

# The Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25 Annual Report 2021/22

November 2022



# Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25

## 2nd Annual Progress Report (2021/22)

Produced by Reading Climate Change Partnership/Reading Climate Action Network (November 2022)

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## FOREWORD

The Reading Climate Emergency Strategy was published in November 2020 in the midst of the global pandemic. While the pandemic dominated the headlines, for many people it also gave opportunities to re-think lifestyles and choices and to consider whether we really should return to ‘business as usual’ ways of living. Just one example of this is that hybrid and online meetings are now commonplace and business travel has been reduced for many people. This ‘reset’ has also become even more relevant as climate change impacts have returned to the front pages, and an energy price crisis has hit the UK and many other countries.

The multiple climate-related disasters we see almost daily from around the globe, with the attendant risks to life, livelihoods and property, underline the need for urgent and sustained action at international, national and local levels. The breaking of the record for the UK’s hottest day in July 2022, and the drought conditions we are seeing over much of the country, provided further evidence that climate change is not just a problem for faraway places.

Indeed, it is little wonder that climate emergency declarations are now a global phenomenon. Today 2,268 jurisdictions in 39 countries have declared a climate emergency covering some 1 billion citizens, and in the UK around 95 per cent of the population lives in areas where the local authorities – over 570 councils in total – have declared a climate emergency. So, ‘thinking global but acting local’ should still be a powerful mantra for us all.

As the UK and Reading MP the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP hands over the Presidency of the international Conference of the Parties (COP) to his Egyptian counterpart, it remains vital that the UK and Reading are seen to be leading the way on climate action and set an example for others to follow. Honest and transparent reporting are an important part of climate leadership and this report, summarising progress on the second anniversary of publication of the Reading Climate Emergency Strategy, is presented in that spirit. In that same spirit, Reading submitted details of its climate programme for assessment by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) for the first time in 2021. We were delighted to see our efforts recognised with Reading’s addition to the CDP’s ‘A’ list of cities taking bold climate action, and Professor Ed Hawkins’ (University of Reading) ‘climate stripes’ have become an iconic global image.

Today, however, in places like Reading we are rapidly reaching a crucial stage in our battle against climate change. For example, a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said the risk of triggering climate tipping points becomes high with 2°C of global heating, and so we should continue to do everything we can to keep warming within 1.5°C. This means we must redouble our individual and collective action across Reading from its residents, businesses, schools, and public sector organisations together with local government to continue to reduce emissions. For some this may mean making difficult lifestyle choices for the greater good, but we should all remember that reducing our emissions can usually save us money and can certainly save the planet. For example, the world’s wealthiest 10% were responsible for around half of global emissions in 2015, according to a 2020 report from Oxfam and the Stockholm Environment Institute, and as Greta Thunberg wrote in 2019, ‘The bigger your carbon footprint, the bigger your moral duty’.

Despite these clear challenges and the often difficult choices we must all make, we have also sought to celebrate positive developments in this report as a tribute to the partners involved but also to help highlight the good news stories of individual and collective actions, and build confidence that we can rise to the future challenges which lie ahead.

We are extremely grateful to the colleagues, partners, organisations and individuals across Reading who have worked together collectively and individually to take action on climate. We have been unable to capture every action taken in this report but felt it important to record our thanks as every action taken, no matter how small, can make a difference.

**Tracey Rawling-Church and Professor Tim Dixon**  
Co-Chairs, Reading Climate Change Partnership



As an A List city,  
we're proud to be taking  
**bold climate action**  
for the planet's future

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25 was published in November 2020 and included a commitment to review progress annually. This report represents the second annual report on the Strategy. The report combines:

- An assessment of progress against the headline targets in the strategy (section 2)
- Case studies illustrating and celebrating progress in 2021/22 (section 3)
- A detailed account of progress with the action plans on which the strategy is based (Annex 1)

In compiling the report, the need to consider a new question has become increasingly apparent: are we still pursuing the right actions? With the passage of time, some actions envisaged in 2020 have been overtaken by events or super-ceded for other reasons. As such, we will consider how we address this challenge as we approach the point of initiating a review of the strategy and its refresh for the period 2025-30.

While the report has been produced by the Reading Climate Change Partnership and reflects progress with action to which a wide range of partner organisations have contributed, in the interests of transparency, and to put the report on the public record, a copy is being submitted to the November 2022 meeting of Reading Borough Council's Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee.

## 2. PROGRESS REPORT ON READING BOROUGH EMISSIONS

### 2.1 Measuring Reading's emissions

The Reading Climate Emergency Strategy reinforced the goal of a 'net zero Reading by 2030' which was first set out in the Climate Emergency Declaration passed by the Council in February 2019 on behalf of the wider community.

Carbon dioxide emissions statistics for UK local authority areas are compiled by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and published annually as 'The UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics'. This dataset represents the most reliable and consistent breakdown of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across the country, using nationally available data sets going back to 2005.

The BEIS statistics include a data subset for 'Carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities'<sup>1</sup>. This excludes sources of emissions which cannot realistically be influenced by local action such as those arising from motorway traffic, large industrial installations (excluding power stations) within the EU Emissions Trading System, diesel railways and land use change. We use this dataset to track progress towards net zero by 2030 target for Reading as, while it does not substantially change the headline figure for emissions reduction in the area compared to the main BEIS dataset, it does reflect the sources of emissions from Reading over which local partner organisations and residents have most control and influence.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1086967/uk-local-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2005-2020-release.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1086967/uk-local-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2005-2020-release.pdf)

While these statistics represent the most comprehensive and robust assessment of emissions by local authority area and are used by many other local authority areas to measure their progress, it is important to recognise their limitations. Chief among these is the fact that they measure ‘territorial’ or ‘production’ emissions (goods, products and services made or provided in Reading), but do not take account of emissions arising from consumption (things used or eaten in Reading but produced outside Reading’s boundaries).

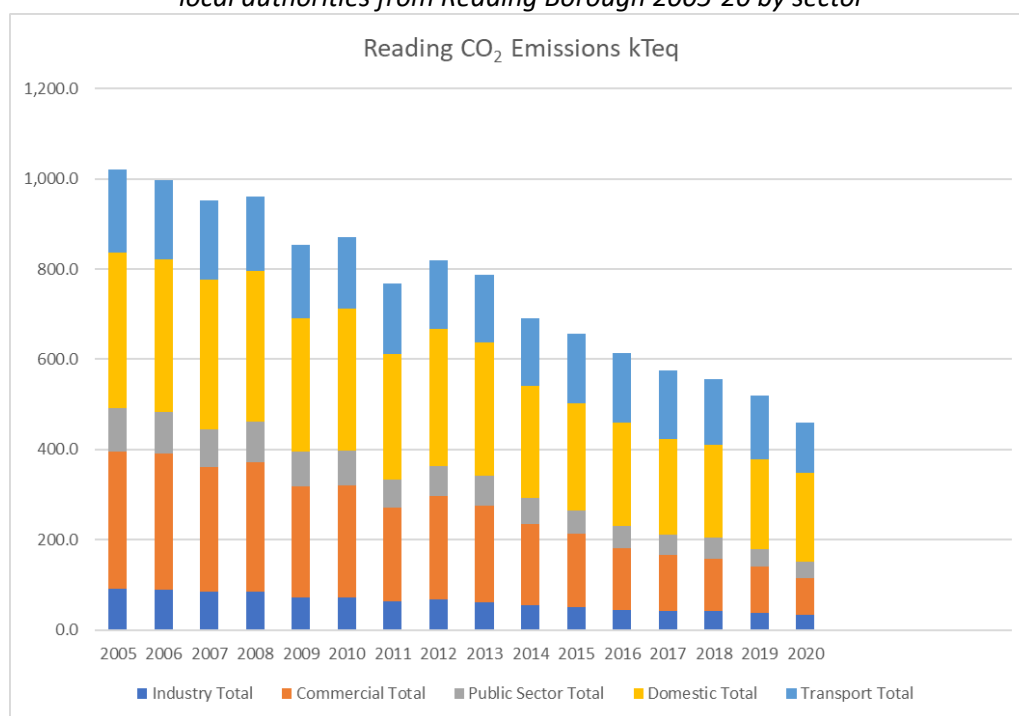
This latter calculation would add a significant proportion to Reading’s ‘real-world’ carbon footprint due to our reliance on imported food and other products. This is not to say that our Strategy ignores the issue of emissions arising from consumption – on the contrary, measures to tackle such emissions feature prominently in the Action Plans on which the Strategy is based – but it does mean that the impact of these actions will not necessarily be reflected in the headline measure of the Borough’s carbon footprint used to measure progress towards net zero.

## 2.2 Progress toward net zero by 2030

As described above, the headline measure of Reading’s progress towards net zero is the reduction in emissions since 2005 based on the national data for ‘emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities’. The 2020 statistics (the latest year for which data is available) were published in July 2022 and show that emissions fell from 1,003.5 kt to 448.1 kt between 2005 and 2020 - a reduction of 55.3% compared to the national average of 43.4% and the South East regional average of 43%. Figure 1 summarises the reduction in Reading Borough’s emissions over that period by sector.

*55% cut in Reading’s area emissions since 2005*

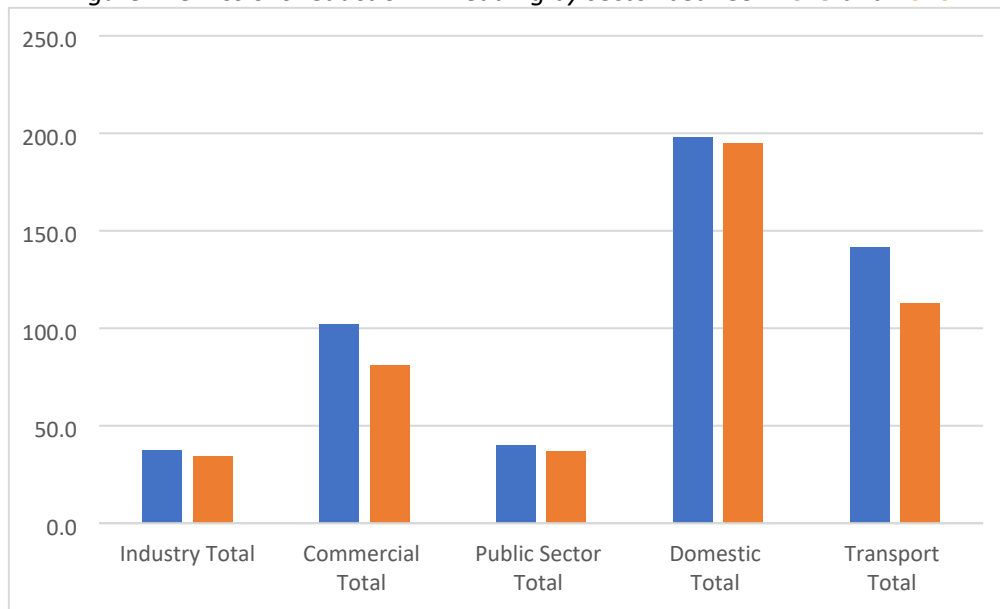
*Figure 1: reduction in carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities from Reading Borough 2005-20 by sector*



This reduction was the 4<sup>th</sup> highest reduction out of 374 UK local authority areas, suggesting that Reading is leading the way in national efforts to reduce emissions by this measure. It is important to note that as these statistics relate to 2020, the big reduction in emissions compared to 2019 is in

large part explained by the fact that significant sectors of the economy and society were effectively closed for business because of ‘lock-downs’ in various forms which began in March 2020. Figure 2 illustrates where the main reductions in emissions occurred in Reading in 2020 compared to 2019. Unsurprisingly, given pandemic restrictions on travel and commercial activity, these two sectors saw the most dramatic reductions.

Figure 2: emissions reduction in Reading by sector between 2019 and 2020



Perhaps more surprising is the reduction in domestic emissions, given the shift to working from home and the fact that people were confined to their homes for extended periods during the lockdowns. This is at least partly explained by the continued decarbonisation of grid electricity as more renewable energy such as offshore wind has come on stream.

The ‘artificial’ suppression of emissions during 2020 means that there is a risk that, when the 2021 data is published (in summer 2023), emissions will ‘bounce-back’ following the lifting of restrictions and the return of higher levels of traffic and other activity. That said, the more widespread adoption of hybrid working practices, increasing uptake of electric vehicles and ongoing efforts to reduce emissions in other areas, not to mention possible reductions in energy use in response to the high price of energy, may mitigate this effect.

While not all of the 55% reduction in Reading’s emissions since 2005 can be attributed to local action – a significant portion of it arises from national policies to decarbonise the energy going into the national grid – the way in which Reading’s economy has developed, with a focus on high-tech sectors with relatively greater reliance on electricity, and relatively less reliance on gas and other fossil fuels, has enabled the Borough to benefit from the lower carbon energy now coming through the grid. The benefits of lower carbon grid energy (and the temporary reductions seen as a result of pandemic restrictions) were of course experienced by every local authority area, so the fact that Reading has seen the 4<sup>th</sup> largest reduction out of all UK local authority areas still provides meaningful evidence that Reading is heading in the right direction, and doing so faster than most.

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*Reading has seen the 4<sup>th</sup> largest reduction in emissions out of 374 UK local authority areas since 2005*

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It remains equally clear, however, that there is much more to do – whilst the year-on-year reduction in emissions of 11% between 2019 and 2020 represents one of the largest single year reductions since the dataset began in 2005, we would need to replicate annual reductions of that order every year between now and 2030 to bring the net zero target within reach, and to do so without the artificial conditions created by the lockdowns of 2020. Some of this should happen without local action if national policy to decarbonise the grid continues to be implemented successfully, but the remainder will undoubtedly be influenced by local action by all key stakeholders.

The Strategy document made clear that progress towards the aspiration of a ‘net zero Reading by 2030’ was unlikely to take the form of a straight-line reduction in emissions, and it was always likely that the pace of emissions reduction would need to accelerate as the decade progressed. The data appears to confirm that the challenge will indeed increase as the decade advances – but it also shows that we are making good progress which should build confidence in our ability to tackle the huge challenge which the achievement of ‘net zero’ represents.

### 2.3 Emissions reduction in Reading compared to other Berkshire local authority areas

Comparison with neighbouring local authority areas provides another way of looking at emissions reduction in Reading. Table 1 shows the reduction in emissions in each Berkshire local authority area between 2005 and 2020, based on the national dataset for ‘emissions within the scope of local authorities’. Table 1 also shows the figures for per capita emissions for each local authority area in Berkshire. The data for the Reading local authority is encouraging by both measures, being the only area in Berkshire to have seen a 50%+ reduction in emissions between 2005 and 2020, and per capita emissions of below 3 tCO2 per annum.

*Reading has the highest rate of emissions reduction and lowest per capita emissions out of the 6 Berkshire local authority areas*

Table 1: Emissions reduction in Berkshire local authority areas

Berkshire local authority area	Total emissions 2005	Total emissions 2020	% reduction 2005-20	Per capita emissions (tCO2)
Reading	1003.5	448.1	55%	2.8
Bracknell Forest	747.9	392.8	47%	3.6
Windsor & Maidenhead	1031.5	560.1	46%	3.7
West Berkshire	1,293.7	728.2	44%	4.6
Wokingham	911.4	525.8	42%	3.0
Slough	691.0	545.4	21%	3.6

### 2.4 Progress on improving resilience to climate impacts

The vision for the Reading Climate Emergency Strategy has two key elements – first, reducing emissions to net zero by 2030, and second, making Reading more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate. Whilst we have metrics for the former as summarised above, there is no simple means of measuring the latter. However, the Action Plans within the Strategy include several actions designed to adapt to climate impacts, and progress with these is summarised in Annex 1.

Overall, while there are well-established mechanisms for adaptation planning in some areas like flood risk management and heatwave planning, adaptation planning in Reading (like many other areas) remains at a relatively early stage. Furthermore, while we have a good understanding of the potential impacts, further work is needed to raise awareness of these and the steps which public



services, businesses, organisations and individuals need to take to improve their resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.

The heatwave of July 2022, which saw UK and Reading temperature records broken, provided an important test of preparedness for the sort of extreme conditions we can expect more of in future. Communications on staying safe in the heat were stepped up, and while data on the full impacts is not yet available, many organisations made temporary changes to working practises from which we can learn to help us adapt in future.

During 2021-22, Reading Borough Council worked with the University of Reading and the Met Office to produce a 'City Pack' for Reading outlining key climate impacts we can expect. This was published in August 2022 and Reading is one of only 20 cities for whom the Met Office have conducted this work, providing a valuable resource to inform adaptation planning going forward. The City Pack sets out the factors affecting Reading's weather and climate, summarises observed changes and impacts, explains the projections used to forecast future changes based on different emissions scenarios and sets out the basis of good climate risk management. The City pack provides organisations in Reading with a valuable resource to inform their efforts in planning to adapt to future climate change.

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*'City Pack' for Reading published August 2022 to support adaptation planning – collaboration between the Met Office, University of Reading and Reading Borough Council*

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## **2.5 Future risks and challenges**

Since our last annual report one of the main external changes has been the rapid escalation in the price of energy, initially due to a resurgence of demand arising from the lifting of pandemic restrictions, compounded by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 and subsequent geo-political developments.

The corresponding rise in energy prices now facing domestic and commercial customers is a source of significant concern, only partly addressed by the Government's announcement of the energy price guarantee in September 2022. Alongside wider cost of living pressures and high levels of inflation, we still expect to see many more households pushed into fuel poverty. Many of the policy solutions being considered as a response to rising energy bills fail to address both the magnitude of the increase in prices, and the underlying cause of the crisis: dependence on fossil fuels. At the same time the policies which offer some of the quickest and cheapest solutions – encouraging people out of their cars, promoting active travel, insulating homes – are not being promoted or invested in as heavily as they might.

In addition, a backlash in some quarters against 'net zero', onshore wind and solar farms (both of which offer cheaper electricity than the fossil fuel alternatives) threatens to hamper the growth of these important economic sectors and undermine the consensus on the need for action. Neither fracking nor new opening up of new oil and gas fields in domestic waters will do anything to lower prices in the short or medium term and, even if they did, they would undermine our net zero aspirations.

These issues raise questions about whether a key assumption on which Reading's climate strategy is based – that we can achieve net zero by electrifying heating and transport to take advantage of increasingly low carbon grid energy – remains a safe assumption. Logic and economics suggest that it should be, politics and vested interests perhaps make it less so.

### 3. CASE STUDIES FROM 2021/22

It is important to celebrate progress on the journey to net zero and there have been some significant developments and achievements over the last 12 months of which Reading can be proud. The case studies below demonstrate progress by a range of partners within the scope of the Strategy:

#### CASE STUDY 1: DECARBONISING THE UNIVERSITY

During 2021/22 the University of Reading completed a £3.8 million programme of decarbonisation measures, supported by a £3.2 million grant from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, administered by Salix.



The programme included two major heat-zoning projects, heating controls and insulation improvements, the upgrade of 5,000 luminaires to LEDs, multiple plug-in science lab equipment upgrades and a trebling of solar PV generating capacity to 1.2 MWp.

It is estimated that the programme will save 3.126 MWh of energy, generate 514 MWh of renewable energy and deliver 884 tonnes of carbon savings per annum.

The project will help the University, which is ranked first in Britain and second in the world for climate science, and which was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize in February 2022 for its work on climate change, achieve the ambitious target in its Carbon Plan of reaching net zero by 2030.

Further details: [University carbon reduction projects underway - Sustainability \(reading.ac.uk\)](https://www.reading.ac.uk/sustainability/carbon-reduction-projects-underway)

## **CASE STUDY 2: REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM READING'S SCHOOLS**

In March 2021, Reading Borough Council was awarded £556k for school solar panels and just over £800k for school energy efficiency projects from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

The funding, combined with the Council's own Education Capital Grant, has enabled 6 double glazing projects, 3 roof insulation projects, 6 LED lighting projects, and 20 solar PV projects across the school estate.

All but one of the projects were completed by September 2022 and represent the first steps towards decarbonising the school buildings – reducing heat loss, electricity consumption and generating renewable electricity to pave the way to switch to a renewable heat source (heat pumps) in future.

The programme represents a significant investment in the current and future energy performance of the school estate, saving 2,584 tonnes of carbon over the lifetime of the products.



*Pupils at Thameside Primary School where new windows and solar panels have been installed as part of the project to reduce emissions from Reading's schools*

### CASE STUDY 3: DESTEAMING THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL

The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust has made a commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2030, ten years ahead of the NHS national targets. This ambitious target has been largely due to the success of the de-steaming project which replaced steam for a Low Temperature Hot Water (LTHW) system and involved replacing 3km of steam pipework, boilers and calorifiers (water heaters) with new technology.

The Royal Berkshire Hospital site had previously been reliant on a network of underground steam pipes which had been leaking causing both energy and water wastage. The installation of the LTHW system resulted in carbon, water and financial savings. The project delivered improved quality of care for patients and staff, through a reliable and resilient hot water and heating solution, allowing internal building temperatures to be controlled as well as a significant contribution to the aim for net zero carbon and financial savings. The project was conceived, designed and delivered within 12 months of notification of funding.



*Guy Kieser, Associate Director of Estates at RBH, pictured here with the Mayor of Reading, Cllr Rachel Eden, being shown the complex boiler systems which heat the hospital*

The project was completed at the end of 2021 and savings have been calculated as 800 tonnes of carbon and 17.9 million litres of water p.a. - the equivalent of 7 Olympic size swimming pools. This has exceeded the expectations of the Trust and represents a 5.5% reduction on the current annual carbon emissions of 14,374 tonnes - the equivalent of travelling 2.8 million miles in a car each year.

#### CASE STUDY 4: BOOSTING BUS USE IN READING

Prior to the pandemic, Reading boasted the second highest level of bus use per head of population outside London. A well-used public transport network is key to Reading's net zero ambitions so



when the opportunity arose to bid for Government funding to help bus services recover, Reading Borough Council jumped at the chance.

In April 2022 the Government confirmed that Reading had secured an (indicative) allocation of £26 million from the UK Government to implement its 'Bus Service Improvement Plan' in a highly competitive funding process. This was one of 31 grants awarded to local authorities and represented one of the largest awards in the country.

It is hoped that the funding will enable: further investment in key bus corridors and routes; seamless and integrated local ticketing between operators; significant increases in bus priority measures and the transformation of bus networks through bus rapid transit and other measures; further decarbonisation of Reading's bus fleet; Bus services that are seen as safe by passengers; simpler fares that are easier for passengers to understand; and creation of a 'Passenger Charter' to give bus users a greater say.

Further details: [Reading Bus Passengers to Benefit From £26 million Investment in Services](#)

## CASE STUDY 5: ENABLING ACTIVE TRAVEL TO REDUCE EMISSIONS AND IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH

Reading Borough Council has taken advantage of 'Active Travel' funding made available by the Government to develop several strategic cycling and walking initiatives.

In addition to cycling and walking improvements being implemented in summer 2022 along Shinfield Road in South Reading, in March 2022 the Council was awarded £1.3 million from the national Active Travel fund to complete an important 'missing link' in Reading's cycle network along the Bath Road/Castle Hill. Further design work is underway prior to public consultation on an updated scheme.

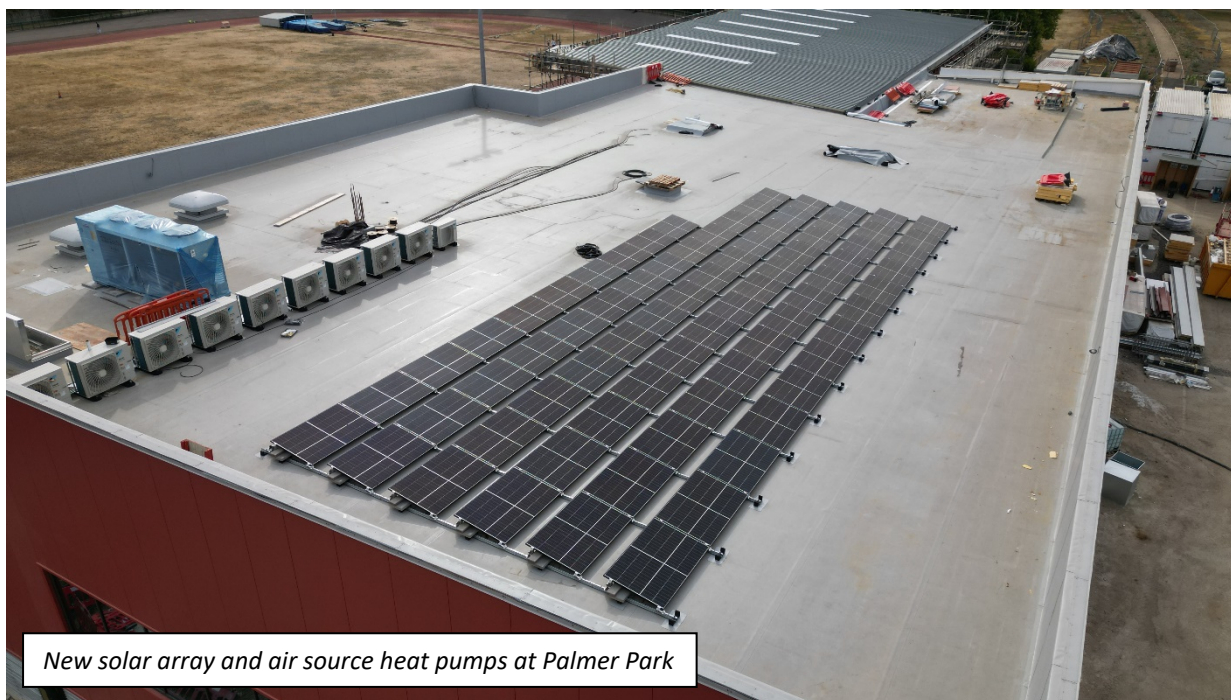


Reading already boasts good cycling provision and a 2022 survey by COLAS ranked Reading as the UK's 3rd most 'cycle-friendly' city based on criteria including number of length of cycle lanes, safety/accident record and public opinion survey data (see <https://www.colas.co.uk/how-cycle-friendly-are-uk-cities/>).

*Further details:* <https://www.reading.gov.uk/vehicles-roads-and-transport/transport-schemes-and-projects/active-travel/>

## CASE STUDY 6: GREENER LEISURE FACILITIES FOR READING

In March 2022 Reading Borough Council committed £976,248 to provide additional carbon reduction measures on its new leisure facilities at Rivermead and Palmer Park (pictured). The new investment was additional to the Council's £40m investment in modern leisure facilities for the town, including delivery of new pools and modern facilities by spring 2023.



*New solar array and air source heat pumps at Palmer Park*

The Council and its partners had already committed to developing the new facilities to Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) 'Excellent' standards (which is the world's leading sustainability assessment method). But by working with its leisure partners GLL and construction company, Pellikaan, the Council identified further opportunities to improve the carbon performance of the leisure centres by including additional air source heat pumps (ASHPs) and solar PV capacity.

This was in addition to the existing £1.6m investment already being made into energy-efficient leisure centres, including poolside and sports hall climate controls; energy efficient lighting upgrades; and combined heat and power (CHP) boiler units. The additional investment is enabling two more ASHPs at Rivermead, delivering a c.75% reduction of the carbon emission rate of the new centre's heating system, and at Palmer Park, delivering a c.50% reduction of the carbon emission rate of the new pool's heating system. Solar panels are already part of the scheme being installed at Palmer Park and the new investment will see additional solar panels deployed at the Rivermead site.

*Further details: [Council commits almost £1 million additional funding for more carbon reduction measures at brand new leisure sites \(reading.gov.uk\)](https://www.reading.gov.uk/news/council-commits-almost-1-million-additional-funding-for-more-carbon-reduction-measures-at-brand-new-leisure-sites)*

## CASE STUDY 7: ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL COMMUNITY GARDEN

In February 2022 the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust approached local charity Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC) to create a garden to complement its new staff Wellbeing Centre in Craven Road. In October 2022 the new Centre opened and the garden is coming to life. The decision to transform the Grade II listed house into a Wellbeing Centre gives the Trust the opportunity to create a therapeutic outdoor space where staff can relax, away from the stress of the hospital routine, and enjoy the well-documented health and wellbeing benefits of green space.

The garden has been designed by Dave Richards from RISC's Food4families project and is based on permaculture principles – an approach to sustainable design that learns from nature. The garden will also contribute to the Trust's net zero carbon Green Strategy: organic, water conserving, peat-free, using renewable, re-used or recycled materials for the hard landscaping where possible and irrigating with harvested rainwater. It is also hoped that food waste from the Trust will be fed to wormeries to turn into concentrated plant food and cardboard used as a weed-suppressing mulch. Increasing biodiversity will be a key element with a pond, bug hotels, bird and bat boxes around the site.

The design will create a multi-purpose space with formal areas for social and fund-raising events, as well as wilder areas and 'rooms' where people can wander, garden, do tai chi or yoga, chat and relax with colleagues or just sit quietly. Using photos dating back to the 1920s, elements of the original garden will be included as well as echoes of traditional medicinal physic gardens. A water feature, edible forest, scented winter garden, wildflower meadow and memorial garden are all planned (funding permitting) and veg beds and a herb garden will provide the Centre's users with fresh ingredients and herbal teas. Interpretation panels around the garden will demonstrate how visitors can reduce their carbon footprint, especially by adopting a more healthy, planet-friendly diet.

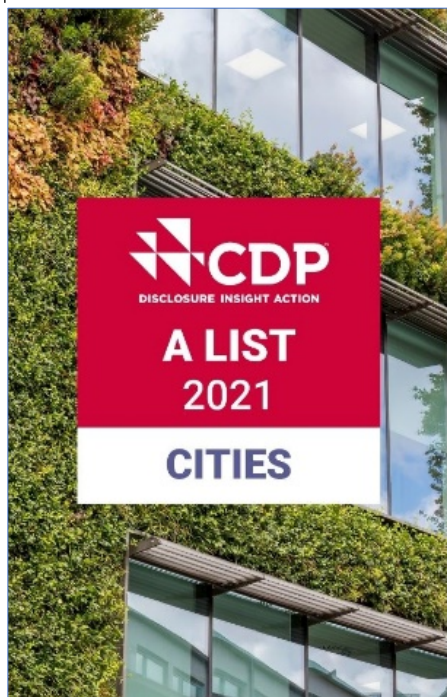


The vision is that the garden will become a wellbeing hub for the Royal Berks, not only providing respite for its staff but also a means of strengthening bonds with local communities. Initially this will be volunteers who come to help establish the garden but as time goes on it is envisaged the garden will be used to host groups of volunteers for ongoing maintenance, workshops and gardening courses and the fruit and veg grown in the garden will be distributed to families in need.



## CASE STUDY 8: READING RECOGNISED FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

In November 2021, shortly after publication of last year's Climate Strategy Annual Report, Reading Borough Council received notification that Reading had been added to the 'A' list of cities taking 'bold climate action' by the international NGO, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).



As an A List city,  
we're proud to be taking  
**bold climate action**  
for the planet's future

CDP's reporting and disclosure platform is regarded as the 'gold standard' for environmental reporting, and the Council submitted details of Reading's plans and achievements via the platform for the first time in summer 2021.

While submitted by the Council, the data reflects efforts by a wide range of partners in Reading so the 'A' list ranking is very much a shared success.

Any city can submit their data to CDP and while over 1,000 do so globally, less than 10% of these were admitted to the prestigious 'A' list in 2021: Reading is one of just 11 cities in the UK and 95 worldwide to receive the honour, which recognises our leadership on climate action.

*Further details: [Reading one of just 95 areas in the world to make Climate Action A list - Reading Borough Council](#)*

## CASE STUDY 9: COMMUNITY ACTION ON PLASTICS

In June 2022 the Plastic Free Caversham campaign secured prestigious 'Plastic Free' accreditation for Caversham from the marine conservation charity, Surfers Against Sewage (SAS). Plastic Free Caversham was founded in 2019 by local business owner Anne-Marie Evans and former Reading Deputy Mayor Ayo Sokale, and has worked alongside residents, businesses and schools to help them reduce use of single-use plastics.

After registering with the SAS Plastic Free Communities movement, the team developed a five-point plan to set up a steering group, roll out the Plastic Free Schools education programme, secure local council commitment and work with businesses and community organisations to reduce use of single-use plastics. The group has organised litter picks, family-friendly events and has raised funds for a new water refill station. It is hoped that other areas will follow Caversham's lead and pursue their own plastic-free campaigns and initiatives inspired by the success of Plastic Free Caversham.

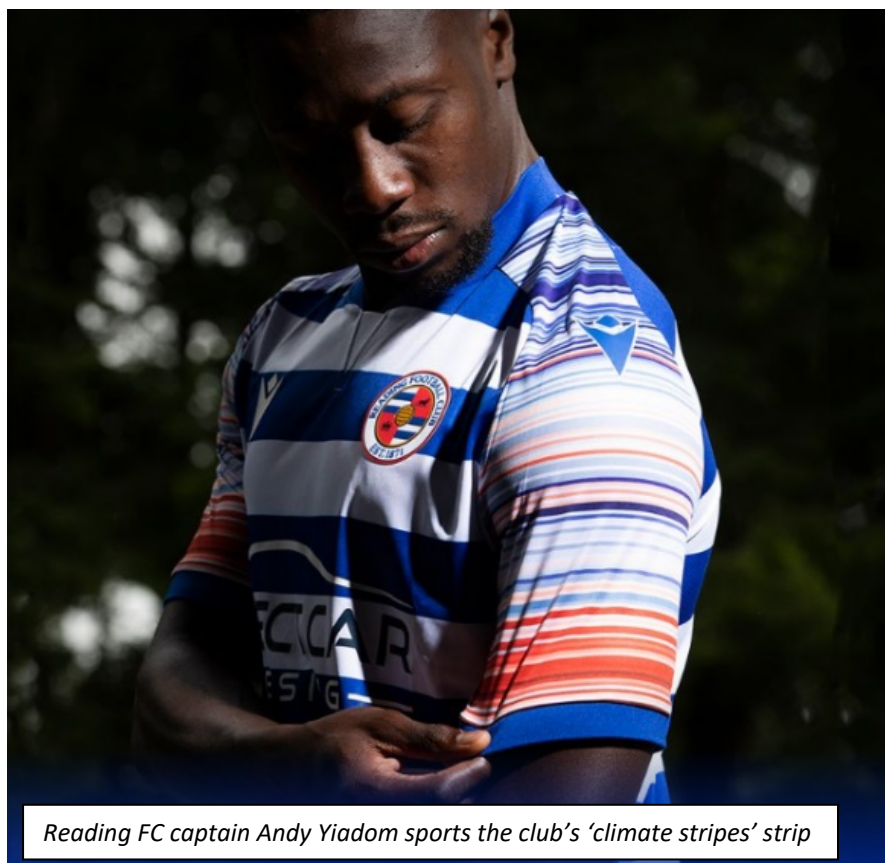


Further details: [Caversham awarded 'Plastic Free Communities' status as it takes action on single-use plastic - Reading Climate Action Network \(RCAN\) \(readingcan.org.uk\)](#) (photo credit: Plastic Free Caversham)

## CASE STUDY 10: HOOPS FOR THE FUTURE

In June 2021 Reading Football Club launched a new partnership with the University of Reading, *Hoops for the Future*, to guide the club into a more environmentally aware and sustainable future.

Earlier this year the Club hosted members of the University's sustainability team at the stadium to workshop how it could improve sustainable practices going forward. A transition to LED lighting across the stadium and training ground complex has already begun and the club also heavily subsidises local matchday bus travel to encourage supporters to leave the car behind.



Reading FC captain Andy Yiadom sports the club's 'climate stripes' strip

Other carbon-reduction initiatives being taken forward as part of an overarching Environmental Sustainability strategy by the football club include: exploring renewable energy options for the stadium and training ground; establishing the viability of installing EV charging points; improving cycle facilities for supporters; reducing paper use, recycling glass bottles and minimising food waste levels at the stadium; proactively monitoring water, electricity and gas use; implementing reusable or recyclable cup solutions from the

stadium service kiosks; sourcing food and supplies more carefully and sustainably; and educating supporters and key stakeholders in sustainability best practice.

Further details: [Reading FC | Show your stripes and share our Hoops for the Future](#)

## CASE STUDY 11: SHOW YOUR STRIPES

21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 saw the University of Reading lead a global celebration of the 'climate stripes' data visualisation, designed by the University's Professor Ed Hawkins, which illustrate the reality of global warming over the last 150 years.



The climate stripes were shared by US senators, global organisations, television presenters and thousands of others around the world to mark the summer solstice – which has become known as #ShowYourStripes Day. A major international media campaign helped raised awareness of what the stripes signify – namely the reality of a changing climate and a warming world.

As the climate stripes were 'made in Reading', the area has embraced the imagery, which has been adopted into the branding of the Reading Climate Action Network, as well as being used on buses, taxis, the hydro-power station at Caversham Lock, and even the main stage at the Reading Festival to draw public attention to the issue of climate change.

Further details: [Show Your Stripes Day 2022 highlights - University of Reading](#)

## CASE STUDY 12: READING CLIMATE FESTIVAL 2022

The third Reading Climate Festival took place this year from Saturday 24th September to Sunday 2nd October, concurrently with the UK-wide Great Big Green Week. Its aim was to inspire and encourage positive action on climate change, supporting Reading's commitment to being a Net Zero, climate resilient town by 2030.

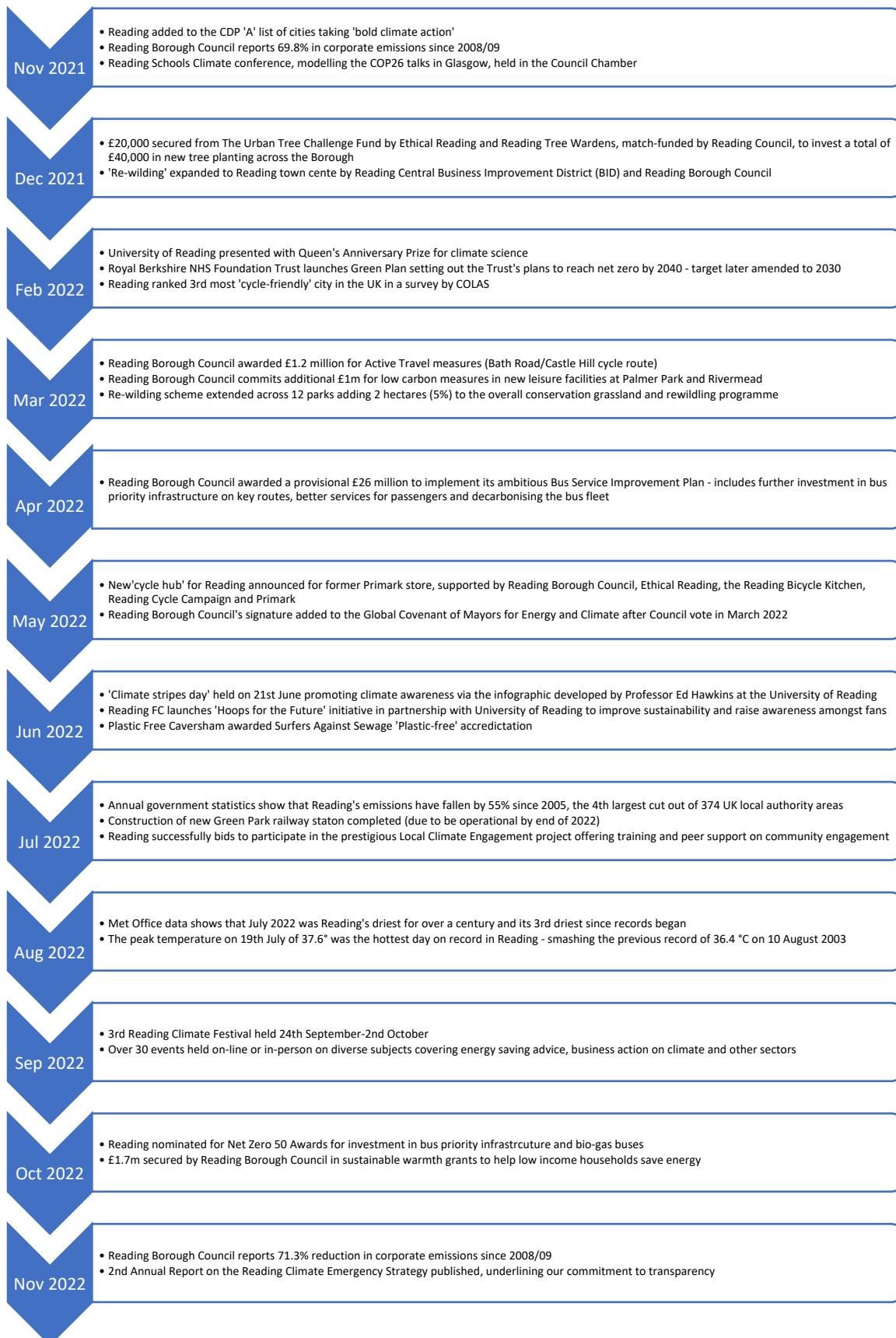
The Reading Climate Festival originated in 2020 as a series of online talks about various aspects of climate change and sustainable living to support the launch of Reading's Climate Emergency response. In 2021 it was able to add some in-person events and expand the programme to include more entertainment and public participation, and this trend continued in 2022.

This year's noteworthy events included a festival launch event at the Reading Biscuit factory which showed the Ants and the Grasshopper film followed by a climate Q&A, a Youth Fair hosted by Reading School, the Reading Cycle Festival, and Reading RESCUE (Reading Environmental Spaces Clean-Up Event). We also increased the focus on energy efficiency in our programme to help people reduce their fuel bills in response to the energy price crisis. The festival had over 30 online and in person events and sold over 700 tickets. For more information about the Reading Climate Festival, please visit:

<https://readingcan.org.uk/festival/>



#### 4. KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE OUR LAST ANNUAL REPORT



## 5. PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN DELIVERY

### 5.1 Overview

In terms of the action plans around which the Strategy is based, we have reviewed each Action Plan in preparation for this Annual Report and ‘RAG’-rated the status of each action based on the following definitions:

- RED – not yet started
- AMBER – started but not in line with target dates/outcomes
- GREEN – complete/underway and on target

Annex 1 contains a detailed description of progress with the action plans on which the strategy is based.

## 6. SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

It is clear from this Annual Report that much has been achieved – the reduction in Reading’s emissions between 2005 and 2019 (the latest year for which data is available) of 55% is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest reduction of 374 local authority areas according to the UK Government dataset which records ‘carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of the local authority’.

However, it remains equally clear that there is much more to do – the reductions seen in 2020, for which pandemic restrictions were partly responsible, would need to be replicated in every year between now and 2030 to bring the net zero target within reach. Moreover, we know that the official statistics on which our targets are based, which measure ‘territorial’ or ‘production’ emissions do not take account of emissions arising from consumption. This latter calculation adds a significant proportion to Reading’s carbon footprint<sup>2</sup> due to our reliance on imported food and other products.

As we said in the Strategy document, we did not envisage progress towards the aspiration of a ‘net zero Reading by 2030’ to take the form of a straight-line reduction in emissions, and it was always likely that the pace of emissions reduction would need to accelerate as the decade progressed. The data appears to confirm that the challenge will increase as the decade advances – but also shows that we are making good progress which should build confidence in our ability to tackle the huge challenge which the achievement of ‘net zero’ represents.

Climate-related weather events around the globe and at home illustrate the equally pressing need to adapt to future climate impacts – the Committee on Climate Change recently warned that ‘adaptation action has failed to keep pace with the worsening reality of climate risk’<sup>2</sup>. It will therefore be incumbent on all partners to develop their adaptation strategies alongside plans to reduce their emissions in the coming months and years. As part of the developed world the UK has more resources to adapt than many, but also bears more than its share of responsibility for historic emissions – further underlining the importance and urgency of the need for us to take action in this vital area.

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<sup>2</sup> [Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://www.theccc.org.uk/reports/2022/independent-assessment-of-uk-climate-risk/)

## ANNEX 1 – THEME ACTION PLAN UPDATES

<b>THEME: ENERGY AND LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT</b>
<b>PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</b>
2022 represents the second year of delivery of the Energy Action Plan. Over the course of this year a number of significant projects have moved forwards. Whilst in many cases good progress has been made and the majority of actions have moved forward a number have not kept pace with targets. The key challenges remain expanding the scale of some of the positive initiatives taking place and increasing the pace of delivery.
<b>EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME</b>
<p>The government has released a number of funding programmes which potentially assist in the delivery of carbon reduction programmes in public buildings and housing. The issue with some of the funding streams is that they are ‘first come first served’ and generally over-subscribed. Whilst Reading has had some success in bidding, the scale of support has not come close to that needed to meet a net zero trajectory. Public confidence in temporary short term funding opportunities for housing retrofit has been very low and the uptake has been frustratingly slow. The domestic reductions slowed in most recent years up to 2020 which is the most up to date data at the time of this review.</p> <p>The 2022 Building Regulations and Future Homes Standard (to come into force in 2025) were introduced and these contain standards for buildings which are higher than Reading Local Plan policies for small developments but lower than Reading Local Plan policies for large developments. Other government programmes include the support for heat pumps which have a regulatory basis, are integral to funding criteria and the boiler upgrade scheme offers home-owners subsidy for installs.</p> <p>The new retrofit standards PAS 2030 and PAS 2035 have now become obligatory for publicly funded schemes.</p>
<b>OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME</b>
<p>The pandemic fundamentally changed working practices and had far reaching impacts on retail and travel. Whilst we return to a ‘new normal’ where hybrid working is the common policy for organisations and internet shopping has become further consolidated, we await to see the impact on the data for the 2021 year onwards.</p> <p>Electric vehicle sales have continued to climb at an ever-steepening rate. Meanwhile public and private installation of chargers has not kept pace. Another significant relevant constraint has been that due to the erratic nature of public funding available supply chains have not developed rapidly enough and there is a severe skills shortage for household retrofit standards in particular.</p> <p>Inflationary pressures have impacted this sector as they have others, with the costs of equipment, materials, parts and labour rising sharply in many cases, adding to the costs of transition.</p>



**Energy and Low Carbon Development Action Plan: our aim is that by 2025 Reading is taking urgent action to decarbonise its energy networks, increase energy efficiency and create renewable energy capacity. It has concrete plans to achieve sufficient demand reduction to enable its annual energy needs to be 100% covered by its renewable generation, taking account of the increased load from transport and heat becoming electrically powered.**

**NB** Some of the actions included in the action plans below, and the scale and pace at which they can be progressed, will be subject to the prevailing national policy context and/or the provision of additional powers and resources by central government, as made clear in Reading’s climate emergency declaration (see section 3.2 above).

**Sub category: Low Carbon Development**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG Status	Commentary (100 word max)
E1: an Energy Master Plan for Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an Energy Master Plan for Reading</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Develop stakeholder group</li> <li>ii) Establish evidence base and technology pathway</li> <li>iii) Develop cross sector implementation plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Q4 2020</li> <li>ii) Q2 2021</li> <li>iii) Q2 2021</li> </ul>	Scottish and Southern Energy (District Network Operator) SGN (Southern Gas Networks) Ovo Energy Octopus Energy Local renewable energy suppliers. Spirit Solar Reading Energy Strategy forum	AMBER	Group has not met recently but some work on technology pathway carried out with SSEN and also using ‘Scatter’ tool. Individual organisations have been developing their plans e.g. SSEN, Reading BC, RBH, UoR
E2: Energy Efficiency in New development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large commercial to BREEAM ‘excellent’ standard</li> <li>Larger housing developments built to zero carbon standards</li> <li>Ensure standards post construction</li> <li>Build new council housing to Net zero carbon and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv) % achieving standard</li> <li>v) Schemes supported though offset</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Reading BC	GREEN	<p>Local Plan policies are being implemented and developers are bringing forward developments to ‘zero carbon’ standard.</p> <p>Reading BC new housing has been built to Passivhaus principles and reports show an &gt;80% below part L.</p>

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG Status	Commentary (100 word max)
	<p>exceeding 50% reduction on building regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider embodied energy in public projects</li> </ul>					Embodied energy considered for BREEAM (non-residential development)
E3: Energy Reduction through Retrofit Programme	<p>Establish a housing retrofit programme in Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply for funding</li> <li>Compile high quality information on stock and energy efficiency levels of local housing</li> <li>Identify partners</li> <li>Zero carbon offset</li> <li>Investigate green/community bonds and other finance innovation</li> <li>Commercial retrofit scheme</li> </ul>	<p>Apply MHCLG Local Authority Delivery funding Sep-Dec 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stock condition survey Oct 20</li> <li>Supply chain development work TBC</li> <li>Collect Section 106 funds for zero carbon development</li> <li>Work with LEP and Reading UK to establish pilots</li> </ul>	2020/21	Reading BC and developers and/or retrofit companies	AMBER	Reading is currently rolling out the third round of Green Homes Grant together with the Greater South East Net Zero Hub (GSENZH). This scheme is known as Sustainable Warmth. Reading did not participate in the second round as we were still delivering round 1. 28 houses received retrofitting measures in phase 1. Section 106 carbon offset funds are in process but no funds are received yet as no relevant developments have reached completion.
E4: Retrofit Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish standards for climate-conscious retrofit</li> <li>Develop public communication and resources for retrofit.</li> </ul> <p>Links: Water, Business</p>	Identify pilot projects which target specific solutions for different building types locally	2020 to 2022	Reading BC, English Heritage SECBE, University or Reading	AMBER	Reading BC are progressing retrofit of some older properties from its own stock. Some on-line resources are available on the partnership website and also via the GSENZH.
E5: Behaviours that save energy in homes and businesses and schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop approaches to reduce energy consumption in homes, businesses and schools</li> <li>Create information resources</li> </ul>	<p>Publish resources</p> <p>Targeted campaign</p>	<p>2020/21</p> <p>2021/2022</p>	National/local agencies and organisations materials and resources Reading BC, RCCP Brighter Futures	AMBER	Some resources available. Updating in process.

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG Status	Commentary (100 word max)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop targeted behaviour-change campaign</li> </ul>					
E6: Best in class buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop high standard projects in different sectors, to reduce emissions</li> </ul>	Publish reports on buildings	Q2 2021	Housing providers	GREEN	Reading BC housing built to Passivhaus principles
E7: Reducing fuel poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide Winter Watch service</li> <li>Support new schemes targeting retrofitting for those most in need</li> <li>Build referral mechanisms for those suffering from poor health and/or fuel poverty.</li> </ul>	<p>Reading Housing Strategy</p> <p>Design new approaches</p> <p>Establish cross-referral programme</p>	<p>2020/21</p> <p>2020/22</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Reading BC, other agencies (Health Citizen advice etc)	GREEN	<p>Low carbon housing actions plans for public and private sector were published by Reading BC in March 2022.</p> <p>Winter Watch continues to be supported.</p>
E8: Leadership and Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider legal options for establishing standards that go higher than regulations</li> <li>Buy Low Carbon Goods and Environmental Services from local suppliers. Use social value KPIs</li> <li>Develop in-house skills for retrofit of Council housing</li> </ul>	<p>Consider trials nationally</p> <p>Project to work with public and private sector to build local supply chain</p>	<p>Q3 2020</p> <p>2021 – 2023</p>	Reading BC Reading UK TVB – (Berkshire) LEP	AMBER	Social value TOMS (themes outcomes and values) framework being implemented in Reading BC procurement - includes carbon based measures
E9: Reading Borough Council Carbon Plan 2020 to 2025	Reading Borough Council to set out plan to achieve emissions reductions and renewable energy targets.	Published plan to 2025 and meet its milestones	Q4 2020	Reading BC	GREEN	Plan adopted November 2020, implementation underway, currently on track to meet 2025 targets
E10: Publish new housing strategy to incorporate energy retrofit	New strategy to include C-rating and where possible B rating for all Council and rental accommodation in borough by 2030 <a href="#">Link: Business</a>	<p>i) New housing strategy</p> <p>ii) Implementation</p>	<p>2020/21</p> <p>2021 onwards</p>	Reading BC	AMBER	New housing strategy launched. Council houses achieving average EPC rating of 'C' (higher than national average 'D'). Reading BC working with landlords to raise

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG Status	Commentary (100 word max)
						energy standards in rented property.

### Sub category: Renewable Energy - Heat

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
E11: Renewable Heat – Ground Source	Work with developers to maximise district energy solutions in line with Local Plan policies on decentralised energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish District Heating</li> <li>Investigate the potential of rivers, ground and aquifers in Reading for renewable heat</li> <li>Implement heat pump schemes</li> <li>Develop skills of local installers</li> </ul>	Complete studies  Implement scheme	Q2 2020  Q2 2022 (dependant on developers)	Reading BC /BEIS University	AMBER	Detailed feasibility complete.  Detailed Project Development phase to start later in 2022/23, subject to necessary approvals
E12: Renewable Heat Air Source	Consider different types of heat pumps and develop skills of local installers <a href="#">Link: Business</a>	Report on Air Source Heat Pumps; Identify installers; Conduct trials	Q3 2020  Q3 2020 Q2 2021	Reading BC	AMBER	A number of heat pumps installed 2020 to 2022 in Reading BC housing, private housing and Reading BC buildings. Work with local supply chains outstanding.
E13: Renewable Heat Anaerobic Digestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anaerobic digestion for food waste streams</li> <li>Consider biogas generation for buses and inject to grid</li> </ul> <a href="#">Links: Resources, Transport</a>	Report informing waste strategy	Q2 2021	University of Reading	GREEN	Council food waste collections sent to AD plant. Buses injected with CNG but equivalent biogas injection from AD to balance.
E14: Hydrogen	Investigate renewably sourced hydrogen fuel cell technology in particular for use in Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs) Investigate hydrogen injection to gas network	Identify schemes/trials Discussions with SGN	DATE TBC	Reading BC Reading UK Reading Transport, SGN	RED	Not progressed as effort has been focused on electrification as a more viable option – consider review of this action

### Sub category: Renewable Energy – Electricity

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
E15: Solar PV (commercial)	Establish large commercial roof-based schemes that service base loads in large commercial buildings <a href="#">Link: Business</a>	Establish scheme  Achieve high proportion of suitable roofs	2020/22  2025	UoR, Reading UK & Reading BC, TVBLEP/Reading UK, SE Energy hub	AMBER	Study carried out by APSE Energy in 2022
E16: Solar PV (domestic)	Establish phase 1 of domestic scheme using bulk purchase to reduce price	Develop scheme Scheme up and running	2020  2022	RCCP, Tenants groups, local companies	RED	Scheme not yet progressed
E17: Solar PV (Public buildings including schools)	Install				GREEN	Grant secured to install solar on 14 more schools (total of 30). Further studies carried out and sites identified for extended installation programme to 2025
E18: Renewable Energy – hydro	To bring forward Hydro-electric power schemes powered by Reading’s rivers To publicise sustainable energy through educational programme. <a href="#">Link: Water</a>	Planning approval secured already, investment and commence scheme Launch educational programme, tours	2020/21  2022	Reading Hydro	GREEN	Reading Hydro scheme in place and supplying power to Lido.  Educational events taking place.
E19: Investment in Renewable Energy at Regional level	Consider investment in land and sites in and outside of Reading that have potential to supply renewable electricity to Reading Investigate suitable land with (potential) planning and connections for renewable energy generation	Initial report by	Q2 2021	Reading BC	GREEN	‘Private wire projects’ proving viable. Report carried out by APSE Energy 2022.

**Sub category: Electric Powered Transport - see also Transport Theme Action Plan**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
E20: Energy strategy for Bus Depot and surrounding area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish potential for solar – depot, car park canopies, Civitas School</li> <li>Investigate <u>Riding Sunbeams</u> option for direct connection to railway network</li> </ul>	Report	2020/21	Reading BC, Reading Community Energy Society	AMBER	Funds allocated in Council capital programme and working in partnership with RCES. Glare issue now resolved.

**Sub category: Electricity Storage, Management and Metering – Smart Cities Solutions**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
E21: Battery Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grid side battery storage by Local Energy company (District Network Operator)</li> <li>Behind meter storage on domestic and commercial sites</li> <li>Specialist large scale storage facilities third party</li> </ul>	Establish energy strategy group Develop energy strategy draft	2020 Q2 2021	SSE Public Sector Private sector	AMBER	SSEN have published their 'Rio2' business plan which contains various projects in the DNO region on batteries including through 'Personal Resilience Plans'
E22: Smart Meters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll out of smart meters in households</li> <li>Identify 'Internet of Things' solutions linked to smart meters</li> <li>Explore linkages to 'time of use' tariffs (different rates for different times of day) linked to IoT devices and 'vehicle to grid' (vehicles powering buildings).</li> <li>Establish trials with vehicles/buildings and local network</li> </ul>	Energy company schedules/targets	2020 to 2024	Energy Companies  RCCP University of Reading	AMBER	Nationally smart meters have now been installed in just over 50% of properties

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
E23: Internet of Things projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of in-building solutions for projects that use the cloud and smart response approaches including machine learning to optimise energy flows</li> </ul>	Smart Cities projects	2020 to 2022	Reading BC, University of Reading	GREEN	Smart sockets being installed in Reading BC offices and depot
E24: Heat storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the potential of natural and engineering based heat storage systems in urban context for stabilising heat supply and balancing summer storage and winter loads</li> </ul>	Set up Energy Working group	TBC	TBC	RED	Not progressed
E25: Carbon intensity research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with University and or third parties to develop accurate real time assessment of carbon intensity of electricity and optimise energy flows to minimise carbon emissions</li> </ul>	Set up Energy Working Group	TBC	Reading BC, University of Reading	GREEN	ADEPT 'Live Labs' project complete. Further work required, however, and further funding necessary. CREDS work also relevant but not specific to Reading.

<b>THEME: <i>TRANSPORT</i></b>
<b>PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</b>
<p>There have been numerous successes in improving public transport provision in Reading to provide attractive alternatives to the car.</p> <p>Reading Borough Council has been awarded an indicative £26m by the Government for its Bus Service Improvement Plan. The delivery of this programme of works will include both capital and revenue schemes including additional bus lanes, continuation of the South Reading Mass Rapid Transit scheme, fares reduction scheme and enhancement to services including in south Reading. Overall, however, bus usage remains suppressed following the pandemic and Reading's BSIP programme will aim to deliver growth to previous usage and beyond.</p> <p>Work also continues on the construction of Green Park Station which is due for completion late 2022/early 2023. Work has now commenced at Reading West station for its redevelopment works and is due for completion Spring 2023. Throughout 2023 accessibility improvements will also be delivered at Tilehurst Station. Collectively these investments in railways will deliver significant improvements.</p> <p>Progress has also been made with expanding active travel options across the Borough. The Council has secured funding for segregated cycle schemes on both the Shinfield Road A327 and the Bath Road/Castle Hill A4 as part of the Active Travel Fund scheme. Reading now has four school streets in operation covering seven schools. Three have since been made permanent schemes with the fourth still being in the trial stage.</p>
<b>EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME</b>
<p>Current government policy and funding is directed towards sustainable transport infrastructure however continuation of this is subject to the current ministerial changes. New guidance on Local Transport Plans is awaited from Government and this is expected to strengthen expectations around carbon accounting within transport projects. This will inform the review of Reading's Local Transport Plan when published.</p>
<b>OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME</b>
<p>The long-term response to the pandemic appears to have changed travel behaviour with less trips being made as people work from home and, for those who do need to travel, fewer trips are being made by public transport. Public transport mode share in this area has therefore reduced significantly. However, the pandemic also saw an uplift in active travel (walking and cycling) and additional funding allocated to this area.</p> <p>Reading Borough Council is currently undertaking surveys to understand the long-term impact on travel behaviour since covid which may result in the need to re-calibrate the targets set in the Climate Emergency Strategy as it also intends to do so for its Local Transport Plan 4.</p>



**Transport Theme Action Plan:** *Our aim is for a low carbon future for transport in which emissions are cut by reducing the need to travel by more polluting modes of transport, shifting more journeys to sustainable modes of transport and supporting the transition from petrol/diesel to electric vehicles. In the process, we will improve health and wellbeing, while making transport infrastructure more resilient to climate impacts.*

NB Some of the actions included in the action plans below, and the scale and pace at which they can be progressed, will be subject to the prevailing national policy context and/or the provision of additional powers and resources by central government, as made clear in Reading’s climate emergency declaration (see section 3.2 above).

**Sub-category: Reducing need and demand for travel, promoting walking and cycling**

Action name	Description	Target & measure/ milestone (NB numerical targets subject to confirmation in final Local Transport Plan still in development at time of publication)	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
T1: Reduce the need to travel through well planned development	Ensure that services, leisure facilities and employment opportunities are located close to where people live and/or in locations easy to access by sustainable transport services via planning policy and decisions <u>Links:</u> Business, Community, Health, Energy and LCD	Reduction in transport-related emissions across Reading Implementation of Reading Local Plan policies	2025	Reading BC Developers	GREEN	Local Plan adopted 2019 and policies being implemented
T2: Develop demand management measures to reduce traffic and encourage shift from high carbon transport	Consider introduction of individual or combined policies via the forthcoming Local Transport Plan such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workplace Parking Levy</li> <li>• Clean Air Zone</li> <li>• Alternative demand management measures</li> </ul> <u>Links:</u> Business, Community, Health	Initiate consultation  Develop business case for preferred option(s)  Implement preferred measure(s)	Q2 2020  2021  2022-23	Reading BC Local Businesses Neighbouring Authorities Department for Transport Reading BID	AMBER	Recently commenced review and update of Reading’s LTP 4 with intention of adopting Summer 2023. The inclusion of specific Demand Management Measures is currently paused pending the results of this review.
T3: Enhance provision for Pedestrians & cyclists to encourage low carbon travel choices	Provide space for walking and cycling improvements, including segregation and road reallocation (where feasible), surface improvements, crossing priority, safety improvements and increased cycle parking hubs/facilities as set out in Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan <u>Links:</u> Health	Increase proportion of adults who walk at least 3 times per week from 30.8% (2019) to 40% by 2025 (en route to a 60% target by 2036) Increase proportion of adults who cycle at least 3 times per week from 5.1% (2019) to 9% by 2025 (en route to a 15% target by 2036)	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC Local User Groups Thames Valley Police	GREEN	The schemes delivered through Active Travel Fund (ATF) Tranche 1 have now been made permanent. Funding secured for both ATF2 and ATF3 with ATF2 (Shinfield Rd) due to commence imminently and ATF3 before the end of March 23

Action name	Description	Target & measure/ milestone (NB numerical targets subject to confirmation in final Local Transport Plan still in development at time of publication)	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
T4: Enhance Town Centre and Local Centre Public Space to improve air quality and reduce carbon use	<p>Improve the pedestrian experience in Central Reading and local centres by providing better access to key destinations for walking, cycling and bus passengers Green up the local environment to encourage use and enjoyment of local facilities</p> <p><u>Links:</u> Business, Community, Health</p>	<p>Increase active travel mode share of trips to/from Reading town centre from 32% (2017-2019 avg) to 34% by 2025 (en route to a 38% target by 2036)</p> <p>Increase public transport trips to/from Reading town centre from 44.5% mode share (2017-2019 avg) to 45.5% mode share per day by 2025 (en route to a 48% target by 2036)</p> <p>Decrease car trips mode share to/from Reading town centre from 23.5% (2017-2019 avg) to 20.3% mode share by 2025 per day (en route to a 14% target by 2036)</p>	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC Transport Operators Reading BID Local User Groups Developers Businesses Residents	GREEN	Reading Town Centre Strategy - consultants commissioned and currently working with stakeholders to finalise
T5: Promote Sustainable Travel to School and other education sites to encourage low carbon travel choices	<p>Establish dedicated and safe walking and cycling routes for each school. Reduce the danger and pollution from 'the school run'</p> <p>Roll-out Play Streets/School Streets programme - supporting local communities and schools who want to organise street closures</p>	<p>Increased shift from private car use to active travel</p> <p>Improved health and fitness of schoolchildren</p> <p>Improved air quality</p> <p>Trial school street closures at selected schools before a wider roll-out across the borough</p>	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC School Communities Bikeability Provider TV Police Local User Groups Residents Uni of Reading	GREEN	Appointment of an Active Travel Officer to engage and work with schools to promote sustainable and active travel schemes and initiatives – many delivered already. We now have 4 school streets in operation, 3 of which are made permanent and 1 still in temporary pending consultation.

**Sub-category: Encouraging a switch to public transport**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones (NB numerical targets subject to confirmation in final Local Transport Plan still in development at time of publication)	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
T6: Improve major and radial routes to promote switch to sustainable modes of travel	<p>Improve the transport options on main corridors and radial routes including A4, A33, A327, A329, A4074, A4155 and the Inner Distribution Road. Make space to encourage changes in travel choice to low/zero carbon modes.</p> <p><u>Links:</u> Business, Community, Education</p>	As per T3 and T4	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC Neighbouring LAs TVB LEP Transport Operators Local User Groups Residents Businesses	GREEN	As per T3 and T4

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones (NB numerical targets subject to confirmation in final Local Transport Plan still in development at time of publication)	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
T7: Improve Quality Bus Corridors	Improve branded local routes with faster, more reliable and more frequent services, changing people's travel habits away from dependency on cars especially for commuter and school journeys <u>Links:</u> Business, Community, Education	Increase bus journeys per year by 9% from 22.5M (2019) to 24.6M (en route to a target increase of 25% by 2036)	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC Transport Operators Businesses Residents Schools Health Services Department for Transport/UK Gov	AMBER	These schemes will be delivered as part of Reading's BSIP Programme for which we have been awarded indicative funding of £26m. Once approved delivery of this programme of bus improvement works will commence immediately.
T8: Establish Fast-Track Public Transport Corridors	Improve speed and reliability of key public transport routes through establishment of key Fast-Track Public Transport (FTPT) corridors on strategic routes (including south, west, east and north).	As per T7	2025	Reading BC Wokingham BC West Berkshire BC Oxfordshire CC Transport Operators	AMBER	As per T7
T9: Extend Park and Ride provision to encourage car users to change onto low carbon alternatives to access Reading	Provision of new and expanded Park & Rides to intercept traffic on main corridors into Reading. <u>Links:</u> Business	Increased use of P&R trips to/from Reading by 25% compared to 2019 levels  New P&R at Thames Valley Park opened  Winnersh Triangle P&R expanded  New P&R sites identified	2025  2020  2021  2025	Reading BC Transport Operators Royal Berks Hospital Businesses Wokingham BC Thames Valley Park W Berks BC Oxfordshire CC TVB LEP Businesses	AMBER	As per T7
T10: Deliver Railway Station upgrades to encourage car users to use low carbon alternatives to and from Reading	Improved access to railway stations at Reading, Reading West and Tilehurst by walking, cycling and public transport. Improved customer experience (including fully accessible platforms), interchange and public space enhancements, including new and improved cycle parking hubs and facilities	Increase public transport trips to/from Reading town centre from 44.5% mode share (2017-2019 avg) to 45.5% mode share per day by 2025 (en route to a 48% target by 2036)	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC Network Rail Great Western Railway TVB LEP	GREEN	Upgrade works commenced at Reading West Station and due for completion spring 2022. Future accessibility works still planned at Tilehurst over the same timeframe and minor modifications at central Reading
T11: Open Reading Green Park Railway Station	Provide new station for access to Green Park and South Reading and interchange with integrated bus services <u>Links:</u> Business	New station completed and served by GWR services. Interchange open with provision of integrated bus services.	2021	Reading BC Network Rail Great Western Railway Transport Operators TVB LEP DfT Businesses	AMBER	Reading Green Park Station construction continuing and scheduled for completion by late 2022/early 2023.

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones (NB numerical targets subject to confirmation in final Local Transport Plan still in development at time of publication)	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
T12: Implement traffic management schemes to support low carbon travel choices	<p>Provide effective management of the existing network to meet changing mobility demands of Reading</p> <p>Provide safe roads and pavements including crossings and reduce crossing conflicts and interruptions to the flow of walking and cycling</p>	As per T4	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC Transport Operators Emergency Services	GREEN	Ongoing management of Network Management Schemes including pedestrian crossings and cycle facilities.

**Sub-category: Reducing emissions from the vehicle fleet and using new technology**

Action name	Description	Target & measure/ milestone (NB numerical targets subject to confirmation in final Local Transport Plan still in development at time of publication)	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
T13: Develop a zero emission vehicle strategy for the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study suitable locations</li> <li>Identify potential network constraints</li> <li>Assess potential demand</li> </ul>	Strategy development to follow Local Transport Plan	2020/21	Reading BC	AMBER	Draft Electric Vehicle / Zero Emission strategy currently being finalised
T14: Decarbonise the Council Vehicle Fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase electric charging points at Council buildings</li> <li>Consider phased replacement of Council vehicles with electric powered units wherever possible</li> <li>Charging points to be installed at depot that can allow vehicles to power buildings</li> <li>Carbon Plan will set targets for reduction in diesel/petrol</li> </ul>	Reading BC Carbon Plan Feasibility report, Business case, Budget approval * (subject to above)	Q4 2020 2022-2024	Reading BC	GREEN	New charging points installed at Bennet Road, delivery of first EV Refuse Collection Vehicle September 2021, further vehicles arriving late 2022
T15: Increase Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points	<p>Install electric charging points in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council car parks</li> <li>Leisure centres</li> <li>Lamp columns (trials)</li> <li>Business premises</li> <li>Taxi ranks</li> </ul>	<p>First car park project All suitable car parks</p> <p>First leisure centre All leisure centres</p>	<p>2020/21 2023</p> <p>2020/21 2022</p>	Reading BC, Reading UK, Taxi Assoc, Leisure provider	GREEN	Linked to adoption of Reading's EV/Zero Emission Strategy (ref T13)
T16: Increase zero emissions vehicles uptake	Work with vehicle sales outlets in Reading to increase zero emission vehicle uptake <u>Links:</u> Business	Zero emission vehicle uptake compared to national benchmarks	Ongoing	Reading UK RCAN	AMBER	Linked to adoption of Reading's EV/Zero Emission Strategy (ref T13)

Action name	Description	Target & measure/ milestone (NB numerical targets subject to confirmation in final Local Transport Plan still in development at time of publication)	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
T17: Establish and promote eBikes	Identify charging locations for electrically assisted pedal cycles and investigate potential for e-bike hire scheme.	Develop strategy for location	TBC	Reading BC Site owners	AMBER	The establishment of future cycle hire and e-bike hire schemes will be connected to the outcome of the governments micro-mobility strategy
T18: Planning policy for EV charging in new properties	Monitor number of additional charging units installed in new properties <u>Links: Business</u>	Monitor additional units in line with planning policy	Ongoing	Reading BC Developers	GREEN	To be reviewed as part of Local Plan Refresh
T19: Reduce emissions from the Taxi Fleet	Require all taxis and private hire vehicles to be electric or hybrid by 2030	Improved Air quality, reduced carbon emissions	Beyond 2025	Reading BC Taxi and Private Hire Associations	AMBER	Current taxi emissions policy being reviewed
T19A Reduce emissions and improve efficiency of freight movements	Work with the freight operators and businesses to encourage use of cleaner vehicle technology, consolidate deliveries, encourage 'out of hours' deliveries during quieter times and trial e-cargo bikes and freight consolidation parks where feasible.	Improved Air quality, reduced carbon emissions and reduced congestion	Beyond 2025	Reading BC Road Haulage Association Logistics UK Freight operators and local businesses	AMBER	Part of Network Management ongoing programme of works
T20: Improve Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure	Develop and implement policy for appropriate provision of electric vehicle charging points across the borough	Provision of EV charging installed as per the policy to accommodate anticipated increases in demand	2022	Reading BC Transport Operators Third Party Landowners	GREEN	Linked to adoption of Reading's EV/Zero Emission Strategy (ref T13)
T21: Deploy Intelligent Transport Systems to encourage change to low carbon transport	Use technology and real-time data to improve safety, efficiency environmental performance and journey experience of users of the transport system, particularly at signal-controlled junctions	As per T4	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC Transport Operators	AMBER	Review of signal-controlled junctions ongoing
T22: Embrace Smart Solutions to reduce use of carbon in transport	Smarter Working – maximise benefits of flexible working patterns  Smart City Initiatives - Use different types of electronic Internet of Things (IoT) sensors to collect data and then use insights gained to manage assets, resources and services efficiently.  Implement Micromobility and Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) schemes as they evolve  <u>Links: Business</u>	Decrease car trips mode share to/from Reading town centre from 23.5% (2017-2019 avg) to 20.3% mode share by 2025 per day (en route to a 14% target by 2036  Reduced need for car ownership across the borough	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC Employers Transport Operators Emergency Services Highways England Motoring Organisations  Reading BC DfT Car Clubs	AMBER	Impact of pandemic has resulted in higher rates of home working and less need to travel. As part of BSIP Programme multi-operator ticket scheme to be introduced to encourage public transport use

**Sub-category: Adaptation, Communication & Engagement**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones (NB numerical targets subject to confirmation in final Local Transport Plan still in development at time of publication)	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
T23a (General): Develop education, initiatives, promotion and advice to encourage low carbon travel choices	<p>Undertake marketing activities promoting sustainable transport</p> <p>Enable access to any adults who want to undertake Bikeability training. Provide courses through schools as well as to individuals and to groups.</p> <p>Provide up-to-date travel information to enable informed travel choices</p> <p>Develop programme of training, education and initiatives to promote sustainable transport usage <u>Links:</u> Education, Health</p>	As per T4	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	<p>Reading BC Stakeholders</p> <p>Reading BC School Communities Bikeability Provider Thames Valley Police Local User Groups Residents</p>	GREEN	Appointment of an Active Travel Officer to engage and work with schools and the community to promote sustainable and active travel schemes and initiatives – many delivered already
T23b (Schools): Develop education, initiatives, promotion and advice to encourage low carbon travel choices in school	<p>Roll-out Mode-shift STARS accreditation scheme to all schools in Reading</p> <p>Implement School Streets</p> <p>Enable access to anybody who want to undertake Bikeability training.</p> <p><u>Links:</u> Education, Health</p>	<p>Achieve 50% of all schools accredited to at least Bronze by 2025.</p> <p>Improvements to air quality and road safety as well as encouraging healthier lifestyles.</p>	2025	Reading BC School Communities	GREEN	<p>Active Travel Officer and Transport Officers working with schools on roll-out of Mode-Shift STARS.</p> <p>Four school streets now in operation, three of which have been made permanent and one still in temporary pending consultation</p>
T24: Research and plan for Carbon Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation	<p>Participate in research programmes investigating the carbon footprint related to transport and the air quality impact of transport</p> <p>Design climate adaptation into the planning and operation of transport network to improve resilience to climate change impacts <u>Links:</u> Adaptation</p>	<p>Research completed and recommendations made</p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation key consideration in planning of all schemes</p>	<p>2022</p> <p>2025 and beyond</p>	<p>Reading BC Transport operators University of Reading DfT Other Stakeholders</p>	GREEN	Research undertaken by Sustrans to understand and assess barriers to sustainable and active travel in Reading.

**THEME: RESOURCES AND CONSUMPTION****PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Plastic Free Caversham has achieved SAS accreditation as a Plastic Free Community (Action R11). Design Nature CIC has been awarded RSA Catalyst Funding to develop their 'Redesigners Reading' concept with young people in the town's schools. The intention is to initially focus on exploring fashion and textiles for a more circular future (relevant to Actions R4 and R14). East Reading Festival included a 'green banner' on this year's promotional flyers encouraging people to travel to the festival by walking, cycling or using public transport. They are keen to do more next year (Action R13). Blue Collar Group is working with the Henley Business School's 'Trust in Food' research project to explore ways to encourage and support people using their markets and festivals to make use of recycling infrastructure (relevant to Action R13). Local responses to the WRAP-led Food Waste Action Week in March showed how national campaigns could be used as a catalyst for local conversations (Actions R1, 2, 3 & 8). Good example of progress with uniform recycling initiative at RBH - 850 items of uniform donated over 2 days, diverting waste from landfill and enabling reuse/recycling of unused uniforms (R6).

A key challenge is that a number of actions envisage the development of communication programmes that start with baseline research. Lack of research capacity means that, irrespective of whether progress is being made towards the desired outcome, failure to gather baseline data makes it difficult to prove that progress is being made. This may require a review of the approach to achieving the outcomes outlined in the action plan. An opportunity to build upon in the coming year is developing narratives that engage - helping individuals, groups, businesses and institutions see how what they are (or could be) doing 'fits in'. Some of the examples in successes came about as a result of organisations getting in touch for advice or support. Others worth mentioning are Reading Rep launching their Reading Rep Talks events with a panel discussion on the role of youth and community in combating the global climate crisis (<https://youtu.be/Ig58Makk46U>).

**EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME**

- Launch of DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-systems>)
- Environment Act 2021 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>)
- Government Food Strategy (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-food-strategy>), published in June 2022 as response to the National Food Strategy: Independent Review which Henry Dimbleby was commissioned to undertake by the government (<https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/>). Useful Sustain commentary at <https://www.sustainweb.org/national-food-strategy/>

**OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME**

- Launch of the Reading Independent Festivals Forum (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/riff-agm-2022-tickets-388051320947>). This is the group incubated by ReadingUK CIC (now REDA) – a number of its anticipated member organisations are already on a sustainability journey (e.g. East Reading Festival, Down at the Abbey, Reading Fringe, Reading Cycling Festival), scope to act as sustainability champion for the sector.
- Increasing cost of food, as part of wider cost of living crisis. May open a space for conversations about land use, food security and climate change.
- Growing awareness (and coverage in the media) of the impact of meat production on both carbon emissions and biodiversity loss.
- Coverage in the media of the low recycling rates, even of plastic that is separated for recycling, can lead to people asking 'what is the point of recycling?' At the same time it can be a motivator.

**Resources Theme Action Plan:** *our aim for 2025 is that Reading is on track to become a zero waste town by 2030, is actively innovating to find new ways of using resources more efficiently and thereby minimising our contribution to climate change. To facilitate this transition, by 2025 it is easy for everybody to access information and services to help them find ways to reduce waste and repurpose things they no longer need.*

NB Some of the actions included in the action plans below, and the scale and pace at which they can be progressed, will be subject to the prevailing national policy context and/or the provision of additional powers and resources by central government, as made clear in Reading’s climate emergency declaration (see section 3.2 above).

**R1: Reduce – questioning our need to generate waste in the first place**

Action name	Description	Target & measure/milestone	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
<b>R1: Food: Reducing domestic food waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish baseline and set meaningful targets for reducing domestic food waste</li> <li>Adopt the Love Food, Hate Waste toolkit from WRAP and drive behaviour change through communications</li> </ul>	Baseline research completed by March 2021 Comms programme in place, targets set and tracked annually from July 2021	Q1 2021  Q3 2021 onwards	Reading BC (lead); University of Reading (research)	AMBER	Not being delivered as envisaged in action plan but evidence that food waste (domestic and schools) is declining (down from c.700 tonnes per month in April 2021 to c600 tonnes in April 2022. ‘Food Waste Action Week’ offers a way forward.
<b>R2: Food: Reducing commercial food waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish baseline and set meaningful targets for reducing commercial food waste</li> <li>Create a programme combining reduction measures, well-managed charity donations and best outcome waste processing</li> <li>Collaborative programme by and for business</li> </ul>	Baseline research completed by September 2021; Communications programme in place, targets set and tracked annually from January 2022 Commercial food waste collection from TBC	Q3 2021  Q1 2022  TBC	RCAN (lead); Reading UK CIC; University of Reading (research); Connect Reading; Waste/recycling contractors Reading BC/ commercial parties	RED	As R1 but different opportunities to build upon. Maybe explore interest in kitchens signing up to ‘Guardians of Grub’?
<b>R3: Food: Reducing food waste in schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish baseline and set meaningful targets for reducing food waste in schools</li> <li>Create a programme combining reduction measures, well-managed charity donations and best outcome waste processing</li> <li>Commercial food waste collection to be introduced by Reading BC for schools</li> </ul>	Baseline research completed by Sept 2021; Comms programme in place, targets set and tracked annually from Jan 2022; Commercial food waste collection for schools from TBC	Q3 2021  Q1 2022  TBC	RCAN (lead); University of Reading (research); Reading BC/ commercial waste partners	RED	As R2. Also opportunities to work with BFFC to explore connections to the curriculum.
<b>R4: Other: Clothing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish baseline and set meaningful targets for reducing the amount of clothing wasted</li> <li>Introduce programmes to divert unwanted clothing from general waste through various means including donation, swapping, sharing, leasing/rental, etc.</li> <li>Investigate the potential for emulating the WearNext project pioneered in New York</li> </ul>	Establish baseline and identify areas for improvement Publish programme of targeted interventions	Q1 2021  Q4 2021	Reading Circular Economy Club (lead); Reading UK CIC; Connect Reading; Re3 (baseline data)	AMBER	Design Nature CIC’s ‘Redesigners Reading’ project is going to initially focus on fashion and textiles. Variation from plan, but exciting.



<b>R5: Other: Resource efficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish easy to access and understand best practice guidance covering all common household purchases (in and out of home)</li> <li>Focus on extended life, zero waste, energy efficiency</li> <li>Signpost established labels and standards, advisory bodies, etc.</li> <li>Establish communications programme to reinforce behaviour change</li> </ul>	Guidance published and communications programme launched	Q2 2021	ReadingCAN (lead); Re3; Reading UK CIC	RED	Not being delivered as envisaged in action plan. Opportunity to work with the Comms team? Student/volunteer research project and/or series of blog post(s)? Emphasise links to R14.
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**R2: Reuse – keeping products in use for longer; delaying the point at which they need to be recycled**

Action name	Description	Target & measure/milestone	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
<b>R6: Re-use and repair: Establish a definitive information source on re-use and repair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile and maintain a comprehensive directory of re-use and repair resources in Reading, and encourage new ones, especially through social enterprise</li> <li>Include information resources like ifixit and services like <i>Reading Repair Café</i> and <i>Reading Bicycle Kitchen</i></li> <li>Establish communications programme to reinforce behaviour change</li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> Community</p>	Directory published, update process and communications programme in place by April 2021	Q2 2021	ReadingCAN (lead); Organisations offering re-use and repair services; Reading UK CIC; Transition Towns; Re3	AMBER	Not being delivered as envisaged in action plan. Plan to make 'Reuse and repair' the focus of next Resources & Consumption Roundup newsletter. Good example of progress with uniform recycling initiative at RBH - 850 items of uniform donated over two days, diverting waste from landfill and enabling reuse or recycling of unused uniforms.
<b>R7: Sharing, renting and swapping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile and maintain a comprehensive directory of sharing, renting and swapping resources, and encourage new ones</li> <li>Include peer to peer systems like <i>Freegle</i>, rental and "as a service" systems, charity outlets and platform services like <i>Too Good to Go</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> Community</p>	Directory published, update process and communications programme in place by	Q2 2021	ReadingCAN (lead); Organisations offering sharing, rental and swapping services; Transition Towns	RED	As R6.

**R3: Recycle – seeing what we end up throwing away as still having value, and doing our best to retain and recover that value at its highest level**

Action name	Description	Target & measure/milestone	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
<b>R8: Food: Kerbside food waste recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise take-up of kerbside food waste recycling when introduced</li> <li>Appropriate annual targets to be set in conjunction with Reading BC/Re3</li> <li>Communications programme required to drive behaviour change</li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> Community, Education</p>	Increase Reading's recycling rate by 7% through food waste collection	Q4 2021	Reading BC/Re3	GREEN	Progress achieved through introduction of food waste collections has been sustained.

<b>R9: Other: Glass</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a baseline and set meaningful targets for increasing glass collection</li> <li>Improve access to glass recycling facilities for residents</li> <li>Focus on areas with high density housing/low car ownership</li> <li>Work with hospitality industry to introduce colour segregated glass collection</li> </ul>	Establish baseline and identify areas for improvement Publish plan for improved provision, including targets for collection by September 2021	Q1 2021  Q3 2021	Reading BC (domestic lead); Reading UK CIC (business lead); University of Reading (research); Waste contractors	AMBER	Both re3 and the Reading BIDs/REDA are addressing access and promotion of glass recycling.
<b>R10: Other: Kerbside recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise kerbside collection and minimise contamination</li> <li>Increase awareness of what can do in kerbside recycling</li> <li>Implement communications programme to encourage and improve confidence in recycling</li> <li>Set annual targets to improve collection/contamination rates</li> </ul>	Increase in Reading's overall recycling rate by 4% by October 2021 arising from efforts to reduce contamination	Q4 2021	Reading BC/Re3	GREEN	Progress achieved through introduction of food waste collections has been sustained.

#### R4: Reimagine and redesign – rethinking products and systems to avoid waste altogether; making Reading an engine of the circular economy

Action name	Description	Target & measure/milestone	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
<b>R11: Plastics: Plastic-Free Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued implementation of single-use plastic-free pledge by Reading BC and sharing the learning</li> <li>Encouraging adoption of the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic-Free Community methodology and tools by communities, businesses and schools</li> <li>Replicate Plastic Free Caversham concept to achieve the critical mass of groups, schools and businesses required to secure Plastic Free accreditation for Reading</li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> Business, Community, Education</p>	<p>Reading BC to share own lessons in becoming plastic free</p> <p>Caversham to secure accreditation as a Plastic Free Community, with first schools and businesses accredited</p> <p>Plastic-Free Community accreditation gained by at least one other Reading community</p> <p>Set annual targets for the number/percentage of schools and businesses to be Plastic Free</p>	Q3 2021  Q3 2021  Q4 2021  Q3 2022	Reading BC (Council and schools lead); Reading UK CIC (business lead); Reading Business CAN	GREEN	Plastic Free Caversham has achieved SAS accreditation. Encouraging Reading BC to share learning, as set out to do in 2019 resolution.
<b>R12: Food: Climate-friendly diet</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish reliable and authoritative information on how to eat more sustainably</li> <li>Focus on dietary choices, sustainable sourcing, child nutrition</li> <li>Guidance for caterers as well as individuals</li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> Community, Business, Health, Nature, Education</p>	<p>Best practice identified and guidance prepared by:</p> <p>Communications programme developed and campaign launched by:</p>	Q1 2021  Q3 2021	University of Reading; Subject-matter specialists (e.g. breastfeeding, food growing networks)	RED	Not being delivered as envisaged in action plan. But Reading is not short of food related groups and initiatives. The challenge is more about making connections, listening and understanding how climate (and biodiversity loss) fits into what they do.
<b>R13: Other: Zero waste and circular festivals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Reading's festival organisers to develop resource-stewardship systems to reduce waste at festival venues (and campsites, where appropriate)</li> </ul>	Work with ReadingUK CIC local festival organisers group to understand the challenges and share best practice by:	Q3 2020	Reading Circular Economy Club (lead); Reading UK CIC; University of Reading	AMBER	Not being delivered as envisaged in action plan. Reading Independent Festivals Forum (RIFF) being launched on 28/9/22.

Action name	Description	Target & measure/milestone	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore different approaches to engage and encourage organisers, vendors and festival goers in addressing waste</li> <li>Establish baseline and set meaningful targets for reducing waste and maximising recovery of resources</li> <li>Engage with Reading Festival to understand the challenge of campsite waste and explore opportunities to reduce unrecyclable tent waste</li> <li>Connect with and draw on the experiences of Green Deal Circular Festivals and other sustainable events bodies (A Greener Festival, Julie's Bicycle, Vision 2025)</li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> Business</p>	<p>Collect baseline data by:</p> <p>Co-produce programme of knowledge sharing and local collaboration by:</p> <p>All of Reading's festivals to have a statement or page describing their approach to sustainability on their web site by:</p> <p>Zero tents to be left behind on site at Reading Festival by:</p>	<p>Q1 2021</p> <p>Q2 2021</p> <p>Q3 2021</p> <p>Q3 2025</p>	(research); Waste/recycling contractors; Festival organisers		But a number of local festivals and festival organisers already taking steps to address sustainability through their events. Conversation started with Reading Festival about opportunities to support their efforts to reduce campsite waste as well as to promote good practice elsewhere.
<b>R14: Circular economy: Establish Reading Circular Economy Club to grow the Circular Economy in Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Reading Circular Economy Club – part of international network of Circular Economy Clubs</li> <li>Peer to peer information exchange and networking for businesses/organisations</li> <li>Develop resource exchange to create closed resource loops, reducing use of virgin resources and finding new uses for waste products</li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> Business</p>	<p>Reading Circular Economy Club set up – DONE</p> <p>Regular scheduled meetings and events established and publicised</p> <p>Resources exchange set up and operational</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Q4 2020</p> <p>Q2 2021</p>	Reading Circular Economy Club (lead); Reading CAN/Reading Business CAN; Re3	<b>AMBER</b>	Was 'Green' last year. But organisers have stepped back to work on other projects. For example, 'Redesigners Reading' (see Action R4). Intention is to return to development of the Circular Economy Club, although focus of activities likely to be determined by membership and funding opportunities.

<b>THEME: WATER</b>
<b>PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</b>
<p>Four of the key delivery partners within the theme (Environment Agency, Thames Water, University of Reading and Reading Borough Council) continue to take forward commitments within the Action Plan and the closer involvement of Thames Water within the Reading Climate Change Partnership has been a welcome development.</p> <p>The pandemic delayed implementation of some local surface water flood risk management schemes (e.g. Stone Street) but these are now getting back on track and funding has been secured for Stone Street. When complete, this scheme will be the 6<sup>th</sup> out of 6 priority flood risk management schemes identified in the Council's first Surface Water Management Plan.</p>
<b>EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME</b>
<p>The issue of water quality has risen much higher on the national political agenda over the last 12 months with a heated debate in Westminster about whether Government policies were allowing the undue discharge of raw sewage into the sea and rivers amid rising public concern about the public health implications. The Environment Act passed in November 2021 made production of a plan to reduce storm overflows a legal requirement and the government produced such a plan shortly after.</p> <p>Closer to home, during the course of the last 12 months the Environment Agency conducted a review of the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme for Reading and Caversham. This concluded that an increase in costs and a reduction in the economic benefits meant that the scheme was not cost beneficial, would not attract government funding and would not therefore be progressed. The scheme would also have led to a slight increase in flood risk to a small number of properties elsewhere which was not acceptable to the Agency. The work conducted has, however, improved the understanding of flood risk in the area which will inform local flood response plans.</p>
<b>OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME</b>
<p>The lack of rainfall during 2022 again highlighted the region's exposure to the risk of drought, and the summer heatwaves also raised concern about the risk of flash flooding with the ground baked too hard to absorb rainwater when it eventually fell.</p>

**Water Theme Action Plan:** Reading will aim to become the most water aware and water efficient town in the UK, going beyond national targets. We will achieve this by developing and implementing a dedicated communications and education strategy and delivering a range of water saving improvements in Reading's homes and businesses. Climate change will also increase the risk of flooding: significantly from the River Thames and from urban storm water. We will help residents and businesses understand these risks and to get ready for them.

NB Some of the actions included in the action plans below, and the scale and pace at which they can be progressed, will be subject to the prevailing national policy context and/or the provision of additional powers and resources by central government, as made clear in Reading's climate emergency declaration (see section 3.2 above).

**Sub category: Water supply and water conservation**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery Partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
W1: Educate the public about Reading's water situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share and explain our 2050 target and how this compares to current consumption, e.g.:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic water consumption by activity</li> <li>Info on non-domestic water consumption</li> <li>Where our water comes from</li> </ul> </li> <li>Develop Comms Strategy for engaging public, including schools</li> </ul>	<p>Available material published on RCAN website</p> <p>New material prepared and published</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2021</p>	Thames Water	AMBER	Website has been updated to include more detail about the water cycle and water resource situation
W2: Educate households about their water consumption and the need to save water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share information on the risks of drought and importance of water conservation.</li> <li>Provide tips and information on how to save water in the home and garden</li> <li>Develop and implement Comms Strategy for engaging households</li> </ul>	<p>Information resource compiled and published</p> <p>Comms programme underway</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2025</p>	Thames Water	AMBER	Media campaign launched May 2022 – multi-channel campaign on radio, social media and online New water efficiency videos published
W3: Educate businesses about water use, efficiency benefits, and dry weather preparedness / response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share the Thames Water Drought Plan</li> <li>Signpost relevant information and case studies from reputable sources</li> <li>Create industry-specific advice and case studies</li> <li>Run a drought exercise with Local Resilience Forum (LRF), partners and businesses</li> <li>Communicate the Environment Agency 'incident management' approach to drought</li> </ul>	<p>Information resource compiled and published</p> <p>Industry-specific guidance available</p> <p>Drought exercise and incident management response</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2022</p>	Thames Water (lead) Environment Agency RCAN/RBCAN	AMBER	Thames Water worked with MOSL (non-household retail market operator) with smart meter data and presented insights to Government, regulators and business community, focusing on wastage/leakage. Thames Water managed an independent consultancy study to identify the changes to regulation and funding required to increase business water efficiency
W4: Educate the public about water quality and sewer abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish sewer abuse and water quality stats, messages and content to RCAN website</li> </ul>	Content published	2021	Thames Water	AMBER	Team to review this action with Thames Water though wider campaigns have raised awareness of this issue.
W5: Water efficiency measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote installation of water saving and efficiency devices during refurbishment</li> <li>Promote Thames Water's 'Smarter Business Visit' scheme to all schools in Reading</li> </ul>	<p>Refurbishment programme</p> <p>Schools visits, building management company engagement</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2021</p>	RCAN Reading Borough Council Thames Water University of Reading (research)	AMBER	Thames Water now sharing smart meter data and insights with government, industry and regulators and secured approval for Green Economic Recovery programme through Ofwat. This will accelerate smart meter rollout to 2025,

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery Partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness of leaky-loos and benefits of fixing plumbing losses</li> <li>• Engage with building management companies to promote retrofitting/leak fix</li> <li>• Expand the provision of water info packs from new homes to all households</li> <li>• Promote Thames Water's 'Smarter Home' visit scheme to homes with smart meters</li> <li>• Support the roll-out of smart meters</li> <li>• Conduct periodic research on understanding and engagement with water saving.</li> </ul>	<p>and leaky loos programme</p> <p>Water info packs, smart meters and research project</p>	2025			including 200,000 previously unmetered households. Thames is also developing its metering and water efficiency programme for 2025-30 (AMP 8).
W6: "Water Neutrality" as a planning requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate whether the Reading BC Sustainable Planning Document can be modified to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the requirement for all new major developments to contribute to funding water saving measures equivalent to the development's water consumption.</li> <li>○ adopting the 'fittings approach' within Building Regulations rather than a pcc calculation approach</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Share the contents of the Sustainable Planning Document on RCAN website</p> <p>Feedback on required amendments</p> <p>Amendments implemented</p>	2020  2022  2025	Reading BC Thames Water	AMBER	Thames Water recently launched the UK's first financial incentive for developers to drive efficiency and achieve water neutrality. TW is working with Berkeley Homes to deliver a water neutrality pilot and was involved in 'A Review of Water Neutrality in the UK' (Waterwise, 2021)
W7: Leadership and Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby MPs and Defra to introduce a mandatory water label to help consumers make water-efficient choices</li> <li>• Lobby MPs and Defra to strengthen building regulations and planning process, to drive water efficiency within all new developments and procurement schemes.</li> </ul>	<p>Water labelling</p> <p>Building regs and planning</p>	2021  2025	RCAN	GREEN	Environment Act 2021 introduced mandatory water efficiency labelling.  Building regs will be replaced by the Future Home Standards
W8: Research to drive future improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research the costs, benefits and suitability, of rainfall harvesting and grey water recycling</li> <li>• Use UKCP18 climate modelling and local river flow models, to develop projections for future drought / water resource availability.</li> <li>• With Reading BC and LEP update our estimates of Reading population growth to 2050</li> <li>• Develop a new evidence-based 2050 water target</li> <li>• Review the first Adaptation Plan and identify and deliver initial win-win opportunities</li> <li>• Identify thresholds, risks, solutions and case studies for the second Adaptation Plan</li> <li>• Work with Thames Water to understand the changes to household and business water use due to COVID-19 impacts</li> </ul>	Develop research proposals	2020-25	RCAN  University of Reading (research)	AMBER	Thames Water was part of steering group which published independent review of Costs & Benefits of rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling.

Sub category: Flooding Resilience

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
W9: Raise awareness of fluvial (river) flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of flood risk from the River Thames and the proposed Reading and Caversham Scheme by carrying out various engagement activities</li> <li>Update the flood maps on the Gov.UK website to show the areas at risk of flooding based on the latest flood modelling</li> </ul>	<p>Engagement activities</p> <p>Flood maps updated</p>	<p>Q2-3 2020</p> <p>2022</p>	<p><b>Environment Agency</b></p> <p>Partners: Reading BC, local councillors, local businesses and community groups</p>	RED	Proposals for Reading and Caversham Scheme withdrawn by EA following re-assessment of costs and benefits
W10: Raise awareness of the Flood Warning and flood alert service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of at-risk homes and businesses signed-up to receive Flood Alerts</li> <li>Signpost advice on the Flood Warning Service and what to do before, during and after a flood</li> <li>Develop “what if” scenarios to help people and businesses understand the importance of self-preparation, and education about flood risk</li> </ul> <p>Links: Education, Business, Community, Adaptation</p>	<p>90% sign-up to FW service</p> <p>100% sign-up to FW service</p> <p>“What if” scenarios developed and posted on ReadingCAN</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p> <p>Q4 2025</p> <p>Q4 2025</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Partners: Reading BC and community groups</p>	AMBER	Text alert system in place (for fluvial flood risk alert) – difficult to replicate for surface water flood risk as inherently more uncertain
W11: Reducing fluvial flood risk from River Thames	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with Risk Management Authorities and local stakeholders to identify ways to reduce fluvial flood risk</li> <li>Gain support from all Reading communities on action to reduce flood risk from the River Thames</li> <li>Seek funding through partnership funding and local grants.</li> </ul> <p>Links: Education, Business, Community, Adaptation</p>	<p>Reading community makes decision about favoured River Thames flood reduction option</p> <p>Funds raised to deliver favoured option</p>	<p>Q2-3 2021</p> <p>2025</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Partners: Reading BC, local councillors, Thames Water, Local Resilience Forum, community groups and local businesses</p>	AMBER	Flood risk management work in Oxford scheme may have some benefit to reducing flood risk in Reading by dealing with upstream issues
W12: Implement sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the importance of SuDS and their practical application</li> <li>Find out what post scheme monitoring is happening and recommend how this can be improved</li> </ul> <p>Links: Nature, Adaptation, Transport</p>	<p>Share planning information</p> <p>Monitoring, reporting and research</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2025</p>	Reading BC	GREEN	<p>Good SuDS policy Included in Reading Local Plan but challenges in implementing this through planning due to developers claiming it would undermine viability of schemes</p> <p>Reading BC urban tree planting and other management approaches will help</p>
W13: Investigate the use of green infrastructure to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate measures to slow the flow of storm water, eg by planting and creating scrapes and swales.</li> </ul>	<p>Scope project brief and costs</p> <p>Deliver results</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2023</p>	Water theme group	AMBER	

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
reduce slow down storm water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up on research by Reading University and the Landwise project</li> <li>Transfer learning to Reading BC Sustainable Design and Construction (supplementary planning document).</li> </ul> Links: Nature, Transport, Adaptation, Business			Partners: Environment Agency and University of Reading		
W14: Improve the resilience of the Kennet Meadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a plan for the Kennet Meadows to make it a resilient wetland</li> <li>Make sure the plans preserve the need for the meadows to act as flood plain</li> <li>Consider the drought risk and make sure the needs of the meadows are considered in EA / TW drought plans. There will be a limit to their protection...is it possible to develop a recovery plan early to try and mitigate?</li> </ul> Links: Nature, Adaptation, Energy	<p>Workshop to bring partners together and agree scope</p> <p>Develop and share plan</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2023</p>	<p>EA</p> <p>Partners: CEH (Wallingford), UoR Water theme group member</p>	AMBER	Partners are working together under auspices of 'Super G' project to develop a scheme (see also Nature theme Action Plan)
W15: Improve our flood risk adaptation plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve our understanding of climate change adaptation thresholds</li> <li>Investigate the latest UK climate projections to find out what extreme rainfall events we need to prepare for.</li> <li>Check the developing EA guidance for fluvial flooding and develop our own understanding of the changing flood risk for the River Thames and River Kennet.</li> <li>Develop our flood adaptation plans through to 2050 and beyond</li> </ul> Links: Education, Adaptation	<p>Post information on revised future flood modelling, as it is released</p> <p>Deliver report on change in storm rainfall, and Thames + Kennet flood peaks</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Q4 2024</p>	Partners: EA, Reading BC and local interest groups	AMBER	Uni of Reading/Met Office/Reading BC collaborated to develop City Packs for Reading highlighting key climate impacts – a tool for communicating climate risk
W16: Investigate opportunities for Green roofs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop recommendations for green roofs, green walls and landscaping for new build</li> <li>Explore opportunities for retrofitting homes and offices</li> <li>Develop advice for home owners on the benefits of breaking up hard surfaces in driveways and gardens</li> </ul> Links: Transport, Nature, Community, Business	<p>Create research proposals</p> <p>Deliver results</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2025</p>	<p>UoR</p> <p>Partners: Reading BC and EA</p>	AMBER	The first 'Living Bus Shelters' were installed on the A33 in October 2021
W17: Develop links to the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the limits of our emergency plans and explore what the community of Reading can do to become more resilient.</li> <li>Share the developing adaptation planning and vision for Reading with the LRF to inform long term strategic decisions.</li> <li>Share advice on being prepared for an incident including "Thames Valley: Are you ready?" booklet and advice from the Environment Agency</li> <li>Use resources from Business in the Community Business Resilience Group to help businesses improve resilience</li> </ul> Links: Community, Business, Adaptation	<p>Organise meeting with LRF</p> <p>Public workshop/ event on resilience and adaptation</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2022</p>	<p>EA</p> <p>Partners: Reading BC, TW, UoR, LRF</p>	AMBER	



**THEME: NATURE & GREEN SPACES**

**PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Reading Borough Council has extended its successful 're-wilding' trials, changed mowing regimes to enable a 'cut and collect' regime to be applied to about 6.9 ha of grass verge/roundabout and an additional 2 ha of parkland. New areas were introduced this year, such as the land opposite the Holiday Inn at Whorton Grange. Work to review the management of council open land is on target at 4 sites per year, but has not included enough woodland sites to enable the overall review of woodland management in Reading. Econet applied for a lottery grant to implement some of the agreed management changes at Victoria Park and Shinfield Road Recreation Ground. Standard trees were planted during the Winter of 2021/22 under Ethical Reading's 'Trees for Reading' project (and most have survived the drought due to watering by local groups). Complementary bulb planting took place in October by conservation volunteers, Civitas and Ridgeway Primary Schools, and local church groups. Schools offered help with climate change related adaptations or classes in return.

**EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME**

The Environment Act 2021 has made 'biodiversity net gain' a mandatory requirement for new development from November 2023, put the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies on a statutory basis and created new regulatory structures for environmental protection. The first of these has the potential to generate an income stream to support delivery of biodiversity enhancements, particularly in strategic biodiversity opportunity areas and the Council envisages developing a Supplementary Planning Document to put it into practice. A Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which will be produced on a Berkshire scale, should focus resources on priority areas and guide developers to avoid areas at risk.

The Act requires compliance with five principles: the integration principle, prevention principle, precautionary principle, rectification at source principle, and the polluter pays principle. It also requires the Secretary of State for DEFRA to set long-term legally binding targets on air quality, biodiversity, water, resource efficiency and waste reduction. These targets must be of at least 15 years in duration, and be proposed by late 2022. Interim targets do not have to be set by statute so are not legally binding, but will be monitored in 5-year periods to ensure that environmental improvement plans (EIPs) are being implemented. The first 25 year EIP is part of the Environment Act requirements. The Act requires a halt to biodiversity decline by 2030 and a review of biodiversity in each authority area every five years. It also creates new requirements for the water sector to look at drainage plans (and consider impacts on nature), sewage overflows and reducing water demand.

**OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME**

Pandemic restrictions greatly reduced opportunities for interacting with community groups and has resulted in a reduction in numbers taking part in voluntary conservation work in the town. So far, the numbers have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Funding for major community activities has been limited, such as the disappearance of the Reading Town Meal this year, an annual opportunity for the general public to engage with a variety of community groups from veg box providers, through groups providing food for the homeless to the climate action plan information stand.

**Nature Theme Action Plan:** *By 2025 the people of Reading will live in a greener town with changes to the management of open spaces and the green links between them that store more carbon as well as giving shade for hot summers, corridors for wildlife and some flood control. New developments will include biodiversity net gain and water management, and there will be exemplar sites showing how to change planting and soil management around buildings to mitigate the impacts of climate change.*

NB Some of the actions included in the action plans below, and the scale and pace at which they can be progressed, will be subject to the prevailing national policy context and/or the provision of additional powers and resources by central government, as made clear in Reading’s climate emergency declaration (see section 3.2 above). They are also dependent upon recruiting enough volunteers to the Nature task Force to supplement the existing nature theme group.

**Sub Category: Carbon Sequestration**

Action name	Description	Target & measure/ milestone	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
N1: Increasing tree cover across the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant more street trees</li> <li>Test new planting options in town centre and on the road network</li> <li>Promote trees in private gardens/ business/ schools</li> <li>Encourage tree and hedge planting in air pollution hotspots esp. schools</li> <li>Enable more street tree planters</li> <li>Promote use of degradable tree planting maps and tubes</li> </ul> <p><u>Link:</u> Education, Transport</p>	<p>Targets per updated Biodiversity Action Plan &amp; Reading BC Tree Strategy (NB resources for and timing of implementation may be influenced by England Tree Strategy, publication of which is awaited)</p> <p>Publish guidance on RCAN website</p> <p>2 school hedges/year</p> <p>Review policies for traffic restrictions</p> <p>Policy for council planting; publish guidance for householders;</p>	<p>Reading BC to adopt Tree Strategy 2020 Planting programme to 2025</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2021</p>	<p>Reading BC, Ethical Reading; Tree Wardens (RTWN); Nature Task Force (NTF) Econet Food4Families Thames Water</p>	AMBER	<p>Reading BC Tree Strategy published March 2021.</p> <p>340 standard trees planted last winter plus 500 whips by volunteers including 40m Hedge planted along Peppard Road outside Budgens. Additionally, new hedging into Emmer Green playing field boundary. No school hedges planted, new offer to schools made for autumn 2022 term’s eco newsletter from Brighter Futures</p>
N2: Managing land to store more carbon and increase biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review methods to protect existing stored carbon and relative benefits of different land uses</li> <li>Identify optimum practical and effective management systems for retaining carbon in Reading</li> <li>Feedback into review of management of Council land</li> </ul>	<p>Conduct literature review</p> <p>Feedback into review of Council land management and planting programme</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2021</p>	<p>Reading BC University NTF BBOWT</p>	AMBER	<p>Rewilding of Highways verges contributes both more carbon storage and biodiversity</p>
N3 explore use of biochar and charcoal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research on cost benefit of charcoal and biochar</li> <li>Expect results to show that expensive to purchase but beneficial for tree growth and resilience to climate change and should be part of planting plans</li> <li>Seek opportunities to make charcoal from local forestry waste to sell locally and reduce imports and to dig into the soils to sequester carbon</li> </ul>	<p>Research undertaken</p> <p>Reading BC ground maintenance policies and planting policies revised accordingly</p> <p>Advice leaflets for householders on RCAN website</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>UoR Reading BC Local charcoal makers BBOWT Coppice Federation</p>	AMBER	<p>PhD student undertaking research at UoR but no feedback yet.</p>

N4: Review Council parks and woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey land, including allotments, and make recommendations that increase carbon storage, flood control, and Biological Action Plan delivery, compatible with increased public use for health <u>Link: Water, Health</u></li> </ul>	<p>Survey minimum 4 sites per year</p> <p>Recommend management changes</p>	<p>From 2020</p>	<p>Reading BC NTF Econet, Reading and District Natural History Society (RDNHS), RTWN</p>	GREEN	<p>On target for 4 site reviews pa Management changes recommended Actions agreed and being delivered on some sites</p>
N5: Test different management of parks, verges and roundabouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review mowing regimes in parks</li> <li>Consider measures like extending tree cover, scrub regeneration and conservation grassland</li> <li>Consider options for managing roadside verges/roundabouts</li> <li>Test, review and implement preferred options</li> <li>Accompany changes with public education campaign</li> </ul>	<p>Annual meeting to review options for evidence-based changes</p> <p>Consider options for changing mowing/planting on 6 area/yr of verge/roundabouts and 2 areas in parks</p> <p>Review impact and extend across town</p>	<p>From 2021</p> <p>From 2021</p> <p>From 2020</p>	<p>Reading BC  NTF Community groups</p>	GREEN	<p>Reading BC has already made the changes required on the five-year plan and is continuing to increase these areas and review impact</p>
N6: Planning for replacement for ash dieback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decide which areas to be left for regeneration with resistant ash</li> <li>Decide on replacement species on Council land where necessary</li> <li>Grow on local material to plant out (potential schools project) <u>Link: Education</u></li> </ul>	<p>Review Council woodlands and revise management plans</p> <p>2 year collection of seeds with schools</p>	<p>2022</p> <p>2 per year</p>	<p>Reading BC Parks; “friends of” groups; NTF, Community groups</p>	AMBER	<p>Review taking place as part of N4, but no woodland sites reviewed this year. Seed collection took place with Caversham Primary School; and Redlands Primary School</p>
N7: Kennet Meadows	<p>Review options to increase carbon storage and biodiversity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining water levels through the year</li> <li>increasing granularity of livestock management to form a mosaic of swards</li> <li>Before and after surveys required for carbon capture and biodiversity <u>Links: Water</u></li> </ul>	<p>Discussions underway</p> <p>Completion targets and dates to be agreed</p>	TBA	<p>Land Owners EA, Reading BC NTF Thames Water</p>	AMBER	<p>Landowners and graziers approached re: new management system, Natural England involved and may support through ELMS. Species monitoring taken place. Need input and agreements with Thames Water and landowners.</p>
N8: Increase hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey existing hedgerows and suggest new hedgelines/infill</li> <li>Schools encouraged to have hedge boundaries to mitigate air pollution</li> <li>Hedgerows promoted along cycle routes/walking routes for air pollution mitigation and shade <u>Links: Health</u></li> </ul>	<p>Review hedgerows as part of wildlife corridor survey at 10km/year</p> <p>Target schools and park boundaries for priority planting</p>	<p>Annual report</p> <p>2 per year from 2021</p>	<p>NTF to survey</p> <p>Landowners to plant and maintain</p>	AMBER	<p>No systematic assessment taken place so far. Hedgeline infill identified on three sites, one undertaken winter 2021/22. New hedgerow agreed for Budgens site at Emmer Green and 40m of the 200m planted winter 2021/22. Both of these watered during the summer. No response from schools so far, offer made again autumn 2022.</p>
N9: Food waste/green waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support no dig cultivation, home composting/worm bins</li> <li>Disseminate information on food fermentation and support larger scale waste trials</li> <li>Seek University research to quantify effects</li> </ul>	<p>Information on RCAN website and links to other sources</p> <p>Support 2 trials: data required before end of RE3 contract</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2024</p>	<p>NTF Food4Families Community groups UoR MERL</p>	GREEN	<p>Soil food factsheet written for website. University research programme undertaken and has produced new focus; PhD started Sept 2022 to test practicalities and results of collecting and fermenting food waste from Whiteknights park and using on university farm</p>

**Sub category: Supporting wildlife habitats and biodiversity**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
N10: Compensatory habitat restoration/offsets for urban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline review of the likely requirements for habitat compensation and biodiversity net gain (BNG) due to development of sites in the Local Plan</li> <li>Financial mechanism developed</li> </ul>	<p>System to be set up</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>Continuous</p>	Reading BC planning	AMBER	Environment Act will make BNG mandatory from Nov 2023 – Reading BC to develop Supplementary Planning Document to support implementation
N11: Identifying wildlife corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working from the green links shown in the Local Plan, and revision of the Biodiversity Action Plan, identify primary and secondary routes</li> <li>Agree any changes/additions changes with Reading BC planning department and Council</li> </ul>	Identify routes and mark on plan for transfer to Reading BC Geographical Information System	2020	Reading BC planning BAP review/NTF Reading BC parks and Highways	AMBER	BAP revised and adopted
N12: Assessing the quality of wildlife corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing data</li> <li>Walk through and rapid assessment of accessible land</li> <li>List priorities for enhancement on public land and community land</li> </ul>	Start within year 1, 10km a year reports on the corridor survey	Annual from 2020-2025	NTF/Reading BC community groups Network rail BBOWT	AMBER	Commenced summer 2022
N13: Managing the impact of development areas on wildlife corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure design and planting on development sites contributes to wildlife corridors</li> <li>Ensure connectivity through developments with appropriate supplemental planning guidance</li> <li>Align with objectives of revised Biodiversity Action Plan and/or green infrastructure strategy/plan</li> </ul>	Supplementary Planning Document published	<p>2021</p> <p>Implementation ongoing</p>	Reading BC Berkshire Local Nature Partnership BBOWT	AMBER	Local Plan policies in place to support
N14: Species protection/ recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity Action Plan develops objectives for increasing/recovery of identified key species</li> <li>Ensure these are fed into management methods and changes in wildlife corridors</li> </ul>	<p>Develop land management objectives</p> <p>Implement from:</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2021</p>	<p>Reading BC/NTF</p> <p>University of Reading</p>	GREEN	BAP revised and adopted
N15: Biodiversity enhancement pilots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet/work with residents associations/ community groups</li> <li>Offer regular workshops/newsletter input/other methods to support changes in these areas</li> </ul> <p>Link: Community</p>	<p>Identify 2 areas to participate including an area of deprivation</p> <p>Review impact relative to other areas</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2023</p>	NTF Adopt-a street Community groups	AMBER	Work done in Caversham/Emmer Green area; Work commencing in central Reading this autumn The Nook developed
N16: Data recording/ monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request that all new data go onto TVERC, irecord or data systems that link with TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre)</li> <li>Recruit volunteers for recording</li> <li>Encourage householders to take part in garden surveys/ TV projects</li> </ul>	<p>Contact all local groups</p> <p>Recruit volunteers</p> <p>Publicise surveys undertaken by others</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2020</p> <p>Each year</p>	NTF Community groups UoR	AMBER	Articles written for Caversham Bridge requesting recording on house martins and swifts 2022; House martin survey by RDNHS summer 2021; Bat and moth survey Clayfield Copse autumn 2022 Factsheet on good sources for ID written

**Sub category: Planting for biodiversity and resilience**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
N17: Provide Information on adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide information on climate resilience and wildlife friendly gardening</li> <li>Improving soil structure and promote water reuse</li> <li>Promote exemplar sites – eg council, church, school</li> </ul> Links: Water, Health, Education	<p>Information published on RCAN website</p> <p>2 exemplar projects by:</p>	<p>Q4 2020</p> <p>2025</p>	<p>NTF</p> <p>RISC community groups, Reading BC</p>	AMBER	Articles written for Caversham Bridge
N18: Greening front gardens and reducing hardstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide information and links to potential designs for increasing green cover and reducing hardstanding</li> <li>Hold seminar for developers</li> <li>Seek TV support for project, eg Gardener's World</li> </ul> Links: Water, Energy and LCD	<p>Information by end 2021</p> <p>Seminar</p> <p>Contact TV options</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2022</p> <p>2023</p>	RCAN/ NTF/RHS	RED	Limited capacity to progress this action, and limited control/influence over private homeowners
N19: Interaction with garden centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage garden centres to introduce a wildlife friendly and climate change adaptation section</li> <li>Peat-free labelling of composts</li> </ul>	Programme introduced	2020	NTF BBOWT	AMBER	Dobbies approached, no response as yet but they have removed peat based compost

**Sub category: Green Spaces for Cooling/well-being**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
N20: Green Infrastructure	<p>Using green infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions from buildings and promote urban cooling, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Green walls and roofs on new build</li> <li>Promote green roofs on existing single storey structures</li> <li>Plant for shading of cycle/pedestrian routes</li> <li>Research on impacts of green infrastructure required</li> </ul>	<p>In local plan. May need Supplementary planning document</p> <p>Advice published on RCAN website</p> <p>Research projects to evaluate effects</p>	<p>SPD 2022</p> <p>2022</p> <p>2021</p>	<p>Reading BC</p> <p>NTF NTF/UoR</p>	AMBER	<p>Green roof on new bus shelters on A33 implemented and planned elsewhere; advice on small tree planting in articles for Caversham Bridge</p> <p>Lottery funded project to provide shaded areas in Shinfield road and rec and Victoria Park</p>
N21 Develop green space to enable increased health benefits	<p>Tree/hedge planting to provide shade, reduce particulate pollution and oxides of nitrogen</p> Links: Health	Part of reviews referred to in N4 above	Ongoing from 2020	Landowners	AMBER	<p>Undertaken for 8 sites so far, not systematic approach along corridors.</p> <p>Lottery funded project to provide shaded areas in Shinfield Road and rec and Victoria Park</p>

Sub category: Communication and Engagement

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
N22: Raising awareness in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify two areas in the town, including an area of deprivation, to concentrate existing resources to test ideas and communication methods for dissemination</li> <li>Extend proven ideas to other areas</li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> All themes, Business, Community</p>	2 target areas identified and developed	Identify test areas by 2021; Extend to four areas by 2025	Nature Task Force	GREEN	Working with Caversham area for 2 years; started 2 <sup>nd</sup> area end 2021. Articles written for Caversham Bridge. In 2022 held Beanpole Day at Caversham Court with wildlife gardening/food growing theme; Meadows Day at Clayfield Copse with education theme for biodiversity and regeneration and similar at Reading Youth Fair The Nook developed at Katesgrove Working with Civitas Primary School to plant bulbs at Victoria Park and provide complementary work at the school Guiding Working with Ridgeway Primary for similar scheme at Shinfield Road rec. Guiding commissioner contacted for joint actions
N23: Advice service for adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide advice to schools/ community groups/ for wildlife friendly gardening/ water efficient gardening/recycling in the garden</li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> Water, Education, Community, Adaptation</p>	Offer half day advice service to up to 20 organisations a year, plus online leaflets	Advice service from 2021	NTF BBOWT	AMBER	Redlands Primary; Keep Emmer Green; Methodist Church Queens Road;
N24: Support schools in their climate change initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide list of support actions available through ReadingCAN or external sources to enhance existing systems (e.g. ecoschools), and distribute</li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> Education, Communication and Engagement</p>	Create option list for schools Offer 8 support activities a year	2020 From 2021	RCAN Nature Task Force	AMBER	No response to item in education newsletter; Redlands School provided with help; commencing work with Civitas
N25: Supporting Businesses and NGOs in their climate change initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make opportunities for groups to do practical work via Team Challenge</li> </ul> <p><u>Link:</u> Business, Communication and Engagement</p>	6 actions a year	Set up by 2021	Reading BC/NTF Econet/TCV	RED	2 companies engaged in practical conservation work, not through team challenge
N26 Identify opportunities for green prescribing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce a list of groups willing to provide options for social prescribing and make available to local GPs</li> </ul> <p><u>Links:</u> Health</p>	List available to Reading BC Public Health	2021	NTF	RED	Contacted practical conservation groups to ask whether willing to offer green prescribing. Limited response. This action mainly being done now by RVA.

<b>THEME: HEALTH</b>
<b>PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</b>
<p>Progress with the action plan was inevitably impacted more than most by the pandemic as this has necessarily been a continuing focus for health service and public health partners and professionals. That said, some significant actions have been taken forward, and other actions not envisaged when the Action Plan was created have also been progressed. These include a successful collaboration between the University of Reading, the Met Office and Reading Borough Council to develop a 'City Pack' for Reading as a tool to help communicate climate risk and inform adaptation planning. The Royal Berkshire Hospital has also been developing ambitions plans to reduce its own emissions, with the launch of its Green Plan, and has brought forward its target to achieve net zero from 2040 to 2030 to align with the wider Reading ambition.</p>
<b>EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME</b>
<p>The health implications of climate change and the need to adapt were acknowledged in the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy which was endorsed by Reading Borough Council in October 2021. This is a key strategic document supported by a series of action plans which will address in more detail how climate impacts and adaptation action can be taken forward in the context of health and wellbeing.</p>
<b>OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME</b>
<p>Whilst the pandemic in many ways diverted the attention of policy makers from the climate change agenda, it also highlighted similar questions about our preparedness. Many governmental and organisational risk management frameworks were not fully prepared to cope with the pandemic, and the same is likely true of climate risks, which are in some respects even greater than those raised by the pandemic. Climate and weather-related risks like heatwaves, drought, flooding and extreme weather may represent significant risks in and of themselves or have the potential to magnify other strategic risks, including numerous risks to public health and wellbeing, and risk management strategies need to be developed accordingly.</p> <p>Climate change has as a result risen up the agenda of public health authorities nationally as well as locally, with Prof Dame Jenny Harries, the Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), warning in October 2022 that the climate crisis poses a 'significant and growing threat' to health in the UK. Speaking at the UKHSA's annual conference she went on to highlight the health impact of heatwaves, thought to have been responsible for more than 2,800 excess deaths this summer, and to highlight the need for us to become more resilient to these impacts.</p>

**Health Theme Action Plan:** *By 2025, people in Reading will be well informed about how to embed climate-friendly activities into their lives and self-manage the health impacts of climate change, benefiting from policies and programmes that enable them to thrive despite its effects. All climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies will consider the impact on health; with particular emphasis on heat-related health risks, air quality and mental wellbeing.*

NB Some of the actions included in the action plans below, and the scale and pace at which they can be progressed, will be subject to the prevailing national policy context and/or the provision of additional powers and resources by central government, as made clear in Reading’s climate emergency declaration (see section 3.2 above).

**Sub category: Heat**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
H1: Adaptation and anticipation in health facilities	Facilities in hospitals and care homes adapted to extreme heat, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of cool space for residents</li> <li>Storage for medicines requiring cool temperatures</li> <li>Risk register of those at risk from heat</li> </ul>	CQC reports on facilities in Reading all positive on these aspects.	2023	Public Health Berkshire - lead	AMBER	Berkshire West Health & Wellbeing Strategy acknowledges need to adapt. Berkshire Public Health Heatwave and Summer preparedness plans are in place.
H2: Publicise cool public spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore potential for air-conditioned places to be opened to the public during heatwaves</li> <li>Maps and lists in libraries, public spaces, buses.</li> <li>Publicity in local media when heatwaves are forecast</li> <li>Support tree planting initiatives and man-made (canopies) solutions</li> </ul>	Completion and publication of list	Initial list 2022  List updated yearly	Reading BC/RCAN	AMBER	See above heatwave plan, various comms used. Bullet points 1 and 4 need further action
H3: Increase number of cooling public spaces– nature-based solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement urban greening and tree-planting initiatives</li> <li>Create man-made solutions where necessary (canopies)</li> </ul>	See action N1 in Nature Theme			AMBER	Community garden developed at RBH. See also nature theme

**Sub category: Flooding**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
H4: Anticipation in health and social care facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flexible accommodation for peak loads in emergencies</li> <li>Flood risk planning and preparation for in-patient facilities</li> </ul>	Establish baseline Set targets Plan published	2020 2021 2022	Public Health Berkshire – lead Reading BC	AMBER	Increasingly ‘core business’ in health and care planning
H5: Minimising health impacts from flooding	Convene a group to determine what support is needed to minimise the health impacts from flooding	Group to report by end of	2022	RCAN	RED	No specific action on this but see also flood risk management actions in Water Theme



Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
	anticipated flooding and to make recommendations about appropriate interventions					

**Sub category: Air pollution – see also Transport Theme Action Plan**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
H6: Supporting citizens to self-manage air quality risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the application of dynamic real time air quality data to help citizens protect themselves</li> <li>Raising awareness of green/ blue corridor and urban travel routes with lower pollution levels</li> <li>Reach those most in need by prioritising areas measuring high pollution levels and areas of deprivation</li> <li>Possible collaboration with Adept Live Lab project</li> </ul> Links: Nature	TBC	TBC	Reading BC (lead)  University of Reading  Adept Live Lab Stakeholders	AMBER	CO2 monitors in schools since September 2021 to monitor air quality. See also nature theme.

**Sub-category: reducing emissions from the health sector in Reading**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
H7: Minimising the health impacts from infectious diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene a group to determine what support is needed to minimise the health impacts from infectious diseases associated with climate change and to make recommendations about appropriate interventions</li> </ul>	Group to report by end of	2022	RCAN	RED	
H8: 'For a Greener NHS' campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopting the national 'For A Greener NHS' campaign in Reading to determine the quickest feasible path to get the NHS to 'net zero carbon'</li> <li>Royal Berks NHS Foundation Trust to produce action plan subsequently</li> </ul>	NHS staff and establishments to feed into Expert Panel to report by Summer 2020 (local action plans to be produced subsequently)	Q2-3 2020	Royal Berks NHS Foundation Trust Other NHS facilities	GREEN	RBH Green Plan launch targeting net zero by 2030 (some dependencies to hospital redevelopment programme)
H9: Implementation of NHS Standard Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New national contract requiring hospitals to reduce carbon from buildings and estates, whilst switching to less polluting products, and encouraging more active travel for staff</li> </ul>	Contract implemented	Q2 2021	Royal Berks NHS Foundation Trust	GREEN	All NHS Trusts have a mandatory plan in place to reduce carbon by 2040
H10: Development of Green Plan for Royal Berks Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New plan covering asset management, travel and transport, use of resources and greenhouse gas emissions</li> </ul>	Plan completed	Q2 2021	Royal Berks NHS Foundation Trust	GREEN	Green Plan launched 2022, Includes action on desflurane and other greenhouse gases

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
H11: Cooperation with local GP practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link GP practices with sustainability initiatives including 'The Green Impact for Health Toolkit'<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	Health Theme Group to make contact with GPs or representative body	2021	RCCP/RCAN/GP Practises	AMBER	Challenging to achieve with GP pressures but there is emerging work across the Integrated Care System

**Sub category: Communication, engagement and education**

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
H12: Cooperation with local health authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create strong links to ensure climate change is at the centre of strategy.</li> <li>Initiate discussions with Health and Wellbeing Board <a href="https://democracy.reading.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=176">https://democracy.reading.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=176</a></li> </ul>	Meet to determine next steps	Q3 2020	RCAN lead	AMBER	Links are being made across health through the Bucks/Berks/Oxon Integrated Care System
H13: Cooperation with local planning authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Planning Team in climate impact assessment, ecosystem services tools and mitigation measures in relation to new builds and health &amp; wellbeing of existing communities and future generations</li> </ul>	Meet to determine next steps?	Q4 2020		AMBER	Issue recognised in Local Plan and health and wellbeing plans but scope for closer working across health and spatial planning
H14: Cooperation with Brighter Futures for Children and schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align with health and wellbeing targets</li> <li>Connect with young people in their own right and as a route to influence their parents</li> <li>Create repository of sustainable frameworks and climate change learning resources for schools</li> <li>Increase tree and hedge planting in schools, for heat reduction and improving air quality</li> <li>Support outdoor learning initiatives in school grounds and urban green spaces</li> </ul>	Meet to determine next steps	Q4 2020	RCAN Brighter Futures for Children Primary Schools Secondary Schools	AMBER	Scope for closer working between partners remains
H15: Improve cooperation between Reading BC Parks and Open Spaces team, conservation and therapeutic nature and horticulture sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing amount and quality of green space to enable residents to benefit from the improved physical and mental health</li> <li>Mapping nature recovery priorities against indices of deprivation data to support people and wildlife where needed most</li> <li>Supporting Reading Tree Strategy</li> <li>Promoting green prescribing initiatives</li> </ul>	Ongoing – measure quality using Natural England's guidance	Ongoing	Reading BC NTF	AMBER	Wildbeing project linked to social prescribing. Links to obesity and physical activity agenda. See also nature theme.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.greenimpact.org.uk/giforhealth>

Action name	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
H16: Publicise the health & well-being benefits to be gained from taking action on climate change	Awareness raising linking health & well-being with climate friendly choices, including diet (less food miles, less processing, more plant-based), travel choices and housing retrofit. Encourage behaviour change by highlighting positive impact of climate action, such as air quality improvements reducing asthma attacks and supporting brain development Awareness raising to highlight the importance of greenspace to health & well-being and climate adaptation including boosting conservation volunteering and tree planting.	Explore carbon literacy training and positive climate action campaign tailored to specific target audiences	2021	RCAN Reading Green Christians	GREEN	New Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy and local implementation plans to improve these links. New APP in place between University of Reading and RBH with significant proportion of Reading population targeted via student and staff population
H17: Support for mental health and wellbeing, targeting those suffering health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension of existing mental health programmes to include the mental health issues associated with heat, flooding or air pollution; also climate anxiety</li> <li>• Supporting the local nature sector to deliver green prescribing, especially for vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Sustainable greenspace management boosting biodiversity, carbon sequestration and supporting health &amp; wellbeing</li> <li>• Align with health and wellbeing targets</li> <li>• Support use of outdoor locations for health and wellbeing workshops</li> </ul>	Extended programme in place	2022	Reading BC Public Health	GREEN	RBH community garden. Wellbeing project linked to social prescribing. Compass Recovery College does a number of workshops outdoors. Physical activity options outdoors, e.g. walks - links to Reading BC plans.
H18: Support the community gardening and food growing sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the use of greenspace/ gardens for growing food in public and private spaces and educational opportunities</li> <li>• Education around healthy and climate-friendly diets, including basic cookery skills</li> </ul>	Measure number and size of spaces and volunteer numbers.	Ongoing	Reading Gardening for Health and Wellbeing Network Food4Families Reading Food Growing Network	AMBER	Obesity agenda – new tender for community food project to link into these opportunities – procurement underway. RBH Community garden also relevant.
H19: Research, measuring and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore what data is already available on public health impacts of climate change in Reading</li> <li>• Identify data gaps and establish research projects</li> <li>• Measure, monitor and report on correlation of illnesses with climate change impacts to improve adaptation planning</li> <li>• Possible link with Lancet Countdown project</li> </ul>	Scoping meeting	December 2019 DONE	RCAN / University of Reading	GREEN	See PHOF indicators, e.g. air pollution. University of Reading Heat Map project.

**THEME: COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT**

**PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

We continue to promote RCAN content on social media channels and are slowly building up our followers. The website sees spikes in visits during our key campaigns: the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Climate Festival (September '21), Reading COP (November '21), Food Action Waste Week (March '22) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Climate Festival (September-October '22)

RCCP/RCAN took part in the Urban Room Project (February 2022) led by the University of Reading and other partners, Meadows Day (June 2022), and promoted Reading COP with other location organisations. For schools, a termly newsletter is now sent to all Reading Schools, and Schools sections have been established on the RCAN website. A business communications lead is now in place and the new Climate Change Partnership Coordinator has been in post since June 2022, supporting communications and engagement activity.

Reading Borough Council ran a climate change communications month in November 2021 and is planning to repeat this in November 2022. This coincides with publication of the Annual Report into the Reading Climate Emergency Strategy, the Council's own annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions report and the anniversary of Reading's admission to the Carbon Disclosure Project's 'A' list of cities taking 'bold climate action'.

**EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME**

Over the last year the continuing ramifications of the pandemic and the outbreak of the war in Ukraine have dominated news headlines at times making it harder to maintain the focus on climate issues. That said, significant climate-related events from around the globe, and the summer heatwave in the UK, have made it impossible for media outlets to ignore. The rising cost of living, particularly energy, has also highlighted the importance of using energy wisely and presented new opportunities to promote climate-friendly actions which will also save money for business and households. This was a particularly strong theme within the most recent Reading Climate Festival.

Members of the Comms & Engagement Team received training as part of the prestigious Local Climate Engagement project organised by a group of NGOs specialising in public participation, following submission of a successful bid by Reading Borough Council. This will inform the process of planning to engage residents and other stakeholders in the next iteration of the Climate Emergency Strategy.

**OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME**

The Reading Climate Festival was held for the third time in 2022 – a week of free virtual and live events to inspire action on climate change. From the 24<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, open to all. This activity will be put into the Comms & Engagement plan as a yearly event and plans are already underway for 2023, with the Festival being brought forward to June next year to align with Big Green Week.

## Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25: Communications & Engagement Plan summary

Action name*	Description (With bulleted list of activities needed to achieve action and links)	Target & measure/ milestone (i.e. how will we know that we have completed the action?)	Target completion date	Action owner + list of delivery partner/s+	Any resource or capacity challenges? (in funding, in skills, in capacity, missing key partners)	Status	Commentary (100 word max)
<b>General</b>							
Information hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and maintain a hub on the website where all themes are supported with relevant, practical info for all stakeholders, so that everything is available in one place</li> <li>Mixture of bespoke content (Reading-centric) and signposts to reliable sources of information eg WRAP, Wildlife Trust, Energy Saving Trust, Carbon Trust etc.</li> <li>Supported by comms programme (conventional and social)</li> <li>This should also have info on how we are doing. Achievements, measurement etc (does this need to be a separate workstream or do the theme heads take care of this?)</li> </ul>	Published	Set up by Nov 2020, continuously updated thereafter.	<b>Comms and Engagement Team</b> Theme leads	Website needs professional design to make sure it's engaging and mobile-optimised.	GREEN	Blog & News section updated; snagging issues complete; Schools section established
Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a dashboard with KPIs that track progress against the targets in the strategy</li> <li>Publish on the RCAN website but also strategic media around the town, eg large digital sign at the station, buses, The Oracle, Council venues</li> </ul>	Published	Set up by Dec 2020 and continuously updated thereafter	<b>RCCP Partnership Co-ordinator</b>	Some of the indicators will be lagging, these needs to be clearly communicated.	RED	No progress
Brand Book and Stakeholder Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop brand guidelines, style guide and messaging matrix</li> <li>Confirm role of RCCP versus RCAN and relationship with other organisations within Reading</li> </ul>	Brand Book and stakeholder map created	By end Sept	<b>Comms and Engagement Team</b>	Will need to be revised and updated after the governance audit is completed	GREEN	Complete, however some updates required
Campaign Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and publish a calendar of campaigns to encourage action on different issues, eg Beat the Street, Fair Trade Fortnight</li> <li>Align with Reading BC campaigns and initiatives led by other organisations in the town, as well as national "days" eg Earth Day</li> <li>Support with social media and conventional media such as bus advertising, outdoor, The Oracle, council magazine</li> </ul>	Quarterly Rolling Comms Plan devised and published	By Nov 2020	<b>Comms and Engagement Team</b>	May require funding for creative and media	GREEN	Calendar produced for each year.
Climate Literacy Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer carbon and climate training, tailored to all who live, work or study in Reading</li> <li>Begin by training all Reading BC staff</li> <li>Potential to build on the University's <a href="#">MOOC</a> and/or Climate Reality training</li> <li>Accreditation available from the UNEP endorsed <a href="#">Carbon Literacy Project</a></li> </ul>	Development of training  Targets for delivery	December 2021	<b>RCAN lead</b>	Carbon Literacy accreditation depends on securing funding	RED	No progress

Third party events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take part in/support local public events eg Town Meal, Beanpole, day, waterfest, meadows day, school fetes etc etc</li> </ul>	Events calendar published and theme support agreed.	10 events per year	<b>RCCP Partnership Co-ordinator</b>	Requires portable display materials as well as volunteer help	<b>AMBER</b>	Have taken part in some events this year (Reading COP, Urban Room)
Funding hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and maintain a list of sources of outside funding that can be drawn on to support RCAN initiatives.</li> <li>Offer grants to support small local initiatives that align with RCAN goals</li> </ul>	List published	Set up by end of 2020, continuously updated thereafter.	<b>RCCP Partnership Co-ordinator</b>	Opportunity to offer advice on preparing bids subject to resource.	<b>GREEN</b>	List published, however needs a better process for identifying & responding to opportunities
Volunteer Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Reading Voluntary Action to establish process to recruit volunteers to support delivery of RCAN activities</li> </ul>	Relationship built and process established	December 2020	<b>RCAN, RVA</b>		<b>RED</b>	No progress
Research Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a research programme to support the actions in the strategy</li> <li>Work with the University of Reading to develop a structured approach to matching research needs with students seeking research projects.</li> </ul>	Programme developed and approach defined	April 2021	<b>RCAN, University of Reading</b>		<b>RED</b>	No progress
Climate Action Pledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a pledge that residents can sign to commit to taking action on climate change across a relevant range of impacts</li> <li>Possible "eco-journey" starting with simple things and becoming more advanced</li> </ul>	Pledge defined and published	November 2020	<b>RCAN</b>		<b>GREEN</b>	Done, needs comms to promote
<b>Business focus</b>							
Climate-friendly Organisations Pledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define a set of commitments for organisations to sign up to in order to gain "Climate Friendly" status</li> </ul>	Pledge defined and published	November 2020	<b>RCAN lead</b>		<b>GREEN</b>	Done, needs comms to promote
Climate-Aware Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embed climate change into the workstreams of the LEP, IOD, Chamber of Commerce and other local business networks</li> <li>Work with leaders of those organisations to convince them of the strategic importance of climate change for their own organisations and their membership</li> </ul>	All nominated organisations have climate change as part of their mission	Summer 2021	<b>Reading BC lead</b>		<b>GREEN</b>	
Lobbying for better business practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify barriers preventing use of sanctions to address "carbon crimes", eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaving lights on all night in office buildings</li> <li>Having doors of restaurants/retail units open</li> <li>Incorporate the GHG Protocol (Scope 1, 2 &amp; 3) ?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Lobby central government for the policy changes</li> </ul>	Issues identified and lobbying programme launched	Spring 2021	<b>RCAN lead</b>		<b>RED</b>	
Reading Business Climate Action Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish business network for sharing of expertise and knowledge on sustainable business</li> <li>Hold regular events</li> </ul>	Network already launched.  Events programme published	November 2020	<b>RCAN lead Ethical Reading Sustainability Champions</b>		<b>AMBER</b>	Established but lacks momentum

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish business-centric advice and guidance and signpost tools and models from reputable sources on the RCAN website</li> <li>Encourage all Reading Businesses to nominate an employee who is their representative and can help to engage the company</li> </ul>	Information hub launched	November 2020				
Sustainable Business Accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the suitability of BCorp and BITC frameworks and other accreditations</li> <li>Ideally have a free-to-use dashboard system</li> <li>Introduce an accreditation scheme for businesses that recognises achievement at different levels, eg bronze, silver, gold, to create a race to the top</li> </ul>	Research completed and proposal published	Summer 2021	RCAN lead	May require funding	RED	No progress
Divestment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Divestment from fossil fuels is an important signal of intent as well as a way to divert capital investment from carbon-based to cleantech/Greentech innovation.</li> <li>Run a campaign encouraging all institutional investors in Reading to divest</li> </ul>	Campaign launched	November 2021	RCAN lead		RED	No progress
Business volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create opportunities for staff to support delivery of actions from the strategy via Team Challenge</li> </ul>	6 business actions a year	First actions Q1 2021	RCAN lead Connect Reading/RBC /NTF/Econet/TCV,		RED	No progress
<b>Community focus</b>							
Working with other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish links with other groups working on the sustainability agenda across Reading and showcase their work through the RCAN website</li> <li>Enable sharing of events, expertise, knowledge and resources by other groups</li> </ul>	Partner hub set up with ability for representatives to contribute content	Partner hub set up by end 2020	Comms and Engagement team		AMBER	Links started to be established, but not a formal hub
Community focused work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify 2 geographical areas in Reading (up to 10 streets)– and support the residents in these streets to lead more Climate friendly lives. Develop competition (eg 'green streets initiative')</li> <li>Identify and work with community groups (i.e. religious, ethnic, age related) – and support the members to lead more Climate friendly lives, through community talks and projects</li> </ul>	2 areas per year  6 groups per year	First area identified by Q2 2021  First group identified by Q1 2021	RCCP Partnership Co-ordinator		RED	No progress
<b>Education focus</b>							
Schools-based interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with the Education team and Better Futures for Children, to establish a programme of climate change interventions for schools.</li> <li>To cover physical changes (i.e install solar panels, heat pumps etc) and support with lessons/curriculum / local community engagement (use Eco Schools framework?)</li> </ul>	Programme launched	September 2021	RCCP Partnership Co-ordinator  Brighter Futures for Children, Reading BC Sustainability team, Helen Roberts team	<a href="https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/">https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/</a> <a href="https://www.greenschoolsproject.org.uk/">https://www.greenschoolsproject.org.uk/</a> <a href="https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/green-ambassadors">https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/green-ambassadors</a>	GREEN	Schools section established on website; First Youth Fayre at this year's Climate Festival

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw on established tools and programmes where possible</li> </ul>				<a href="https://www.youngclimatewarriors.org/">https://www.youngclimatewarriors.org/</a>		
Reading Schools Climate Action Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish teacher network for sharing of expertise and knowledge on sustainable schools (for primary and secondary)</li> <li>• Hold regular events</li> <li>• Publish school-centric advice and guidance and signpost tools and models from reputable sources</li> <li>• Link to home schooling networks</li> </ul>	<p>Network launched.</p> <p>Events programme published</p> <p>Information hub launched</p>	September 2021	<b>Brighter Futures for Children</b>	Nature Task Force?	GREEN	Complete, termly comms to schools
Model Climate Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the model climate conference to include all schools in Reading</li> <li>• Bring outputs back to RCAN website</li> <li>• Legacy - Supporting the schools to make the changes they committed to on the day, through the RSCAN</li> </ul>	50% increase in schools participating in the Model Climate Conference	November 2021	Just ideas	Subject to funding	AMBER	<a href="#">Reading School Climate Conference</a> took place
Young Persons Climate Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the potential to set up a Young Persons activist Network – for young people to meet up with like minded individuals to develop ideas</li> <li>• regular meetings, Intragram account?</li> <li>• Are there any programmes that we could already fit in with? Eg: Youth Council, schools strikes for climate</li> </ul>	Research appetite and develop proposal if appropriate	June 2021	RCCP Partnership Co-ordinator	Must be youth led and with proper safeguarding	AMBER	Made links with Youth Council