

# **Ribble Valley Borough Council**

## **2025/2026 Climate Change Action Plan**

**Aspiring to be a  
Carbon Neutral  
Council by 2030**

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# Ribble Valley Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan 2025/2026

## Executive Summary

This Climate Emergency Action Plan for Ribble Valley sets out a framework for collective action on climate change to achieve the ambitious target of aspiring to be a carbon neutral council by 2030.

In doing so, it seeks to harness the significant benefits of climate action to the health and wellbeing of our communities, economy, and natural environment. The Plan aims to accelerate carbon emission reductions and associated improvements in air quality across the borough, through a comprehensive set of actions across four themes:

- Theme 1 - Understanding Our Emissions
- Theme 2 - Minimising the Council's Emissions
- Theme 3 - Minimising carbon reduction through business / partnerships
- Theme 4 - Mobilising the Community

The themes and the proposed actions within them have been prioritised based on available evidence found in the 2024/25 climate change action plan monitoring update and sources of carbon emissions in Ribble Valley. We want our actions to reflect the views we have gathered from our engagement to date with residents, community representatives, organisations, and other stakeholders.

The Action Plan framework we have set out seeks to respond ambitiously to the climate emergency in a manner that is inclusive, holistic, credible, innovative and which supports economic growth. This is just the start, and we don't have all the solutions yet. As such, the action plan is intended to be a living document that will need to evolve rapidly as we broaden our engagement, learn from early implementation, and improve our evidence on how to reduce emissions most effectively in partnership with stakeholders across the borough.

## 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 and plans for investment and funding will need to be approved by relevant committees.

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.

# Our action plan achievements in 2024/25 ...

<p>14 electric vehicle charging points installed on five RVBC car parks</p> 	<p>RVBC CO2e emissions from Council operations reduced by 9.2% in year</p> 	<p>Our Annual 2024 Local Air Quality (LAQ) Status Report fulfils the requirements of DEFRA's LAQ Management Process</p> 	<p>Solar Panels installed on the Council Offices at Church Walk</p> 
<p>Two Miyawaki micro-forests planted at Longridge and Edisford</p> 	<p>20 Redwood Trees planted On Council and private land across the borough</p> 	<p>Rewilding / biodiversity restoration schemes completed at Edisford riverbank and Clitheroe Castle</p> <h1>REWILDING</h1>	<p>Minimised the use of single-use plastics at the Food Festival by offering free cups</p> 
<p>Comms campaigns for events via social media, leaflets, and Ribble Valley news encourage more recycling, generating less waste and contamination</p> 	<p>Carbon Literacy training for Members and Environmental Awareness training completed by staff on the ME Learning Portal</p> 	<p>Continued engagement and information sharing with Heidelberg Cement and our Parish Councils</p> 	<p>Became a member of Lancashire Climate Action Network</p> 

# Introduction

This Climate Action Plan sets out the scale of the carbon neutrality 2030 challenge for Ribble Valley and proposes a framework for collective action to deliver this, structured around the following:

 <p><b>Challenges and opportunities</b></p>	 <p><b>Commitment and collaboration</b></p>	 <p><b>Accelerating delivery</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Climate impacts and the co-benefits of climate action</li><li>➤ Ribble Valley Councils emissions baseline</li><li>➤ Aspiring to be carbon neutral by 2030</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ A carbon neutral vision for Ribble Valley Council</li><li>➤ Commitments and guiding principles</li><li>➤ Enabling climate action</li><li>➤ Ongoing engagement and collaboration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Evidence-driven approach</li><li>➤ Priority emissions, goals and actions</li><li>➤ Finance and funding developed over the lifecycle of the action plan</li><li>➤ Monitoring and evaluation</li></ul>

## Climate targets and policies

It is important to note how climate targets and policies fit in with national and global emissions. The Paris Agreement aims to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius – and preferably below 1.5C – compared to pre-industrial levels. Under this agreement countries are required to submit nationally determined contributions (NDCs) setting out ambitious targets and plans to reduce emissions in line with the aims of the agreement.

The UK's 2035 NDC target, announced by the Prime Minister at COP29 in November 2024, is to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions by at least 81% on 1990 levels. NDCs covering the period 2031 to 2035 will be announced in November 2025 at COP30 in Brazil. The UK Government will produce an updated cross-economy plan in due course, outlining the policies needed to deliver carbon budgets and the 2030 and 2035 NDCs on the pathway to net zero by 2050.

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe.

In 2021, the Council addressed critical human rights issues, and adopted significant resolutions, recognising the right to be a clean healthy and sustainable environment amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

<p><b>Paris Climate Agreement (2015)</b></p> <p>International treaty to limit global warming to well below</p> <p><b>2 degrees</b></p> <p>and preferably to</p> <p><b>1.5 degrees</b></p> <p>Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.</p>	<p><b>UK Climate Change Act (amended 2019)</b></p> <p>Sets legal targets for the UK to achieve</p> <p><b>net zero emissions by 2050</b></p>	<p><b>United Nations Human Rights Council (2021)</b></p> <p><b>In 2021</b></p> <p>the United Nations Human Rights Council recognises, for the first time, that having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a</p> <p><b>human right</b></p>
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## The impacts of climate change

Climate change impacts will be felt both globally and locally and will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable members of our community.

Rising global temperatures will lead to:



Rising sea levels and increased local flood risk



More extreme local weather events including storms and flash flooding, causing damage to buildings and infrastructure



Increased risks to health and wellbeing  
(extreme heat, worsening local air pollution, introduction of new pests and diseases)



More frequent and severe heatwaves



Local water shortages and increased energy demand for cooling



Threats to local biodiversity, including the loss of native trees and wildlife

## The benefits of climate change

There are many associated economic, social and health benefits to reducing carbon emissions, strengthening the case for climate action.

Examples of these benefits are:



Sustainable and more affordable energy and water with reduced fuel poverty



A cleaner, resource efficient borough with reduced waste and air pollution



A safer, healthier more resilient borough providing improved quality of life to residents



Better homes and offices and an efficient, cleaner transport network



Better jobs, a more inclusive economy, and enhanced green skills and education



Safeguarding greener spaces for people and nature within Ribble Valley



Local green goods and services, improved food security and broader environmental choices

## The links between air quality and carbon reduction

Ribble Valley Borough Council fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process by regularly reviewing and assessing air quality in the borough. The main pollutant of concern is nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), which impacts on everyone's health and wellbeing, and remains a high priority for the council and its residents.

Although NO<sub>2</sub> and particulate matter are not considered greenhouse gases (and therefore do not directly contribute to climate change) they tend to be emitted by many of the same processes, such as fuel combustion for transport and gas used for cooking and heating homes and buildings.

The Council's Air Quality Action Plan and Climate Change Action Plan are closely interlinked and together provide considerable opportunity for eliminating local sources of emissions. Progress in one plan will always mutually benefit actions in the other. These will continue to be reviewed and updated to reflect emerging policies and guidance, including advanced understanding of the public health implications of exposure to poor air quality, and the new World Health Organisation pollution targets.

Ribble Valley Borough Council, [Air Quality Annual Status Report \(ASR\)](#) is in fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Local Air Quality Management, as amended by the Environment Act 2021.

## Ribble Valley Borough Council Emissions

Our success will be measured as quantifiable reductions in carbon emissions from Council buildings and activities.

### Carbon footprint year on year comparison

According to our latest One Carbon World Footprint report the total emissions in **2023/24 were stated as 1,402.41 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, this is a reduction in emissions of 9.2% compared with 1,5422.32 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022/23**. The reduction is predominantly due to reduced gas and electricity consumption, the council also trialled Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in one of the refuse diesel fleet vehicles, that also contributed to the reduction in emissions.

### High impact areas and emissions tracking

In 2023/24 the most significant sources of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions identified were:

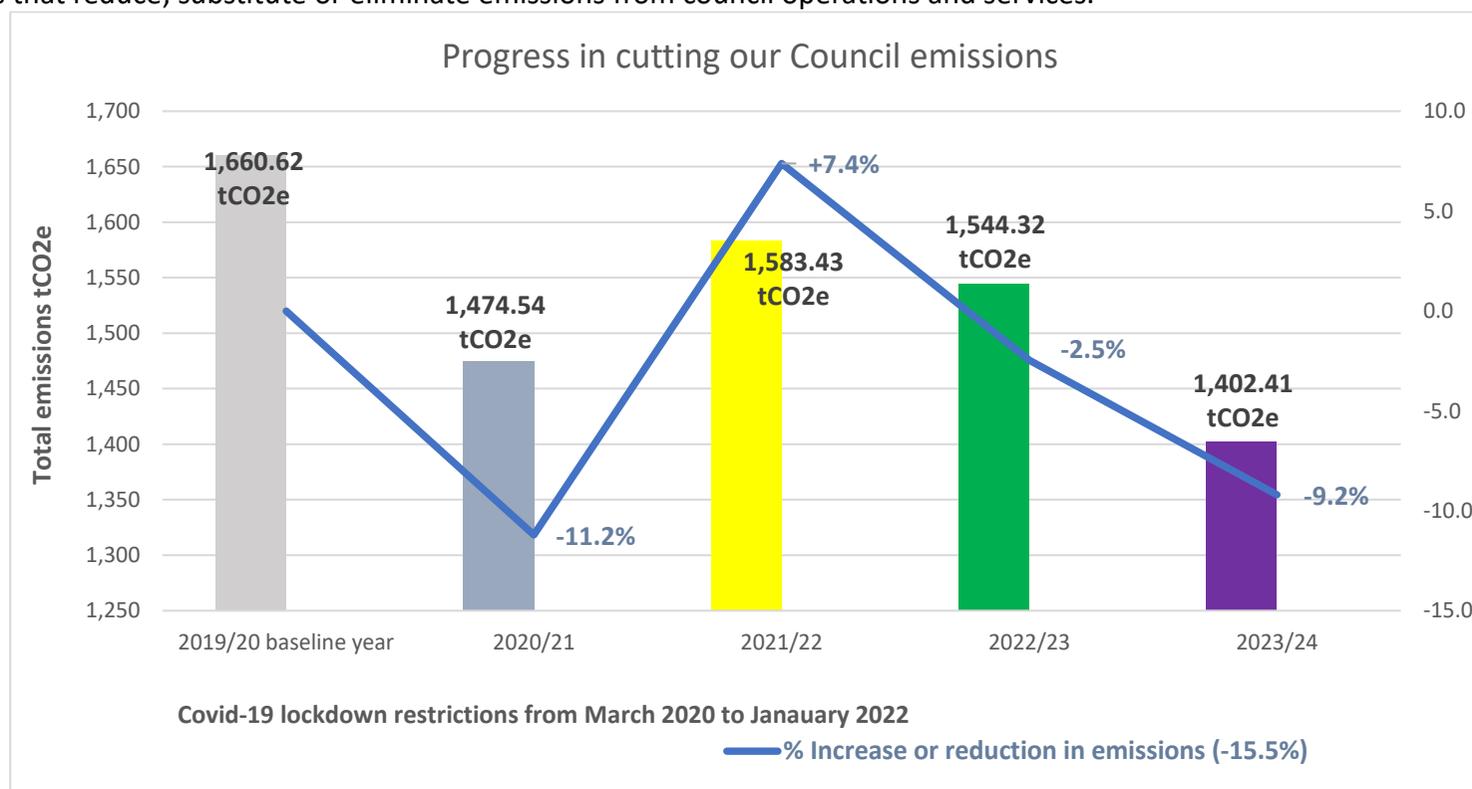
- Emissions arising from diesel use (42.6%)
- Emissions arising from natura gas use (17.3%)
- Emissions arising from electricity use (15.4%)
- Emissions arising from spend on rubber and plastic products – this includes wheeled bins and plastic bags (14.4%)

## Progress in cutting our council emissions

The council generated 1,660.62 tonnes of carbon from our buildings and activities in our baseline year between April 2019 and March 2020. So far, **the council has achieved a 15.5% reduction in emissions** across its estate and operations since 2019.

Of particular note is that the council has seen a year on year reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>e from Council operations except in 2021/22 where there was an increase of 7.4%, this is the same for all Lancashire authorities that recorded per capita/ resident rises over the same twelve-month period, and it is likely due to increased transport emissions most probably affected by the lifting of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions in January 2022 (Covid-19 lockdown restrictions from March 2020 through to January 2022), but in all cases the rates are still lower in 2021/22 (1,583.43 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e) than they were in 2019/20 (1,660.62 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e), and only slightly higher than the baseline year 2008/09 (1,523 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e).

Using our 2023/24 total emissions of 1,402.41 tCO<sub>2</sub>e as a new baseline year and making an assumption that our carbon emissions do not increase annually, which is very unlikely. The Council would need to accelerate reduction and **cut our emissions by at least 175 tCO<sub>2</sub>e each year to meet our aspiration to become a carbon neutral council by 2030**. Therefore, to ensure we can maximise our impact, the climate change action plan will aim to prioritise actions that reduce, substitute or eliminate emissions from council operations and services.



## 2. The Action Plan

### This is a Climate Action Plan for Ribble Valley Borough Council.

It represents a framework for collective action on climate change, where all parts of our society can contribute or be considered in a truly inclusive approach. As a council we are fully committed to working together with our residents, communities, businesses, and organisations to achieve this.

### Vision

To work in partnership with all organisations and everyone who lives, works, studies or visits Ribble Valley to tackle the climate crisis.

**Our aim:** to achieve a carbon neutral council by 2030; creating a safer, stronger, greener, and cleaner borough, where residents, communities, businesses and visitors can thrive and are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

### Underpinning Commitments

Action Plan framework will:

### Credible

- › be evidence-based to inform the most impactful and cost-effective approach to aspiring to be a carbon neutral council by 2030
- › be monitored and regularly reviewed to ensure our approach is on track and consistent with our emissions reduction pathway



### Innovative

- › identify and embrace new insights, approaches, and technology
- › work with and learn from other organisations that can demonstrate best practice in tackling climate change



### Holistic

- › seek to maximise the delivery of social, environmental, and economic benefits across Ribble Valley
- › support improvements to air quality and alleviation of air pollution alongside greenhouse gas emissions reductions



### Inclusive

- › foster collaboration between residents, businesses, and partners to collectively deliver emissions reductions across all aspects of the borough
- › establish a model for ongoing, meaningful community engagement and participation, which recognises the full diversity of our local population
- › deliver a climate resilient Ribble Valley that safeguards the most vulnerable members of our community from the impacts of climate change



### 3. Accelerating delivery of our climate change action plan

As part of the development of the action plan the Climate Change Working Group have identified key themes and goals based on an assessment of the Councils emissions sources, stakeholder feedback and the opportunities for delivering the greatest levels of carbon emission savings.

## Our 2025/26 Climate Change Action Plan

### Stage 1 Focusing on Council Emissions

Theme 1 – Understanding Our 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)	2025/2026 RAG rating
<b>Understanding Council Emissions</b>	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 2024/25 RFI to OCW end September 2025.	Low	
<b>Performance framework</b>	Establish a performance and targeting framework to demonstrate tangible reductions in Carbon Emissions.	AA	Officer time		Pre April 2026	Low	
<b>Engagement and Policy Change</b>	Lobby Government for external funding and support	AA/ JH	Councillor and officer time  <i>UK Climate and Nature Bill – as of now following adjournment of the bill future discussions in Parliament remains unlikely.</i>		Ongoing	Medium	

<b>Sharing progress with all Councillors / staff</b>	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		Report to Economic Development Committee post April 2026	Low	
<b>Training and awareness raising</b>	Engage and keep staff informed - promote good housekeeping	AA/JH/TS /HB/AG / Backchat	Officer time		2026/2027	Medium Can achieve 5-15% savings per person – 1 tonne per person (RVBC staff and members) per annum	
<b>Establish best practice across Lancashire</b>	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 2026	Medium	
<b>Lancashire County Council, Climate funding and best practice</b>	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) – August 25 - LCC will be launching a paid for service for residents who can apply for the		LEVI Cable Tray Pilot completed July 25 with 5 cable trays installed in RV. (1 x Sabden, 1 x Ramsgreave, 1 x	High	

			installation of a cable tray. Presently there is no specific date for this service to go live.		Chatburn, 2 x Clitheroe)		
<b>Revise procurement requirements to ensure environmental impact is part of social value</b>	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		National Procurement Policy Statement came into effect December 24 – Updates Council Procurement Strategy 2025/26 to 2026/27 in progress	Low	
<b>Embed cost saving environmental practices with staff and Councillors</b>	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)		Pre April 2026	High	
	Continue to reduce paper consumption / newspapers / improve use of IT	All staff	Officer time - minimum cost (Comms / Good housekeeping campaign)		Pre April 2026	High	
<b>Eliminate single-use plastics at Council venues, events on Council land and festivals</b>	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 – 2025/2026	Low	

## Theme 2 – Minimising the Council’s Emissions

### Under the remit and for decision by Community Committee

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)	2025/2026 RAG rating
<b>Reduce emissions from our Council Office building and other Council owned buildings</b>	Compile a Council Building Asset Register that includes Building Energy Audits on those Council buildings	WR	Training of staff required to complete the audits in-house. Consider taking on a graduate student placement Summer 2026	Staff capacity and training required	Post April 2026	High	Solar panels installed on Council Offices – completed September 2025
<b>Reduce emissions from Ribblesdale Swimming Pool</b>	Significantly reduce energy consumption at the pool as part of any refurbishment/ redesign	MB	Alliance Leisure appointed development partners - final design for the works is underway. The final RIBA stage 4 design will be presented to Community Services Committee in early January 26, with recommendations taken to P&F to consider the funding of the scheme.	Final design for works due mid-November 25	Post April 2026	High  Savings will be identified and quantified as part of the project feasibility process	

<b>Reduce emissions from refuse vehicle fleet / operations</b>	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.	Approx. 35 Diesel fleet vehicles  2 x dog warden vans are electric	Diesel fleet vehicles to be evaluated / reviewed for replacement by electric or other cleaner carbon reduction vehicles.	High	
	Consider the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) for use in the Councils diesel fleet vehicles to reduce carbon emissions.	AA /WR/ JH	P&F guidance to all committees ‘any growth items should be funded from identified savings’.  The budget forecast for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 was presented to P&F on 16/09/25 and is based on the council’s continued use of diesel in its vehicles.  Therefore, any additional cost to switch to HVO would have to be found from savings within other existing budgets.	Continue to monitor the cost of diesel vs HVO / biofuel.	On going	High  Up to 90% reduction in carbon emissions from diesel fleet vehicles	
	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)	Continue to evaluate / review the use of battery powered units as they need replacing.	Replacement programme – could be brought forward from 2027/28	Medium	

<p><b>Reduce emissions through delivery of our services in the community</b></p> <p><b>Encourage uptake of low emission vehicles</b></p>	<p><b>Promote and / support the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points on Council owned car parks</b></p>	NH/AA/WR /JH	Continue to install EV charging points on Council owned car parks / land where feasible.	2024/25: 14 EV charge points installed on Council owned car parks	July 2026  On going	High  A fully electric car could save 2 tonnes of CO2 per year.	
<p><b>Invest in tree planting and woodland management</b></p>	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	2024/25: 11 Redwood trees planted on Council land. 9 x on Private land.	Planting season November 2025 to March 2026	Medium  Tree planting 2.25 tonnes CO2 per ha	
	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	DH/AS/AA/ JH/RS/ MB / partners	Work with partners  Funded via external DEFRA funding, planting and funding managed by LCC Treescapes Team	2 x Miyawaki / micro forests planted at Longridge and Edisford.	Planting season November 2025 to March 2026	Medium	
	Consider replacement / re-planting due to Ash Dieback	DH/AS/AA/ JH/RS/ MB / partners	Work with partners  Funded externally		Planting season November 2025 to March 2026	Medium	
<p><b>Examine areas for re-wilding schemes</b></p>	Re-wilding schemes (biodiversity restoration)	MB / RS	Minimum cost for seed plugs	Re-wilding completed at two sites Edisford and Clitheroe Castle	On going	Low	
<p><b>Promote sustainable travel</b></p>	Bike and e-bike salary sacrifice scheme	HR Team	Feasibility study required for any schemes identified		Pre April 2026	Low	

	Investigate the feasibility and installation of e-bike electric charge points	NH/AA/WR /JH	Feasibility study required for any schemes identified		Pre April 2026	Low	
	Council e-pooled cars	HR Team	Feasibility study required for any schemes identified		Pre April 2026	Low	
<b>Change the Electricity contract if financially viable to all renewable in 2027 or earlier if possible</b>	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	

## Stage 2 Working in partnership with residents and businesses

Theme 3 – Minimising carbon reduction through Business / Partnerships							
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)	2025/2026 RAG rating
<b>To engage partners that can help make a tangible difference</b>	Identify key partners and develop a business and partnership engagement plan.	Working Group	Investment Programmes / grant funding		Pre April 2026	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	
<b>Understanding our biggest emitters</b>	Continue engagement with Heidelberg	CCWG / Hanson	Officer time (RH-Democratic Services &		On going	High	

<b>and actions planned</b>	Materials Cement and support projects to reduce their carbon emissions by lobbying government to attract funding	Cement Liaison Committee / AD	Complaints Officer - Hanson Cement Liaison Committee Meeting administration / notes taker)				
<b>Publicise and share information on available grants to make homes more energy-efficient</b>	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 2025/2026	Medium	
<b>Encourage energy efficiency standards and improvements and reduce fuel poverty</b>	Promote available grants to private landlords to improve eco-standards and reduce domestic emissions	RP / RS			On going	High	
	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.	
<b>Ensure Planning and Building Control supports</b>	Ensure full compliance with The Future Homes Standard (FHS): changes	LH	2025 – FHS regulations come into effect		Post April 2026	High	

<b>carbon reduction and growth.</b>	to Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for new homes built from 2025.					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 - new local Plan in progress	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	

<b>Theme 4 – Mobilising the Community</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>	<b>2025/2026 RAG rating</b>

<b>Campaign to promote reduce, reuse and recycle messages</b>	Newsletters, social media campaigns - Recycling Week / Garden waste service / Contamination campaign (graphics) / recycle it right	TS	Officer time - minimum cost (Comms / Good Housekeeping Campaigns - design and print)  LCC working with schools		Commenced and on going	Medium A tonne of waste sent to landfill emits 466kg CO2e A tonne of waste recycled or combusted emits 21kg CO2e	
<b>Implement food waste collection</b>	Preparation for implementing separate food waste collection in 2026	AA/WR	Officer time		To be introduced in 2026	High	
<b>Increase recycling</b>	Packaging producers - waste packaging recycling responsibilities (to be introduced in 2026)	AA/WR	Officer time		To be introduced in 2026	High	
	The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is a UK government initiative to reduce litter, improve recycling rates, and making packaging disposal more consistent nationwide.	AA/WR	Officer time. Under the DRS, a small deposit is added to the sale of certain drink containers. Consumers can reclaim this deposit by returning the empty container to a designated return point overseen by a Deposit Management Organisation appointed by government.		Implementation starting October 2027.	Medium	
<b>Support community initiatives -</b>	Community wide low carbon heating systems High	CCWG/AA/JH	Funded by external innovative funding and support	Examples: Chipping Community	On going	Medium	

<b>empower homeowners, tenants, and landlords to use energy from low and zero carbon sources</b>	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.			Energy and Whalley Community Hydro (constructed in 2014 – total cost £750k)			
	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	
<b>Identify private land for potential community growing initiatives</b>	Community orchards / work with local ecology and flood groups / enable community groups to manage green space to aid and maximise carbon capture	AA/ WR/ DH/ AS /RS	Identify land and external funding		Planting season November 2025 to March 2026 and beyond	Medium	
<b>Lobby LCC to actively seek opportunities to creatively engage young people in climate change activities</b>	Work to ensure young people are engaged in solutions.  Raise aspirations and skills of young people	SA/AA/JH	Officer time – working with LCC Treescapes team.  RVCAN - Conference of Ribble Valley Schools (CORVS)		September 2025 and beyond	Medium	

	Work with local schools, sixth forms, and other education bodies to increase understanding and involvement in climate change solutions						
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## 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

Version	Date	Reason for Publication	Approved by Committee / Date	Review Date
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
V1.2	September to November 2025	Review and update of the Climate Change Action Plan by the Climate Change Working Group	Climate Change Working Group meeting 02/10/25 Action Plan agreed for final approval and adoption by Economic Development Committee on 20/11/25	Reviewed, as a minimum, on an annual basis