

The Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25 Annual Report 2023/24

November 2024



Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25

4th Annual Progress Report (2023/24)

Produced by Reading Climate Change Partnership (November 2024)

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FOREWORD

Delivering Reading's ambition to be a net-zero, climate-resilient town by 2030 is a monumental task. One that can only be delivered through partnership.

Thankfully, the Reading Climate Change Partnership has the support of a wide and growing network of local people and organisations who bring with them expertise from a wide range of sectors and backgrounds.

There is no single organisation in Reading that can do this alone. Partnership is *the* key to reducing emissions, building resilience, improving people's health, engaging stakeholders, reducing fuel and food poverty, protecting our rivers and growing and restoring our green spaces.

As you will read in this report, there is much to celebrate, and so much more to do if we are to achieve our shared goal of net zero. As you read, please think about how you and/or your organisations can become part of the delivery team for Reading's net zero ambition, as a project partner, funder of RCCP's work, convener, volunteer or innovator.

You can also get involved in shaping and delivering Reading's Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025 – 2030, by visiting www.readingcan.org.uk/priorities.

We sincerely hope you'll join us in this important and rewarding endeavour!

Heather Marshall and Dylan Parkes

Co-Chairs, Reading Climate Change Partnership

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 fourth annual report on the Strategy covering the year 2023/24. The report combines:

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

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 will be submitted to the November 2024 meeting of Reading Borough Council's Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee.

2. 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 Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and published annually as 'The UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics'¹. This dataset represents the most reliable and consistent breakdown of CO₂ emissions across the country, using nationally available data sets going back to 2005.

The DESNZ statistics include a data subset for 'Carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities'. 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 DESNZ dataset, it does reflect the sources of emissions from Reading over which local partner organisations and residents have most control and influence.

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

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108696/7/uk-local-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2005-2020-release.pdf
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2021>

toward net zero, 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.

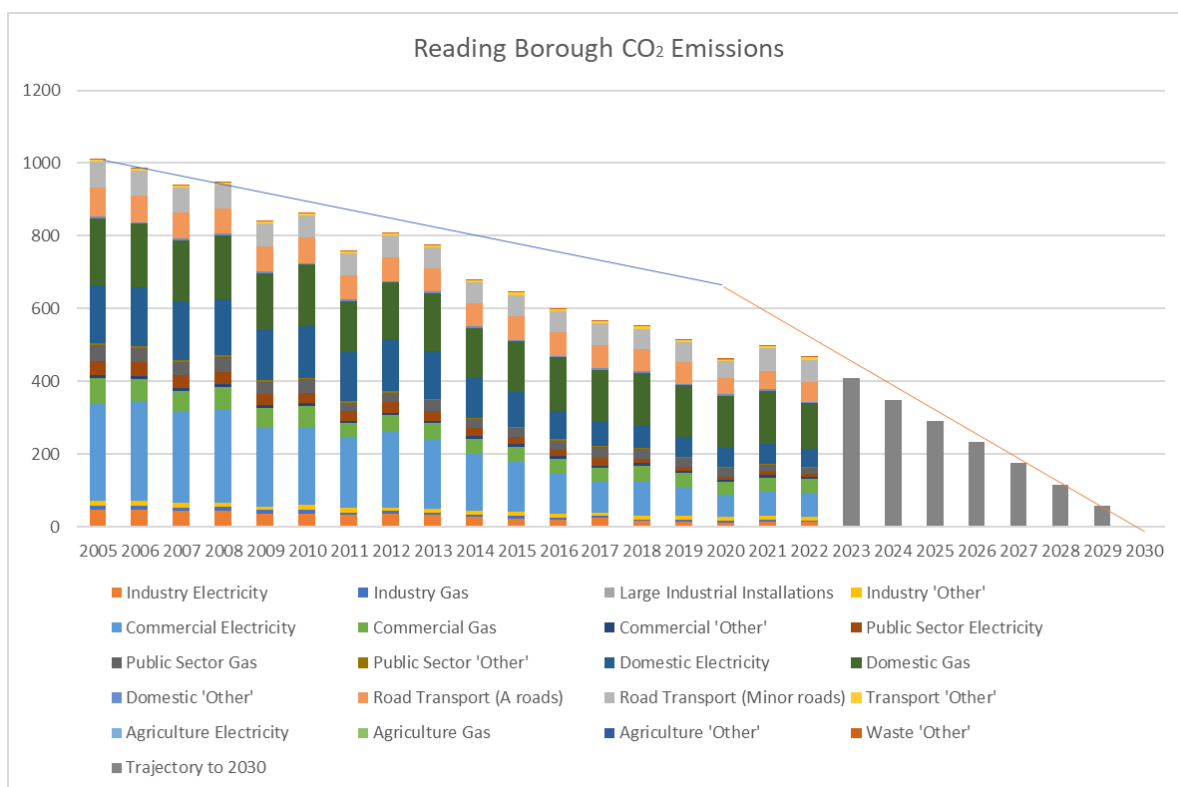
2.2 Progress towards net zero by 2030

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 2022 statistics (the latest year for which data is available) were published in June 2024 and show that CO₂

51.3% cut in Reading’s area emissions since 2005

emissions fell from 1009.9kt in 2005 to 466kt in 2022 - a reduction of 54% which compares favourably to the UK average of 43%, the South East regional average of 43% and the five other local authorities in Berkshire which range from 14% to 46%. The reduction in Reading Borough emissions is also the 12th highest reduction out of 374 UK local authority areas, suggesting that Reading is leading the way Nationally in efforts to reduce emissions by this measure. Figure 1 summarises the reduction in Reading Borough’s emissions over that period by sector.

Figure 1: reduction in carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities from Reading Borough 2005-22 by sector (with projected reductions needed to reach ‘net zero by 2030’)



Blue line shows pre 2020 target and red line shows Climate Emergency target

It is important to note that there is a significant time lag in this dataset so the data reported in June 2024 in fact relates to the calendar year 2022. As figure 1 shows, Reading's emissions reduced again in 2022 bringing them in line with the levels experienced during the pandemic. Overall, the downward trajectory of emissions has slowed. Caution should be taken with year-on-year comparisons, especially those affected by the pandemic, and the long-term trend is more instructive. Whilst we have not yet received the 2023 data, we know at the time of writing that the carbon intensity factor for electricity increased in that year and so the slowing of emissions reductions looks set to continue.

Not all of Reading's CO₂ emission reductions achieved by 2022 are attributable to local action. A significant portion arises from national policies to decarbonise the electricity network. The way in which Reading's economy has developed, with a focus on high-tech sectors with relatively greater reliance on electricity, coupled with its small geographical size, means that it is relatively less reliant on gas and other fossil fuels. The benefits of lower carbon grid electricity were of course experienced by every local authority area, to a greater or lesser degree, so the fact that Reading has seen the 12th 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.

Reading has seen the 8th largest reduction in emissions out of 374 UK local authority areas since 2005

It remains equally clear, however, that there is much more to do. We saw a year-on-year reduction in emissions of 6% between 2021 and 2022 which represents an average annual reduction over recent years. The pandemic caused a downward 'blip' in emissions but a significant 'bounce back' effect in 2021 meant that overall the emission reductions trajectory in recent years is not on course to reach net zero by 2030.

The Reading Climate Emergency Strategy makes 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. Major transformational changes such as the widescale electrification of heat and transport take time to embed and will not be likely to follow a linear trajectory.

The data continues to show that the challenge will indeed increase as the decade advances, but it also shows that we are making relatively good progress which gives us some encouragement that we are moving towards the pursuit of 'net zero'.

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 2022, based on the national dataset for 'emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities', as well as figures for the South East and UK as a whole. Table 1 also shows the figures for per capita emissions for these jurisdictions.

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

The data for the Reading local authority area is positive by both measures. Reading is the only local authority area in Berkshire to have seen a 50%+ reduction in emissions between 2005 and 2021, and is also the only local authority area in Berkshire with

per capita emissions of below 3 tonnes CO2 per annum. Reading also compares favourably with the south east and UK averages – a 51.3% cut in emissions since 2005 compared to 38.9% for the south east and 39.3% for the UK; and per capita emissions of 2.8 tonnes p.a. compared to 3.7 tonnes p.a. for the south east and 4.1 tonnes p.a. for the UK.

Table 1: Emissions reduction in Berkshire local authority areas (with South East and UK averages)

Area	% reduction 2005-22	Per capita emissions (tonnes pa)
Reading	54%	2.7
Bracknell Forest	44%	3.0
Slough	14%	3.8
West Berkshire	42%	4.6
Windsor & Maidenhead	46%	3.7
Wokingham	43%	2.9
SE average	43%	3.5
UK average	43%	3.8

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.

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 an understanding of the potential impacts, more 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 summer 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, many organisations made temporary changes to working practises from which we can learn to help us adapt in future. Nonetheless, it is estimated that there were 3,271 excess deaths in the UK (6.2% above the five-year average) during the five ‘heat periods’ between June and August 2022 (defined as days when the average temperature is above 20°C in central England). 2,803 of these were among the over-65s, illustrating how extreme weather events tend to impact the most vulnerable.

Flooding continues to impact Reading significantly with the winter of 2023/2024 leading to dramatic floodwaters and significant impact to properties and transport links. At the time of writing further flood warnings are in place and further disruption and impacts are expected. One in six properties in

England are at risk of flooding (Environment Agency) and with the changing climate the likelihood of flooding is increasing year on year.

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 was one of the first 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.

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

2.5 Future challenges and opportunities

Energy prices peaked towards the end of 2022 and dropped slightly during 2023 and early 2024 but remained relatively high compared to 2021. Global pressures make it unlikely that this volatility will cease.

Cost of living pressures continue. Whilst inflation has now reduced to pre-pandemic levels, the substantial increased energy costs have pushed more households into fuel poverty. According to the latest fuel poverty statistics (2022) 10.5% of households were classed as being in fuel poverty in Reading. This is the highest of the six unitary Local Authority area in Berkshire and the higher than in 2021 although slightly below the level in 2020. Reading has higher levels of fuel poverty than the southeast average of 9.7% but is lower than the average UK rate of 13.1%.

Alongside high energy prices, the cause of fuel poverty is poorly insulated homes. Government support for households energy bills has done nothing more than provide a short term partial reprieve for fuel poverty. Government support for retrofit programmes, whilst rightly targeted on low income households with poor Energy Performance Certificates has not benefited a significant number of homes in Reading due to funding caps and onerous eligibility criteria. Low carbon electrical heating technologies, such as heat pumps, whilst significantly more efficient do not significantly impact on fuel poverty as they use electricity which remains expensive in comparison to gas. This is due to energy pricing policies and continued reliance on fossil fuels.

The new 2024 Government has pledged increased grant funding for retrofit. Announcements thus far include the Warm Homes plan (social housing decarbonisation fund) and £500m for round 1 of the Local Authority Retrofit Scheme. As yet, it is not clear how this new scheme will operate and the extent to which Reading's homes will benefit.

Manifesto commitments and recent announcements will involve re-instating legislation to bring all private and social landlord properties to an EPC C level by 2030, giving much needed clarity in this area albeit not applying to the owner-occupied sector which remains the majority of housing in Reading.

The government's reinstatement of the 2030 date for ending new petrol and diesel vehicle sales is set to exclude hybrid vehicles until 2035. Local Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure funding has been provided to install EV chargers to Reading streets and car parks.

High profile policies on lifting of on shore wind turbine bans and support for large solar projects shows early signs of support for renewable energy but as yet it remains unclear how government support for renewable low carbon technologies will benefit householders and businesses in Reading.

3. CASE STUDIES

Stories from Reading's journey to net zero

Thank you to everyone who submitted case studies for this Annual Report, including Reading Borough Council, REDA, University of Reading, and RCCP's Theme Leads, who work with a number of volunteer-led community groups.

If you have a case study showing progress towards our town's net zero goal, please [email us](#) to have it included in the ReadingCAN blog.

3.1 Reading Borough Council

- 3.1.1 Aquifer-sourced heat for town centre heat network
- 3.1.2 Reading's net-zero depot
- 3.1.3 New Reading West station building
- 3.1.4 New school street schemes
- 3.1.5 Water Fest 2024
- 3.1.6 Sustainable Fashion Show and People's Catwalk

3.2 Community and residents

- 3.2.1 Enhancing biodiversity at Emmer Green shopping precinct
- 3.2.2 Reading's festivals are going green
- 3.2.3 Reading Climate Festival 2024
- 3.2.4 Reading's Year of Climate Engagement
- 3.2.5 A garden in the sky
- 3.2.6 Running on sunshine

3.3 University of Reading

- 3.3.1 Decarbonising the University of Reading's SportsPark
- 3.3.2 The Climate Ambassadors Scheme
- 3.3.3 University of Reading UK #1 for climate and sustainability leadership

3.4 Business

- 3.4.1 A green Business Improvement District for Reading

Aquifer-sourced heat for town centre heat network

Boreholes will help to heat Reading's town centre

Submitted by: RCCP Theme Lead (Energy)

Reading Borough Council has drilled boreholes into the chalk aquifer beneath the old Civic Offices. These boreholes will be used to provide heat to the Hexagon Theatre and its new Hexagon Studio.

The boreholes will supply water of a consistent temperature, which can be 'stepped up' using heat pumps to supply heating and cooling systems.

A key project in the Council's 'carbon plan' the boreholes will release enough heat to supply the whole theatre complex, equivalent to around 100 typical homes.

The boreholes are the first of a number of boreholes and river extraction points planned to supply heat to a new town centre heat network which is being designed to supply low- carbon heat to the town centre area.

New developments will be required to connect to the network which will help Reading reduce its dependency on fossil fuels and pursue its pathway to a net-zero town.



Submitted by: RCCP Theme Lead (Energy)

Reading Borough Council has been working on a series of projects to deliver a net-zero depot at Bennet Road, including a fully electrified vehicle fleet by 2030.

The depot is home to 200+ vehicles including trades, highways maintenance and waste collection fleets. It incorporates an office building, workshops, archive and materials storage as well as vehicle refueling and EV charging facilities.

Past progress includes:

- decarbonisation of the office building (gas boilers were replaced with air source heat pumps and photovoltaic (PV) solar panels were installed on the roof)
- electrification of the Council's smaller van and car fleet.

In 2024, the Council replaced their last diesel-powered municipal waste collection vehicle with a fully electric Dennis Eagle unit. The replaced vehicles alone were responsible for 25% of the Council's diesel consumption.

Future plans include **solar clad canopies above car parking areas of the site**, which are due to be constructed in 2025. This will increase renewable electricity generation at the site by more than 600%, providing clean energy for the depot's vehicles and buildings.

The new waste collection vehicles offer **significant battery storage** (3.6MWh). Due to the relatively small geographical area of Reading they return to the depot with up to 50% charge remaining. They will then be charged further from the solar panels in the afternoon before switching to a power source to supply the buildings, so called '**vehicle to grid**' during peak grid periods, typically 4-7pm. After this time they can begin to recharge once more from the grid when night time power is typically at its lowest carbon intensity.

An **innovation exchange project** is currently underway to seek market solutions to control these complex on-site operations. An integrated energy management system will optimise the PV-generated electricity and battery storage provided by the eRCVs, offer energy self-management and automated smart EV charging whilst reducing dependency on the grid, electricity costs and overall carbon dioxide emissions associated with the site's operations.

The system will also automate when the electric vehicles are charged – using the solar power when the site electrical demand has been met or at times when the cost of grid-imported electricity is lowest, typically after 9:30pm on weekdays.

In periods when the PV output exceeds the site and EV charging demands, typically weekends, the excess electricity can be exported to the grid and generate a revenue stream.

New Reading West Station building

Part of a wider transformation project for the station

Submitted by: RCCP Theme Lead (Transport)

A new, modern station building at Reading West Station opened for public use in March 2024.



The new building on Oxford Road contains an information counter, customer toilet and a space for future retail opportunity.

This is part of a wider transformation of the station which includes new ticket gates, new lighting and CCTV cameras to significantly improve safety and security of the local community and travelling public. Reading Borough Council has worked with Network Rail and Great Western Railways to deliver the £5 million project.

The new station building is the centrepiece of the Reading West station upgrade, containing an information counter, customer toilet and retail space. New ticket gates have also been installed at the Oxford Road and Tilehurst Road entrances to ensure that paying passengers only have access to the platforms. A new bus interchange, improved cycle parking and pedestrian crossing have also been added as part of the scheme, along with improvements to the Tilehurst Road entrance.

The improvements have been made possible by the Council working with the railway industry to develop a masterplan for the station, secure significant external funding for the current works and deliver the realignment of the highway to provide space for the new station building, interchange improvements and resurfacing of the road and footpath.

Two new school street schemes

A healthier and safer environment for pupils and schools

Submitted by: RCCP Theme Lead (Transport)

Two new 'School Streets', which create a healthier and safer environment for pupils around schools, were launched in Reading in July 2024.



Civitas Academy has started a scheme which restricts traffic access outside the school in Great Knollys Street in Reading. Geoffrey Field Infant School, Geoffrey Field Junior School and Christ the King Roman Catholic Primary School have introduced a scheme in Exbourne Road, Whitley.

The School Streets initiative was introduced by Reading Borough Council in 2020 to improve the environment around schools during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. They aim to encourage more pupils to walk, cycle or scoot to school to help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality around schools.

The Great Knollys Street scheme restricts access to all but eligible vehicles immediately to the east of its junction with Bedford Road up to the point of an existing traffic restriction outside the Reading Buses depot. The times of closure are between 8.30am-9am and 2.55pm-3.40pm, Monday to Friday, during term time. The Exbourne Road scheme allows for the road's closure at its entrance from the roundabout with Blandford Road and Meadowcroft Road between 8.20am-9.05am and 2.50pm-3.30pm, Monday to Friday, during term time.

Residents who live within the affected areas still have full access during the school street closure, including for visitors and deliveries. Both schemes are being introduced on a six-month experimental basis after informal consultations with neighbours and parents showed support for the plans. At the end of the six-month experimental period, further assessments of both new schemes will be carried out, and decisions made whether to make them permanent. The new locations bring the number of School Streets in the borough up to six, covering ten schools.

More info: <http://schoolstreets.org.uk/>

Water Fest 2024

Celebrating Reading's waterways for the 35th time!

Submitted by: Reading Borough Council

In 2024, Reading celebrated the 35th year of Reading Borough Council's much-loved Water Fest with more than 12,000 visitors enjoying the annual celebration of the Kennet and Avon Canal and the historic spots along the towpath.

The free one-day Reading Borough Council event, in partnership with the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, took place within the Forbury Gardens, Abbey Ruins and along the River Kennet, and celebrated the Abbey's rich 900-year history and its environmental and heritage connections with Reading's waterways.

Local groups and organisations hosted creative workshops, talks, musical and poetry performances, raised awareness and inspired action in response to the climate emergency and celebrated 35 wonderful Water Fest years.

Highlights included:

- Charity Super.Mkt pop-up event – stalls boasted carefully curated collections of second-hand treasures, chic, pre-loved clothing and accessories
- The People's Catwalk encouraged anyone to take to the runway showcasing preloved style
- The Sustainable Fashion Show in Forbury Gardens showcased stylish outfits from local charity shops and thrift stores
- Water Fest marked the start of Reading Climate Change Partnership's Reading Climate Festival – [view the full two-week programme here](#)

At Water Fest key environmental changes included:

- An increase in renewable energy
- Working with local waste management company Collards Environmental to offer mixed recycling and food waste bins alongside general waste bins – Collards' zero-waste-to-landfill commitment removes waste from sites and processes it to make it useful again
- A new drinking water station provided a refillable water point for visitors and staff
- Banning the use of single-use plastics
- Using local suppliers and contractors to deliver the event



Sustainable Fashion Show & People's Catwalk

A highlight of this year's Waterfest

Submitted by: RCCP Co-ordinator

A sustainable fashion show and 'charity supermarket' during Reading Borough Council's Water Fest highlighted exciting alternatives to fast fashion

According to UNEP (2024), the fast fashion industry is the second-biggest consumer of water in the world and is responsible for about 10% of global carbon emissions - more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined.

Reading's first Sustainable Fashion Show at Water Fest 2024 aimed to raise awareness of the negative impacts of fast fashion, and celebrate healthier alternatives.

The show featured a curated runway of second-hand treasures and pre-loved clothing alongside a wildly popular People's Catwalk where the public took part in showing off their sustainable clothing to each other.

Visitors to Water Fest could also participate in sustainable clothing workshops designed to help people re-fashion old favourites in order to extend their useable lifespan.

These events were all staged against the backdrop of a huge sale of second-hand, chic, pre-loved clothing and accessories, managed by Charity Supermarket. All profits went to relevant charities.



Enhancing biodiversity in Emmer Green

Volunteers have created food and shelter for a range of creatures at Emmer Green Shopping Precinct

Submitted by: RCCP Theme Lead (Nature)

A car park, closely mown grass, and three standard trees. Just a few years ago, this is what you would have seen outside the Emmer Green shops.

Members of local voluntary group Keep Emmer Green (KEG) felt this area could be enhanced to offer biodiversity benefits as well as a more beautiful space for residents to enjoy.

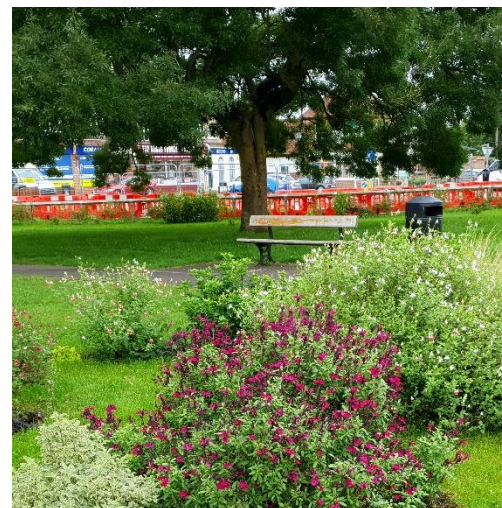
So they approached the land owner, local shop managers and the contractor who was cutting the grass to agree on some changes. As a result:

- A hedge of mixed native species (predominantly hornbeam but with other species to give foodplants for some butterflies and moths) is developing alongside the Peppard Road. This was planted by KEG and Econet and is managed by KEG. The height is limited at the request of the owners so that the shops can be seen by car drivers, but it is planted to give a wide hedge offering nectar in spring, autumn fruits and seeds and winter shelter.
- Shrub beds have been cut into the grass at the edge of the car park and alongside footpaths. These provide food for pollinators throughout the summer and into the autumn. The beds are weeded by local volunteers. Future planting will include swathes of early crocus bulbs to extend the flowering season when funds become available.
- Additional standard trees were added by a local guerilla gardener.
- The grass cutting regime is marginally affected, primarily to respect the new plantings whilst maintaining a normal cutting regime over the rest of the site.

This area forms part of a corridor between the Thames, through Caversham Park and out through Emmer Green playing fields and allotments to the golf course and the wider countryside.

The new plantings offer a small increase in carbon storage, but substantial improvements to biodiversity through offering food and shelter to a range of species whilst making the area more beautiful.

More info: www.keepemmergreen.org



Reading's festivals are going green

Four Reading festivals join the national Green Events Code of Practice pilot project

Submitted by: RCCP Theme Lead (Resources)

Ten UK local authorities (including Bristol, Manchester and Reading) have been exploring how the Green Events Code of Practice (GECOP) can help local festivals cut carbon emissions and embed sustainable practices – as part of a national pilot project.

The overall aim of the Green Events Code of Practice is to set out a framework of science-based standards to guide the outdoor music festival sector towards a minimum 50% reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 through reductions in fossil fuel consumption, reducing meat and dairy consumption, eliminating single-use plastic and many other measures.

The 10-month GECOP pilot is also an opportunity to explore how the standards set out in the GECOP can be used by local authorities to align the requirements and support they provide to festivals to cut carbon emissions and embed sustainable practices.

The pilot has been a great opportunity for Reading Borough Council and RCCP to strengthen relationships with Reading Independent Festivals Forum, RIFF, as well as to work closely with a small representative group of local festivals keen to be more sustainable but struggling to know how to move forward. As part of this group, four of Reading's festivals agreed to use GECOP as a benchmark against which to assess their own practice, and share learning: East Reading Festival, Reading Festival, Readipop Festival and Water Fest.

Is Reading a town of zero-waste, circular festivals as a result of this pilot?

No. Not yet. But what the pilot has done is highlight that:

- The contribution of festivals to sustainability in Reading is about more than just waste
- There is an appetite amongst festivals to innovate, and in some cases they've already been quietly experimenting for a while, but particularly for smaller festivals, there are very real barriers to them doing more
- There is a need for more collaboration across the supply chain, and sharing of learning
- Being part of the national GECOP pilot has been a great opportunity to learn from practice in other local authorities as well as a useful reminder that organisers of festivals of whatever size are part of 'something bigger'.

The big question is what next? How can industry standards, like GECOP, be used in developing the next Reading Climate Emergency Strategy and groups like RIFF involved as partners in co-designing delivery? How can Reading continue to learn from practice in other areas, and vice-versa?

Find out more here: <https://www.vision2025.org.uk/green-events-code/>

Reading Climate Festival 2024

Two weeks of events to inspire and support local climate action

Submitted by: RCCP Co-ordinator

Reading Climate Festival 2024 provided two weeks of free online and in-person events to inspire climate action in Reading.

The two-week festival run by RCCP (8 – 21 June 2024) aimed to inspire and mobilise people around actions and mindsets that support the town’s journey to net zero. This year, the aim was also to raise awareness of Reading’s Year of Climate Engagement – an extensive programme of activities designed to engage local people in the co-creation of a Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025-30.

Reading Climate Festival 2024 events included:

- **Youth Mobilisation Day**, a youth-led event which offered 16 – 25-year-olds the chance to contribute their vision of a climate-friendly Reading, and ideas for getting there, to the town’s next climate emergency strategy
- **Climate charity stalls** at Water Fest 2024, the launch event of Reading Climate Festival 2024
- **Big Lunch Reading & Kids’ Samba Parade** in Forbury Gardens, which offered residents a chance to experience climate-friendly foods and learn how to ‘grow their own’
- **A Sustainable Fashion Show & People’s Catwalk** during Water Fest, and a ‘Charity Supermarket’
- **Create a Buzz**, an ‘immersive hive installation’ in the town centre, run by Nature Nurture, which attracted 1200 visitors and engaged an additional 269 schoolchildren via in-school activities to promote the vital role of bees and other pollinators in relation to climate change mitigation, biodiversity and human wellbeing
- **Reading Climate Pledge for Organisations Campaign**, which offered local businesses the chance to join a local pledge to support Reading’s journey to net zero
- **Reading Community Energy Summit**, an in-person event which gathered 30 community energy experts from Reading and surrounding areas to agree next steps for community energy in Reading
- **Show Your Stripes Day**, run by the University of Reading, which included a talk in the Town Hall by Professor Ed Hawkins, originator of the ‘climate stripes’ infographic
- **25 other [online and in-person events](#)** offering targeted content for householders, small- and medium-sized businesses, pupils, school leaders, climate campaigners, nature lovers, walkers, cyclists, artists, and others
- **A social media highlight** was a video about **Big Lunch Reading**, which brought news of RCAN and the Year of Climate Engagement to 5302 new people.



readingcan Today was the Reading I want to live in. Delicious (really delicious) plant-based food, music you couldn't stand still to, chilled people, lots of bumping into friends, colleagues and neighbours, and all the advice you could want on how to improve your soil and grow things. Why don't we do this every week?! 🍌🌱

Today was about imagining a climate-friendly Reading and I think we all loved it 🌱🍌🌱

To help create the Reading you want to live in, please visit 🗨️👉

ReadingCAN.org.uk/priorities

We are in full consultation mode and we want to hear from all of you!

Big Lunch Reading 2024 was part of [#ReadingClimateFestival2024](#)

🍌🌱🌱 Liked by [gudrunfreese](#) and 160 others
16 June

Reach ①

Accounts reached 5,489

Followers 3.4%

Non-followers 96.6%

Plays 10,668

Initial plays 6,321

Replays 4,347

Reading's Year of Climate Engagement

Co-creating Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2025 - 2030

Submitted by: RCCP Co-ordinator

Reading's Year of Climate Engagement offered an extensive programme of activities to support the co-creation of Reading's Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025-30.

Reading's [current Climate Emergency Strategy & Action Plan](#) (for 2020 – 2025) is nearing its end. Reading Climate Change Partnership (RCCP) brought people together throughout 2024 to design a new set of climate action priorities for 2025 - 2030. This 'Year of Climate Engagement' included many touchpoints with the general public and with specialist working groups and leaders, including:

Reading Leaders' Summit on Climate Change, 22 March 2024

The summit was hosted by RCCP with support from the University of Reading and Reading Borough Council and attended by over 50 leaders from organisations including GWR, Environment Agency, NHS, Mott Macdonald, KPMG and New Directions College. The objective of the Summit was to give influential leaders an expert update on Reading's progress towards net zero and to mobilise support and engagement at the highest levels for town's next 5-year climate strategy.

Reading Climate Festival 2024, 8 – 21 June 2024

RCCP delivered the town's fifth annual Reading Climate Festival to inspire and support positive climate actions by local people and organisations and to engage local people in shaping the town's new climate strategy for 2025 – 2030. ([See the full 2024 Festival programme here.](#))

Designing a Net Zero Reading (Core deliberative group)

RCCP convened 40 local leaders, representing all sectors and communities in Reading, into a 'core deliberative group' called Designing a Net Zero Reading. The group met for three separate day-long workshops during 2024 to help shape Reading's next climate emergency strategy. They offered their own insights and expertise and also helped to integrate the contributions of the wider public and expert groups, who participated in the process via surveys, discussion packs and workshops. The deliberative group's activities were designed and facilitated by Dialogue Matters, who specialise in participatory approaches to strategy development.

Designing a Net Zero Reading (Surveys and discussion groups for the broader public)

The general public was invited to participate via two public surveys for individuals and/or groups, and a Discussion Pack for groups. Schools were offered the opportunity to contribute to a Big Letter.

Reading Climate Change Partnership (RCCP) Board Meetings

The 12-member RCCP Board met four times in 2024 to discuss progress on themed action plans within the Reading Climate Emergency Strategy and to manage volunteer recruitment, Reading Climate Festival 2024 and the Year of Climate Engagement 2024. Board Members also engage relevant stakeholders within Reading and beyond to help accelerate the town's progress towards net zero.

Reading's Year of Climate Engagement: www.readingcan.org.uk/priorities

A local garden in the sky

A local resident's bee-friendly extension

Submitted by: RCCP Theme Lead (Water)

After reading an article about the decline in bee populations and risk of extinction, local resident Naomi Barker was inspired to think differently about the extension she was planning.

The article highlighted the impact of private extensions and patios on bee-friendly habitats. The impact of one extension on its own may seem insignificant, but when considered at a Reading-wide scale, we are looking at a **big loss in bee-friendly habitats**.

Naomi decided to install a **green roof** on their one-storey extension. Along with retaining the space for bees, Naomi wanted to make sure that when her family looked out the window they could see green instead of grey.

Benefits of the green roof: There are many benefits associated with green roofs. From limiting flooding by absorbing more rain, filtering air and water pollutants, reducing energy use through natural insulation, and of course, supporting pollinators like bees. Naomi also noticed mental health benefits for her and her family:

“When we look out the window, we see a garden that’s full of life. We are met with the changing colours that the seasons bring, and the different creatures that come with it.”

Maintenance and operation: With a built-in irrigation system, the roof is very self-sufficient. Once a year Naomi ventures out with garden shear to cut back the wildflower garden



Running on sunshine

A family takes control of their energy use and bills

Submitted by: RCCP Theme Lead (Water)

Eager to do more to help the environment and looking for a way to manage her rapidly increasing energy costs, Sarah Harman decided to invest in solar power.

Her solar panel system has not only helped to supply clean energy but it has enabled Sarah and her family to take ownership over their energy use and bills:

“Everyone in our family (and our neighbours’ family!) is much more aware of what household appliances use the most energy and how to use them more wisely.”

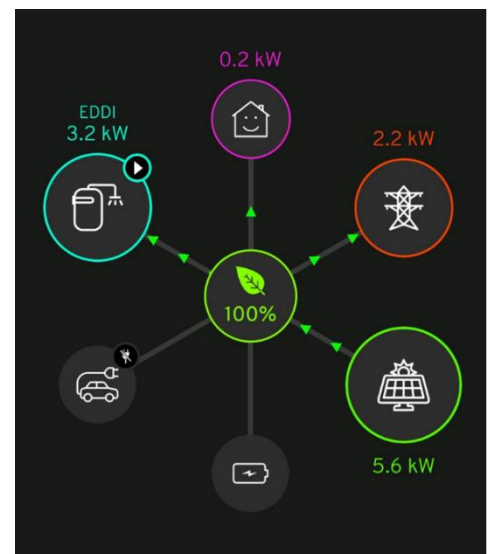
Benefits of solar: The energy generated is renewable, it is delivering long-term savings, it helps deliver a net-zero Reading, and the system is likely to add value to their house. Energy produced by the panels can be used to fill up a battery, power a house, charge an electric car, heat a hot water tank, and when you have a surplus, it is sold back to the grid.

“The solar power system is really impressive, with real-time information to tell you how much energy it’s generating, and the ability to control where that energy is used. It’s great to be able to run my home on sunshine and know that I’m having a positive impact on our environment.”

At the time that Sarah installed her solar panel system an incentive meant that no VAT was charged. Other incentives are available and are worth looking out for.

Maintenance and operation:

Operation is simple and there are plenty of apps and tools available to help. Maintenance is minimal, with annual services to make sure the panels are clear and operating as they should be.



Decarbonising the University's SportsPark

Work begins on University of Reading's first large-scale heat pump retrofit

Submitted by: University of Reading

In summer 2024, work began on the University's first large-scale heat pump retrofit, replacing the ageing gas boiler heating systems in its SportsPark with two air-source heat pumps.

This project will enable the two gas supplies feeding the building to be completely removed, which will be the first time this has happened on the University's decarbonisation journey.

A sound-proofed external compound is being constructed to house the heat pumps, and the project also includes large thermal stores to enable smooth running of the heat pumps when there is no immediate demand for heat. Small additional water-to-water heat pumps are being installed in the building, to boost the temperatures to recommended levels for hot water supplies.

Heat emitters (radiators and ventilation heating supplies) in the building will be upgraded, in order that the heat pump can run at lower temperatures than the old boilers, while still delivering the same level of heat to the building.

Works are now well underway, with the project expected to complete in early 2025. The project is partly funded by a grant of £865,000 from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, which is delivered by Salix Finance.

Converting the SportsPark to electric heat pumps means that the building will become one of the lowest carbon buildings on campus, with an estimated 110 tonnes of carbon being saved per year.

The University is committed to becoming Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and by July 2024, has seen its carbon emissions cut by 62% compared to its 2008/09 baseline.

FIND OUT MORE: <https://sites.reading.ac.uk/sustainability/>



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

salix

The Climate Ambassadors Scheme

The University of Reading is leading a national climate education programme

Submitted by: University of Reading

The University is leading a national scheme to provide nurseries, schools, colleges and universities across England with free access to local experts who can help turn their climate and sustainability ambitions into action.

The Climate Ambassador Scheme is a £2 million Department for Education (DfE) programme, in partnership with the University of Reading and EAUC (the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education), with support from STEM Learning.



Volunteer experts from across England are being recruited to expand the scheme, which, in the first two years, aims to support 2,500 education settings on their sustainability journey.



The scheme was originally launched in April 2022, by the University of Reading and STEM Learning, with support from UKRI. In December 2023, the DfE partnered with the University and EAUC to expand the Scheme to all 30,000 education settings across England.



To support the expansion of the Climate Ambassadors Scheme, regional hubs in each of England's education regions have been set up so that experts can be matched with education settings in their area.



Experts can make a critical difference to the ability of nurseries, schools and colleges to reduce their carbon emissions, improve biodiversity and young people's connection with nature, while also helping them adapt to climate risks and provide a world-leading education in sustainability and climate change critical for their future lives.

Professor Andrew Charlton-Perez, the University of Reading climate scientist who led the Climate Ambassador scheme's creation, said:

"Passing on the expertise of our ambassadors has helped teachers make climate and the environment a feature of their lessons in all subjects, and young people to become advocates for our planet from an early age. We have amazing expertise in climate and sustainability right across the country, in our universities, in the private sector and in charities and government. Climate Ambassadors is about unlocking that expertise for the benefit of our education system."

Nurseries, schools and colleges are the lifeblood of our communities and connect people in ways that few other organisations do. They are places where we can join together in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. As we grow the scheme, the number of connections we will make between those who have something to give and those who need help will only get bigger and better."

INTERESTED? Climate Ambassadors receive free training and support. To become an Ambassador or to request the services of an ambassador for your school, college or nursery, visit: www.climateambassadors.org.uk

The University of Reading is UK #1 for climate and sustainability leadership

Submitted by: University of Reading

The University of Reading was ranked number one in the latest People & Planet University League table, which measures UK universities on their environmental and ethical performance.

First place was achieved after University of Reading made progress in criteria including ethical banking, workers' rights and carbon reduction. The University was also recognised for **managing carbon emissions**, providing **climate education resources** and a **sustainable food policy**.

Professor Robert Van de Noort, Vice Chancellor of the University of Reading, said:

“We’ve developed a position as one of the leading scientific institutions on weather, climate and agriculture, but our commitment to sustainability can be seen across all our subject areas – from the built environment to business and computer science to law. Our commitment to address climate change and be a leader in global environmental sustainability came from the ground up – it was what our students, academics and local community told us that they wanted to do.

“It is wonderful to top the People & Planet league, but we must continue to drive forward. We’ve cut our carbon by 60% but have much to do to achieve our commitment to net zero carbon. We are working towards ensuring students of all ages have a good climate education, within the University and within schools and colleges. We have inspired countless conversations about the climate, and need to see those conversations turn to greater action.

“As thrilled as I am that we have been recognised as the greenest university in the country, there is still much we must do to reduce our carbon footprint, to inspire our community to play their part, to inform best practice and work towards the solutions we so urgently need.”

Further recognition for the University’s work came after Reading won the inaugural **Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership** at the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards 2023. THE Awards judges said “the University of Reading does not just talk the talk but sets the agenda on one of the biggest issues of our time.” They particularly praised the University’s work as an example of “how climate research and action can be translated into delivery... What stood out was the sheer breadth of Reading’s contributions to environmental leadership...”

The University of Reading has also been named **Sustainable University of the Year 2025** in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025, which said Reading had “made an impressive headway towards its ambition of being one of the greenest universities in the world”.

MORE INFO: www.reading.ac.uk/planet



A green Business Improvement District for Reading

REDA to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint

Submitted by: REDA (Reading Economy and Destination Agency)

REDA already provides services to over 700 business in Reading city centre, through its dedicated Business Improvement District (BID) team. Now the agency aims to create the UK's first 'green' BID.

In 2024, Reading's business community voted in REDA's new **BID Plan for 2024 – 2029**, which includes an "Environment and Sustainability" workstream, earmarking up to £75k per annum for measures to help businesses reduce the city centre's carbon footprint.

Each one of these 700 city centre businesses – a mix of retail, hospitality, leisure and offices – can contribute to emissions reductions in Reading, and act as a delivery partner for Reading's Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025 - 2030.

This belief in the collective (and collaborative) climate impact potential of Reading's city centre businesses is at the heart of REDA's

vision, first set out in 2021, to be the first 'green' BID in the country. (You can read more about this in the [Reading 2050 Smart and Sustainable City Vision](#).)

A '[Green BID](#)' workshop in 2021 explored the impacts of town centre businesses on local area carbon emissions and what could be done about them. Discussions surfaced a number of challenges, and explored ways to overcome them, e.g. in the relationships between: landlords and tenants (particularly with regard to the climate impact of utilities); retailers and customers (lack of transparency on the climate impacts of products and businesses); employees and employers (lack of climate literacy, capability or capacity to shape evidence-based interventions).

Current 'green' BID services

- Cardboard recycling
- WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) collection and recycling
- Promoting sustainable travel options
- Supporting last-mile delivery solutions
- Identifying energy cost saving opportunities
- Support litter picking days and tree planting
- Deliver carbon literacy training programmes

Impact measures

In 2024 we will build on measures of success achieved in 2023:

1. 336 tonnes of Cardboard recycled (+ 38%)
2. 6 tonnes of WEEE (+ 600%)
3. Walks Festival: 90% attend by train, bus, walking, bike
4. Christmas lights with timers (40% energy reduction)
5. Carbon literacy training for leaders, managers and staff
6. Litter picking days: 4 per year



"House of Fisher welcomes the WEEE recycling services initiatives as it aligns seamlessly with our sustainability program, enhancing our green credentials, contributing to cost savings and maintaining the cleanliness of our properties." **Trine Oestergaard Stafford**, *Managing Director*, House of Fisher

"Novotel Hotel, understands the importance of recycling and the BID service has helped us recycle tonnes of cardboard reducing our carbon footprint and making savings." **Magnus Kirstein Andersen** *Multi Site General Manager*, Novotel Reading Centre & Ibis Reading Centre

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
- BLUE – action no longer relevant/overtaken by events

Annex 1 contains a detailed description of progress with the action plans on which the strategy is based. The majority of actions remain 'green' or 'amber', but a significant number have not been progressed due largely to constraints on the Partnership's resources, and a number have been ranked 'blue' where the action envisaged is no longer relevant or has been over-taken by events.

6. SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

It is clear from this Annual Report that much has been achieved – the reduction in Reading's emissions between 2005 and 2022 (the latest year for which data is available) of 54% is the 12th 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 're-bounce' in national and local emissions seen after pandemic restrictions and effective plateauing of emissions since 2019 makes the achievement of net zero by 2030 even more challenging. We are also conscious that the carbon emissions factor of electricity rose in 2023 (from this year's national figures which show 2022 data) meaning the next years reported emission emissions will face an upward pressure and make future reductions more challenging unless that trend is reversed.

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 our good progress to date stands us in good stead and helps 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. It therefore remains 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.



ENERGY ACTION PLAN

2020 - 2025

Our aim (in 2020) 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.

THEME OVERVIEW: Energy and Low Carbon Development

Theme Lead: Ben Burfoot

PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Local Plan introduced in 2019 has been putting pressure on developers to plan zero-carbon developments including decarbonising heat using heat pumps. Larger town centre schemes are coming forward with heat pumps instead of gas boilers.

Retrofitting of homes in the borough has been underway with the uptake of various government grants such as Local Authority Delivery scheme, Home Upgrade Grant, ECo scheme etc. So far the installations through grant funded schemes since 2013 have been 2283 properties, with 331 in the last year. This is a small percentage of the Borough's housing and does not include upgrades carried out without grants. The EPC data shows that in the first half of the previous decade 33% of properties who lodged EPCs were graded as EPC A-C whereas in the last 5 years, this improved to 54%. For the most recent quarter, this improved slightly to 57%. Over the last decade (the regulatory duration of certificates) there were 41% as A-C.

Whilst only 45 people have taken up the heat pump grant from the government, the Council have installed 338 heat pumps into their own housing stock in addition to a number of larger units on corporate buildings.

Partners have been implementing significant schemes with the University of Reading and the Council drilling boreholes to the aquifer to enable the decarbonisation of public sector buildings.

The Council received grant funding to support the Detailed Project Development of a town centre heat network. This work is progressing through 2024 with a view to moving to the commercialisation phase in 2025 and scheme commencement in 2027.

The Council has built 60 Low carbon homes and deep retrofitted 93 more. A solar panel scheme has led to 249 installations in its first phase and 652 enquiries in phase 2. The Council decarbonising its vehicle fleet completing its fleet of refuse freighters in 2024 and decarbonised two of its Leisure centres.

Reading Community Energy Society has continued to add new solar PV installations to its portfolio with a new share scheme recently launched to install solar panels on Reading's bus depot.

The Council has launched its Local Transport Plan 2040 for Reading and a Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure project is underway (see transport).

EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

Building standards are crucial to success. There are significant tightening up of policies proposed but as yet have not become enshrined in law. At the time of writing we are awaiting the new governments review of the future homes standard consultation responses.

The MEES standards are another important piece of legislation with landlords of non-domestic buildings currently required to meet EPC C by 2027. The indications are that the new government would extend this to domestic landlords with a possible time horizon of 2030. This only relates to a proportion of properties however and the majority of homes do not have any impending legislative requirements for energy efficiency. The government has pledged an additional £6.6bn on top of the £6bn already pledged over the next parliament for energy efficiency, so grants are likely to remain available for low income privately owned homes.

The Heat Network Zoning Regulations are on their way through parliament and this will lead to requirements to connect and a possible 'zone coordinator' role for the Council. The last published round of Green Heat Network Funding closes at end Jan 2025. Further information is awaited.

The public sector decarbonisation scheme continues with a further round of grant funding available to public sector organisations in the autumn of 2024.

OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

A significant issue impacting Reading is the electricity network capacity which is insufficient to support the growth of heat pumps and electric vehicles.

The role of Councils and other local actors in determining the planning of energy networks through the Regional System Energy Planning function is currently unclear.

The carbon intensity of electricity in 2023 went up relative to 2022. A continuation of this trend could risk undermining the electrification strategy. This said electrification remains a significant carbon reduction approach even taking account of further rises in carbon intensity. The new government policy framework would be expected to revert to the downward trend.

KEY ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY FOR 2025-30

As mentioned above there is a significant number of announcements from the new 2024 government which should enable progress but it is not anticipated at the current rate that net zero can be met by 2030 without credible offsetting and importing of carbon neutral energy will to close the gap.

Energy and Low Carbon Development Action Plan

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

1: Low Carbon Development							
Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
E1: an Energy Master Plan for Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an Energy Master Plan for Reading 	i) Develop stakeholder group ii) Establish evidence base and technology pathway iii) Develop cross sector implementation plan	i) Q4 2020 ii) Q2 2021 iii) Q2 2021	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	RED	The Local Area Energy Plan has not been progressed as we are awaiting the support of the Greater Southeast Energy Hub and policy update around the Regional System Planning Role. Considering Berkshire wide approach	This action needs amending to align with the required system planning function
E2: Energy Efficiency in New development	Introduce high standards of energy efficiency for new development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large commercial to BREEAM 'excellent' standard with best methods employed Larger housing developments built to zero carbon standards 	iv) % achieving standard v) Schemes supported though offset	Ongoing Choose an item.	Reading BC	GREEN	Planning standards are being applied although there are a number of issues such as electricity network capacity which	Yes but Amend to new Local Plan

1: Low Carbon Development

Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure standards post construction with best methods employed • Build new council housing to the highest standards Net zero carbon and exceeding 50% reduction on building regulations • Consider the embodied energy in building materials in publicly commissioned projects 					are causing standards to not be met. LA housing being built to high (close to carbon neutral standard) Embodied energy being include in LA Plan review	
E3: Energy Reduction through Retrofit Programme	Establish a housing retrofit programme in Reading which is compelling for property owners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for funding • Compile high quality information on stock and energy efficiency levels of local housing • Identify partners • Zero carbon offset • Investigate green/community bonds and other finance innovation • Commercial retrofit scheme 	Apply MHCLG Local Authority Delivery funding Sept to Dec 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock condition survey Oct 20 • Supply chain development work TBC • Collect Section 106 • funds for zero carbon development • Work with LEP and Reading UK to establish companies to pilot – scheme TBC 	2020/21	Reading BC and developers and/or retrofit companies	AMBER	Most of the actions met within the strategy period. Grant schemes have been implemented in Reading and Zero Carbon Offset but a bonds scheme and commercial retrofit scheme not delivered.	Amend – this action needs be updated to recent and upcoming schemes

1: Low Carbon Development

Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
E4: Retrofit Design	<p>Establish standards for climate-conscious retrofit (not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop standards for different property types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heritage sympathetic schemes - Consider damp and ventilation. - Design for climate risks - Heat recovery ventilation - Underfloor heating - Consider embodied energy in construction - Introduce water saving especially hot water. • Develop public communication and resources for retrofit. <p><u>Links:</u> 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	This action has not progressed for heritage buildings although the PAS 2030 standards do in theory meet many of these requirements. This is the standard for grant funded retrofit work.	Yes
E5: Behaviours that save energy in homes and businesses and schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop approaches to reduce energy consumption in homes, businesses and schools • Create information resources • Develop targeted behaviour-change campaign 	<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	AMBER	Some schemes were investigated including eco refurb which is being implemented. Offers local	Amend (delete as appropriate)

1: Low Carbon Development

Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
	<u>Links:</u> Community, Business, schools			Brighter Futures		tools. A business decarb scheme delivered using EU funding. Climate festival and pledge	
E6: Best in class buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop high standard projects in different sectors, to reduce emissions <u>Link:</u> Business	Publish reports on buildings	Q2 2021	Housing providers	AMBER	There isnt anything specific that meets this action although in the housing retrofit space the Councils own properties can be shown to be	Yes/No/Amend (delete as appropriate)
E7: Reducing fuel poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide Winter Watch service Support new schemes targeting retrofitting for those most in need Build referral mechanisms for those suffering from poor health and/or fuel poverty. <u>Links:</u> Community, Health 	Reading Housing Strategy Design new approaches Establish cross-referral programme	2020/21 2020/22 Ongoing	Reading BC, other agencies (Health Citizen advice etc)	GREEN	Reading Warm Homes team expanded. Retrofit grants made available within eligibility criteria.	Amend to reflect new government schemes.
E8: Leadership and Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider legal options for establishing standards that go higher than regulations Buy sustainable LCGES (Low Carbon Goods and Environmental Services) from local suppliers to build supply 	Consider trials nationally Project to work with public and private sector to build local supply chain	Q3 2020 2021 – 2023	Reading BC Reading UK TVB – (Berkshire) LEP	AMBER	Implementation of sustainable procurement in key organisations has continued to develop but	Amend – align with new government schemes around supply chains, identify staff resource.

1: Low Carbon Development

Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
	<p>chains where rules allow. Use social value KPIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop in-house skills for retrofit of Council housing 					no specific resources to support work with supply chains. In house skills within council for retrofit established.	
E9: Reading Borough Council Carbon Plan 2020 to 2025	Reading Borough Council to set out plan to achieve emissions reductions and renewable energy generation targets.	Published plan to 2025 and meet its milestones	Q4 2020	Reading BC	GREEN	Plan published and all major assets decarbonised except the Town Hall which is being designed. Decarbonisation of Civic Offices, Hexagon Theatre and Bennet Road depot in progress.	Amend to new Carbon Plan and also to include NHS and UoR
E10: Publish new housing strategy to incorporate energy retrofit	<p>New strategy to include C-rating and where possible B rating for all Council and rental accommodation in borough by 2030</p> <p><u>Link:</u> Business</p>	<p>i) New housing strategy</p> <p>ii) Implementation</p>	2020/21 2021 onwards	Reading BC	RED	Progress has not been made with this as the regulations were not amended by the last government.	Amend to align with new gov policy

2: Renewable Energy - Heat

Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
E11: Renewable Heat – Ground Source	<p>Work with developers to maximise district energy solutions in line with Local Plan policies on decentralised energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish District Heating • Investigate the potential of rivers, ground and aquifers in Reading for renewable heat • Implement heat pump schemes • Develop skills of local installers <p><u>Link</u>: Business</p>	<p>Complete studies</p> <p>Implement scheme</p>	<p>Q2 2020</p> <p>Q2 2022 (dependant on developers)</p>	Reading BC /BEIS University	AMBER	<p>Feasibility phase complete and now working through Detailed Detailed Project Design phase. Boreholes drilled at Hexagon Theatre showing adequate flow in aquifer. Heat pump schemes in development.</p>	Yes
E12: Renewable Heat Air Source	<p>Consider different types of heat pumps and develop skills of local installers</p> <p><u>Link</u>: Business</p>	<p>Report on Air Source Heat Pumps</p> <p>Identify installers</p> <p>Conduct trials</p>	<p>Q3 2020</p> <p>Q3 2020</p> <p>Q2 2021</p>	Reading BC	AMBER	<p>Various local installs but no trials were conducted. Resource not available for skills development. Net Zero Hub funding went to other areas of SE</p>	Amend – need mainstream funding for skills development.

2: Renewable Energy - Heat							
Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
E13: Renewable Heat Anaerobic Digestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anaerobic digestion for food waste streams Consider biogas generation for buses and inject to grid <u>Links:</u> Resources, Transport	Report informing waste strategy	Q2 2021	University of Reading	GREEN	Municipal food waste collection implemented. AD used to supply grid and gas powered buses linked.	Yes
E14: Hydrogen	Investigate renewably sourced hydrogen fuel cell technology in particular for use in Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs) <u>Links:</u> Business, Transport Investigate hydrogen injection to gas network	Identify schemes/trials Discussions with SGN	DATE TBC	Reading BC Reading UK Reading Transport SGN	RED	Hydrogen network not scheduled to reach Reading until 2040s. Focus in Reading is on electrified transport system.	No

3: Renewable Energy – Electricity							
Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
E15: Solar PV (commercial)	Establish large commercial roof-based schemes that service base loads in large commercial buildings <u>Link:</u> Business	Establish scheme Achieve high proportion of suitable roofs	2020/22 2025	UoR, Reading UK & Reading BC, TVBLEP/Reading UK, SE Energy hub	AMBER	Scheme not progressed although larger arrays being developed by RBC, Reading Transport Ltd	Yes

3: Renewable Energy – Electricity

Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
						and University of Reading	
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	GREEN	Scheme implemented – solar together.	Yes – amend to phase 2 – consider
E17: Solar PV (Public buildings including schools)	Install				GREEN	Solar installed on 30 schools. Second phase in 2023 included 14 schools funded through PSDS.	Yes – perhaps introduce a target for installed capacity for partners?
E18: Renewable Energy – hydro	To bring forward Hydro-electric power schemes powered by Reading's rivers To publicise sustainable energy through educational programme. <u>Link: Water</u>	Planning approval secured already, investment and commence scheme Launch educational programme, tours etc	2020/21 2022	Reading Hydro	GREEN	Installed and tours do operate – consideration of a 'Sustainability Centre'	Amend to bring focus onto educational opportunity
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	RED	Not progressed. Wokingham solar farm is potential for PPA for Reading based organisations	Amend to consider commercial arrangements rather than land acquisition.

4: Electric Powered Transport - see also Transport Theme Action Plan

Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets & measures/ milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
E20: Energy strategy for Bus Depot and surrounding area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish potential for solar – depot, car park canopies, Civitas School Investigate <u>Riding Sunbeams</u> option for direct connection to railway network 	Report	2020/21	RBC, Reading Community Energy Society	AMBER	Schemes are being developed for Reading car parks but these have been delayed due to pandemic impacts and review of assets. Riding sunbeams not viable for Reading.	Amend – keep car parks canopies element

5: Electricity Storage, Management and Metering – Smart Cities Solutions

Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
E21: Battery Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid side battery storage by Local Energy company (District Network Operator) Behind meter storage on domestic and commercial sites Specialist large scale storage facilities third party 	Establish energy strategy group Develop energy strategy draft	2020 Q2 2021	SSE Public Sector Private sector	RED	Not aware of any schemes	Amend to align with SSEN ED3

5: Electricity Storage, Management and Metering – Smart Cities Solutions

Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
E22: Smart Meters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll out of smart meters in households Identify 'Internet of Things' solutions linked to smart meters 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). Establish trials with vehicles/buildings and local network <p><u>Links:</u> Business, Transport</p>	Energy company schedules/targets	2020 to 2024	Energy Companies RCCP University of Reading	AMBER	Smart meter roll out completed? – update needed.	Amend – identify live research programmes and innovation opportunities
E23: Internet of Things projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of in-building solutions for projects that use the cloud and smart response approaches including machine learning to optimise energy flows 	Smart Cities projects	2020 to 2022	Reading BC, University of Reading		Update needed from UoR	
E24: Heat storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	Set up Energy Working group	TBC	TBC	GREEN	UoR and RBC have installed 6 open loop ground source heat pump boreholes.	Amend – needs integrating with heat network targets
E25: Carbon intensity research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work w UoR and/or third parties to develop accurate real-time assessment of carbon intensity of electricity & optimise 	Set up Energy Working Group	TBC	Reading BC, University of Reading	AMBER	Some work carried out by UoR based on RBC site.	Yes – update to include innovation projects

5: Electricity Storage, Management and Metering – Smart Cities Solutions

Action name (Written 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
	energy flows to minimise carbon emissions						



NATURE ACTION PLAN

2020 - 2025

Our aim is that 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.

THEME OVERVIEW: Nature and Green Spaces

Theme Lead: Tricia Marcouse

1. PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Excellent work has taken place at reading university in conjunction with volunteers from the green theme to look at food fermentation and its potential for a practical and economic waste disposal option as well as an excellent method of improving carbon storage in the soil.

Road verges, roundabouts and some areas of parkland have different mowing regimes to increase biodiversity and some carbon storage. New trees and saplings have been planted and an area of clayfield copse is down for natural regeneration of woodland.

The big problems with implementation have been with dissemination. We have advised on private land, some schools and churches for review of land management, but our availability to deliver those are through word of mouth and limited. We've provided information at events, but it is still a drop in the ocean. There is a huge need for better communication policies to reach all segments of the population.

2. EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

The major external policy affecting the plan is the Nature Recovery Strategy for Berkshire. This is a joint strategy developed by a team at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead on behalf of the six unitary authorities. Due to staff shortages, Reading has not had a member of staff on the main board, but the Local plan provided the several policies and maps of biodiversity sites and proposed green routes of use to the deliberations, as well as the current BAP. expert groups, voluntary organisations, landowners, parish councils and the public have all had various opportunities to contribute to the strategy and it will go for final public consultation early in 2025.

Much of the deliberation has been concerning the protection, development and enhancement of corridors as well as identification of specific important land areas for biodiversity and important species.

Policies in the current action plan to review corridors or to provide supplementary planning advice need to wait for the final version of the strategy to avoid duplication and conflict.

3. OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

Volunteers disappeared during the pandemic and the numbers returning haven't filled the need. There are less people working as volunteers in the nature and green spaces area than before covid, making it hard to deliver commitments.

Future plans by the new government to expand housing may be an issue with the limited green space in the Borough. There may be opportunities with a change to planning guidance perhaps. For example, the food network at RISC is giving advice to developers of high-rise units about communal gardens with opportunities for grow food as well as for leisure. There is potential for new apartment blocks to have roof gardens for relaxation, water harvesting, carbon storage etc.

4. KEY ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY FOR 2025-30

The management of green spaces, both public and private, needs to change to increase carbon storage to offset emissions and for adaptation to mitigate the impacts from inevitable climate change.

Carbon can be stored in tree (including hedgerows and coppice) growth, meadows, wetland. Changes to practices by the council and other larger landowners are important, as is information to the general public to encourage use gardens for carbon storage and, really essential, to plan for necessary shading so as to avoid increases in air conditioner use.

However, space in Reading is limited. Storage of carbon in the soil can offer more storage/hectare than available through above ground growth in city areas and must be a part of the future plan. Research at UoR needs to have pilot schemes and then an implementation plan. This is unlikely to be a major impact on the goal for net zero by 2030. It is an essential process to head towards net zero and better living conditions in the 2040-2050 horizo. It is highly unlikely that the research will result in a win-win where large-scale storage can be achieved at zero overall cost. The council would have to agree to investment after pilot schemes (which can probably be done with grants) and cooperate in finding locations for pilots.

Good communications with the public are important to get the benefits to carbon storage and to personal health and heat controls on private land

The nature recovery strategy needs to be implemented. It will be agreed in mid 2025 but most of the implementation will take place in the next climate action plan period and there will be limited time in which to develop the actions and do the necessary consultations. These should start during with public consultation of the draft final plan in early 2025. There may be a need for supplementary guidance under planning; there will certainly be a need for further reviews of council land to ensure commitment to the strategy.

The action plan envisaged the development of a catalogue of opportunities for developers to satisfy the need for 10% net gain in biodiversity if they cannot deliver on the development site. The lack of staffing at the council has made this an impossibility so far. It remains an important element to develop effective natural corridors through the town and should be part of the new action plan.

Nature Theme Action Plan

Please note: 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. They are also dependent upon recruiting enough volunteers to the Nature task Force to supplement the existing nature theme group.

1. Carbon Sequestration							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measure, milestone	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
N1: Increasing tree cover across the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant more street trees Test new planting options in town centre and on the road network Promote trees in private gardens/ business/ schools Encourage tree and hedge planting in air pollution hotspots especially schools Enable more street tree planters Promote use of degradable tree planting maps and tubes <p><u>Link:</u> Education, Transport</p>	<p>Targets per updated Biodiversity Action Plan & RBC 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>RBC to adopt Tree Strategy 2020</p> <p>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>		<p>Not as many trees planted by volunteer groups apart from tree wardens this year. RBC planted 373 standard trees. The Tree Wardens planted 24 standards (of which 3 were replacements).</p> <p>Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 335 saplings planted in existing and new hedges - Freely Fruity planted 86 fruit trees, 50 of which in South Whitley Park - KEG planted 34 saplings in the Peppard road hedge at Emmer Green, 9 of which were replacements. 	<p>Y/Amend more explanation about new planting options and street planters as traffic moderators</p>

1. Carbon Sequestration							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measure, milestone	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
N2: Managing land to store more carbon and increase biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review methods to protect existing stored carbon and relative benefits of different land uses Identify optimum practical and effective management systems for retaining carbon in Reading Feedback into review of management of Council land 	<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>		<p>Research being done at UoR</p> <p>Talk on this topic delivered at Reading Climate Festival</p> <p>No feedback into Council management</p>	Y
N3 explore use of biochar and charcoal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research on cost benefit of charcoal and biochar 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 Seek opportunities to make charcoal from local forestry waste to sell locally and reduce imports and to dig into the soils to sequester carbon 	<p>Research undertaken; RBC ground maintenance policies and planting policies revised accordingly</p> <p>Advice leaflets for householders on RCAN website</p>	2023	<p>UoR RBC Local charcoal makers BBOWT Coppice Federation</p>		<p>Very little work has been done, e.g. data is being collected on wood generation on RBC land and UoR has hosted talks on the topic.</p>	Y/Amend research worldwide, advice to businesses
N4: Review Council parks and woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p><u>Link:</u> Water, Health</p>	<p>Survey minimum 4 sites per year</p> <p>Recommend management changes</p>	From 2020	<p>Reading BC NTF Econet, Reading and District Natural History Society</p>		<p>We have not completed surveys of all four sites</p>	Y/Amend Target should indicate goal for MAKING recommended changes

1. Carbon Sequestration							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measure, milestone	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
				(RDNHS), RTWN			
N5: Test different management of parks, verges and roundabouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review mowing regimes in parks Consider measures like extending tree cover, scrub regeneration and conservation grassland Consider options for managing roadside verges/roundabouts Test, review and implement preferred options Accompany changes with public education campaign 	<p>Annual meeting to review options for evidence-based changes</p> <p>Consider options for changing mowing/planting on 6 areas/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</p> <p>NTF</p> <p>Community groups</p>		<p>RBC continue to put more land into rewilding and are reviewing mowing regimes. 7 Ha of verges and roundabouts are now under a rewilding scheme and over 41 Ha of conservation grassland in parks. There is one additional natural regeneration area at Clayfield Copse and public education is in place.</p>	<p>Y/N/Amend</p> <p>This is broadly in place, now need actions on implementation and monitoring</p>
N6: Planning for replacement for ash dieback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide which areas to be left for regeneration with resistant ash Decide on replacement species on Council land where necessary Grow on local material to plant out (potential schools project) <p>Link: Education</p>	<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</p> <p>Parks; "friends of" groups;</p> <p>NTF,</p> <p>Community groups</p>		<p>Formal revision of management plans not done. Ash dieback present in Tilehurst and Caversham with trees away from people being left to nature whilst those showing risk being selectively felled. No replacement policy yet, but under development.</p> <p>No seed collection with schools 2024.</p>	<p>Y/Amend</p>
N7: Kennet Meadows	<p>Review options to increase carbon storage and biodiversity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining water levels through the year 	<p>Discussions underway</p> <p>Completion targets and dates to be agreed</p>	TBA	<p>Land Owners</p> <p>EA, Reading BC NTF</p> <p>Thames Water</p>		<p>No progress towards agreement yet</p>	<p>Y</p>

1. Carbon Sequestration							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measure, milestone	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing granularity of livestock management to form a mosaic of swards Before and after surveys required for carbon capture and biodiversity <p>Links: Water</p>						
N8: Increase hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey existing hedgerows and suggest new hedgelines/infill Schools encouraged to have hedge boundaries to mitigate air pollution Hedgerows promoted along cycle routes/ walking routes for air pollution mitigation and shade <p>Links: Health</p>	<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>		<p>No systematic reviews taken place;</p> <p>new hedgerow planted at Hugh Faringdon school</p> <p>Extension to Peppard road hedge; thickening of emmer green playing field hedge</p>	Y
N9: Food waste/green waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support no dig cultivation, home composting/ worm bins Disseminate information on food fermentation and support larger scale waste trials Seek University research to quantify effects 	<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</p> <p>Food4Families</p> <p>Community groups</p> <p>UoR</p> <p>MERL</p>		<p>PhD in progress. Good results for technology; reporting to RE3 authorities autumn 2024, opportunities for more research at UoR</p>	Y

2. Supporting wildlife habitats and biodiversity

Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measure, milestone	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
N10: Compensatory habitat restoration/offsets for urban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline review of the likely requirements for habitat compensation and biodiversity net gain due to development of sites in the Local Plan Financial mechanism developed 	<p>System to be set up</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>continuous</p>	Reading BC planning		Legislation for planning net gain in force from feb 24, limited no of applications so far. No systematic review of requirements or opportunities taken place as yet. RDNHS members assisting with the monitoring of land at Sulham that will be available for purchasing offsets.	Y/N/Amend (delete as appropriate)
N11: Identifying wildlife corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working from the green links shown in the Local Plan, and revision of the Biodiversity Action Plan, identify primary and secondary routes Agree any changes/additions changes with RBC planning department and Council 	Identify routes and mark on plan for transfer to RBC Geographical Information System	2020	Reading BC planning BAP review/NTF Reading BC parks and Highways		This process is absorbed into the nature recovery strategy for Berkshire. Info supplied to that process from Local Plan green links, BAP and from environmental groups. Final plan expected early 2025	Amend
N12: Assessing the quality of wildlife corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing data Walk through and rapid assessment of accessible land List priorities for enhancement on public land and community land <p><u>Link:</u> Community, Health</p>	Start within year 1, 10km a year reports on the corridor survey	Annual from 2020-2025	NTF/Reading BC community groups Network rail BBOWT		Way behind schedule; diverted efforts into the nature recovery strategy	Amend need target groups to do this.
N13: Managing the impact of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure design and planting on development sites contributes to wildlife corridors 	Supplementary Planning Document published	<p>2021</p> <p>Implementation ongoing</p>	Reading BC Berkshire Local Nature Partnership		This is really absorbed into the production of Berkshire nature recovery strategy and net gain goals any	Amend

2. Supporting wildlife habitats and biodiversity							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measure, milestone	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
areas on wildlife corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure connectivity through developments with appropriate supplemental planning guidance Align with objectives of revised Biodiversity Action Plan and/or green infrastructure strategy/plan 			BBOWT		supplementary planning guidance would be produced after NRS	
N14: Species protection/recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Action Plan develops objectives for increasing/recovery of identified key species Ensure these are fed into management methods and changes in wildlife corridors 	Develop land management objectives Implement from:	2020 2021	Reading BC/NTF University of Reading		As above	Amend
N15: Biodiversity enhancement pilots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet/work with residents associations/ community groups Offer regular workshops/newsletter input/other methods to support changes in these areas Link: Community	Identify 2 areas to participate including an area of deprivation Review impact relative to other areas	2020 2023	NTF Adopt-a street Community groups		Work continues in Caversham and Whitley	Amend Unconvinced that methodology for one area is transferable
N16: Data recording/monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request that all new data go onto TVERC, irectord or data systems that link with TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre) Recruit volunteers for recording 	Contact all local groups Recruit volunteers Publicise surveys undertaken by others	2021 2020 Each year	NTF Community groups UoR			Y

2. Supporting wildlife habitats and biodiversity							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measure, milestone	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage householders to take part in garden surveys/ TV projects Link: Community						

3. Planting for biodiversity and resilience							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
N17: Provide Information on adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on climate resilience and wildlife friendly gardening Improving soil structure and promote water reuse Promote exemplar sites – eg council, church, school Links: Water, Health, Education	Information published on RCAN website 2 exemplar projects by:	Q4 2020 2025	NTF RISC community groups, Reading BC		Exemplar sites available, but not promoted Information published but water reuse missing	Y
N18: Greening front gardens and reducing hardstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information and links to potential designs for increasing green cover and reducing hardstanding Hold seminar for developers Seek TV support for project, eg Gardener's World Links: Water, Energy and LCD	Information by end 2021 Seminar Contact TV options	2021 2022 2023	RCAN/ NTF/RHS		No response from tv/radio	Amend important to do, hard to get sorted
N19: Interaction with garden centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage garden centres to introduce a wildlife friendly and climate change adaptation section 	Programme introduced	2020	NTF BBOWT		No response from garden centres. Peat free compost mandatory from end 2024	N

3. Planting for biodiversity and resilience							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peat-free labelling of composts Link: Business						

4. Green spaces for cooling / well-being							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
N20: Green Infrastructure	Using green infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions from buildings and promote urban cooling, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Green walls and roofs on new build Promote green roofs on existing single storey structures Plant for shading of cycle/pedestrian routes Research on impacts of green infrastructure required Links: Energy & LCD, Water, Transport, Health	In local plan. May need Supplementary planning document Advice published on RCAN website Research projects to evaluate effects	SPD 2022 2022 2021	Reading BC NTF NTF/UoR		Additional bus shelters with green roofs (sedum roofs)	Amend
N21 Develop green space to enable increased health benefits	Tree/hedge planting to provide shade, reduce particulate pollution and oxides of nitrogen Links: Health	Part of reviews referred to in N4 above	Ongoing from 2020	Landowners		Changes made to some green spaces in Reading	Y

5. Nature Communication and Engagement							
Action name	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
N22: Raising awareness in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify two areas in the town, including an area of deprivation, to concentrate existing resources to test ideas and communication methods for dissemination Extend proven ideas to other areas <u>Links:</u> All themes, Business, Community	2 target areas identified and developed	Identify test areas by 2021; Extend to four areas by 2025	Nature Task Force			Amend
N23: Advice service for adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide advice to schools/ community groups/ for wildlife friendly gardening/ water efficient gardening/recycling in the garden <u>Links:</u> Water, Education, Community, Adaptation	Offer half day advice service to up to 20 organisations a year, plus online leaflets	Advice service from 2021	NTF BBOWT		Not received many requests but provided when asked	Y
N24: Support schools in their climate change initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide list of support actions available through ReadingCAN or external sources to enhance existing systems (e.g. ecoschools), and distribute <u>Links:</u> Education, Communication and Engagement	Create option list for schools Offer 8 support activities a year	2020 From 2021	RCAN Nature Task Force		No requests in 2024	Amend Can offer help but not deliver unless requests made
N25: Supporting Businesses and NGOs in their climate change initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make opportunities for groups to do practical work via Team Challenge <u>Link:</u> Business, Communication and Engagement	6 actions a year	Set up by 2021	Reading BC/NTF Econet/TCV		Requests/offers made but not compatible with delivery	Y

5. Nature Communication and Engagement

Action name	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
N26 Identify opportunities for green prescribing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a list of groups willing to provide options for social prescribing and make available to local GPs Links: Health	List available to RBC Public Health	2021	NTF		Social prescribing being led by RVA, no longer relevant action	



RESOURCES ACTION PLAN

2020 - 2025

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.

THEME OVERVIEW: Resources & consumption

Paul Ducker; paul.ducker@outlook.com

PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

2023/24 has been a year of growing momentum. Some due to the effects of actions in the strategy. Others to the effects of external initiatives that have serendipitously aligned.

Notable successes include:

- Reading Borough Council being invited to join the Green Events Code of Practice pilot project, a national initiative led by Vision 2025 and Julie's Bicycle working with a group of 10 local authorities to explore the opportunities and challenges in using local regulatory and approval systems to support local festivals to embed sustainable practices across their event (using the industry-led Green Events Code of Practice as a framework). It has been great working closely with RBC, Reading Independent Festivals Forum, RIFF, individual festivals (including East Reading Festival, Reading Festival, Readipop and Water Fest) as well as Vision 2025 and Julie's Bicycle to realise the pilot, creating a real buzz and appetite to do more around sustainability and our local festivals.
- Reading Food Partnership has begun to take shape with the vision of 'affordable, healthy and sustainable food for all' in Reading. Bringing together people and organisations with an interest in taking action to improve the food landscape in Reading, it is a natural partner to RCCP. The enthusiasm is reciprocated. Reading Food Partnership has accepted an invitation to join the RCCP board.
- Reuse and repair continues to gain momentum in Reading, with the establishment of Reading Library of Things, R-LoT, and the growing network of Repair Cafes in and around Reading. Some retailers are also beginning to introduce return and repair services for customers. Definitely feels like there is an opportunity connect these and other initiatives in order to raise the profile of reuse and repair in Reading and boost engagement.

Particular challenges to implementation:

- Groups running their course: Relying on unfunded voluntary groups to deliver critical projects entails a level of risk. Circumstances change, goals are met, groups lose momentum.
- Weak ownership of some actions: Maybe need to put more effort in the planning stage to agree scope, and expectations in delivery, of actions and what leadership of the action looks like. Perhaps also need to recognise that different types of support may be required for actions resourced as part of a partner's statutory role or business versus those taken on as an additional voluntary (possibly aspirational) responsibility.
- Dangers of Action Plan tunnel vision: Easy to get caught up with reporting on progress in delivering actions and lose sight of progress towards overall goals.
- 'Siloing' of activities in themes: Themes can militate against thinking at a systems level. Some people and groups are put off engaging with the strategy because they don't see their interests as fitting neatly into a single theme (and they don't have the time to engage with multiple themes). Also applies to cross-cutting themes.
- Sometimes makes more sense to engage at a partnership level, rather than shoehorn connections into the theme structure, particularly when seeking to work at a system level.

5. EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

- Continuing, and growing, concern about pollution (in all its forms).
- Tightening of regulations around waste, reuse and repair.

- Preparations for implementation of the 'polluter pays principle'.
- Anticipation of what a new government committed to achieving net zero, addressing the housing crisis and growing the economy, but doing so sustainably, will mean.

6. OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

- Emergence of other initiatives and strategies with shared goals, like the GECOP pilot and Reading Food Partnership, and the opportunity to engage. Working at a systems level.
- Ensuring that increased investment in construction (retrofit, housing, infrastructure) is done sustainably leading to an increasingly circular construction industry.
- Appetite amongst communities, institutions and businesses to be seen as supporting sustainability is growing. Need to be alert to dangers of greenwashing. Also of possible fragmentation as individuals, groups and organisations jostle for pole position. Question to ask is how can the RCCP strategy encourage the growing appetite to get involved whilst helping strengthen resistance to greenwashing and combat fragmentation?

7. KEY ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY FOR 2025-30

- Develop research as a central function? Build and maintain an evidence base and use it to support themes, engage partners, focus action and monitor overall progress.
- Explore how the central communications programme can work more closely with themes.
- Consider publishing strategy and action plan as separate documents, making it easier for people and organisations not directly involved with the partnership to understand and align their own actions with the direction of the strategy.
- Some actions included in the plan are going to be ones that are delivered as a central part of a partners' purpose, for example domestic waste and recycling collections, and the targets to which they work set out in their contract. Others may be more aspirational and involve a fair amount of relationship building and sometimes be dependent on attracting additional funding. In these cases, trying to set out too much detail at the outset can be counterproductive. The action plan needs to be capable of evolving over its five year life.
- During the current strategy, some of the most exciting developments have been those that have grown out of relationships built over time, for example the GECOP pilot and link up with Reading Food Partnership. Whilst both align with particular actions, they also offer the prospect of working at a systems level to catalyse and embed longer term change.
- Looking to the next strategy, one of the areas crying out for attention is construction waste (which accounts for 62% of all UK waste). How could construction in Reading be made more circular? Food also remains a massively important and engaging area. At the risk of repetition, engaging with the festival sector is important for more than just its potential to reduce tent waste!
- Are there ways that RCCP board members could be more active between meetings to promote the partnership and engage with themes and actions?

Resources Theme Action Plan

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.

1: Reduce – questioning our need to generate waste in the first place							
Action (Written in 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
R1: Food: Reducing domestic food waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline and set meaningful targets for reducing domestic food waste Adopt the Love Food, Hate Waste toolkit from WRAP and drive behaviour change through communications <p><u>Links:</u> Business</p>	<p>Baseline research completed by March 2021</p> <p>Communications programme in place, targets set and tracked annually from July 2021</p>	<p>Q1 2021</p> <p>Q3 2021 onwards</p>	<p>Reading BC (lead); University of Reading (research)</p>	AMBER	<p>No baseline collection phase. Some progress made through promotion of WRAP Food Waste Action Week and linking up with the emerging Reading Food Partnership. Re3 also promoting food waste reduction (and recycling) through their socials.</p>	<p>Amend – Makes more sense to have a smaller number of multifaceted food related actions, some owned by Reading Food Partnership, others that fall outside RFP's remit could be led by other RCCP/RCAN partners but aligned with the shared goal.</p>
R2: Food: Reducing commercial food waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline and set meaningful targets for reducing commercial food waste Create a programme combining reduction measures, well-managed charity donations and best outcome waste processing Collaborative programme by and for business <p><u>Links:</u> Community, Business, Education</p>	<p>Baseline research completed by September 2021;</p> <p>Communications programme in place, targets set and tracked annually from January 2022</p> <p>Commercial food waste collection from TBC</p>	<p>Q3 2021</p> <p>Q1 2022</p> <p>TBC</p>	<p>RCAN (lead); Reading UK CIC; University of Reading (research); Connect Reading; Waste/recycling contractors Reading BC/ commercial parties</p>	AMBER	<p>As R1. Perhaps scope to get local businesses to go public about their commitments and progress. (Some may choose to do so by aligning with WRAP's 'Guardians of Grub' programme.)</p>	<p>Amend – As R1</p>

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

Action (Written in 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
R3: Food: Reducing food waste in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline and set meaningful targets for reducing food waste in schools Create a programme combining reduction measures, well-managed charity donations and best outcome waste processing Commercial food waste collection to be introduced by Reading BC for schools <p><u>Links:</u> Community, Business, Education</p>	<p>Baseline research completed by September 2021;</p> <p>Communications programme in place, targets set and tracked annually from January 2022</p> <p>Commercial food waste collection for schools from TBC</p>	<p>Q3 2021</p> <p>Q1 2022</p> <p>TBC</p>	RCAN (lead); University of Reading (research); Reading BC/ commercial waste partners	AMBER	As R1. Perhaps scope to get local schools & their catering partners to go public about their commitments and progress. (Some may choose to do so by aligning with WRAP's 'Guardians of Grub' programme.)	Amend – As R1
R4: Other: Clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline and set meaningful targets for reducing the amount of clothing wasted Introduce programmes to divert unwanted clothing from general waste through various means including donation, swapping, sharing, leasing/rental, etc. Investigate the potential for emulating the WearNext project pioneered in New York <p><u>Links:</u> Business, Community</p>	<p>Establish baseline and identify areas for improvement</p> <p>Publish programme of targeted interventions</p>	<p>Q1 2021</p> <p>Q4 2021</p>	Reading Circular Economy Club (lead); Reading UK CIC; Connect Reading; Re3 (baseline data)	AMBER	No baseline collection phase. Have been, or are, various initiatives focused on reducing textile waste including New Directions College's 'Upcycled Fashion' projects and retailers introducing return and repair services. But lack of capacity limits scope to make connections.	Amend – Makes more sense to have a multifaceted project bringing together a number of reduce, reuse and repair initiatives.

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

Action (Written in 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
R5: Other: Resource efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish easy to access and understand best practice guidance covering all common household purchases (in and out of home) • Focus on extended life, zero waste, energy efficiency • Signpost established labels and standards, advisory bodies, etc. • Establish communications programme to reinforce behaviour change <p><u>Links:</u> Communications and Engagement</p>	Guidance published and communications programme launched	Q2 2021	ReadingCAN (lead); Re3; Reading UK CIC	AMBER	A number of initiatives exist or have emerged (including the information and support provided through the network of local Repair Cafés) that promote knowledge and skills to support resource efficiency . A number of retailers have also introduced repair services. But not joined up enough or delivering fast enough change. There is an opportunity to connect and promote what exists. Also for anchor institutions to lead by example.	Amend – As R4

2: Reuse – keeping products in use for longer; delaying the point at which they need to be recycled

Action (Written in 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
R6: Re-use and repair: Establish a definitive information source on re-use and repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile and maintain a comprehensive directory of re-use and repair resources in Reading, and encourage new ones, especially through social enterprise Include information resources like ifixit and services like <i>Reading Repair Café</i> and <i>Reading Bicycle Kitchen</i> Establish communications programme to reinforce behaviour change <p>Links: 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	Although progress not made on developing a directory of reuse and repair resources, a number of initiatives exist or have emerged that promote supporting knowledge and skills. Some retailers have introduced repair services. Opportunity to promote what exists as well as identify gaps. Anchor institutions can lead by example.	Amend – As R4
R7: Sharing, renting and swapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile and maintain a comprehensive directory of sharing, renting and swapping resources, and encourage new ones 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> <p>Links: 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	AMBER	Although progress not made on developing a directory of sharing, renting & swapping resources, a number of initiatives exist or have emerged that promote supporting knowledge and skills (including Reading Library of Things). There is an opportunity to connect and promote what exists as well as identify gaps. Also for anchor institutions to lead by example.	Amend – As R4

3: 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 (Written in 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
R8: Food: Kerbside food waste recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise take-up of kerbside food waste recycling when introduced Appropriate annual targets to be set in conjunction with Reading BC/Re3 Communications programme required to drive behaviour change <p><u>Links:</u> Community, Education</p>	Increase Reading's recycling rate by 7% through food waste collection	Q4 2021	Reading BC/Re3	GREEN	Achieved early by re3 and performance maintained.	Amend – As R1
R9: Other: Glass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline and set meaningful targets for increasing glass collection Improve access to glass recycling facilities for residents Focus on areas with high density housing/low car ownership Work with hospitality industry to introduce colour segregated glass collection <p><u>Links:</u> Community, Business</p>	<p>Establish baseline and identify areas for improvement</p> <p>Publish plan to introduce improved provision for residents and businesses, including targets for collection by September 2021</p>	<p>Q1 2021</p> <p>Q3 2021</p>	Reading BC (domestic lead); Reading UK CIC (business lead); University of Reading (research); Waste/recycling contractors	AMBER	No baseline collection stage. But aware that re3 and Reading BIDS are addressing glass recycling infrastructure	Amend – As R1, may make sense to group some actions together. Also worth noting that the engagement of some partners is very much tied to their contractual requirements and associated KPIs.

3: 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 (Written in 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
R10: Other: Kerbside recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise kerbside collection and minimise contamination • Increase awareness of what can do in kerbside recycling • Implement communications programme to encourage and improve confidence in recycling • Set annual targets to improve collection/contamination rates <p><u>Links:</u> Community</p>	Increase in Reading’s overall recycling rate by 4% by October 2021 arising from efforts to reduce contamination	Q4 2021	Reading BC/Re3	GREEN	RBC/re3 are continuing to experiment with ways to increase recycling rates and reduce contamination.	Amend – As R9

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

Action (Written in 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
R11: Plastics: Plastic-Free Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued implementation of single-use plastic-free pledge by RBC and sharing the learning Encouraging adoption of the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic-Free Community methodology and tools by communities, businesses and schools Replicate Plastic Free Caversham concept to achieve the critical mass of groups, schools and businesses required to secure Plastic Free accreditation for Reading <p>Links: 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>	<p>Q3 2021</p> <p>Q3 2021</p> <p>Q4 2021</p> <p>Q3 2022</p>	<p>Reading BC (Council and schools lead); Reading UK CIC (business lead); Reading Business CAN</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>Amber, but edging towards green. Plastic Free Caversham achieved SAS accreditation. But the steering group disbanded soon afterwards. Installation of public drinking fountain has been delayed but Thames Water is still committed to funding. Unfortunately no other neighbourhood has expressed interest in following PFC's lead.</p>	<p>Amend – Rethink the means of achieving the goal of Reading becoming a plastic free town. Engagement with national initiatives (Plastic Free Communities, Refill, etc.), local commitments (RBC's plastic free resolution) and active support for plastic free initiatives.</p>

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

Action (Written in 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
R12: Food: Climate-friendly diet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish reliable and authoritative information on how to eat more sustainably Focus on dietary choices, sustainable sourcing, child nutrition Guidance for caterers as well as individuals <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>	<p>Q1 2021</p> <p>Q3 2021</p>	University of Reading; Subject-matter specialists (e.g. breastfeeding, food growing networks)	AMBER	Amber, but edging towards green. Emergence of Reading Food Partnership with the vision of 'affordable, healthy and sustainable food for all' in Reading offers an exciting opportunity. Reading Food Partnership is one of a network of such partnerships around the country which provides scope to learn from others aswell.	Amend – Reading Food Partnership could be invited to take on the role of lead body for successor action. Alternatively could work with Reading Food Partnership to identify elements of their strategy that align with the RCCP Strategy and how they could mutually support one another

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

Action (Written in 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
R13: Other: Zero waste and circular festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Reading's festival organisers to develop resource-stewardship systems to reduce waste at festival venues (and campsites, where appropriate) Explore different approaches to engage and encourage organisers, vendors and festival goers in addressing waste Establish baseline and set meaningful targets for reducing waste and maximising recovery of resources Engage with Reading Festival to understand the challenge of campsite waste and explore opportunities to reduce unrecyclable tent waste 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) <p>Links: Business</p>	<p>Work with ReadingUK CIC local festival organisers group to understand the challenges and share best practice by:</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>Q3 2020</p> <p>Q1 2021</p> <p>Q2 2021</p> <p>Q3 2021</p> <p>Q3 2025</p>	<p>Reading Circular Economy Club (lead); Reading UK CIC; University of Reading (research); Waste/recycling contractors; Festival organisers</p>	GREEN	<p>Momentum in Reading's festival sector has continued to build over the last year. A major boost this year was the invitation for Reading Borough Council to work with Vision 2025, Julie's Bicycle and a group of other local authorities around the country to pilot the Green Events Code of Practice, GECOP. This has given Reading and its festival access to tools and expertise. Reading Festival is participating in the GECOP pilot. But tents remain a challenge.</p>	<p>Amend - Could invite Reading Independent Festival Forum, RIFF, to take on the role of lead body for the successor action. Alternatively could work with RIFF to identify elements of their strategy that align with the RCCP Strategy and how they could mutually support one another.</p>

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

Action (Written in 2020)	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target completion date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
R14: Circular economy: Establish Reading Circular Economy Club to grow the Circular Economy in Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Reading Circular Economy Club – part of international network of Circular Economy Clubs Peer to peer information exchange and networking for businesses/organisations Develop resource exchange to create closed resource loops, reducing use of virgin resources and finding new uses for waste products <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	AMBER	Amber, but edging towards green. Circular Economy Club was established and was active (online) throughout the pandemic but has since gone dormant. That said, there is circular activity in the town. The challenge is, perhaps, to develop a narrative that helps make it visible. A number of local projects are working on a shared narrative that might form a basis for collaboration.	Amend – May be better to identify desired outcomes. Could then identify some actions to generate momentum as well as invite others to align their own efforts and strategies (whether or not named in the action plan). Opportunity to work with/support the emerging networks of local projects. Say something encouraging about circularity in construction?



TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN

2020 - 2025

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.

THEME OVERVIEW: Transport

Theme Lead: Chris Maddocks

8. PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- The Council has undertaken a statutory consultation on the new Local Transport Plan, the Reading Transport Strategy 2040, and it anticipated that the strategy will be adopted in the autumn. This sets out our policies, schemes and initiatives and targets for transport and promoting sustainable, active and public transport over the next 15+ years.
- We have secured £26m grant funding from Central Government through the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) programme which we continue to deliver, including significant fares reduction scheme, new bus lanes and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), enhanced bus service provision/frequency and other bus infrastructure improvements.
- We are currently delivering three Active Travel Fund (ATF) schemes to provide walking and cycling enhancements including on Shinfield Road, Bath Road- Castle Hill and Upper Redlands Road. In addition, new walking and cycle facilities are being implemented for the new secondary school on Richfield Avenue.
- The Council adopted its new Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy in the summer and has secured funding for the rollout of electric vehicle charging points across the borough and for the first electric buses in Reading.

9. EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

- We are still awaiting policy developments from the new Government, however funding for sustainable transport improvements is anticipated to continue in some form.
- Policy changes from the previous Government, including a reduction in the funding available from Active Travel England and the extension on the ban of the sale of petrol and diesel have hindered our ability to meet net zero carbo pledges and improve air quality.

10. OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

- The impact of high levels of inflation on scheme costs has impacted on the delivery of a number of transport schemes. This will require the Council bidding for additional funding or adapting schemes to be delivered to fit the funding available.

11. KEY ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN RUN-UP TO REVIEW OF 2025 -2030 STRATEGY

- This is wider than just the transport theme, however the key issue to be considered is how to demonstrate progress of the strategy regarding the overall net-zero target by 2030.

Transport Theme Action Plan

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.

*Numerical targets subject to confirmation in final Local Transport Plan still in development at time of publication)

1: Reducing need and demand for travel, promoting walking and cycling						
Action name	Description	Target, measure, milestone*	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	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 in 2019. Planning officers currently undertaking Local Plan review and update due 2024.
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"> • Workplace Parking Levy • Clean Air Zone • Alternative demand management measures <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	Consideration and development of specific Demand Management measures is part of new Reading Transport Strategy 2040 so work on this topic on hold pending adoption of LTP 4.
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 (LCWIP) <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%	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC Local User Groups Thames Valley Police	GREEN	Delivery of Active Travel Schemes Tranche 1 complete, Tranche 2 (Shinfield Road) partially complete and Tranche 4 (Upper Redlands Road) complete.

1: Reducing need and demand for travel, promoting walking and cycling

Action name	Description	Target, measure, milestone*	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word max)
		by 2025 (en route to a 15% target by 2036)				<p>Reading's Tranche 3 (Bath Road) scheme currently under design review but construction to commence next year.</p> <p>Reading Station Underpass recently refurbished and opened for cycle use as well as other crossing schemes delivered to promote cycling. Council will review its LCWIP.</p>
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). 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). 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	<p>Reading BC</p> <p>Transport Operators</p> <p>Reading BID</p> <p>Local User Groups</p> <p>Developers</p> <p>Businesses</p> <p>Residents</p>	GREEN	<p>Enhancements to bus passenger waiting facilities in town centre.</p> <p>Council reviewing provision for cycling in town centre including signage and providing additional cycle security measures.</p>

1: Reducing need and demand for travel, promoting walking and cycling

Action name	Description	Target, measure, milestone*	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word max)
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	<p>Reading BC</p> <p>School Communities Bikeability Provider</p> <p>TV Police</p> <p>Local User Groups</p> <p>Residents</p> <p>Uni of Reading</p>	GREEN	<p>Reading now has 6 School Street schemes in operation.</p> <p>Active Travel Officer working with schools across the borough to deliver assemblies and activities promoting active and sustainable transport.</p> <p>Schools across Reading participate in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel and Living Streets Walk to School Week.</p>

2: Encouraging a switch to public transport

Action name	Description	Target, measure, milestone*	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	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	<p>Reading BC</p> <p>Neighbouring LAs</p> <p>TVB LEP</p> <p>Transport Operators</p> <p>Local User Groups</p> <p>Residents</p> <p>Businesses</p>	GREEN	Council investing in bus lanes through it's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) programme including next phase of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on A33 and new bus lanes delivered on London Road A4 and Oxford Road A329.
T7: Improve Quality Bus Corridors	Improve branded local routes with faster, more reliable and more frequent services, changing people's travel habits away from	Increase bus journeys per year by 9% from 22.5M (2019)	2025 as part of the Local Transport	Reading BC Transport Operators	GREEN	Through the Council's BSIP funding and enhance partnership

1: Reducing need and demand for travel, promoting walking and cycling

Action name	Description	Target, measure, milestone*	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word max)
	<p>dependency on cars especially for commuter and school journeys Links: Business, Community, Education</p>	<p>to 24.6M (en-route to a target increase of 25% by 2036)</p>	<p>Plan targets through to 2036</p>	<p>Businesses Residents Schools Health Services Department for Transport/UK Gov</p>		<p>arrangements delivery of a large number of schemes designed to improve bus provision underway.</p> <p>Delivered to date includes improvements to MereOak park and ride site access, Oxford Road bus lane and London Road bus lane.</p> <p>Council has been awarded Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) 2 funding for the introduction of 24 electric buses in Reading due next year.</p> <p>Council has now introduced a number of green roof bus shelters to improve biodiversity, drainage and provide pleasant environment.</p> <p>Council has introduced a reduced multi-operator day ticket providing discounted bus travel to travellers in Reading.</p>

1: Reducing need and demand for travel, promoting walking and cycling

Action name	Description	Target, measure, milestone*	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word max)
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	GREEN	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 Working with Wokingham and Reading Buses, including Park and Ride services have been reintroduced from Winnersh Triangle park and ride site.
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 to Reading West Station completed and opened earlier this year. Accessibility improvements to Tilehurst Station due for delivery in early 2025.
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.	2021	Reading BC Network Rail Great Western Railway	GREEN	Station opened Summer 2023.

1: Reducing need and demand for travel, promoting walking and cycling						
Action name	Description	Target, measure, milestone*	Target complete date	Delivery partners	RAG 2024	Commentary (100 word max)
		Interchange open with provision of integrated bus services.		Transport Operators TVB LEP DfT Businesses		
T12: Implement traffic management schemes to support low carbon travel choices	Provide effective management of the existing network to meet changing mobility demands of Reading Provide safe roads and pavements including crossings and reduce crossing conflicts and interruptions to the flow of walking and cycling	As per T4	2025 as part of the Local Transport Plan targets through to 2036	Reading BC Transport Operators Emergency Services	AMBER	Council delivering programme of Network Management schemes.

3: 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"> Study suitable locations Identify potential network constraints Assess potential demand 	Strategy development to follow Local Transport Plan	2020/21	Reading BC	GREEN	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy (EVCI) adopted at Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport T committee earlier this year.
T14: Decarbonise the Council Vehicle Fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase electric charging points at Council buildings Consider phased replacement of Council vehicles with electric powered units wherever possible 	RBC Carbon Plan Feasibility report, Business case,	Q4 2020 2022-2024	Reading BC	GREEN	Council continuing to invest in roll-out of electric vehicles in its fleet.

3: 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)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charging points to be installed at depot that can allow vehicles to power buildings Carbon Plan will set targets for reduction in diesel/petrol 	Budget approval * (subject to above)				
T15: Increase Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points	Install electric charging points in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council car parks Leisure centres Lamp columns (trials) Business premises Taxi ranks Links: Business, Transport	First car park project All suitable car parks First leisure centre All leisure centres	2020/21 2023 2020/21 2022	Reading BC, Reading UK, Taxi Assoc, Leisure provider	AMBER	Officers working across departments on developing proposal for use of grant funding to install charging points across the borough. Procurement for this scheme due to commence autumn 2024.
T16: Increase zero emissions vehicles uptake	Work with vehicle sales outlets in Reading to increase zero emission vehicle uptake Links: Business	Zero emission vehicle uptake compared to national benchmarks	Ongoing	Reading UK RCAN	AMBER	Linked to T13 and T15
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	
T18: Planning policy for EV charging in new properties	Monitor number of additional charging units installed in new properties Links: Business	Monitor additional units in line with planning policy	Ongoing	Reading BC Developers	GREEN	Will be included in Local Plan Review.
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	Taxi Policy Adopted as per EVCI Strategy

3: 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)
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 work programme.
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 T13 and T15
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	Part of Highways work programme.
T22: Embrace Smart Solutions to reduce use of carbon in transport	Smarter Working – maximise benefits of flexible working patterns including working from home (to cut transport demand) and more flexible working hours to encourage commuter travel outside of the peak periods. 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.	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	As above

3: 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)
	<p>Implement Micromobility and Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) schemes as they evolve to facilitate shift from personally-owned modes of transportation towards mobility provided as a service, combining public and private transportation services through a unified gateway that manages the trip, which users can pay for with a single account</p> <p><u>Links:</u> Business</p>					

4: Adaptation, Communication & Engagement

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)
T23a (General): Develop education, initiatives, promotion and advice to encourage low carbon travel choices	<p>Undertake marketing activities promoting sustainable transport, including national events such as Bike Week, Clean Air Day, In Town Without My Car Day, and organising local events and activities</p> <p>Enable access to any adults who want to undertake Bikeability</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</p>	GREEN	Working with Comms to deliver regular comms and messaging promoting Local Transport Plan initiatives including Cycle Festival, Clean Air Day, working with schools etc.

4: Adaptation, Communication & Engagement

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)
	<p>training. Provide courses through schools as well as to individuals and to groups.</p> <p>Provide up-to-date travel information to enable people to make informed travel choices including open data apps, real time passenger information and roadside Messaging Signs</p> <p>Develop programme of training, education and initiatives to promote sustainable transport usage</p> <p>Links: Education, Health</p>			Local User Groups Residents		
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 to recognise efforts encouraging sustainable travel</p> <p>Implement School Streets, working with the schools to provide temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times resulting in a safer, healthier and a more pleasant environment.</p> <p>Enable access to anybody who want to undertake Bikeability training. Provide courses through</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	Council's Active Travel Officer delivering a range of activities and initiatives with schools promoting sustainable and active travel.

4: Adaptation, Communication & Engagement

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)
	<p>schools as well as to individuals and to groups.</p> <p><u>Links:</u> Education, Health</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</p> <p><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</p> <p>Transport operators</p> <p>University of Reading</p> <p>DfT</p> <p>Other Stakeholders</p>	AMBER	Work to be agreed and commissioned.



WATER ACTION PLAN

2020 - 2025

Our aim for 2025 is that Reading will be 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 get ready for them.

THEME OVERVIEW: Water

Theme Lead: Heather Marshall

12. PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Our aim is to become the most water aware and water efficient town in the UK. Communication and education play a critical role in achieving this aim, along with delivering water saving improvements for homes and businesses in Reading.

This past year we have experienced the effects of climate change, with increased rainfall causing flooding from the River Thames and from urban storm water and impacting our communities.

We remain committed to helping residents and businesses understand these risks and to get ready for them.

To increase water awareness we have engaged in several activities during the year including:

- Reading Climate Festival
- Hosting online workshops and webinars
- Working with Thames Water and the RBC to discuss opportunities for water efficiency initiatives and pilot schemes
- Supporting the consultation and review of the sustainability measures included in the draft local plan, including specific guidance from Thames Water
- Sign-post material to support households and businesses be more water efficient and protect themselves from flood risk

We continue to strive for increased green infrastructure in our communities to support better surface water management, helping to keep water where it's needed in droughts and slow and store it during periods of heavy rainfall. Much more is needed in this area and we are encouraged by continued conversations with the EA, Thames Water and RBC on how we can better manage our storm water together.

While not a specific action, the Flooding Review carried out by RBC (and delivered by Stantec) following the January 2024 floods has highlighted the importance of reducing rubbish in the water courses and keeping ditches and gullies clear. These are areas where the Climate Change Partnership can play an important role in signposting specific needs, engaging local communities, and improving communications and messaging around sewer misuse and litter.

The opportunity to deliver more for nature at Kennet Meadows remains high on the list of priorities. Barriers around private land ownership and the studies necessary to understand the opportunity and deliver something meaningful have slowed progress but we will persevere with this area in Reading in the hope of enhancing biodiversity and maintaining the critical flood protection it provides.

Along with SuDS and Kennet Meadows, we are eager to make more progress on encouraging the adoption of green roofs in Reading. Currently sitting at 7th in the Green Roof League Table (excluding the Greater London Authority), we have an opportunity to go further, particularly encouraging retro fit of low-maintenance and bio-solar systems.

Figure 1: Area of green roofs (m2) per citizen (2024)



Source: [GN GreenRoof doc \(hubspotusercontent-eu1.net\)](https://www.gla.gov.uk/greenroofs/doc/hubspotusercontent-eu1.net)

13. EXTERNAL POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

Please enter here a brief overview of any changes in the external environment which are relevant to the Action Plan which have come about since the Action Plan was written – e.g. changes in national or local policy, new legislation or funding streams – and explain how they may impact on implementation of the Action Plan, or require new action to be initiated.

There are changes and updates to policy and legislation that will have a positive impact on how we manage and steward our water resources. This includes stretching national targets for water consumption for households and businesses, with a c. 20% reduction for households and a 9% reduction in non-household (business) by 2037-38 from 2019-20 levels. Local authorities including RBC are stepping in to support the delivery of these targets with planning policies that require certain levels of water efficiency to be delivered in new developments.

There remains a large opportunity and critical role for the retrofit of water efficiency fixtures and fittings in Reading homes. Policies that enable water efficiency credits or offsets may form a part of the solution and are being explored in other authorities such as Tower Hamlets. Additionally, tackling chronic issues like leaky loos and dripping taps, and working with businesses to understand and manage their water consumption more efficiently without compromising their ability to generate revenue remain important.

When it comes to drainage, the Government's recommendation that Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 should be implemented in England from 2024, will enable improved SuDS delivery associated with new development.

The government has also tightened the targets for water companies when it comes to the use of Storm overflows. These overflows, which are there to operate in times of extreme rainfall to protect people and properties from the impact of flooding, are having an adverse ecological impact on our rivers. Reducing the use of storm overflows alongside more stretching targets for the levels of nutrients in our watercourses help to ensure a resilient supply of clean water for Reading.

14. OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

Please enter here a brief overview of any other external changes which are relevant to the Action Plan – e.g. short- and long-term impacts of the pandemic, socio-economic changes and trends, new evidence arising since the action plan was drafted – and explain how they may impact on implementation of the Action Plan or require new action to be initiated.

Reading is a vibrant, diverse, and growing community. When it comes to water, this means that the challenges and opportunities to look after our water need to be considered from a Reading specific context. This includes reflecting the cultural and ethnic diversity of our communities and businesses in our water efficiency policies and practices.

The population has increased by c.12% over the past decade, and this places strain on our water resources. Water efficiency, including fixtures and fittings and a robust local planning policy are key enablers of the growth and new homes we need in our area.

The enacting of Schedule 3 and clear planning rules around sustainable drainage and biodiversity enhancement will also play a role over the scale with which we can deliver these important initiatives.

Funding remains a challenge for water and flooding initiatives. We are striving for a place-based plan for Reading, one that addresses the needs of local communities. This requires sectors to work collaboratively, including water, energy, telecoms, and rail, for example. While there is a willingness from all parties to engage, their funding remains discrete and unlocking joint funding a challenge. As we move into the next period of climate action we will focus effort on identifying and seeking out funding opportunities to help in the delivery of our shared action plan.

15. KEY ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY FOR 2025-30

Horizon scanning for key issues we need to think about as we plan the next strategy, omissions which will need to be addressed, or significant new actions which may be required.

In the coming year, we will focus on increasing education and awareness of our communities and business in how to be better stewards of water. Whether using water more sustainably in the home or introducing water butts, rain gardens and green roofs to help slow and store water where it lands.

We will work with businesses and academics to understand how this rainwater can be better used in place of potable (drinking) water, for example to wash cars and water gardens.

We will engage with local communities on the role they can play in keeping our rivers clean. This will include targeted campaigns that look at how we wash our clothes in a way that is better for wildlife (and our energy bill!).

By washing at 30 degrees, you can help wildlife by reducing your carbon emissions, helping to keep the air cleaner and taking a simple step in the fight against climate change. Using eco-friendly detergents is also a great way to watch what you're putting into rivers and seas, keeping water clean for wildlife.

It is critical that we provide more support to local businesses in Reading, who don't often have the funding or resources they need to think about climate change, water efficiency, and flooding. We will do this through targeted engagement, partnership working, and establishing and maintaining networks to provide extra help and inspiration.

Water Theme Action Plan

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.

1: Water supply and water conservation							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
W1: Educate the public about Reading’s water situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share and explain our 2050 target and how this compares to current consumption, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic water consumption by activity Info on non-domestic water consumption Where our water comes from Develop Comms Strategy for engaging public, including schools <p><u>Links:</u> Education, Community, Business, Communication and Engagement.</p>	<p>Available material published on RCAN website</p> <p>New material prepared and published</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2021</p>	Thames Water		<p>Local authority communications to Reading residents in relation to floods in early 2024 were timely and informative.</p> <p>Further discussions were held and a flood response investigation undertaken to identify any gaps and opportunities for improvement. This flood review led to recommendations which can be seen in Section 5 of the Stantec Flood Report: Appendix 2 - Reading flood investigation Jan 2024 flood event.pdf</p>	<p>Yes; continuing to educate and inform communities about our local water situation, is important to mitigate risks of climate shock and improve water quality. The local community experienced significant flooding in January 2024, which may become a more common occurrence in the future. Local awareness of the water situation, whether flooding or drought, is important.</p>

1: Water supply and water conservation							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
W2: Educate households about their water consumption and the need to save water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share information on the risks of drought and importance of water conservation. Provide tips and information on how to save water in the home and garden Develop and implement Comms Strategy for engaging households <p><u>Links:</u> Energy & LCD, Nature, Communication and Engagement</p>	<p>Information resource compiled and published</p> <p>Comms programme underway</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2025</p>	Thames Water		<p>Educational materials shared and helpful tools available to the public including:</p> <p>Water saving calculator Water saving Help Thames Water</p>	Yes; continuing to educate and inform communities about our local water situation is important to mitigate risks of climate shock and improve water quality.
W3: Educate businesses about water use, efficiency benefits, and dry weather preparedness / response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share the Thames Water Drought Plan Signpost relevant information and case studies from reputable sources Create industry-specific advice and case studies Run a drought exercise with Local Resilience Forum (LRF), partners and businesses Communicate the Environment Agency 'incident management' approach to drought <p><u>Links:</u> Business, Energy and LCD, Communication and Engagement</p>	<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		<p>Water efficiency for businesses Wholesale Thames Water</p> <p>New targets for business water efficiency set by Defra will require greater effort on behalf of the commercial sector to reduce their water usage and improve their efficiency. MOSL (the market operator) have published helpful guidance (Microsoft Word - RWG WE Road map revision - Nov 2023 - FINAL formatted (mosl.co.uk)) which includes the action to increase awareness of the</p>	Yes

1: Water supply and water conservation							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
						water scarcity issue and of Defra's target for demand reduction in the business sector	
W4: Educate the public about water quality and sewer abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish sewer abuse and water quality stats, messages and content to RCAN website <p><u>Links:</u> Business, Community, Communication and Engagement</p>	Content published	2021	Thames Water		While awareness campaigns continue to be rolled out, sewer misuse remains a concern for the local authority and water company. Households and businesses continue to put things down the drain that lead to blockages and pollutions such as wet wipes and fats. Additionally, with the number of household improvement works, misconnection can occur and result in either surface water being discharged into the foul network and taking up critical capacity or foul water being connected to a surface water only network and being discharged without treatment directly to our local watercourses.	Yes, as we move forward closer alignment with local estate agents, developers, and tradesmen to reduce the number of misconnections will be helpful. Additionally, locally targeted campaigns focussed on neighbourhoods and businesses where there is the greatest need may prove a helpful investment.
W5: Water efficiency measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote installation of water saving and efficiency 	Refurbishment programme	2020	RCAN		This remains on-track, supported by local planning policy.	Amend – may prove more effective to

1: Water supply and water conservation							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
planning requirement	<p>Document can be modified to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the requirement for all new major developments to contribute to funding water saving measures equivalent to the development's water consumption. ○ adopting the 'fittings approach' within Building Regulations rather than a pcc calculation approach <p><u>Links:</u> Energy and LCD</p>	<p>Planning Document on RCAN website</p> <p>Feedback on required amendments</p> <p>Amendments implemented</p>	<p>2022</p> <p>2025</p>			RBC taking the lead through the planning function and sustainability policies included in the local plan.	included in local plan. Additional work to do to enable delivery of water neutrality which may require water credit markets to emerge or other similar initiatives. Opportunity to publicise Thames Water incentive scheme as part of planning process.
W7: Leadership and Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby MPs and Defra to introduce a mandatory water label to help consumers make water-efficient choices • Lobby MPs and Defra to strengthen building regulations and planning process, to drive water efficiency within all new developments and procurement schemes. 	<p>Water labelling</p> <p>Building regs and planning</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2025</p>	RCAN		Working in partnership with Thames Water, MOSL (the market operator) and other stakeholders to support policy and regulation that promote water efficiency and water security.	No
W8: Research to drive future improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research the costs, benefits and suitability, of rainfall 	Develop research proposals	2020-25	RCAN		Limited modelling or future scenarios undertaken locally,	No

1: Water supply and water conservation							
Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
	<p>harvesting and grey water recycling schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use UKCP18 climate modelling and local river flow models, to develop projections for future drought / water resource availability. • With RBC and LEP update our estimates of Reading population growth to 2050 • Develop a new evidence-based 2050 water target • Review the first Adaptation Plan and identify and deliver initial win-win opportunities • Identify thresholds, risks, solutions and case studies for the second Adaptation Plan • Work with Thames Water to understand the changes to household and business water use due to COVID-19 impacts <p><u>Links:</u> Adaptation</p>			University of Reading (research)		however extensive information available more widely, including work commissioned by the Greater London Authority (GLA) which can be used to inform and improve the situation in Reading.	

Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
W9: Raise awareness of fluvial (river) flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of flood risk from the River Thames and the proposed Reading and Caversham Scheme by carrying out various engagement activities Update the flood maps on the Gov.UK website to show the areas at risk of flooding based on the latest flood modelling <p><u>Links:</u> Education, Business, Transport, Community, Adaptation</p>	<p>Engagement activities</p> <p>Flood maps updated</p>	<p>Q2-3 2020</p> <p>2022</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Partners: Reading BC, local councillors, local businesses and community groups</p>		<p>Reading experienced significant flooding in early 2024. There were a total of Commissioned a report detailing the actions taken by the Council and other responsible bodies during flooding in Reading January 2024, and recommended actions to tackle future flood threats (Section19-Flood-Report-RBC-final.pdf (reading.gov.uk) and Appendix 2 - Reading flood investigation Jan 2024 flood event.pdf).</p>	Yes

<p>W10: Raise awareness of the Flood Warning and flood alert service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of at-risk homes and businesses signed-up to receive Flood Alerts • Signpost advice on the Flood Warning Service and what to do before, during and after a flood • Develop “what if” scenarios to help people and businesses understand the importance of self-preparation, and education about flood risk <p><u>Links:</u> 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>		<p>Flood alert service operational. Residents in areas of risk receiving alerts and access to information available.</p> <p>Additional actions recommended to address risk of flooding including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The open section of Christchurch Ditch between George Street and the public footpath adjacent to residential properties at Heron Island was cleared of accumulated debris within the channel and on the RBC-owned bank. A tree creating a partial blockage in the channel was also removed. - A further tree has been felled which was growing adjacent to and through the wingwall of the culvert located at the eastern end of Hills Meadow. - The local surface water drainage network in Queens Road has been checked and cleared by RBC Highways Team. - A preliminary meeting was held with the Heron Island Residents Association (HIRA) to 	<p>Yes</p>
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					<p>discuss potential culvert clearance works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The ditch immediately south of Circuit Lane has been cleared of debris- Bank and footpath repairs have been undertaken to the Holy Brook to the east of Briscoe's Bridge- Installation of a trash screen to the culvert at the eastern end of Hills Meadow, to capture debris before it enters the closed section of the culvert and improve the ease of future clearance work- Establishment of a checking/maintenance schedule for the ditch and trash screen- Installation of a level gauge board at the eastern end of Christchurch Ditch to provide a visual indicator of water levels and potential flood risk to residents <p>Work required to meet the 100% target for those registered for the flood warning service.</p>	
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Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
						'What if' scenarios not yet published on RCAN website, however excellent flood preparation and response resources available on Reading Council website, updated 16 July 2024.	
W11: Reducing fluvial flood risk from River Thames	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with Risk Management Authorities and local stakeholders to identify ways to reduce fluvial flood risk • Gain support from all Reading communities on action to reduce flood risk from the River Thames • Seek funding through partnership funding and local grants. <p><u>Links:</u> 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>	Q2-3 2021 2025	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Partners: Reading BC, local councillors, Thames Water, Local Resilience Forum, community groups and local businesses</p>		Flood related community engagement and action plans with investment not yet delivered. Opportunity to establish a flood resilience bond or community investment plan potentially, to support keeping the gutters clear, green space available, and providing flood awareness and education.	Yes
W12: Implement sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the importance of SuDS and their practical application • Find out what post scheme monitoring is happening and recommend how this can be improved <p><u>Links:</u> Nature, Adaptation, Transport</p>	<p>Share planning information</p> <p>Monitoring, reporting and research</p>	2020 2025	Reading BC		We remain committed to prioritising sustainable urban drainage initiatives. Taking inspiration from London neighbours (Plans unveiled for UK's largest sustainable urban drainage network (susdrain.org)) we will continue to work with the Local Council and Thames Water to identify and	Yes

Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
						realise opportunities for sustainable drainage. This will also be reflected in the updated local Plan.	
W13: Investigate the use of green infrastructure to reduce slow down storm water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate measures to slow the flow of storm water, eg by planting and creating scrapes and swales. Follow up on research by Reading University and the Landwise project Transfer learning to RBC Sustainable Design and Construction (supplementary planning document). <p><u>Links:</u> Nature, Transport, Adaptation, Business</p>	<p>Scope project brief and costs</p> <p>Deliver results</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2023</p>	<p>Water theme group</p> <p>Partners: Environment Agency and University of Reading</p>		Additional work required to understand opportunities for green infrastructure to support stormwater management in Reading.	Yes
W14: Improve the resilience of the Kennet Meadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a plan for the Kennet Meadows to make it a resilient wetland Make sure the plans preserve the need for the meadows to act as flood plain 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? 	<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</p> <p>Water theme group member</p>		Initial conversations have not resulted in action. Need to reassess opportunity and reengage relevant stakeholders.	Possibly, need to reflect whether this activity should remain a priority.

Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
	<u>Links:</u> Nature, Adaptation, Energy						
W15: Improve our flood risk adaptation plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve our understanding of climate change adaptation thresholds • Investigate the latest UK climate projections to find out what extreme rainfall events we need to prepare for. • 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. • Develop our flood adaptation plans through to 2050 and beyond <u>Links:</u> 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		Work progressing on improving and updating flood risk guidance and adaptation planning. Report commissioned by RBC following January 2024 flooding will support continued progress against this action.	Yes, helpful to retain a future focus and adaptation as an area of importance for local communities.
W16: Investigate opportunities for Green roofs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop recommendations for green roofs, green walls and landscaping for new build • Explore opportunities for retrofitting homes and offices • Develop advice for home owners on the benefits of breaking up hard surfaces in driveways and gardens <u>Links:</u> 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>		Green roofs on new builds and as part of a retrofit programme have the potential to delivery more benefit for local residents through enhanced biodiversity and slowing and storing water. There are also health and well being benefits associated with green infrastructure. Work in flight to work with partnership organisations to share	TBD

Action name Written in 2020	Description	Targets, measures, milestones	Target complete date	Delivery partners	Status in 2024	Commentary (100 word max)	Carry forward for 2025-30?
						guidance and best practice via the RCAN website. Information to help establish a level of ambition and overcome barriers included here: LONDON-LIVING-ROOFS-WALLS-REPORT-2019.pdf (b-cdn.net)	
W17: Develop links to the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the limits of our emergency plans and explore what the community of Reading can do to become more resilient. Share the developing adaptation planning and vision for Reading with the LRF to inform long term strategic decisions. Share advice on being prepared for an incident including "Thames Valley: Are you ready?" booklet and advice from the Environment Agency Use resources from Business in the Community Business Resilience Group to help businesses improve resilience <p><u>Links:</u> Community, Business, Adaptation</p>	<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>		<p>Emergency plans have been tested in 2024 when the early months brought significant amounts of rain that led to extensive flooding. Adaptation planning is needed as we prepare communities to manage the experience of our changing climate. There is a need to strengthen the link between RCAN and the TV LRF, which provides helpful tools and guides to support communities, individuals, and businesses prepare for an event. 2025 will focus on sharing the work the TV LRF deliver and including a link to their resources. This may be most relevant for communities at risk of flooding.</p>	<p>No; need to reassess future relationship with TV LRF. I believe there is greater scope for more direct partnership and joint delivery of climate strategy.</p>

COMMUNICATIONS

Cross-cutting theme

THEME OVERVIEW: Communications

RCCP Co-ordinator & Interim Comms & Engagement Lead: Gudrun Freese

PROGRESS WITH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The RCCP Communications Theme has not had a dedicated volunteer Theme Lead since late 2022. Prior to this, communications actions were delivered by the volunteer Comms Theme Lead with support from the volunteer RCCP co-chair and the part-time RCCP co-ordinator.

During this period, successes included:

- a comprehensive website with an info hub that services organisations (including businesses and schools) and individuals who want to reduce their carbon footprint
- a Reading Climate Pledge for individuals
- a Reading Climate Pledge for organisations
- four annual Reading Climate Festivals (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- communications infrastructure including: Zoom; Eventbrite; Facebook; X; Instagram; website hosting; Visa Purchasing; a blog; a LinkedIn group for local businesses
- school visits, talks and stands at community events
- some promotion of community organisations and initiatives focused on climate and nature
- other.

This comms infrastructure provided a very strong foundation for RCAN's communications action plan. However it has been difficult to build a team of comms volunteers with the relevant skills to build on this foundation.

In 2024, the part-time RCCP Co-ordinator's role was temporarily expanded to take on a selection of Comms & Engagement responsibilities during 2024, specifically:

1. Curating and co-ordinating **Reading Climate Festival 2024** plus **related comms**
2. Procurement, project management and stakeholder engagement for the review and update of the Reading Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025 – 2030 (aka Reading's year of Climate Engagement), plus **related comms**
3. Structural and content updates to the **RCAN website**
4. Launch of a **newsletter**
5. Social media related to **Reading Climate Festival** and **Reading Year of Climate Engagement**
6. Plus existing co-ordination responsibilities

Successes in this reporting period included:

- **Reading Climate Festival 2024:** 34 online and in-person events provided opportunities for local climate and nature groups to showcase their campaigns, services and key messages. A highlight was a Big Lunch video post which had 10k plays by 6k unique viewers, 96% of whom were new to RCAN.

- **New RCAN newsletter**, resulting in subscriber growth from 750 (Aug 2023) to 2400 (Aug 2024) – not including de-duped Eventbrite opt-ins and stakeholder map, which will add another 500+ names to our subscriber list.
- Uptick in **social media posts** (primarily Instagram), resulting in a tripling of Instagram engagement & followers
- Mock UN Schools Conference and Youth Mobilisation Day
- Stakeholder mapping related to the strategy review, and related 1-to-1 stakeholder engagement
- Structural updates to the website homepage to foreground current campaigns and news
- Storytelling platform (“Who’s doing what about climate and biodiversity in Reading?” blog)
- Graphic design templates
- An interim Communications Strategy, based on currently available resources
- Design and launch of **new vehicles for delivering net zero**, including:
 - a Reading Community Energy Summit and working group
 - Big Lunch prototype event
 - Reading Climate Pledge for Organisations campaign concept
 - Promotion of UoR’s Climate Ambassadors for Schools Programme
 - Reading Climate Leaders’ Summit
 - Designing a Net Zero Reading core deliberative group (to deliver the Climate Emergency Strategy Review)

CHALLENGES:

- Lack of resource was a key challenge during this time. The more targeted comms & engagement work in 2024 came at the expense of **basic services** that were envisioned for the comms role: e.g. gathering and promotion of partner events, news and resources via the RCAN website and newsletter; raising awareness of the current Climate Emergency Action Plans; and management of day-today queries. It also came at the expense of setting and monitoring comms metrics.
- It has been difficult to recruit and retain comms volunteers with relevant skills and/or sufficient time to support RCCP. Volunteers also need briefing and support, which can be time-consuming. It is also challenging to manage expectations from local community groups who each have their own comms priorities and expectations of support.

A paid, full-time Comms and Engagement Lead could add a lot of value to RCCP’s work in Reading, working closely with both volunteers and with comms leads at anchor institutions, ideally within a ‘Reading Climate Communications Alliance’. It’s not likely that this strategic need and orchestrator role could be serviced by volunteers who come and go.

2. EXTERNAL TRENDS & POLICY CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

- There is a major backlash globally and locally against greenwashing (whether intentional or because of lack of data and insights), and a number of creative agencies are collaborating to introduce a new role and new standards for creative work – e.g. Futerra and Creatives for Climate. Climate comms requires thoughtful, targeted and accurate messaging.
- There is also a backlash against overly simplified or non-targeted appeals to ‘individual action’ without the added context of the relative impacts of, for example corporate behaviour, local and national government behaviour, systemic barriers, relative incomes and top-of-mind concerns. Communications campaigns that promote solar PV, heat pumps, meat-free diets, insulation, EV, grow-your-own, sharing, repairing and re-use; external campaigns, etc. are not context-free and should therefore also aim to (1) enable or inspire these changes locally, including through partnerships with local businesses and the Council, (2) inspire change through storytelling and case studies using trusted spokespeople from target communities (3) provide accurate and up-to-date information, and trusted endorsements where possible.

3. OTHER EXTERNAL CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE THEME

- RCAN comms tends to reach a set of ‘usual suspects’ and is struggling to broaden its reach without additional comms resource and co-ordinated comms partnerships.
- Even as sustainability rises to the top of more people’s list of concerns, the cost of living can sometime frustrate efforts to grow, for example uptake of solar, EV, heat pumps and insulation, even if savings can be demonstrated over the long term. Many choices we promote do offer savings even in the short-term, e.g. various circular economy actions related to repair, sharing platforms, 2nd hand, recycling, etc., as well as reducing meat in diets. The cost-of-living crisis actually builds the case for these sorts of ‘cost-saving’ climate actions, so a little bit of additional comms resource for circular economy initiatives could go a long way towards related emissions reductions and systemic change.

4. KEY ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY FOR 2025-30

All of the current themes included in the current climate action plans are calling for additional comms and engagement resource.

Comms and engagement resource is needed to:

- Develop a coherent comms and engagement strategy to service Reading’s 2025 – 2030 climate action priorities, and also to raise awareness of the strategy and engage people in it
- Convene and engage the right people to progress and deliver locally-specific climate actions
- Convene and engage people to collaborate on targeted comms campaigns for local contexts
- Raise awareness of existing solutions

- Use storytelling to inspire replicable climate actions in Reading
- Raise awareness of systemic barriers and opportunities for systemic change
- Align the 2025 - 2030 Reading Climate Festivals with the 2025 – 2030 Climate Emergency Strategy
- Support the emergence of a climate majority in Reading, across parties
- Support relevant Reading Borough Council leaders to engage with the 2025 – 2030 Climate Emergency Strategy
- Support relevant business and school organisations to engage with the 2025 – 2030 Climate Emergency Strategy
- Use AI to support an overall comms strategy
- Build a 'Reading Climate Comms Alliance' (comms leads at local organisations) to collaborate on campaigns in a co-ordinated way
- Build alliances with counterparts in other boroughs
- Prepare fundraising proposals

CROSS-CUTTING THEME: Communications & Engagement

Action name*	Description (written in 2020)	Target, measure, milestone	Target complete date	Delivery	Status	Commentary (100 words), and resource challenges (100 words)	Carry forward to 2025-30?
General							
Information hub	<p>Establish & maintain one-stop hub on website where all themes are supported with relevant, practical info for all stakeholders.</p> <p>Mixture of bespoke content (Reading-centric) and signposts to reliable sources of info e.g. WRAP, Wildlife Trust, Energy Saving Trust, Carbon Trust etc.</p> <p>Supported by comms programme (conventional and social) to drive traffic. Include info on progress: achievements, measurement etc.</p>	Content published on website	Set up by Nov 2020, continuously update thereafter.	Comms and Engagement Volunteer + Theme leads	GREEN	<p>An online info hub was created in 2022 by volunteers. It shows evidence-based individual and organisational climate action options related to diets, travel, energy use, nature, waste and recycling. Given resource constraints, traffic to this hub has been indirect, e.g. visitors who arrive via Reading Climate Festival or Year of Climate Engagement outreach, which were RCCP's key outreach projects for 2024.</p> <p>Resource: RCCP has not had a comms volunteer or staff resource to prioritise updates to the info hub, or to design and deliver targeted outreach campaigns related to the hub. Currently revisiting whether this should be a priority of RCCP and if so how to resource it and how to position RCCP – e.g. would RCCP manage a group of volunteers? Convene comms innovation challenges linked to the strategy? Simply promote the strategy itself and encourage organisations to design relevant campaigns in response to it? Raise funds for a full-time comms lead? Invest resource in growing our own comms channels?</p>	Amend – (1) update content and (2) align outreach campaigns with climate action priorities for 2025-2030
Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a dashboard with KPIs that track progress against the targets in the strategy. Publish on the RCAN website but also strategic media around the town, eg large 	Dashboard designed and created	Set up by Dec 2020 and continuously updated thereafter	RCCP Co-ordinator + Energy Theme Lead + UoR	AMBER	RCCP created a dashboard brief and convened a scoping meeting with RBC and UoR. All agreed on the desirability of this dashboard. Wokingham Council is also keen to partner. RCCP proposed a dashboard-focused Masters project to UoR. The aim of the dashboard is to help different audience segments understand the potential avoided emissions under their collective influence (agency), e.g. householders, businesses, schools, consumers,	Yes

	digital sign at the station, buses, The Oracle, Reading Borough Council venues.					<p>commuters, public authorities, etc. and measure changes and progress by various segmentations.</p> <p>This would support and guide a storytelling and campaign strategy, rather than replace it, and form an evidence base for the town's journey to net zero.</p> <p>Resource: Currently no-one 'owns' this project as an organisational deliverable. The project requires expert oversight, especially as we want to integrate Scope 3 emissions into the dashboard and develop messages around Scope 3 emissions for Reading's net zero challenge.</p>	
Brand Book and Stakeholder Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop brand guidelines, style guide and messaging matrix Confirm role of RCCP versus RCAN and relationship with other organisations within Reading 	Brand Book and stakeholder map created	By end Sept	Comms and Engagement Volunteer / RCCP Co-ordinator	GREEN	<p>We have a de facto brand (see social media outreach; Reading Climate Festival 2024 comms; and website look, feel and copy).</p> <p>Going forward we will need to update messaging re the role and responsibilities of RCCP & RCAN (especially with regard to comms & engagement), to manage expectations and also to encourage and direct offers of support.</p> <p>A strong stakeholder list emerged via our research for Reading Climate Leaders' Summit and Designing a Net Zero Reading Deliberative Group participants and comms targets – we know have a list of 300+ named contacts.</p>	Yes – update for 2025 - 2030
Campaign Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and publish a calendar of campaigns to encourage action on different issues, eg Beat the Street, Fair Trade Fortnight 	Quarterly Rolling Comms Plan devised and published	By Nov 2020	Comms and Engagement Volunteer / RCCP Co-ordinator	GREEN	RCCP campaigns for 2021 – 2024 have been delivered. 2024 outreach focused primarily on Reading Climate Festival (and component partner events) and the Year of Climate Engagement (and component activities). RCCP also partnered with RBC on a Month of Climate Awareness in 2023 and 2024. A new campaign calendar is needed for	Amend

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align with RBC campaigns and initiatives led by other organisations in the town, as well as national “days” eg Earth Day Support with social media and conventional media such as bus advertising, outdoor, The Oracle, council magazine 					<p>2025, and this should derive from comms priorities for this period. Given existing resource this likely to have a similar scope.</p> <p>Theme leads are currently identifying comms & engagement campaign needs within their theme areas for the 2025 – 2030 Climate Emergency Strategy – e.g. around energy use and retrofit; water use; food waste; habitat protection; climate literacy; etc. Local organisations across Reading will take ownership of these campaigns by adding their names as delivery partners / partnerships against these comms actions in the Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025 - 2030. RCCP can inform people of these campaigns, but it does not have the resource to design and deliver them.</p> <p>Resource: Additional resource would allow RCCP to mobilise and support targeted campaigns linked to the new climate strategy, and offer guidance around greenwashing, best practice, behaviour change, etc. They could also offer ‘innovation services’, e.g. by hosting ‘communications innovation challenges’ to mobilise responses to particular comms and engagement needs related to the strategy.</p>	
Climate Literacy Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer carbon and climate training, tailored to support the RCAN Action Plan, to all who live, work or study in Reading Begin by training all RBC staff Potential to build on the University’s MOOC 	Development of training Targets for delivery	December 2021	?	GREEN	<p>RBC budget has covered a first wave of Climate Literacy Training for RBC staff. This is ongoing and each participant designs a climate action to take into their work KPIs.</p> <p>Could it become one of the (resourced) climate action priorities for the new strategy, for Reading to become a climate-literate town? (Does a net-zero Reading require a climate-literate Reading?)</p>	Amend – not a comms action

	<p>and/or Climate Reality training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation available from the UNEP endorsed Carbon Literacy Project 					<p>Resource: Budget for this would need to come from RBC and other stakeholders, e.g. UoR, corporates, or from fundraising.</p>	
Third party events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in/support local public events eg Town Meal, Beanpole, day, Waterfest, Meadows Day, school fetes etc. 	Events calendar published and theme support agreed.	10 events per year	RCAN admin	AMBER	<p>RCAN hosted and sponsored Big Lunch and supported 30 other events during Reading Climate Festival. RCCP board members (volunteers) spoke at several third-party events, including CADRA.</p> <p>Resource: Requires portable display materials as well as volunteer help + key messaging and calls to action.</p>	Amend
Funding hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain a list of sources of outside funding that can be drawn on to support RCAN initiatives. • Offer grants to support small local initiatives that align with RCAN goals 	List published	Set up by end of 2020, continuously updated thereafter.	RCAN admin	AMBER	<p>RCCP has won funding from GWR and Tomato Energy in the past two years and is also a recipient of funding from RBC, which was ringfenced for a review and update of RCCP's Climate Emergency Strategy. RCCP is looking into National Lottery Community Fund, Co-op Community Fund and RBC's Social Value Fund. RCCP channeled some of these funds into 'mock UN' schools events and many additional events via Reading Climate Festival.</p> <p>Resource: We intend to shape a volunteer role around fundraising.</p>	Amend – not a comms action
Volunteer Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Reading Voluntary Action to establish process to recruit volunteers to support delivery of RCAN activities 	Relationship built and process established	December 2020	RCAN, RVA	AMBER	<p>This will likely be a priority moving forward. We have posted a few volunteer roles on RVA, and have had some approaches via the website, but have not found suitable candidates – i.e. relevant comms skills and ability to work independently.</p> <p>Resource: The RCCP Co-ordinator role would need to be expanded to make time for recruitment and management.</p>	Amend – not a comms actions
Research Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a research programme to support 	Programme developed and approach defined	April 2021	RCAN, University of Reading	AMBER	<p>It will likely emerge as a climate action priority for the new strategy to align UoR research with the town's climate action priorities. We will need a</p>	No - not an RCCP comms action

	<p>the actions in the strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the University of Reading to develop a structured approach to matching research needs with students seeking research projects. 					<p>champion at the UoR to oversee this. UoR is currently leading on this.</p>	
Climate Action Pledge for Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a pledge that residents can sign to commit to taking action on climate change across a relevant range of impacts • Possible “eco-journey” starting with simple things and becoming more advanced 	Pledge defined and published	November 2020	RCAN	GREEN	<p>Pledge was created for individuals in 2022 and published on RCAN homepage. It is a feature of most RCCP outreach campaigns.</p> <p>A dedicated pledge outreach campaign is now needed.</p> <p>We may need to update the pledge to align with the 2025 – 2030 strategy.</p> <p>Resource: To optimise reach, the pledge campaign would need the buy-in and participation (and possibly joint branding) of a comms alliance (i.e. comms leads at all delivery partner organisations). The campaign would need orchestration.</p>	Amend as ongoing campaign
Business focus							
Reading Climate Pledge for Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define a set of commitments for organisations to sign up to in order to gain “Climate Friendly” status 	Pledge defined and published	November 2020	RCAN lead	AMBER	<p>This pledge was developed and published on the RCAN website in 2023. Stage 2 was kicked off in 2024, when RCCP launched a pledge campaign concept during Reading Climate Festival 2024, in partnership with Connect Reading, REDA and Ethical Reading. This will be developed further during late 2024 and 2025. Local organisations will be invited to sign up to the pledge to support Reading’s journey to net zero and they will receive guidance and practical support to work towards making their own organisations net zero. Our goal is to create a visual dashboard showing a growing</p>	Yes

						number of local businesses committed to supporting Reading's journey to net zero. Resource: RCCP orchestration + co-ordination with Connect Reading. REDA and Ethical Reading.	
Climate-Aware Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed climate change into the workstreams of the LEP, IOD, Chamber of Commerce and other local business networks • Work with leaders of those organisations to convince them of the strategic importance of climate change for their own organisations and their membership 	All nominated organisations have climate change as part of their mission	Summer 2021	RBC lead	GREEN	<p>During 2024 a targeted list of 90 senior local leaders across all major sectors has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - invited to the Reading Climate Leaders' Summit hosted by RCCP, to invite them into the ambition to become a net zero town by 2030 - invited to participate in the core deliberative group 'Designing a net Zero Reading' - the stakeholder participation process for co-creating Reading's Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025 – 2030 - invited to comment on emergent climate action priorities via two surveys - invited to become delivery partners for specific climate action priorities in the Reading Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025 - 2030 	Yes
Lobbying for better business practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify barriers preventing use of sanctions to address "carbon crimes", eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leaving lights on all night in office buildings ○ Having doors of restaurants/retail units open ○ Incorporate the GHG Protocol (Scope 1, 2 & 3) ? • Lobby central government for the policy changes 	Issues identified and lobbying programme launched	Spring 2021	RCAN lead	RED	<p>Integrate into current strategy review and identify suitable delivery partner.</p> <p>Resource needed</p>	Yes – but not a comms priority

Reading Business Climate Action Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish business network for sharing of expertise and knowledge on sustainable business Hold regular events Publish business-centric advice and guidance and signpost tools and models from reputable sources on the RCAN website Encourage all Reading Businesses to nominate an employee who is their representative and can help to engage the company 	<p>Network already launched.</p> <p>Events programme published</p> <p>Information hub launched</p>	<p>November 2020</p> <p>November 2020</p>	RCAN lead Ethical Reading Sustainability Champions	AMBER	Established but lacks momentum. This will be linked to the revived Pledge campaigns for organisations (see above).	Yes – merge with similar goals
Sustainable Business Accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the suitability of BCorp and BITC frameworks and other accreditations Ideally have a free-to-use dashboard system Introduce an accreditation scheme for businesses that recognises achievement at different levels, eg bronze, silver, gold, to create a race to the top 	Research completed and proposal published	Summer 2021	RCAN lead	RED	<p>No progress – this could be integrated into the Pledge Campaign for Organisations.</p> <p>May require funding</p>	Amend – not a comms priority
Divestment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divestment from fossil fuels is an important signal of intent as well as a way to divert capital investment from carbon-based to 	Campaign launched	November 2021	RCAN lead	RED	No progress – this can be merged into pledge campaign targeting local organisations	

	cleantech/Greentech innovation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run a campaign encouraging all institutional investors in Reading to divest 						
Business volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create opportunities for staff to support delivery of actions from the strategy via Team Challenge 	6 business actions a year	First actions Q1 2021	RCAN lead Connect Reading/RBC /NTF/Econet/TCV,	RED	No progress – this can be merged into the pledge campaign got organisations (see above)	
Community focus							
Working with other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish links with other groups working on the sustainability agenda across Reading and showcase their work through the RCAN website Enable sharing of events, expertise, knowledge and resources by other groups 	Partner hub set up with ability for representatives to contribute content	Partner hub set up by end 2020	Comms and Engagement team	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCAN hosted and sponsored a ‘by invitation only’ ‘Shaping a Future for Community Energy in Reading’ event during Reading Climate Festival 2024. As a result the group proposed to set up a local energy transition hub and a number of workstreams have been set up. Circular economy initiatives have been promoted on the RCAN website and socials. A newsletter has been set up and local groups have been invited to submit their news and events. <p>Comms resource is needed to liaise with local groups so that we can promote their news.</p>	Amend
Community focused work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 2 geographical areas in Reading (up to 10 streets)– and support the residents in these streets to lead more climate-friendly lives. Develop 	2 areas per year 6 groups per year	First area identified by Q2 2021 First group identified by Q1 2021	RCAN admin	RED	<p>No progress. This could be submitted as a proposed climate action priority for the new strategy and delivery partners identified via that process.</p> <p>There is no resource for this at RCCP</p>	Amend

	<p>competition (eg 'green streets initiative')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 						
Education focus							
Schools-based interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the Education team and Better Futures for Children, to establish a programme of climate change interventions for schools. To cover physical changes (i.e install solar panels, heat pumps etc) and support with lessons/curriculum / local community engagement (use Eco Schools framework?) Draw on established tools and programmes where possible 	Programme launched	September 2021	RCAN admin Brighter Futures for Children, RBC Sustainability team, Helen Roberts team	GREEN	Schools section on website has been set up. The UoR launched their Climate Ambassadors for Schools scheme during Reading Climate Festival. A proposed energy transition hub (see above) will support schools to reduce emissions via solar, heat pumps and energy efficiency. https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/ https://www.greenschoolsproject.org.uk/ https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/green-ambassadors https://www.youngclimatewarriors.org/	Amend
Reading Schools Climate Action Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish teacher network for sharing of expertise and knowledge on sustainable schools (for primary and secondary) 	Network launched. Events programme published	September 2021	Brighter Futures for Children RCAN, Alfred Sutton primary?	RED	Discontinued due to lack of resources	Amend – this is a BFFC action

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regular events • Publish school-centric advice and guidance and signpost tools and models from reputable sources • Link to home schooling networks 	Information hub launched					
Model Climate Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the model climate conference to include all schools in Reading • Bring the outputs back to the RCAN website • Legacy - Supporting the schools to make the changes they committed to on the day, through the RSCAN 	50% increase in schools participating in the Model Climate Conference	November 2021	Just ideas	GREEN	<p>RCCP supported Reading Schools Climate Conferences in 2022 and 2023 and will support one in 2024. We made personal contact with non-participating schools to encourage attendance. We also supported a Youth Mobilisation Day during Reading Climate Festival as part of the wider climate strategy review, to elicit youth visions of a net zero Reading, and promoted a Big Letter to schools.</p> <p>Subject to funding – we have received a donation from GWR and have applied to Tomato Energy</p>	Yes
Young Persons Climate Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the potential to set up a Young Persons activist Network – for young people to meet up with like-minded individuals to develop ideas and support regular meetings, Instagram account? • Are there any programmes that we could already fit in with? Eg: Youth Council, schools strikes for climate, https://www.foeeurope.org/yfoee 	Research appetite and develop proposal if appropriate	June 2021	RCAN admin		<p>A UoR student and Reading Youth Council were invited to host and design a Youth Mobilisation Day during Reading Climate Festival, which received financial and other support from RCCP and RBC. Both were also invited into the core deliberative group for Designing a Net Zero Reading.</p> <p>Must be youth led and with proper safeguarding</p>	

