



# Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030

[chorley.gov.uk/climatechange](https://chorley.gov.uk/climatechange)

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## Foreword

As the portfolio holder for Customer Service, Streetscene and Environment, I am pleased to present this updated Climate Change Strategy on behalf of Chorley Council to continue our work to deliver net zero carbon emissions for the Council and the Borough.

Our first Climate Change Strategy spanned from 2022 to 2024 and teams from across the Council have delivered a number of projects to help achieve our goal. In addition, many residents and businesses have engaged and contributed to a reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions.

By taking action, we are ultimately helping to protect our environment for future generations.

Some of these achievements include the planting of ~180,000 trees and hedges, successfully delivering climate change awareness training to all officers within the Council, the publication of the Chorley Waste and Recycling Strategy and the implementation of policies including the Sustainable Building Policy and the Public Electric Vehicle Charging Policy.

The revised programme of activity accompanying this strategy will deliver further tangible improvements to those already achieved, reducing our impact on the environment, reducing the emissions of the Borough's carbon footprint, saving money, and providing a healthier and more resilient place to work and live.

The Council is however, limited on what it can achieve alone, and we will need your help, as individuals, schools, and businesses, to achieve the goals and objectives set out in this strategy.

Climate change affects us all and together we can make a difference.

### **Councillor Adrian Lowe**

Executive Member for Customer, Streetscene and Environment



*Adrian Lowe*

## Chorley Council's Vision

We will strive to be a net zero emissions Council and Borough, having set the ambitious goal of being net zero by 2030.

Through innovation, collaboration, and evidence-based decision-making, we will drive down emissions and support a fair and inclusive transition to a net zero future that benefits all communities in Chorley. We are committed to building a more resilient Borough, one that is prepared for the impacts of climate change and able to adapt to future challenges.

### 1. Introduction

#### What is Climate Change?

Climate change refers to the long-term changes in the Earth's weather patterns and temperatures. The burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gases released by human activities are widely known as the main contributors to climate change. These gases form a blanket around the planet, acting as a greenhouse gas and trapping too much heat.

The effects of climate change are widely regarded to be one of the greatest challenges facing our community. Around the world, in the UK and locally, action is being taken to reduce the level of greenhouse gas emissions.

Chorley has already experienced the effects of climate change, including extreme heat leading to wildfires and a reduction in agriculture production, increases in heavy rainfall leading to flooding and changes in temperature affecting local habitats and biodiversity.

By working together and taking bold, local action, Chorley can lead the way in building a greener, safer, and more resilient future for everyone.

#### What is Net Zero?

Net zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the amount removed from it. Achieving net zero emissions means that any emissions produced are offset by actions that remove an equivalent amount, through nature-based and technological carbon removal

To achieve net zero emissions, it will require a significant effort by all to reduce the quantity of emissions released through actions such as low carbon emission energy and transport, reuse of produced materials and the reduction of waste produced within our own lives and businesses we have in our Borough.

In 2019, recognising the scale of the challenge, Chorley Council declared a Climate Emergency setting the ambition to be net zero as Council and a Borough by 2030. This requires us to work on both our own operations and with external partners and the community to work towards decarbonising the Borough.

Since 2021, Chorley Council has dedicated resources and budget to progress actions around decarbonisation, community engagement, sustainability and improving the natural environment. The Council published a Climate Change Strategy, which covered an action work programme for 2022 to 2024.

In 2023, Lancashire County Council commissioned a piece of work to assess the feasibility of Lancashire reaching net zero. This work determined that the earliest feasible date for the county to reach net zero was 2040. Reaching this date required significant investment and commitments from highways, district councils, businesses, and the community. This work displayed the clear challenges that we as a Borough and a county face in reaching our net zero goals.

As a Borough Council, we have also completed specific modelling to understand the feasibility of reaching net zero as an operation and a Borough, along with the actions required to reach our goals. The scale of the challenge to reach net zero is clear, however it remains a priority and an ambition of the Council. We will continue to strive towards the ambition of being net zero within our own operations and as a Borough as early as is feasibly possible, continuing to strive towards net zero by 2030 whilst understanding limitations and required action feasibility of this goal.

Whilst there is a need to reduce our emissions as a Borough, with the effects of climate change already being experienced by our residents, there is also a need to build resilience and adaptation into our programme to ensure that the community is thoroughly supported.

## 2. Where we stand: Chorley, the UK, and Globally

This strategy makes commitments that align with what is happening on climate mitigation globally, nationally, and regionally.

“There are tried and tested policy measures that can work to achieve deep emission reductions and climate resilience if they are scaled up and applied more widely. Political commitment, coordinated policies, internal cooperation, ecosystem stewardship and inclusive governance are all important for effective and equitable climate action.”

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**  
**March 2023**

**The Climate Change strategy fully takes account of the existing and emerging national policy and legal context.**

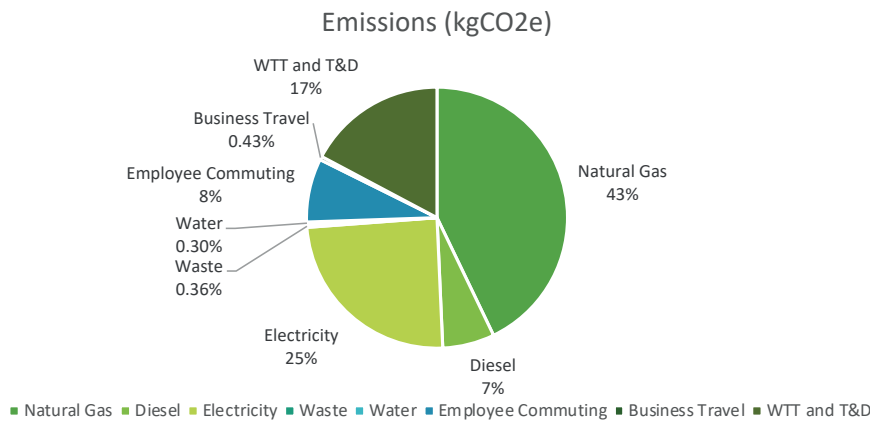
- ✓ **The Paris Agreement:** this is a legally binding international treaty on Climate Change. It was adopted by 196 parties in December 2015. Its goal was to limit global emissions to well below 2 degrees.
- ✓ **A green future:** Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment: In January 2018, the UK government published this plan which confirms the Government's aim to take all possible action to mitigate climate change.
- ✓ **The Climate Change Act 2008:** this act adopted a long-term approach with targets to be met by 2050, interim budgetary targets and reporting requirements, all of which are overseen by the independent Climate Change Committee. In 2019, the UK introduced the Climate Change Act (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019, amending the 2050 target from an 80% to 100% reduction against the baseline, thus reaching net zero.
- ✓ In 2019, along with over 300 other local authorities, Chorley Council declared a climate emergency.
- ✓ **The sixth carbon budget:** for 2033 to 2037: this was published at the end of 2020 by the Climate Change Committee. The budget recommended reductions to UK greenhouse gas emissions of 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels.
- ✓ **The Environment Act 2021:** this established a new legal framework for environmental protection in the UK. The key areas of focus are air quality, biodiversity, water, waste, and environmental targets.
- ✓ **Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate:** introduced in January 2024 this requires manufacturers to sell a specific percentage of electric vehicles and a target for 100% of new vehicle sales to be electric by 2035.

### 3. Chorley's Contribution to Climate Change

Carbon footprints have been calculated for both the Council's operations and the Borough as a whole. A detailed report of the carbon footprints and the modelled pathways to net zero for the Council and the Borough has been published on our website, for further information.

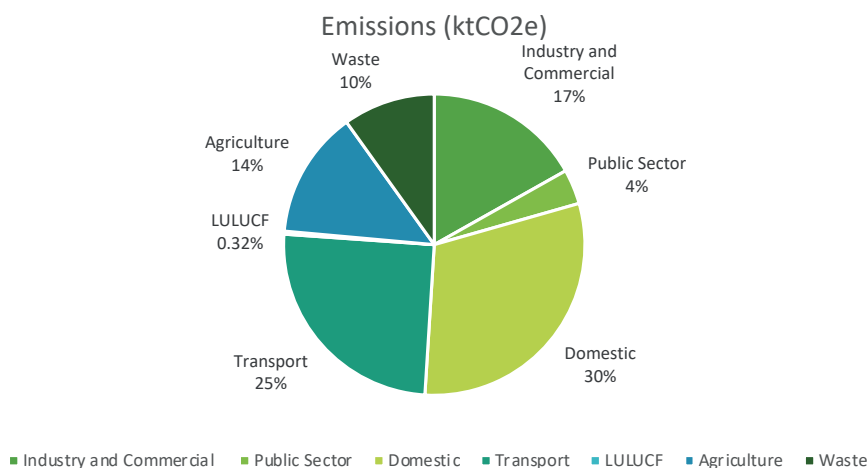
Due to delays in data releases by central government, the most up to date carbon footprint is for the fiscal year 2023/24.

The Council's total emissions in 2023 were 1,860 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions). The largest contributor was the Council's use of natural gas, used for the heating of our offices, leisure centre pools and community centres. A breakdown of the emission sources within the Council's carbon footprint is shown below.



The emissions of the Borough are provided by The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). Following changes to reporting sectors and techniques, the baseline year for the Borough is 2021, however the most recent data has been assessed which is 2023.

The Borough's total emissions for 2023 were 561 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e. The largest contributor to emissions in the Borough is domestic buildings, followed by transport. A breakdown of emissions sources within the Boroughs carbon footprint are shown below:



Emissions of both the Council and the Borough will be monitored and reported annually to track the progress towards net zero emissions. Decreases and changes in emissions will show the success of decarbonisation efforts and inform future actions.

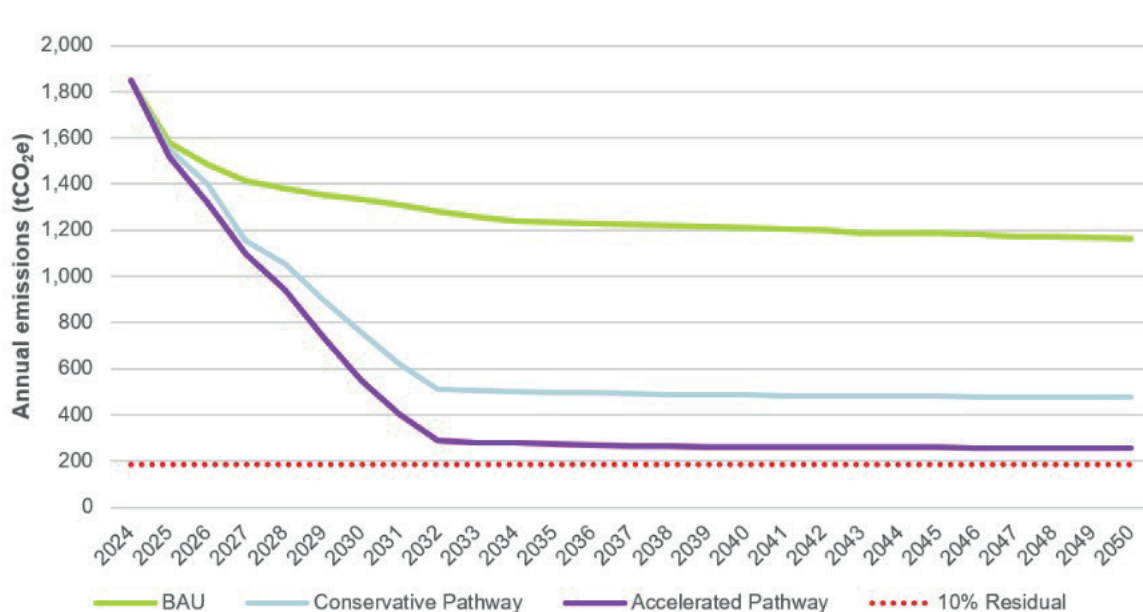
## 4. Pathways to Net Zero

Using the information within the carbon footprints, assessment modelling has been undertaken for the Council and Borough to determine the expected emission reductions that would occur in three different scenario action pathways.

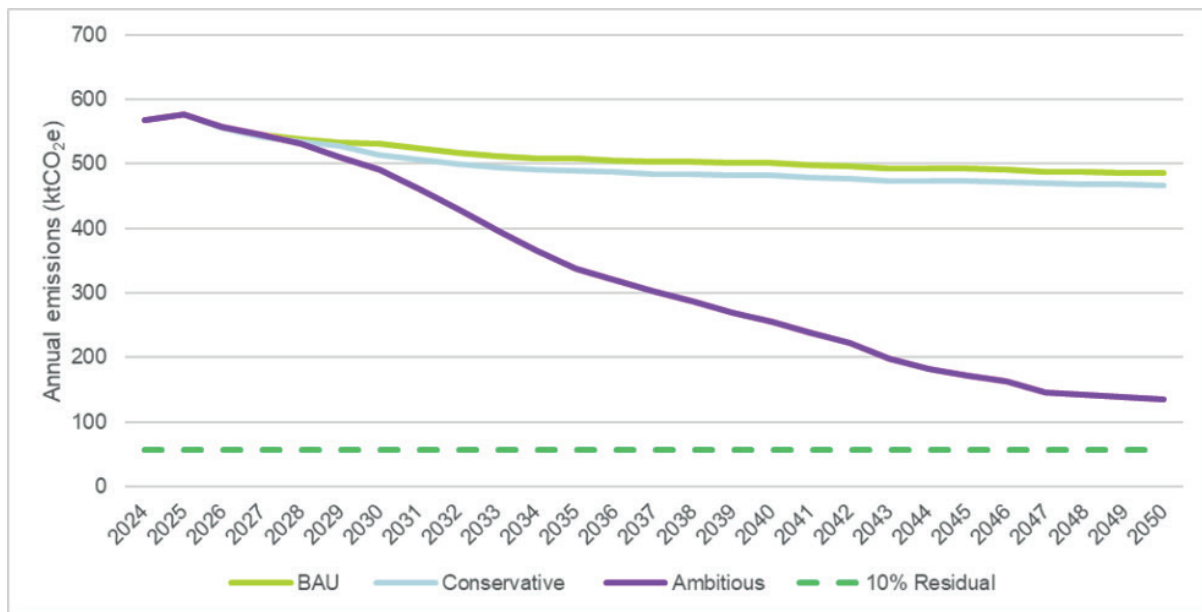
These pathways were developed, in order for actual annual emissions to be compared against in order to track progress towards net zero emissions.

Pathway	Description
<b>Business-as-usual (BAU)</b>	Emissions with no further interventions beyond those that are already committed, this considers committed development, policies, and national legislation.
<b>Conservative</b>	Emissions factoring in already committed interventions but also factors in emission reductions following actions fully within the Council's remit.
<b>Accelerated/ Ambitious</b>	Emissions factoring in already committed interventions including significantly larger investment, successful influence programmes, greater resources and greater government commitments

For the Council modelling shows that with intervention the Council can reach 72% emission reduction by 2032 following the conservative pathway and 84% emission reduction by 2032 following the accelerated pathway.



For the borough, modelling shows a 17% reduction in emissions by 2050 following the conservative pathway and a 76% reduction in emissions by 2050 following the ambitious pathway.



These pathways to net zero emissions clearly show the challenge the Council face in achieving its goal of being net zero as a Council and Borough by 2030. The Council will continue to strive towards net zero emissions by 2030, as an ambitious target while fully recognizing the modelled and scientific data presented within these reports.

As a Council we will continue to monitor carbon footprint emissions against these pathways annually in order to determine our progress towards our ambitious goal.

## 5. Strategic Direction, Purpose, and Framework

This climate change strategy is replacing the previous 2022-2024 climate change strategy and covers 2025 to 2030.

The strategy has been brought together based on scientifically modelled data, the corporate priorities of the Council and the people of Chorley.

The overarching goal of the strategy is to reduce emissions which contribute to climate change, striving to reach our ambitious goal of net zero emissions by 2030. However, within this iteration of the strategy there are a host of additional actions which focus on adaptation, equality, opportunities, and benefits.

The causes of climate change are many and thus action to tackle them must be wide ranging and multifaceted. To make significant impacts both within the community and in emission reductions, it will

require the action and support of many people working together.

**There are a number of strategies which support and underpin the climate change strategy, these include:**

- ✓ Corporate Priority Programme
- ✓ Waste and Recycling Strategy
- ✓ Tree Emergency Action Plan
- ✓ Clean Air Strategy
- ✓ The Fleet Strategy (upcoming)
- ✓ The Biodiversity Strategy (upcoming)
- ✓ The Central Lancashire Local Plan (upcoming)

Within this document there are five overarching strategic objectives, and then seven priorities which have a number of supporting actions within an action plan.



## 6. Successes from Our Previous Strategy

The 2022-2024 Climate Change Strategy delivered tangible and successful outcomes including:

- ✓ Climate Change Awareness Training for all staff within the Council
- ✓ The Chorley Council Sustainable Building Policy
- ✓ The planting of approximately 180,000 trees
- ✓ The formation of the Chorley Net Zero Business Accreditation Programme
- ✓ The major asset decarbonisation programme through a successful funding bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)
- ✓ School engagement through assemblies, lessons, eco-group engagement and teacher support
- ✓ The completion of annual corporate priority projects within the 'Green and Sustainable Borough' priority
- ✓ The requirement of climate change impact consideration for all Council Committee reports

## 7. Climate Change Effects, Health, and Co-benefits

### Climate Change Effects

Climate change will impact the residents, ecosystems, and economy of Chorley. Due to the greenhouses gases already present within the atmosphere, the effects of climate change will still be experienced regardless of future emissions.

**It is the severity of these impacts which can be mitigated with action now. Climate change impacts include:**

- **Hot Weather** – increased heatwave intensity and frequency, decrease in water availability causing wildfires.
- **Wet weather** – flooding, high winds, landslips

- **Environmental effects** – increase in invasive species, harm to ecosystems and agriculture, spread of diseases.
- **Health and wellbeing** – increase in cost and risk for food and resources, heat-related illnesses, mental health impacts.

Within Chorley, some climate related effects have already been experienced.

### Health

The health and prosperity of the residents of Chorley is of the highest priority to the Council. Evidence published by the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations research into health and lifestyle inequalities and indicate that climate change is likely to intensify existing disparities in health outcomes and deepen community segregation. Therefore, tackling inequalities in the health of people and our planet goes hand in hand with action on climate change.

Climate equality is a principle that guides fair and inclusive responses to climate change. Climate equality ensures that everyone has equal access to clean air, water, safe environments, and the resources needed to adapt to climate change.

Addressing these inequalities locally is a key priority of this strategy, with all actions having been considered with the community and equality in mind.

### Co-Benefits

The causes and consequences of climate change are wide ranging. However, climate change related actions have additional positive outcomes that are significant and tangible.

The activities of the Council will be most effective if they can deliver on multiple priorities at the same time. Actions within this strategy have been evaluated for their potential additional benefits, also known as co-benefits.

The table below shows the co-benefits which the Council aims to achieve through climate action. There are a large number of co-benefits to climate change action which may not have been listed here but are still a consideration for the Council.



Co-benefit	Description
<b>Financial savings</b>	Interventions that reduce energy use and resource requirements/consumption will deliver direct financial savings; this can be for both the Council and residents. This can include a reduction of energy use, reducing waste production and product reuse.
<b>Transport improvements</b>	Improvements in networks for sustainable forms of transport will make mobility more accessible, affordable, and equitable to residents. The increased use of public transport and electric vehicles will create quieter neighbourhoods, reduce congestion, and improve sleep quality and wellbeing.
<b>Health</b>	The reduction of greenhouse gases will also improve public health through mechanisms such as reducing illness, active travel provisions, mental health improvements, clean air and water and reducing heat-related illnesses. This in turn also reduces the strain on our national health service.
<b>Equity, Community and Education</b>	Empowering and bringing together the community for the shared goal of climate action, while also ensuring inequalities within our community are considered. Through education programmes, community knowledge of all ages will increase which in turn can support confidence building and additional interest development
<b>Jobs and economy</b>	Targeted investment creates economic opportunities and jobs within the low carbon sector. Improvements in local provisions and supply chains also improves the local economy.
<b>Resilience</b>	Through mitigation measures and education, the ability of the community and Council to prepare, recover and adapt from the effects of climate change is improved.
<b>Council capacity</b>	Climate action can strengthen the Council's skills, systems, partnership working and resources, therefore improving inhouse knowledge, capacity, and retention.
<b>Green spaces and Biodiversity</b>	Reduction in climate impacts will improve the protection of local green spaces. Improvements in health and transport will improve access to green spaces. Habitat restoration, such as native tree and wildflower planting improves local ecosystems. Ecosystem improvements in turn enhance crop pollination and natural pest control
<b>Urban Cooling</b>	The development of green walls, tree corridors and green spaces will mitigate heat-island effects, lowering the peak summer temperatures of the town centre and housing estates.
<b>Mental Health Uplift</b>	Access to nature reserves, parks and green spaces provides a tranquil retreat that reduces stress, anxiety, and social isolation. The knowledge of climate change mitigation has also been shown to reduce anxiety levels and increase community confidence

## 8. Strategic Objectives

Our five strategic objectives for climate change are cross cutting throughout the priorities and action plan. The objectives provide an overarching framework for our priorities and actions guiding the overall climate change programme.

- ✓ Making sure the journey to net zero by 2030 is fair to everyone.
- ✓ Leading by example as a climate responsible council, taking action to reduce our own emissions.
- ✓ Support and facilitate partnership working to achieve net zero emissions in the area.
- ✓ Work within the community to empower the residents of Chorley to be knowledgeable and to take action.
- ✓ Ensure we as a Council and a community have sufficient adaptation and resilience measures in place for future climate change impacts.

## 9. Priorities

The Council has identified seven priority areas for action to work towards mitigating climate change. Each priority has associated actions which will aid in the progressive delivery of the priority, in turn this will support the delivery of our strategic objectives.

These priorities cover a broad range of themes including transport, governance, community, adaptation, and low carbon energy. Other strategies, noted within section 3 'Our Strategy, Purpose and Shape', underpin this strategy and further expand the sustainability actions of the Council in themes such as nature, air quality and recycling.

**The following is an overview of each of our priorities.**

### **Priority One: To deliver and support low carbon, affordable transport options and to decarbonise transport within our own operations where possible.**

Transport is our second largest emitter of greenhouse gases within the Borough, omitting motorway vehicles. The Council will be enabling and supporting the community to uptake alternative transport options working with colleagues at Lancashire County Council as the Strategic Transport Authority. Moving away from private combustion engine cars can be achieved by supporting the provision of affordable public transport, providing accessible electric vehicle charge points and cycling infrastructure, and communications to raise awareness and encourage behavioural changes. This work will not only reduce emissions but also relieve traffic congestion, reduce air pollution, and

improve users physical and mental wellbeing. Encouraging more active modes of transport is also important in enabling a shift in behaviour from use of the private car for short journeys.

The conversion of our own fleet and staff commuting habits will allow the Council to lead by example and to allow our staff to benefit from safe and healthy methods of transport.

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### **Priority Two: Tackling climate change collectively as an organisation, making financially responsible decisions based on evidence.**

Chorley Council is committed to understanding and assessing the impacts on climate change mitigation and the environment in every decision

made, using robust evidence to guide our decisions. We will embed climate action across all areas of our organisation, recognising that every team and decision has a role to play.

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### **Priority Three:** Reduce energy usage and adopt sources of low carbon energy within our own operations.

Electricity and gas usage account for over 68% of our emissions as an organisation, these include our buildings used by the community such as leisure centres and community centres.

Leading by example the Council will strive to source and provide low carbon and renewable forms of energy for our own operations and to the national grid. These actions will ensure the Council is fit for the future and provide the community with sustainable community spaces.

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### **Priority Four:** Support our community to benefit from energy efficiency initiatives and low carbon solutions.

There are numerous opportunities available to the community to increase the energy efficiency of private and rented homes, which the Council can promote through inhouse guidance, signposting, education, and communication.

Community empowerment is important within Chorley, and the Council will look to support low carbon community initiatives where possible.

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### **Priority Five:** Designing our built environments with the climate in mind, encouraging a low carbon economy to support climate resilience.

Through the development of policies within the

Central Lancashire Local Plan, and a rigorous planning application process, we will embed sustainability and adaptation into the building and development of the Borough.

As a Council we will continue to follow the existing sustainable building policy, ensuring all our buildings either newly built or renovated are climate conscious and climate resilient for our staff, tenants, and users.

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### **Priority Six:** Fostering community and service resilience, reducing vulnerability to climate change.

We will strengthen the ability of the community and public services to anticipate, adapt to, and recover from climate impacts. By identifying service and community vulnerabilities, enhancing local resilience, and embedding climate resilience into service delivery, we aim to protect people, reduce risk, and ensure continuity in the face of a changing climate.

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### **Priority Seven:** Working with and supporting residents and businesses to increase their knowledge, share best practices and take sustainability actions.

Through building an understanding and celebrating best practices within the community, we will engage and empower residents and businesses to play an active role in tackling climate change.

Through awareness raising, knowledge sharing and practical support, we will promote sustainable.

## 10. Action Plan

The Climate Change Strategy Action Plan sets out the programme of activity which is a mix of projects delivered across the Council, many being supported by our partners and involvement with the community.

All our actions fall within one of our seven priorities and contribute to at least one of our strategic objectives and ultimately our vision of a net zero and inclusive Borough.

Action progress and performance will be reported to the Climate Change Working Group each quarter and will also be part of general service performance reporting to Executive Cabinet and the Executive Member for Customer, Streetscene and Environment.

Action	Action Description	Associated co benefits	Lead	Completion date	Council or Borough action
<b>Priority One: To deliver and support low carbon, affordable transport options and to decarbonise transport within our own operations where possible</b>					
<b>Staff public transport season-pass scheme</b>	Promote and extend the public transport season pass for staff to bus and rail, to cover staff travel within the Borough from their local station/stop to the office	Transport Improvement, financial savings, health	Human Resources	January 2027	Council
<b>Electrification of Streetscene and market fleet</b>	100% EV fleet for small commercial vehicles and market vans	Transport improvements health, financial savings	Streetscene	2035	Council
<b>Develop a proposal for a staff car sharing programme</b>	Complete research and feasibility into options for an effective and user-friendly staff car sharing scheme for potential implementation	Transport improvements, financial savings, health	Climate Change Team	October 2026	Council
<b>Incentivise Electric Vehicles</b>	Continue the roll out programme of electric vehicle charge points through County Council and the Council's own installation programme	Transport improvements, health, financial savings	Climate Change Team, Car Park Team	2028 and then ongoing	Borough
<b>Expansion of the secure cycle storage infrastructure</b>	Deliver more secure cycle storage facilities within the Town Centre and other economic hubs	Health, transport improvements financial savings	Climate Change Team, Streetscene	April 2027	Borough
<b>Promotion of community cycle support programme</b>	Support existing programmes of cycle support within the community, including bike maintenance and on road safety	Health, transport improvements financial savings	Climate Change Team, Communities	August 2026	Borough
<b>Deliver robust Impact Assessments</b>	Prepare and implement robust climate change impact assessments as part of the corporate project methodology	Council capacity, resilience, equity, community and education	Policy, Climate Change Team	September 2026	Council

Action	Action Description	Associated co benefits	Lead	Completion date	Council or Borough action
<b>Priority Two: Tackling climate change collectively as an organisation, making financially responsible decisions based on evidence</b>					
<b>Deliver effective risk assessment of the impact all Council decisions regarding climate change</b>	Review and implement improved climate risk impact processes as part of committee reports to ensure a greater robustness of climate change decision making	Resilience, council capacity	Climate Change Team	March 2026	Council
<b>Staff Sustainability Training</b>	Enhanced training for all staff to be fully carbon literate	Resilience, council capacity	Climate Change Team	2030	Council
<b>Climate Equality and co-benefit training</b>	Detailed training on climate equality and co-benefits for Council Equality Champions and interested officers	Resilience, council capacity	Climate Change Team	March 2026	Council
<b>Internal data access</b>	Develop an internal data source with carbon footprint data, prioritise actions and policies around climate change for staff to access and use	Resilience, council capacity	Climate Change Team, Communications	April 2026	Council
<b>Emission monitoring</b>	Continue to monitor annual carbon footprint of the council and Borough annually	Resilience, council capacity, financial savings	Climate Change Team	Annually	Council and Borough
<b>Scope 3 emission monitoring</b>	A full calculation of the Council's scope three emissions with any actions arising being considered	Resilience, council capacity, financial savings	Climate Change Team	Annually	Council
<b>Review of the procurement policies to address climate change</b>	Review the social value policies within procurement to increase the mitigation of climate change within the procurement process	Council capacity, resilience	Procurement, Climate Change Team	March 2027	Council
<b>Climate Change Officer Working Group</b>	Establish a climate change officer working group in order to share action progress, inspire services and promote cross collaboration	Council capacity, mental health uplift, financial savings	Climate Change Team	December 2025	Council
<b>Review the event trader request forms</b>	Review the trader request forms for Council events to promote climate conscious traders	Financial savings, resilience	Climate Change Team, Events	September 2026	Council

Action	Action Description	Associated co benefits	Lead	Completion date	Council or Borough action
<b>Priority Three: Reduce energy usage and adopt sources of low carbon energy within our own emissions</b>					
<b>Completion of phase 1 asset decarbonisation</b>	Decarbonisation of the Town Hall, All Seasons Leisure Centre, Brinscall Baths, Astley Community Centre and Eaves Green Community Centre	Financial savings, resilience, jobs, and economy	Property and Development	March 2028	Council
<b>Phase 2 asset decarbonisation preparedness</b>	Decarbonisation plans for all other assets to be completed with all required information for future bidding	Financial savings, health, resilience	Property and Development	December 2026	Council
<b>Phase 3 housing decarbonisation preparedness</b>	Decarbonisation plans for all council owned social housing properties for future bidding	Resilience, financial savings, jobs, and economy	Property and Development	September 2027	Council
<b>Heritage decarbonisation Study</b>	Decarbonisation feasibility study of the heritage buildings owned by Chorley Council including Astley Hall and Astley Coach House	Resilience, council capacity, financial savings	Property and Development, Visitor Services	November 2027	Council
<b>Renewable Energy Tariffs</b>	All council owned and managed buildings to adopt renewable tariffs	Financial savings, resilience, health	Utilities Team	December 2027	Council
<b>Staff training on office-based emission reduction</b>	Training and knowledge sharing for staff on reducing individual emissions at work including computer use, building heating, and waste reduction	Resilience, council capacity, equity, community and education	Climate Change Team	May 2026	Council
<b>Rewilding and Habitat Banks</b>	Promote and support rewilding projects including habitat banks and peatland restoration through the upcoming Biodiversity Strategy	Greenspace and biodiversity, health, mental health uplift	Biodiversity Project Lead	Ongoing	Borough



Action	Action Description	Associated co benefits	Lead	Completion date	Council or Borough action
<b>Priority Four: Support our community to benefit from energy efficiency initiatives and low carbon solutions</b>					
<b>Home Energy Support</b>	Continue the Home Energy Support Advisory Programme, and continue signposting and administering Cosy Homes in Lancashire and Affordable Warmth funding	Financial savings, health, resilience	Communities	Ongoing	Borough
<b>Market Organic Waste Energy Feasibility</b>	Complete a full feasibility and cost report for a market composting hub with a view for installation by 2035	Jobs and economy, financial savings, resilience	Waste Services	December 2026	Council
<b>Commercial Retrofit Support</b>	Continue the Road to Net Zero Business Grant to support business retrofit schemes	Financial savings, resilience, council capacity	Business Engagement	March 2026	Borough
<b>Feasibility studies for renewable energy supply</b>	Feasibility studies for the installation of hydro, wind, and solar	Council capacity, resilience, financial savings	Climate Change Team and Property and Development	December 2027	Council
<b>Supporting community energy groups</b>	Continue to support community energy groups within the Borough	Equity, community and education, financial savings, health	Climate Change Team	Ongoing	Borough
<b>Community grant promotion</b>	Continue promotion of grants available to the community, via various channels including virtually and online	Council capacity, equity, community and education, resilience	Climate Change Team	Ongoing	Borough
<b>Lobbying</b>	Work with partners to lobby the government for actions including additional funding, highway changes for cyclists, electric vehicle incentives and policy changes	Transport improvements, jobs and economy, financial savings	Climate Change Team	June 2026 then ongoing	Borough

Action	Action Description	Associated co benefits	Lead	Completion date	Council or Borough action
<b>Priority Five: Designing our built environments with the climate in mind, encouraging a low carbon economy to support climate resilience</b>					
<b>Enforcement of the Sustainable Building Policy</b>	Continue the use of the Sustainable Building Policy for all new developments and renovation schemes within the Council	Financial savings, jobs and economy, resilience	Climate Change Team and Property and Development	Ongoing	Council
<b>Local Area Energy Plan</b>	Completion of a local area energy plan (LAEP) for current energy demand. Opportunities for energy input and future demand	Financial savings, resilience, council capacity	Climate Change Team	September 2027	Borough
<b>Implementation of Local Plan Climate Change Policies</b>	Support the implementation of the Central Lancashire Local Plan climate change policies including monitoring performance	Health, transport improvements, resilience	Climate Change Team, Spatial Planning	July 2026 and ongoing	Borough

Action	Action Description	Associated co benefits	Lead	Completion date	Council or Borough action
<b>Priority Six: Fostering community and service resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change</b>					
<b>Climate Council adaptation plan</b>	Development of an adaptation plan for the Council to ensure the continuation of operations	Resilience, council capacity, financial savings	Climate Change Team	December 2026	Council
<b>Chorley Climate Adaptation Plan</b>	Completion of an adaptation plan for the Borough for impacts including flooding and drought	Green spaces and biodiversity, resilience, financial savings	Climate Change Team	March 2027	Borough
<b>Council Climate risk register</b>	Development of a council climate risk register to support corporate adaptation and readiness within individual services	Resilience, council capacity, equity, community, and education	Climate Change Team, Risk and Audit	September 2026	Council
<b>Review the planting schemes of the Council</b>	Review the existing and proposed future planting schemes to ensure sustainability and effectiveness of shading and water uptake	Greenspaces and biodiversity, urban cooling, mental health uplift	Climate Change Team, Open Space Team, Streetscene	March 2027	Council

Action	Action Description	Associated co benefits	Lead	Completion date	Council or Borough action
<b>Priority Seven: Working with and supporting residents and businesses to increase their knowledge, share best practices and take sustainability action</b>					
<b>Domestic low carbon awareness</b>	Create/promote resources for homeowners to reduce emissions (grants/home improvements)	Equity, community and education, financial savings, health	Climate Change Team	October 2026	Borough
<b>Parish Council Engagement</b>	Engage with Parish Council including offer of training and outreach sessions to local communities	Equity, community and education, resilience, health	Climate Change Team, Democratic Services	March 2027	Borough
<b>Agriculture emission education</b>	Education programme with external partner support for farmer education on use of fertilisers, reducing frequency depth and intensity of cultivations, ensuring adequate drainage, manure management, integrated livestock crop systems, nutritional approaches, and selective breeding	Equity, community and education, greenspaces and biodiversity, and resilience	Climate Change Team	March 2027	Borough
<b>Recycling Education and Awareness</b>	Engagement, education, and awareness raising with schools, youth groups, residents, and businesses to improve recycling and reuse rates in the Borough	Equity, community and education, resilience, health	Climate Change Team	July 2026	Borough
<b>Climate Change Education</b>	Engage with young people within schools and youth groups through presentations, lessons, activities, and workshops to promote climate change education	Equity, community and education, resilience, health	Climate Change Team	July 2026	Borough
<b>School Climate Change Competition</b>	Educate young people on sustainable practices and engage them in an inter-school climate change competition	Equity, community and education, resilience, greenspaces, and biodiversity	Climate Change Team	August 2026	Borough
<b>Climate Change Adult Engagement Programme</b>	Education, awareness and message sharing via social media, website and in-person events	Equity, community and education, resilience, health	Climate Change Team	December 2026	Borough
<b>Engagement with Housing Providers</b>	Raise awareness of climate change and promotion of opportunities with private sector landlords	Equity, community and education, jobs and economy, financial savings	Climate Change Team	August 2027	Borough
<b>Chorley Net Zero Business Accreditation Scheme</b>	Continue the annual business accreditation scheme in order to promote local businesses making sustainability improvements	Equity, community and education, jobs and economy, mental health uplift	Climate Change Team, Business Engagement Team	Annually	Borough

## 11. Glossary

**Emissions:** the release of greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the Earth's atmosphere as a result of human activities or natural processes. These gases trap heat and contribute to global warming and climate disruption.

**Net Zero:** the balance between the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the amount removed from it. Achieving net zero means that any emissions produced are offset by actions that absorb or eliminate an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases.

**Climate Change:** long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns, primarily caused by human activities – especially the burning of fossil fuels like oil, coal, and gas. These activities release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, which trap heat.

**Greenhouse Gases:** these are gases in the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat. They allow sunlight to enter freely but prevent some of the heat that the sunlight brings from leaving the atmosphere.

**Greenhouse Gas Effect:** the process by which certain gases in the Earth's atmosphere trap heat. These gases let sunlight pass through but also absorb and re-radiate radiation (heat) that would otherwise escape back into space. When in balance this effect supports life on the planet. The enhancement of this greenhouse effect is caused by human activities which is leading to climate change.

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):** the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change. It was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with their purpose being to provide comprehensive scientific assessments about the current state of climate change, impacts, risks and options for adaptation and mitigation.

**Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ):** UK government department responsible for ensuring the country's energy security, protecting consumers and delivering the UK's net zero commitments

**Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e):** the standard unit used to compare the climate impact of different greenhouse gases by expressing them in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide they would have the same global warming potential.

**Carbon Footprint:** the total amount of greenhouse gases that are emitted directly or indirectly by an individual, organisation or activity. This is typically measured in (CO<sub>2</sub>e)

**Fossil Fuels:** are natural energy sources formed from the remains of ancient plants and animals buried underground for millions of years. They include coal, oil and natural gas. The burning of fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change.

**Low Carbon Technology:** refers to tools, systems and innovations that produce significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional technologies. These technologies are designed to help reduce carbon footprints, support the transition to net zero and mitigate climate change.

**Renewable Energy:** is energy that is generated from natural sources that are constantly replenished and do not deplete. Unlike fossil fuels, renewable energy sources produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions.

**Adaptation:** refers to the actions taken to adjust to current or expected climate change impacts, in order to reduce harm or take advantage of potential benefits. It involves making systems, communities and environments more resilient to changing climate.