
CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

Innovate UK Funding

I am pleased to report that the Council has been awarded £300,000 by Innovate UK to support Cardiff's journey towards becoming carbon neutral. The funding will increase staff capacity to help ensure that low-carbon thinking is built into the day-to-day behaviour of Council employees and the wider public sector, as well as the Council's decision-making, and investment strategies.

Race to Zero Workshop

Last month, the Council was pleased to host a Race to Zero workshop with Welsh Government and a number of partners, working together on how various public and private sector partners can speed up the progress to a zero emissions economy. Workshop attendees included Cardiff Capital Region, the Future Generations Commissioner's Office, Natural Resources Wales, the Welsh Local Government Association, Transport for Wales and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. Race to Zero is a UN-backed global initiative rallying businesses, cities, regions and investors to take immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change. Cardiff Capital Region covering the 10 member authorities is in the process of joining Race To Zero with the aim of leading accelerated regional efforts to tackle climate change.

Coastal Protection Scheme

Following a comprehensive tendering process, Knight Brown have been appointed as the principal contractor for the scheme and JBA as the principal designer. The on-site construction phase is programmed to commence during October 2023 and will continue for a period of approximately three years. Aerial Photography Wales have been appointed as official photographers to create a visual timeline throughout the project to its completion.

Greener Whitchurch

The project design of the Whitchurch Flood Alleviation Scheme is well underway and is continuing to be developed. The first stakeholder meetings have taken place with positive feedback and a project website has also been created <https://greenerwhitchurch.virtual-engage.com/>. A tender process to undertake ground investigations is being developed to enable the progression into detailed design stages.

'Take Away' van update

As part of the Recycling Strategy commitment to increase opportunities for residents and communities to recycle, the recycling engagement team have trialled a 'Take Away' van over the summer. The van was located in three different locations, one Saturday per month, and accepted items such as small electricals, textiles, batteries, scrap metal and books/CDs/DVDs. The events were successful, with over 100 residents visiting and the team recovering 1.3 tonnes of items for recycling.

Recycling Performance

Cardiff's recycling rate in Quarter 1 of 2023/24 is estimated at 63.42% (this remains unvalidated). This is an encouraging step in the right direction. We are confident that we will see continued performance increases, with the implementation of the commitments outlined in the Recycling Strategy.

Trade Waste & Recycling Update

The recycling performance of our trade waste service continues to improve, with the service moving towards the Workplace Recycling Regulations ahead of the April 2024 implementation date. The team has invested in further digital improvements, for example on-board vehicle weighing, which identifies customers producing excessive levels of residual (non-recyclable) waste. When identified, officers are using the data to engage with the businesses to provide education and advice about how to reduce their non-recyclable waste and target recyclable material, particularly food. Schools and council buildings all have a part to play in improving recycling performance in this area. The team will be working across all buildings to make recycling improvements and we will be asking all staff to engage with this process.

Love Your Parks

The Love Where You Live team held six 'Love Your Parks' roadshows over the summer. The team visited parks across the city to encourage children and community members to litter pick and take seeds home to grow in a pot of Cardiff's own soil improver (generated by garden waste collected from Cardiff homes). The team spoke with over 100 residents of all ages, collecting 40 bags of litter during the events.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Climate Change
21 September 2023