more disposable income. Consequently, providing electric car owners with more dwell-time in the town centres will help sustain businesses through increased spending.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embrace new and emerging technology</li> <li>• Support local businesses</li> <li>• Create vibrant and diverse town centres</li> <li>• Stimulate regeneration</li> </ul>			
52	C12	Is the local authority involved in any community schemes or development of infrastructure projects aimed at encouraging the population at large to travel more sustainably, such as by public transport or walking and cycling?	Report on WCC's cycle network plans for the borough, setting out what proportion of the plans have been delivered, and how the delivery of the remaining routes can be accelerated.	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Enable appropriate housing development</li> <li>• Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>• Improve the physical environment</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Assistant Director – Planning
53	C20	Has the local authority ensured that its actions related to sustainability benefit all areas of society, including more vulnerable and	Report on the level of insulation in all council owned buildings, and take action to improve insulation in buildings which are poorly insulated	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	High	2031	Assistant Director – Social Housing and Safety

Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
		socially deprived residents?						
54	C26	Is the local authority committed to installing energy efficiency measures across its own estate and where relevant, street lighting?	Repair all windows in the Town Hall	<p>According to the Carbon Trust, 35 % of heat in offices is lost through ventilation and air infiltration. With the windows in the Town Hall being nearly 90 years old, and closing mechanisms having come loose over the years, there are considerable drafts from these windows.</p> <p>Repairing all windows and ensuring no air infiltration is occurring would greatly reduce the need for heating in the Town Hall, thereby reducing the Town Hall's energy bills and carbon footprint.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> </ul>	High	2026	Principal Building Surveyor
55	C26	Is the local authority committed to installing energy efficiency measures across its own estate and where relevant, street lighting?	As part of the renovation of Bedworth Market, investigate the use of transparent solar PV glass roofs	Transparent solar PV glass roofs can generate renewable electricity and help to keep the market cool in hot weather, as has been achieved at West Bromwich's outdoor market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Grow a strong and inclusive economy</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> <li>Support local businesses</li> <li>Create vibrant and diverse town centres</li> <li>Stimulate regeneration</li> </ul>	Low	2026	Service Manager – Regeneration and Economic Development

Action no.	Sustainability West Midlands' Sustainability Benchmarking target reference	Target description	Action	Additional explanation (where necessary)	Corporate plan aims	Estimated cost	Timescale for completion	Responsible role/s
56	C28	Has your local authority considered resilience measures to cope with high energy price rises and/or does it have a plan in place to combat such rises?	Create a carbon reduction and renewable inclusion plan to decarbonise the council's housing stock, prioritising those who are most vulnerable to fuel poverty	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote residents' health and wellbeing</li> <li>Enable appropriate housing development</li> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> <li>Stimulate regeneration</li> </ul>	High	2031	Assistant Director – Social Housing and Safety
57	C28	Has your local authority considered resilience measures to cope with high energy price rises and/or does it have a plan in place to combat such rises?	Undertake an assessment of solar farm opportunities in the borough	<p>This can be used to identify council owned land suitable for solar farms, which if developed, would generate cheaper energy for both residents and businesses.</p> <p>Additionally, the results of this assessment can be used to attract investment in the form of private solar farms, which would help create even more cheap energy for the borough.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor a sustainable green approach</li> <li>Grow a strong and inclusive economy</li> <li>Embrace new and emerging technology</li> <li>Support local businesses</li> </ul>	Low	2028	Assistant Director – Planning