
CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

One Planet Update

Members will recall that much of our work in respect of One Planet Cardiff was reported to Cabinet on [15 December 2022](#) as part of the annual review. We are making good progress with a 13% reduction in Council carbon emissions compared to our base year (2019/20), including an 18% reduction in relation to our buildings – our largest area of emissions. Across the city a whole, based on the latest UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) data, there has been a 13% reduction in carbon emissions. Our Action Plan has been updated to reflect activity that is taking place across the Council, including:

- Major Council flats retrofit programme is progressing
- 10 electric waste vehicles are now in operation
- The 9 MW Lamby Way Solar Farm is complete and generating electricity
- Cardiff Heat Network is under construction
- Cycle priority and traffic calming strategy is well advanced
- Electric bus fleet is operational with funding obtained for additional vehicles
- Almost 70 public EV charging points across the city will be in place by spring 2023
- The new Procurement Strategy sets out our intention to make carbon and circular economy central themes in the future
- Edible playgrounds and 40 school kitchen improvements

However, several challenges were identified in the report, including:

- Reducing emissions from our buildings much further, especially tackling heating;
- Reducing Council business and commuting travel – our second highest area of emissions;
- Expanding retrofit of Cardiff homes; and
- Supporting residents, businesses and visitors to move to low carbon transport options.

More generally, the report found that levels of funding from government would be key to meeting ambitious targets.

The One Planet Cardiff Strategy provides us with a strong focus for the next steps of our journey toward a zero-carbon council and city. Our next steps include:

- Exploring further options for both renewable energy generation on buildings and standalone schemes;

- Supporting innovation through local heathy food pilots;
- Developing 'carbon profiles' within procurement operations; and
- Further initiatives to support transition to low carbon mobility across the council and city.

Central to our combined efforts will be how the wider public are encouraged to change their behaviours, with a particular need for behaviour change in areas such as transport, energy use and consumer behaviour. We are working closely with the Welsh Government and various organisations to ensure Cardiff citizens are at the forefront of this change. To strengthen this 'Team Cardiff' approach, planning has also started for a One Planet Cardiff Summit event for business and community groups to be held in spring 2023.

Flood Prevention

On 11-12 January 2023, rainfall was particularly heavy and persistent, with Cardiff experiencing its third wettest January day on record, with 41.2mm of rain falling in just 24 hours. In addition, only twelve days into the month and the amount of rainfall in January (129mm) had already exceeded the monthly average (127mm). The three major rivers that flow through Cardiff were at or even over capacity. Whilst these main rivers are the responsibility of Natural Resources Wales, the Council's Flood Risk Team and frontline operational staff from our Highways and Cleansing Teams worked around the clock to provide assistance to those properties affected by the very high river levels. The teams also managed the water levels of the watercourses throughout the city through the remote monitoring and reactive clearance of debris at key locations. They also cleared surface water ponding on the highways.

Community Recycling

Over the Christmas period, the Community Engagement Team undertook several activities, including five 'WEEE wish you a Merry Christmas' events that were held for recycling small electrical items, which resulted in 500kg of items being collected for recycling. The Christmas tree and small electrical items drop-off zone that was staged on 7-8 January 2023 was also a great success. It was attended by over 100 residents and resulted in 400kg of electricals/batteries and 1.8 tonnes of Christmas trees being recycled.

The number of Community Recycling Zones at participating Hubs in the city is expanding and growing in success, with 3 tonnes of 'hard to recycle' items now being collected. These include small electrical items, batteries, Tetra Pak, books, CDs, DVDs and printer cartridges. The Community Recycling Zones make it easier for residents to access recycling facilities within their local community and will be rolled out further across the city. Currently, we have 8 Community Recycling Zones located at Canton Library; Dusty Forge; Grangetown Hub; Llandaff North/Gabalfa Hub; Llanishen Hub (batteries and Tetra Pak only); Powerhouse Hub; St Mellons Hub and Whitchurch Hub.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Climate Change
20 January 2023