



Ribble Valley  
Borough Council

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# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN



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# DRAFT Ribble Valley Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan 2024/2025

## Executive Summary

In September 2021, Ribble Valley Borough Councils [Climate Change Strategy 2021-2030](#) was adopted by Policy and Finance Committee. The associated action plan was always intended as a live document that would be regularly reviewed and updated.

This draft Climate Change Action Plan for 2024/2025 sets out a framework for collective action on climate change and aligns with the terms of reference established by the Economic Development Committee. The plan aims to be a major step in achieving the Council's aspiration of being a carbon neutral Council by 2030.

Stage 1 of the plan focusses on Council emissions and working towards meeting this target. Stage 2 will run into future years and see the Council engaging with businesses and the wider community to reduce carbon emissions across the whole of the borough.

This plan aims to accelerate carbon emission reductions through a deliverable set of actions across four themes:

- Stage 1 Focusing on Council Emissions
  - Theme 1 – Understanding Our Emissions
  - Theme 2 – Minimising the Council's Emissions
- Preparing for Stage 2
  - Theme 3 – Minimising carbon reduction through Business /Partnerships
  - Theme 4 – Mobilising the Community

The actions in the plan will be subject to the relevant committees approval. The role of the working group is advisory and the ultimate decision making on financial investment and impact on service delivery will lie with the committee.

The Action Plan framework seeks to respond ambitiously to climate change whilst ensuring that services delivered by the Council are not adversely affected. As such, this plan is intended to be a living document that will need to evolve as we broaden our engagement, learn from early implementation, and improve our evidence on how to reduce emissions most effectively in partnership with everyone in Ribble Valley. The plan must also adapt to ensure it is affordable if the financial situation of the Council should change.

## Finance and funding

The full overall costs of achieving a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030 cannot be calculated at this time. Further information and feasibility studies on the costs associated with specific actions / projects will need to be developed over the strategy lifecycle. Plans for investment and funding will need to be approved by the relevant committee.

Additional external funding and externally funded resources are likely to be required to achieve our ambitions.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

The Climate Change Working Group will continually monitor and evaluate the progress of this action plan against the intended outcomes, and review and refine it based on lessons learnt.

## Progress Reporting

Performance monitoring on the action plan will take place each year to track progress against agreed actions and performance. An annual progress report will be presented to Economic Development Committee.

## Emissions Data

Ribble Valley Borough Council will calculate and report publicly on our organisational emissions each year using data collected from One Carbon World Annual Reports.

## About Ribble Valley

*54% of survey respondents say they are very concerned about climate change*

*46% of survey respondents say they are already doing something and want to do more to help reduce carbon emissions*

*37% of survey respondents would like to change to renewable energy sources*

*33% of survey respondents drive an electric or hybrid vehicle*

*52% of survey respondents would like to improve the energy efficiency of their home e.g. insulation*

# Our Climate Change Action Plan 2024/2025

## Stage 1 Focusing on Council Emissions

<b>Theme 1 – Understanding Our Emissions</b>						
<b>Objective / Goals</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Owner / lead officer</b>	<b>Project cost or funding in place</b>	<b>Progress review</b>	<b>Target / Milestone</b>	<b>CO<sub>2</sub> Impact / Carbon Saving potential (High, Medium, Low)</b>
Understanding Council Emissions	Undertake Annual One Carbon World (OCW) Assessment	JH	February 2021 – OCW 50% grant funding awarded.	Awaiting 2023/24 Request for Information (RFI) from OCW	Complete and return 2023/24 RFI to OCW after financial year end when data is available	Low
Performance framework	Establish a performance and targeting framework to demonstrate tangible reductions in Carbon Emissions.	AA	Officer time		Pre April 2025	Low
Governance	Consideration of a Council declaration on climate change impact	AA/JH	Officer time	For discussion by Climate Change Working Group (14/03/24)	April 2024	Low
Engagement and Policy Change	Lobby Government for external funding and support	AA/JH	Councillor and officer time		Pre April 2025	Medium
Sharing progress with all Councillors / staff	Annual Report to Economic Development Committee detailing reductions in emissions and proposed actions for the coming year	AA/JH	Officer time – Use 2023/24 OCW Annual report and Climate Change Action Plan to monitor and report RVBC’s corporate emissions performance each year		Economic development Committee April 2024	Low

Training and awareness raising	Engage and keep staff informed - promote good housekeeping	AA/JH/TS /HB/AG / Backchat	Officer time		Pre April 2025	Medium  Can achieve 5-15% savings per person – 1 tonne per person (RVBC staff and members) per annum
Establish best practice across Lancashire	Work with other Lancashire local authorities that demonstrate best practice in tackling climate change.  Work with Ribble Valley Town and Parish Councils to enable collective action on climate change	JH	Officer time		Pre April 2025	Medium
Understanding Lancashire wide emissions	Engage Lancashire County Council (LCC) in sharing their Lancashire Wide Data and whole borough data.	JH	Officer time - JH attends LCC Climate Change Officers Group		Complete	Low
Lancashire County Council, Climate funding and best practice	Work in partnership with LCC to install EV charging points at domestic premises through LEVI Funding	JH	Officer time - JH attends LCC Districts EV Working Group (LEVI Funding)		Assessment complete by Autumn. Installation 2025	High
Revise procurement requirements to ensure environmental impact is part of social value	Review the Procurement Policy to influence behaviours and activities of new and existing suppliers to reduce their CO2 emissions via the Council's procurement and commissioning activity	LO	Officer time – part of the Procurement Policy review		December 2024	Low
Embed cost saving environmental practices with staff and Councillors	Launch a “Good Housekeeping” initiative for staff and Councillors to reduce energy and waste	AA/ JH/ TS / HB /AG	Officer time - minimum cost (Comms / Good housekeeping campaigns e.g. design and print posters)		June 2024	High

	Continue to reduce paper consumption / newspapers / improve use of IT	All staff	Officer time - minimum cost (Comms / Good housekeeping campaign)		Pre April 2025	High
Eliminate single-use plastics at Council venues, events on Council land and festivals	Encourage Single Use Plastics minimisation by staff and at events and festivals held across the borough e.g. Food Festival	AA/ JH/ TS	Officer time - minimum cost (Comms / Good housekeeping campaign)		Staff – June 2024 Events - 2025	Low

## Theme 2 – Minimising the Council’s Emissions

Objective / Goals	Actions	Owner / lead officer	Project cost or funding in place	Progress review	Target / Milestone	CO <sub>2</sub> Impact / Carbon Saving potential (High, Medium, Low)
Reduce emissions from our Council Office building and other Council owned buildings	Install Solar panels on Council Offices	WR	Project design in development. Scheme agreed in principle by Policy and Finance Committee in March 2023. 2024/25 £95K (based on quotes) to be funded from Invest to Save Earmarked Reserve agreed February 2024	Once funding approved – expected installation during summer 2024 and completion by end of September 2024	End of September 2024	High  Savings will be identified and quantified as part of the project feasibility process
	Ensure all lighting in Council Offices is Low Energy LED	WR	Council Offices LED Lighting upgrade.	Upgrade nearing completion March 2024	April 2024	High  Savings identified and quantified as part of the project feasibility process
	Mains upgrade in Council Offices	WR	Council Offices mains upgrade. Budget moved to 2024/25 £90K	2024/25 due to the complexity of programming 'power-down' time to all the	November 2024	High

				offices, particularly the IT office		
Reduce emissions from Ribblesdale Swimming Pool	Significantly reduce energy consumption at the Pool as part of any refurbishment/redesign	MB	Ribblesdale Pool Feasibility Study – Capital Programme 2023/24 £32,610 approved for feasibility study.  Proposal due March 24	Review when feasibility study has been received.	Post April 2025	High  Savings will be identified and quantified as part of the project feasibility process
	Electric pool cover	MB	£25K Sport England Funding		July 2024	High
	Update Control system at the Pool to reduce gas consumption	MB		Completed	Completed	Completed
Reduce emissions from refuse vehicle fleet/operations	Replacement of diesel vehicles – Evaluate / review the use of Electric or Hydrogen refuse vehicles.	WR	See Capital Programme for year 2023/24 to 2027/28 for diesel vehicle replacement.  No additional funding agreed for increased cost of e-vehicles or recharging infrastructure.	Diesel fleet vehicles includes 12 x refuse collection vehicles, 2 x car park enforcement vans, 3 x general vans, 1 x Ford Pickup, 1 x Iveco Tail Lift, 3 x Ford Transit vans, 2 x Ford Rangers, 3 x Flat-Back Wagons, 1 x Tractor, 1 x JCB, 6 x mowing machines. All but the 2 dog warden vans run on diesel.	2 x dog warden vans are now electric  Other vehicles post April 2025	High

	Replacement of petrol powered hand tools and blowers with battery powered units.	MB / WR	Approved Five-year Capital programme - Replacement of petrol powered hand tools and blowers with battery powered units - £56K (2027/28)		Replacement programme – could be brought forward	Medium
Reduce emissions through delivery of our services in the community	Promote and or support the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points on Council owned car parks	NH/AA/WR	£50K UKSPF Funding for installation of EV charging points on 4 Council owned car parks agreed by P&F Committee (September 23)	Year 1 (2022/23) UKSPF - EV charging points in villages feasibility study- complete	July 2024	High
Encourage uptake of low emission vehicles	e-bike charging				On going	A fully electric car could save 2 tonnes of CO2 per year.
Invest in tree planting and woodland management	Identify Council and private land for tree planting - develop a tree planting scheme that engages the community and local land owners –	DH/AS/ AA/ JH/ RS/ MB / partners	Funded via external funding		Planting season November 2024 to March 2025	Medium
	Use offsetting practices e.g. tree planting as an educational opportunity for local residents and schools about the issues we face and the available solutions		Work with partners  Funded via external funding		Planting season November 2024 to March 2025	Medium
Examine areas for re-wilding schemes	Re-wilding schemes (biodiversity restoration)	MB / RS	No cost / minimum cost if seed plugs are required	Re-wilding completed at two sites Edisford and Clitheroe Castle	On going	Low
Promote sustainable travel	Bike and e-bike salary sacrifice scheme  Council e-pooled cars	HR Team	Feasibility study required for any schemes identified  Year 2 (2023/24) UKSPF Funding allocation		Assessment by August 2024	Low

			Cycle Routes - Five circular self-guided cycle routes £2K			
Change the Electricity contract if financially viable to all renewable in 2027 or earlier if possible	Electricity contract is 47% renewable at the moment	LO / Finance Procurement teams	Officer time - unknown cost to renewing the contract		Pre 2027 if possible	High  OCW report – CO2 reduction from electricity
Public convenience refurbishment	Installation of waterless urinals resulting in lower water consumption	WR	See Capital Programme for year 2023/24 to 2027/28		Commenced and on going	Low

## Preparing for Stage 2

<b>Theme 3 – Minimising carbon reduction through Business / Partnerships</b>						
<b>Objective / Goals</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Owner / lead officer</b>	<b>Project cost or funding in place</b>	<b>Progress review</b>	<b>Target / Milestone</b>	<b>CO<sub>2</sub> Impact / Carbon Saving potential (High, Medium, Low)</b>
To engage partners that can help make a tangible difference	Identify key partners and develop a business and partnership engagement plan.	Working Group	Investment Programmes / grant funding		Pre April 2025	High
	Chamber Low Carbon (East Lancs Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with N&W Lancs Chamber of Commerce and BOOST)	NH	UK Government supported programmes – providing fully funded services		Commenced and ongoing	Medium
Understanding our biggest emitters and actions planned	Continue engagement with Heidelberg Materials Cement and support projects to reduce their carbon emissions by lobbying government to attract funding	CCWG / Hanson Cement Liaison Committee / AD	Officer time (RH-Democratic Services & Complaints Officer - Hanson Cement Liaison Committee Meeting administration / notes taker)		On going	High
Publicise and share information on available grants to make homes more energy-efficient	Press releases / e-newsletters / Council website updates on grants for heating system upgrades, insulation, and household carbon emission reduction.	TS	For example, ECO4 scheme April 22 to March 26 (qualifying benefits required) include Affordable Warmth Scheme  Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) programme		On going	Medium
	Ensure Grant Schemes factor in Carbon reduction benefits	NH/MB			Grant cycle 2024/2025	Medium
Encourage energy efficiency standards and	Promote available grants to private landlords to improve eco-standards and reduce domestic emissions	RP / RS			On going	High

improvements and reduce fuel poverty	Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to upgrade social homes and public buildings.	NH / RP	Government funding (£1.8 billion collectively – allocated regionally).		On release of next grant schemes	High  Government initiatives to reduce overall UK energy demand by 15% by 2030.
Ensure Planning and Building Control supports carbon reduction and growth.	Ensure full compliance with The Future Homes Standard (FHS): changes to Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for new homes built from 2025.	LH	2024 – FHS Implementation consultation. 2025 – FHS regulations come into effect		Post April 2025	High  New homes built from 2025 will produce 75-80% less carbon emissions than homes built under the current Building Regulations.
	Ensure that Carbon reduction is considered in the new Local Plan and supports the local economy.	RP	Officer time		Post April 2025	High  Look to align the Local plan with the Climate Change Action plan
	Examine the possible use of additional Supplementary Planning Guidance to enhance carbon reduction in all new developments.	NH	Officer time		Post Local Plan publication	High

## Theme 4 – Mobilising the Community

Objective / Goals	Actions	Owner / lead officer	Project cost or funding in place	Progress review	Target / Milestone	CO <sub>2</sub> Impact / Carbon Saving potential (High, Medium, Low)
Campaign to promote reduce, reuse and recycle messages	Newsletters, social media campaigns - Recycling Week / Garden waste service /	TS	Officer time - minimum cost (Comms / Good housekeeping campaigns - design and print)		Commenced and on going	Medium  A tonne of waste sent to landfill emits 466kg CO <sub>2</sub> e

	Contamination campaign (graphics) / recycle it right					A tonne of waste recycled or combusted emits 21kg CO2e
Implement food waste collection	Preparation for implementing separate food waste collection in April 2026	AA/WR	Officer time		Pre April 2026	High
Increase recycling	Packaging producers - waste packaging recycling responsibilities (to be introduced in 2026)	AA/WR	Officer time		Pre October 2025	High
Support community initiatives - empower homeowners, tenants, and landlords to use energy from low and zero carbon sources	Community wide low carbon heating systems High Temperature Ground Source heat pumps (GSHP) / Air Source Heat Pump network (ASHP) / community hydro scheme to enable residents, organisations, and local communities to install and use renewable energy technologies.	CCWG/AA/JH	Funded by external innovative funding and support	Examples: Chipping Community Energy and Whalley Community Hydro (constructed in 2014 – total cost £750k)	On going	Medium
	Lobby Government to provide funding for the decarbonisation and expansion of local low carbon heat networks, enabling a transition from natural gas to low carbon (electrified) heat sources	CCWG/AA/JH	Officer time		On going	Medium
Identify private land for potential community growing initiatives	Community orchards / work with local ecology and flood groups / enable community groups to manage	AA/ WR/ DH/ AS /RS	Identify land and external funding		Planting season November 2024 to March 2025 and beyond	Medium

	greenspace to aid and maximise carbon capture					
Lobby LCC to actively seek opportunities to creatively engage young people in climate change activities	<p>Work to ensure young people are engaged in solutions.</p> <p>Raise aspirations and skills of young people</p> <p>Work with local schools, sixth forms, and other education bodies to increase understanding and involvement in climate change solutions</p>	SA/AA/JH	Officer time – working with LCC		September 2024	Medium

## Action Plan administration

### Action Plan ownership and governance

<b>Committee</b>	Economic Development Committee
	The actions in the plan will be subject to the relevant committees approval. The role of the Climate Change Working Group is advisory and the ultimate decision making on financial investment and impact on service delivery will lie with the committee

This Action Plan is maintained and published on behalf of Ribble Valley Borough Council. A copy of this document will be published on the Council website and will be reviewed and updated as stated below.

### Version control and review date

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reason for Publication</b>	<b>Approved by Committee / Date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
V1.0	September 2021	Development of the RVBC Climate Change Strategy 2021 - 2030	Policy & Finance Committee / September 2021	Annually
V1.1	November 2023	Review and update of the Climate Change Action Plan by the Climate Change Working Group	Economic Development Committee / April 2024	This action plan will be reviewed, as a minimum, on an annual basis