



Ribble Valley
Borough Council
ribblevalley.gov.uk



Climate Change Annual Report
2025/26

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1. Foreword

Welcome to Ribble Valley Borough Council's Climate Change Annual Report for 2025/26.

This report provides a summary of activities detailed within our Climate Change Action Plan for the past year; and is the third annual report published since we launched our Climate Change Strategy.

Ribble Valley Borough Council (RVBC) recognises that we are in a state of Climate Emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government, including by local councils.

We continue to positively engage with our communities, we are a member of Lancashire Climate Action Network (LancsCAN), we support Ribble Valley Climate Action Network (RVCAN) as well as local voluntary groups, charities and our residents to apply and secure grant funding through council grant schemes and other council-supported initiatives with free grants and advice.

In recent years we have seen flooding, heatwaves and storms that have had a devastating impact in Ribble Valley, the UK, and across the world. Adjusting to changing weather patterns and preparing for the projected increase, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events presents a challenging time for councils, businesses and communities which need to be addressed sooner rather than later.

A motion passed at council on 14 October 2025 stated that the council will set targets and develop resources to both enable carbon neutrality across the full range of council activities by 2030 and also to support making the Borough of Ribble Valley carbon neutral by 2050.

While we continue to deliver both mitigation and adaptation activities, some of which depend on securing external grant funding and investment from the council, by lowering our carbon emissions, switching when we can to renewable energy and technology, and by enhancing our green spaces for residents and wildlife, the positive benefits are clear.

We are also moving towards a period of significant change which through local government reorganisation means we are likely to see the Ribble Valley join with other parts of Lancashire to form a Unitary Council, on a footprint yet to be determined by government.

It is therefore vitally important that now more than ever, our set aims and ambitions remain in place and are built upon in collaboration with our residents, businesses and partners over the coming years.



Cllr Simon Hore
Leader of the Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Hore".



Sarah Threlfall
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Threlfall".

2. Introduction

Across the organisation our councillors and staff have been working hard to engage with partners, build knowledge and understanding of green technology, secure internal and external funding, and embed climate change within our services to deliver wide-ranging activities contributing to our four key themes of work, they are:



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

Throughout the year we have continued to progress our climate change action plan activities which will result in a reduction in carbon emissions, and we have also started to develop a broader understanding of resilience and adaptation, so we are able to better prepare and adjust to a changing climate.

3. The state of the borough

Many natural factors affect a changing climate, and scientists agree that human activity is the dominant cause of climate change.

By burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas), using intensive farming techniques, and destroying large areas of forest, we are causing a rapid rise in heat-trapping gases called greenhouse gases which has caused the earth to warm up, affecting global weather patterns and sea levels.

The Met Office ‘provides essential climate information that is tailored to the local area and easy to use for climate risk assessments, developing adaptation plans and building climate resilience’.

Ribble Valley is already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, and even in the most optimistic scenario, we should at least prepare for ‘an increased chance of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers.’

Almost 10 years ago, in December 2015 a total of 196 parties originally adopted the Paris Agreement – a legally binding international treaty on climate change – which aims to ‘hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.’

However, should the global average temperature rise above the 1.5°C threshold, communities here in the UK and worldwide will face ‘the risk of far more severe climate change impacts, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves and rainfall’.

More information provided by the Met Office can be found [here](#).

The 2025/26 RVBC Climate Change Action Plan can be read [here](#).



4. Highlights of our climate change activities over the past few years and during 2025/26

- We have developed a Climate Change Strategy and action plan to set out the actions we will take and when. [Climate Change – Ribble Valley Borough Council](#)
- Passed a motion declaring a Climate Emergency committing us to accelerate, widen and deepen our climate actions by working with all sections of the community.
- Created the Climate Emergency Working Group. This is a cross-party group of councillors working together to promote opportunities for how the Council is meeting the challenge of Climate Change.
- Reduced our CO2e from Council operations.

Produced our Local Air Quality Status annual report for 2025 that fulfils the requirements of DEFRA’s Local Air Quality Management Process. Here’s the link to our [Air Quality Annual Status Reports](#)

- Encouraged use of the bulky waste scheme. The council made 1,674 bulky waste collections in 2025/26. Here’s how you can [apply for a bulky waste collection](#).
- We continue to offer free Green Bin collections on a fortnightly basis use this link to find out [more about Green Bins](#).
- We are working with Lancashire County Council, our waste disposal authority and the national waste advisory body WRAP to ensure that the new Government weekly household food waste collection scheme is rolled out as smoothly and effectively as possible in early 2027.
- Our Grounds Maintenance team continue to take environmental issues very seriously and they take the following measures: restrict chemical use including herbicides and pesticides, avoid the use of peat and peat-based products, they consider planting drought tolerant species and a mixture of tree species, as well as re-wilding and biodiversity restoration schemes.
- Our pest control and dog warden vans are fully electric having replaced two vehicles from our diesel fleet.
- Over the past four years, we have installed 28 electric vehicle charging points on seven [council car parks](#) across the borough which include rural areas for public use.



- Cross pavement cable trays installed across the borough for residents that do not have off-street parking. This is in partnership with LCC through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme funding with more to be installed in the future.



- We regularly monitor the cost per litre of using Hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative to diesel in council fleet vehicles.
- We continue to look for council land for rewilding and biodiversity restoration to complement the sites completed at [Clitheroe Castle](#) and [Edisford riverbank](#).
- Reduced paper, postage and lowered emissions by introducing [council tax online](#). More than 2,000 people have already signed up for Council Tax Online or Business Rates Online since its launch in 2024. Not only does e-billing offer round-the-clock features, but it saves money in printing and postage – about £4,000 a year – which is being reinvested in council services.

- Feasibility study carried out on Ribblesdale Pool. Capital programme scheme approved for pool refurbishment essential maintenance works, including mechanical and electrical improvements as well as initiatives to reduce energy consumption such as new boilers, ventilation and filtration systems, pool tank works, a new roof and solar panels from April 2026.



- Low energy LED lighting has been installed in the council offices at Church Walk.
- We use communications channels such as [events](#), social media, leaflets and [Ribble Valley News](#) to encourage residents to recycle more, generate less waste and contaminate less.
- Councillors have completed Carbon Literacy training and Environmental Awareness Training is available for all council employees on our staff learning portal.
- We continue engagement and information sharing with our partners, businesses and Parish Councils.

4.1 Things we are proud of that we have delivered ...

| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  <p>Communications channels such as events, social media, leaflets and Ribble Valley News used to encourage residents to recycle more, generate less waste and contaminate less</p> | <p>Carbon Literacy Training completed by Members and Environmental Awareness training available for staff</p>  |  <p>Continued engagement and information sharing with partners, businesses and our Town and Parish Councils</p> |
|  <p>Electric Vehicle Charging Points installed on Council carparks and cable trays installed across the borough for residents that do not have off-street parking</p> | <p>Redwood trees and Miyawaki micro forests planted</p>  |  <p>Our Local Air Quality Status Annual report fulfils the requirements of DEFRA's Local Air Quality Management Process.</p> |
| <p>REWILDING</p> <p>Completed rewilding and biodiversity restoration</p> | <p>We continue to reduce our CO2 emissions from Council operations</p>  | <p>RIBBLE VALLEY WASTE AND RECYCLING</p> <p>Continue to encourage use of the bulky waste scheme and free Green Bin collections on a fortnightly basis</p> |
|  <p>We've reduced printing and postage costs through e-billing Council Tax and Business Rates Online</p> | <p>We monitor the cost / litre of Hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative to diesel in council fleet vehicles.</p>  |  <p>Pool refurbishment including initiatives to reduce energy consumption</p> |

4.2 Case study 1 Solar Panels on the Council Offices in Clitheroe

In a bid to save energy running costs and reduce the council's carbon footprint, approx. 115 solar panels have been installed on raised brackets on several roof slopes at the council offices in Clitheroe



As well as saving money on energy bills (around £1 million over 25 years), the panels will also help protect the local environment by cutting harmful emissions. It's estimated they will provide one-fifth (20.9 percent) of the offices' power needs, as well as cutting almost 14 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year – equivalent to driving a petrol car more than twice around the world or by using enough electricity to power nine homes over a whole year.

The work was completed in September 2025; it was also carried out as part of the council's commitment to support the development of renewable energy schemes.

4.3 Case study 2 Ribble Valley homeowners receive energy efficient boost

The council's first-time buyer grant offers new homeowners 50 per cent of the cost of the works, up to a maximum of £15,000, to renovate their property and make it more energy efficient.

The first-time buyer grant helps people currently purchasing a property, or who have bought a house within the last two years, make it more energy efficient or address significant disrepair. Properties must be located in Ribble Valley, be over 10 years old, and in council tax bands A to C, with an energy performance certificate of D to H.



Thirteen new homeowners received the first-time buyer grant during 2025/26.

The affordable warmth fund is administered by the council on behalf of Lancashire County Council. This fund helps vulnerable low-income households, in receipt of means-tested benefits with a total gross household income of less than £31,000, mainly supporting the over-65s, under-fives and pregnant women, those with cardiovascular and respiratory problems, a disability or mental health condition stay warm.

Up to £4,000 per property is available for as long as funds last for the servicing, repair and replacement of boilers, the purchase of oil-filled heaters and dehumidifiers, or dedicated home energy assessments by the Home Improvement Agency.



In 2025/26, 26 households received funding to replace their boiler via the affordable warmth fund.

4.4 Case study 3 Tree planting

In April 2024, as part of the Council's 50th anniversary celebrations the RVBC50 'redwood lungs' tree initiative was started.

Since the scheme started, 27 carbon busting redwood trees have been planted on council and private land across the borough, and we are continually looking for more sites to bring our total to 50.



Giant redwoods are the tallest living thing on earth capable of storing hundreds of tonnes of carbon through 'sequestration', the process by which trees capture and store carbon in their roots and branches. One giant redwood can store more carbon than a hectare of woodland and 250 times more than the average tree.

In partnership with Lancashire County Council's Treescapes team Miyawaki micro-forests have been planted at Longridge and Edisford. Miyawaki is a method of tree planting developed in the 1980s by Japanese botanist and ecologist Dr. Akira Miyawaki. This type of forest can be grown in small patches in urban areas or even in a backyard and typically makes use of native or local seeds and saplings.

Miyawaki forests grow quickly in small areas and consist of densely packed trees and shrubs, and they are ideal for cluttered urban landscapes like ours.

The plants and trees grow upwards towards the sunlight, and the biodiverse forest attracts fauna like butterflies and bees that are beneficial for the ecosystem, they also improve carbon-dioxide absorption, reduce noise and dust, and add more green surface area compared to growing only one type of tree or plant species.



These forests are known to be 30 times denser, grow 10 times faster, they need very little maintenance after two or three years of being planted, and they don't require much space.

We have also planted 20 standard trees of various varieties as replacement trees for ash die-back, storm damaged and trees removed for management purposes around Longridge and Clitheroe.

Our Countryside Officers are always on the lookout for more places to plant redwood trees and Miyawaki micro-forests.

5. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Jubilee Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund

5.1 Background to the funds

The **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)** is a £2.6 billion government programme aimed at reducing inequalities and supporting local communities, businesses, and skills development across the UK.

In the UK, the **Jubilee Fund** refers to various funding initiatives, primarily associated with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund provides grants for capital improvements to village halls, aiming to enhance community activities and improve health and well-being.

The **Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)** is a capital grant scheme which aims to help rural businesses develop new products or services and improve assets and services that benefit the local economy.

The council was awarded the following funding for 2025/2026:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| UKSPF £638,494 | REPF £130,081 | Jubilee Fund £1,000,000 |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|

To date it has been agreed to utilise part of the above funding for the following schemes:

| Funding | Organisation | Project | Grant Amount | Status |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|----------|
| REPF | Hurst Green Football Club | Solar Panels and battery storage | £35,000 | Complete |
| REPF | Grindleton Recreation Ground Charity | Solar Panels and battery storage | £30,188 | Complete |
| REPF | Chipping | Solar Panels and battery storage | £23,304 | Complete |
| UKSPF | RVBC | Charging points on Council owned village carparks (Slaidburn, Sabden, Chipping and Ribchester0. | £50,000 | Complete |
| UKSPF | RVBC | Charging points on Berry Lane / Barclay Road, Longridge | £61,704 | Complete |
| UKSPF | RVBC | EV charging points feasibility study | £875 | Complete |
| UKSPF | East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce | Business support programme to support businesses on their net zero journey | £70,000 | Complete |
| Jubilee Fund | RVSPF- Thornley Community Space | Solar PV system including battery system, new heating system and replacement Windows. | £56,088 | Ongoing |
| Jubilee Fund (RVSPF) | Waddington Parish Council | Upgrade to windows, soffits and fascias, installation of solar panels and relevant roof works to the Village Pavillion. | £36,000 | Ongoing |
| Jubilee Fund (RVSPF) | Tosside Community Link | Air source heat pump and installation of extra storage batteries at Tosside Community Hall. | £28,540 | Ongoing |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------|
| Jubilee Fund (RVSPF) | Longridge Environment Group | Flood resilience scheme - install natural flood management interventions, specifically leaky dams and the tributaries of the River Ribble. | £20,000 | Ongoing |
| Jubilee Fund | RVSPF-Rimington Memorial Institute | Installation of an air source heat pump with relevant heating upgrades, installation of solar panels and battery storage solution. | £56,440 | Ongoing |
| Total Spend | | | £468,139 | |

6. Data monitoring and corporate activity

6.1 The Council's own emissions 2024/25

RVBC has commissioned One Carbon World (OCW) since April 2019 to calculate and analyse our carbon emissions data in Scopes 1 to 3 of the Green House Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Standard.

For the 2024/25 measurement period, OCW adopted the updated and more accurate 2022 DEFRA spend-based emission factor database, replacing the previously used 2012 version. This updated database reflects more accurate and up to date emissions data.

It must therefore be noted that the use of the updated database has resulted in a material difference compared to previous emission assessments. Therefore, OCW recommend using this 2024/25 inventory as a new baseline year for future reporting and not comparing emissions with previous assessments.

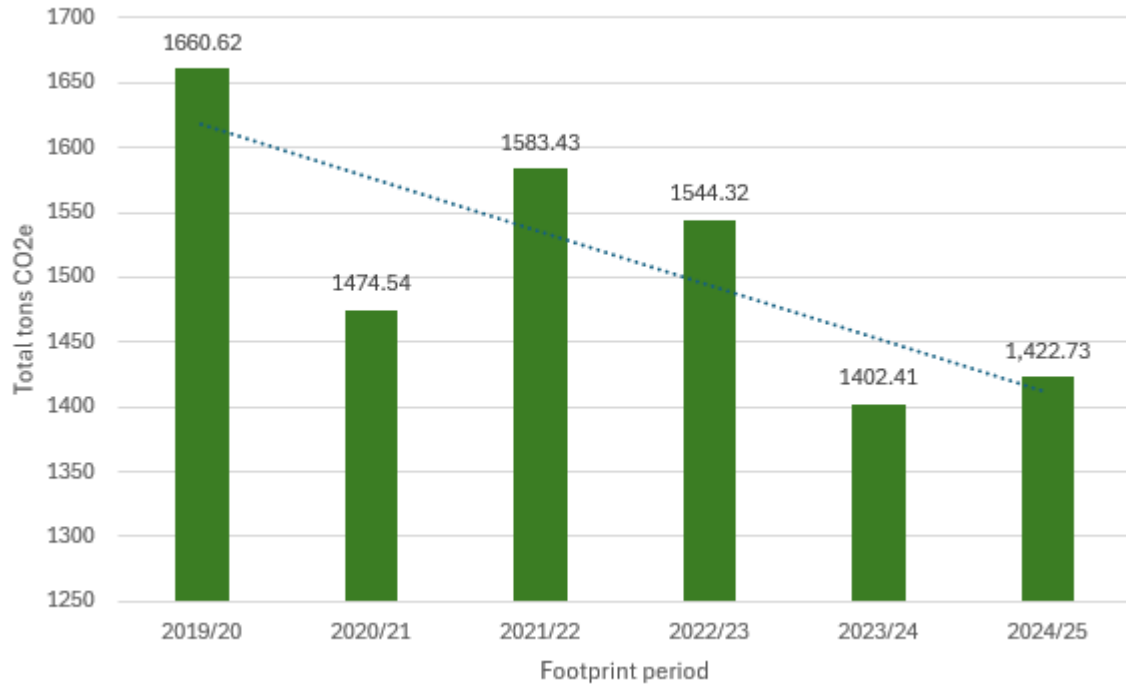
Emissions are reported on a calendar year basis (1 April to 31 March). The total 2024/25 Carbon footprint for RVBC of the activities measured is **1,422.73 tonnes CO₂e** (tCO₂e) this is a very slight increase of 20.32 tCO₂e (approx. 1.5%) compared to the 2023/24 carbon footprint activities measured of 1,402.41 tCO₂e.

RVBC has been awarded the One Carbon World Carbon Neutral International Status by measuring (Scope 1, 2 and partial 3 emissions), reducing, and balancing our carbon footprint for the period: 01/04/24 to 31/03/2025.

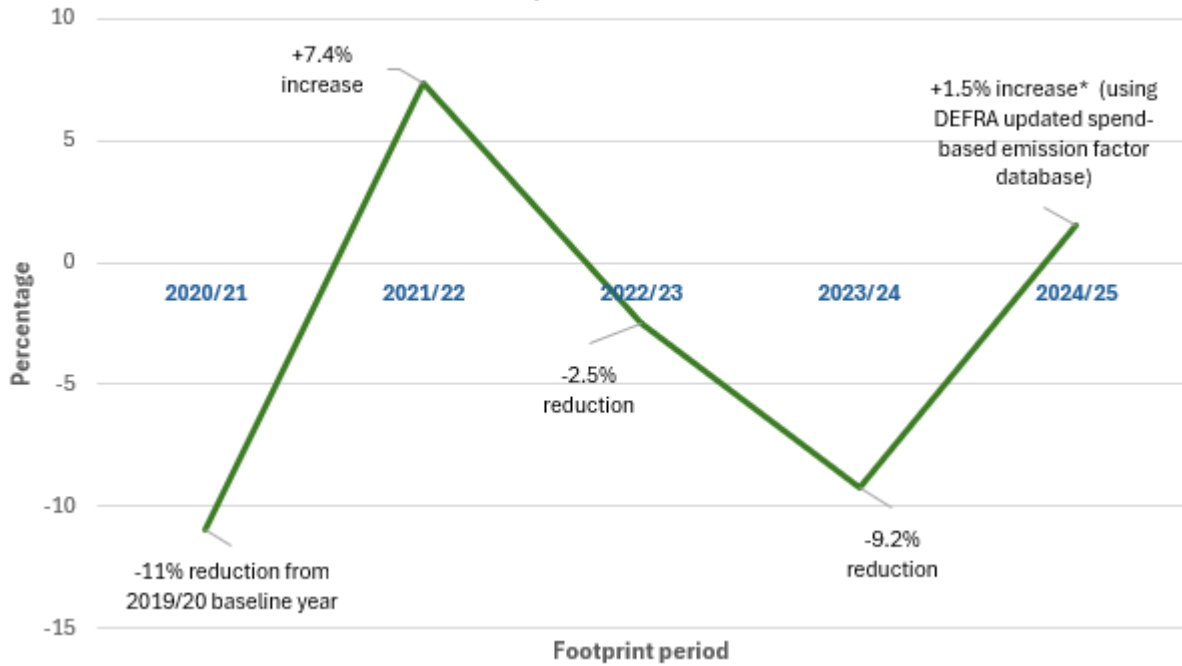
The council's historical scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions footprints are outlined in the graph below:

Of particular note is that RVBC has seen a year on year reduction of CO₂e from council operations except for 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 lockdowns in 2020, but in all cases the rates are still lower in 2021/22 (1,583.43 tCO₂e) than they were in 2019/20 (1,660.62 tCO₂e), and only slightly higher than the baseline year 2008/09 (1,523 tCO₂e).

RVBC CO2e Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions



CO2e percentage reduction or increase of local authority operations



6.2 High impact areas and emissions tracking

The most significant sources of CO₂e emissions identified from our total 2024/25 emissions of 1,422.73 tCO₂e are:

Emissions arising from



| | | |
|--------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| Diesel consumption | 44.53% | 633.50 tCO ₂ e |
|--------------------|--------|---------------------------|



| | | |
|-------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| Natural Gas usage | 22.54% | 363.37 tCO ₂ e |
|-------------------|--------|---------------------------|



| | | |
|-------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| Electricity usage | 15.18% | 216.21 tCO ₂ e |
|-------------------|--------|---------------------------|



| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| Spend on purchased goods and services | 13.14% | 187 tCO ₂ e |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|

7. Looking forward: the coming year 2026/27

7.1 Community Grants Funding

Our Housing team continues to successfully help residents to secure grant funding and sign post them to energy efficiency advice. For more information see our Housing Grants page on the council website [here](#).

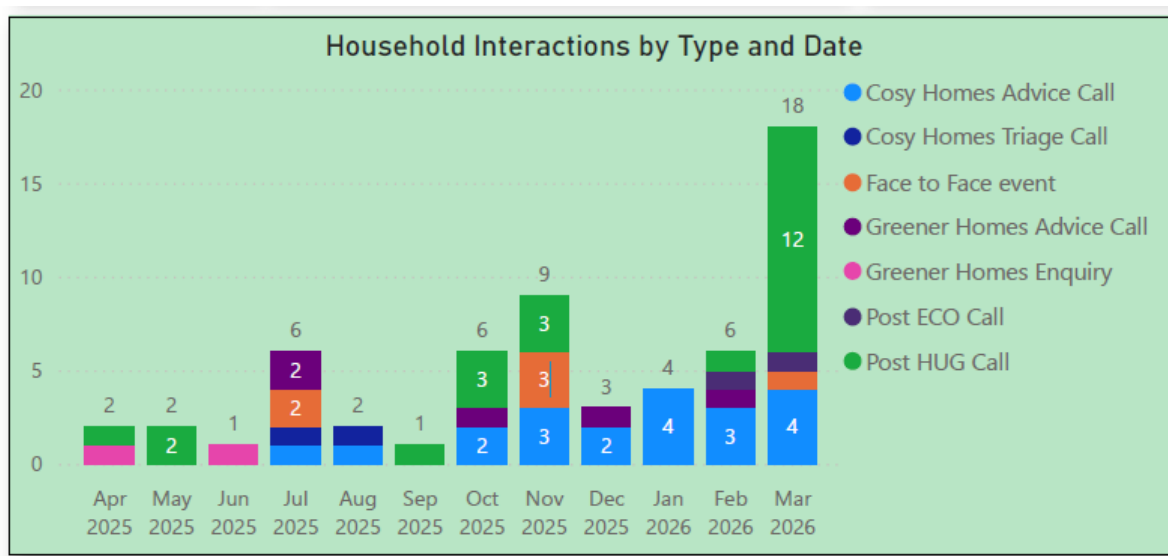
Cosy Homes in Lancashire is administered by a group of local authorities in Lancashire, helping households access funding for energy-related improvements to their homes. If a property is suitable, householders may be entitled to free energy efficiency improvements, including air source heat pumps, solar panels, battery storage, and insulation measures.

For anyone wanting to save energy, reduce their bills and have a greener, warmer home the Cosy Homes Advice Team are there to help. They offer free, council-backed support to help save energy and money at home. Visit [Cosy Homes in Lancashire](#) for more information and to apply for help.

Greener Homes in Lancashire is for anyone who is thinking about investing green technologies but not sure where to start? Backed by Lancashire councils to help residents and landlords make their homes warmer and more energy efficient. Greener Homes in Lancashire can help householders explore upgrade options, access grants or finance, and connect with trusted local installers to make informed decisions about how best to invest in a greener, warmer home. Visit [Greener Homes in Lancashire](#) to learn more.

All these schemes deliver energy efficiency measures contributing to lower energy bills, reduced carbon emissions and improved comfort for tenants and homeowners.

The following tables show information received from the Greener Homes and Cosy Homes Advice Team (CHAT) for Ribble Valley for the period April 2025 to March 2026:



7.2 Community Engagement

As part of our work to engage with residents and communities in climate-related activities we have recently planted a third Miyawaki micro-forest at Henthorn Park, Clitheroe, in partnership with the Lancashire Treescapes team, and year 4 children from Edisford Primary School.

In late March, we attended the Conference of Ribble Valley Schools (CORVS4) 2026 for local secondary pupils inspired by the UN’s COP events at Grindleton Pavilion. Organised by RVCAN, the theme for the day was 'How can technology support proactive change in response to the climate and nature emergencies'. The program supported the students to develop plans for their schools to become more sustainable by using modern technology.

Students shared their ideas with invited guests from local businesses and the council at the end of the conference. We are also in the process of arranging for the students to visit the council offices to present their ideas to the Climate Emergency Working Group.

The council continues to look for further future opportunities to engage with residents and communities in climate-related activities.

7.3 Community Energy in Ribble Valley

Working with the North West Net Zero Hub, our Town and Parish Councils, and wider environmental groups, we are continuously looking to work with key stakeholders in the sector to scale-up community energy, unlock barriers, and encourage partnerships.

We know that of the estimated 26,554 homes in Ribble Valley, 31.7% are believed to be off the gas grid, which also suggests that 9.4% of residents are already in fuel poverty. With the lack of cost protection (price cap) around heating oil that is enjoyed by gas and electricity, those living off the gas grid are open to even higher cost pressures than gas and electricity users.

In our recently revised Corporate Plan 2023-2028 we aim to implement a new scheme for the delivery of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) increasing the number of households supported by helping to build individual and community financial resilience.

In Ribbles Valley, there are already a number of community energy groups and schemes, these include:

| Group | Location | Status | Scheme |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|--|
| Whalley Community Hydro Ltd | Whalley | Operational since 2014 | 100KW Archimedean screw hydro. Reinvests surplus into local low-carbon projects |
| Chipping Community Energy | Chipping | Active / developing | Heat network feasibility, Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) ambient loop exploration; includes delivery of village hall solar as part of the group activity |
| Hurst Green Football Club Solar | Hurst Green | Funded / Emerging | £35k allocated for solar; project-level initiative, not a formal group |
| Mellor Parish Council – Rural EV Car Club | Mellor | Emerging / Investigatory | Parish-led exploration of rural Electric Vehicle (EV) car club model; linked to Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) feasibility |

There are a number of environmental and volunteer groups that could develop and form a community energy group with the support of the North West Net Zero Hub and the council to develop and install schemes to enable residents, organisations, and local communities to install and use renewable energy technologies.

7.4 New Local plan

Through the Local Plan, we will continue to ensure planning and building control supports carbon reduction and growth. The Local Plan plays a crucial role in addressing climate change through our planning and development processes by creating and updating our planning policies, providing a framework and guidance for tackling the climate crisis.

7.5 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI)

In partnership with Lancashire County Council, we continue to work to enhance the presence of on-street low powered charge points in residential areas to increase accessibility to electric vehicle charging for residents and visitors.

The initiative aims to accelerate the commercialisation of EVCI throughout the Lancashire-12 districts allocated from the £10.1m LEVI fund to scale up delivery of local EV charging infrastructure.

LCC has confirmed that the Invitation to Tender for the procurement of a Chargepoint Operator is now live and that they are aiming to appoint a preferred bidder in December 2026.

7.6 Staff Travel

Supporting active and sustainable travel is important to the council and to our staff regarding their commute to and from work. During 2026/2027 our aim is to introduce an employee benefits platform

which supports not only mental, physical and financial wellbeing by bringing together a range of offers and discounts on shopping, including salary sacrifice schemes, such as a cycle to work scheme, and healthier lifestyles by proactively boosting employee wellbeing and reducing carbon emissions.

8. Our 2025/26 Climate Change Action Plan

Stage 1 Focusing on Council Emissions

8.1 Theme 1 – Understanding Our Emissions

| Objective / Goals | Actions | Owner / lead officer | Project cost or funding in place | Progress review | Target / Milestone | CO ₂ Impact / Carbon Saving potential (High, Medium, Low) | 2025/2026 RAG rating |
|--|---|----------------------|--|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Understanding Council Emissions | Undertake Annual One Carbon World (OCW) Assessment | JH | 2024/25 OCW 50% grant funding awarded. | 2024/25 Report received | Apply for grant funding for 2025/26 Carbon emissions data collection and report | Low | 2024/25 Report received. |
| Performance framework | Establish a performance and targeting framework to demonstrate tangible reductions in Carbon Emissions. | AA | Officer time | | Pre April 2026 | Low | In progress – see also Corporate Plan Technical Appendix 2025/26 – See PI ES6 (NI 185) CO2 reduction from local authority operations. |
| Engagement and Policy Change | Lobby Government for external funding and support | AA/ JH | Councillor and officer time | | Ongoing | Medium | Ongoing – Engagement with and lobbying Government is in |

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| | | | | | | | conjunction with other Lancashire Councils through the Lancashire Climate Change Officer Group. |
| 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 | | Report to Economic Development Committee post April 2026 | Low | Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators are reported to Economic Development Committee. 2025/26 Climate Change Annual Report to be taken to Economic Development in Summer 2026 |
| Training and awareness raising | Engage and keep staff informed - promote good housekeeping | AA/JH/TS /HB/AG / Back-chat | Officer time | | 2026/2027 | Medium Can achieve 5-15% savings per person – 1 tonne per person (RVBC staff and members) per annum | Staff training: Environmental Awareness module has been made available to all staff on the ME Learning portal. |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------|--|--|--|---------------|---|
| <p>Establish best practice across Lancashire</p> | <p>Work with other Lancashire local authorities that demonstrate best practice in tackling climate change.</p> <p>Work with Ribble Valley Town and Parish Councils to enable collective action on climate change</p> | <p>JH</p> | <p>Officer time</p> | | <p>Pre April 2026</p> | <p>Medium</p> | <p>Member of Lancashire Climate Change Officers Group.</p> <p>Regular contact with RV Town and Parish Councils enabling collective action on climate change (Tree Planting / Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points / LEVI Funding – cable tray and off-street EV Charging).</p> |
| <p>Lancashire County Council, Climate funding and best practice</p> | <p>Work in partnership with LCC to install EV charging points at domestic premises through LEVI Funding</p> | <p>JH</p> | <p>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 installation of a cable tray. Presently there is no specific date for this service to go live.</p> | | <p>LEVI Cable Tray Pilot completed July 25 with 5 cable trays installed in RV. (1 x Saddington, 1 x Ramsgrange, 1 x Chatburn, 2 x Clitheroe)</p> | <p>High</p> | <p>LCC in the process of inviting suppliers to tender for the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) throughout the Lancashire-12 districts allocated from the £10.1m LEVI fund</p> |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|---|--|--|------|---|
| | | | | | | | Ongoing site identification for cable tray and off-street parking |
| Revise procurement requirements to ensure environmental impact is part of social value | Review the Procurement Strategy 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 Strategy review | | National Procurement Policy Statement came into effect December 24 – Updates | Low | Council Procurement Strategy 2025/26 to 2026/27 taken to P&F Committee for approval on 20/01/26 |
| 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) | | Pre April 2026 | High | Regular reminder emails sent to staff by Waste Management Officer to reduce, reuse and recycle. |
| | Continue to reduce paper consumption / newspapers / improve use of IT | All staff | Officer time - minimum cost (Comms / Good housekeeping campaign) | | Pre April 2026 | High | Ongoing |
| 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 – 2025/2026 | Low | Encouraged as part of the promotion of the food festival. |

8.2 Theme 2 – Minimising the Council’s Emissions

| Objective / Goals | Actions | Owner / lead officer | Project cost or funding in place | Progress review | Target / Milestone | CO ₂ Impact / Carbon Saving potential (High, Medium, Low) | 2025/2026 RAG rating |
|--|--|----------------------|---|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| Reduce emissions from our Council Office building and other Council owned buildings | Install Solar panels on Council Offices | AA | 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 | Funding approved – expected installation to be completed by end of September 2025 | Complete September 25 | High Savings will be identified and quantified as part of the project feasibility process | Work completed in September 2025 |
| 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 approved. Savings will be identified and quantified as part of pool refurbishment | Pool closed to the public in April 2026 | October 2026. | High | Work is expected to be completed in October 2026. |

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| Reduce emissions from refuse vehicle fleet / operations | Replacement of diesel vehicles – Evaluate / review the use of Electric or Hydrogen refuse vehicles. | AA | 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 | Ongoing |
| | Replacement of petrol-powered hand tools and blowers with battery powered units. | MB / AA | 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 from 2027/28 | Medium | Ongoing – approved as part of the five-year Capital programme |
| Reduce emissions through delivery of our services in the community Encourage uptake of low emission vehicles | Promote and / support the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points on Council owned car parks | NH/AA | Continue to install EV charging points on Council owned car parks / land where feasible. | 2024/25: 14 Charging points installed on Council owned car parks. (2 x Slaidburn, 2 x Sabden, 2 x Chipping and 2 x Ribchester, 6 x Barclay Road, Longridge). | July 2026 On going | High A fully electric car could save 1.5 tonnes of CO2 per year. | Commenced and ongoing. 28 electric vehicle charging points on seven council car parks across the borough including rural areas for public use over the past four years. |
| | Identify Council and private land for tree | DH/AS/AA/ JH/ | Funded via external funding | Council and private land | Planting season November | Medium | 27 x RVBC50 Redwood trees planted |

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| Invest in tree planting and woodland management | planting - develop a tree planting scheme that engages the community and local land owners | RS/ MB / partners | | sites being sought. | 2025 to March 2026 | Tree planting 2.25 tonnes CO2 per ha | so far on council and private land. |
| | 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 | | Funded via external funding in partnership with LCC Treescapes Team | 3 x Miyawaki micro forests planted | Planting season November 2025 to March 2026 | Medium | 3 x Miyawaki micro forests planted at Longridge, Edisford and Henthorn Park. (Planted on council land funded via external funding in partnership with LCC Treescapes Team). |
| 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 | Ongoing – Identification of additional sites on Council land is ongoing. 2 x site - former pitch and putt site in Edisford and a patch of parkland at Clitheroe Castle |
| Promote sustainable travel | Bike and e-bike salary sacrifice scheme | HR Team | Looking to introduce an employee benefits platform which supports mental, physical and financial wellbeing by bringing together a range of offers and discounts on shopping, salary sacrifice schemes, such as a | | Post April 2026 | Low | Employee benefits platform to be launched post April 2026 |

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| | | | cycle to work scheme, and healthier lifestyles by proactively boosting employee wellbeing. | | | | |
| | Council e-pooled cars | HR Team | Feasibility study required for any schemes identified | | Pre April 2026 | Low | Ongoing - Feasibility study required |
| 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 | Electricity contract - national procurement framework ending 31/03/27. Feasibility study required to ascertain cost to renewing the contract to all renewable before end of March 2027. |

Stage 2 Working in partnership with residents and businesses

8.3 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 ₂ Impact / Carbon Saving potential (High, Medium, Low) | 2025/2026 RAG rating |
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| 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 2026 | High | Engage with The Ribblesdale Liaison Group (attendees include RVBC, parish councils (Chatburn, Worston and West |

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| | | | | | | | Bradford), LCC, LCC planning and the Environment Agency. |
| | 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 | Commenced and ongoing |
| 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 | CEWG / Hanson Cement Liaison Committee / AD | Officer time (RH-Democratic Services & Complaints Officer - Hanson Cement Liaison Committee Meeting administration / Note taker) | | On going | High | Ongoing |
| 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 | Grants available including Affordable Warmth Scheme, Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) programme and Greener Homes in Lancashire | | On going | Medium | On going - publicised via Press releases / e-newsletters / see Housing grants page on the council website |
| | Ensure Grant Schemes factor in Carbon reduction benefits | NH/MB | | | Grant cycle 2025/2026 | Medium | Ongoing Council website - Housing |
| Encourage energy efficiency standards and improvements and reduce fuel poverty | Promote available grants to private landlords to improve eco-standards and reduce domestic emissions | RP / RS | | | On going | High | Ongoing Council website - Landlords |

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| | 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. | Ongoing |
| 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 | 2025 – FHS regulations come into effect | | Post April 2026 | High New homes built from 2025 will produce 75-80% less carbon emissions than homes built under the current Building Regulations. | Ongoing The FHS for 2025 aims to significantly reduce carbon emissions from new homes in England. |
| | 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 | Ongoing – new local Plan in progress |
| | Examine the possible use of additional Supplementary Planning Guidance to enhance | NH | Officer time | | Post Local Plan publication | High | Ongoing - significant changes are being made in the local planning processes, |

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| | carbon reduction in all new developments. | | | | | | particularly with the introduction of new regulations and the roll- out of resources to support local authorities in 2026. |
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8.4 Theme 4 – Mobilising the Community

| Objective / Goals | Actions | Owner / lead officer | Project cost or funding in place | Progress review | Target / Milestone | CO ₂ Impact / Carbon Saving potential (High, Medium, Low) | 2025/2026 RAG rating |
|---|--|----------------------|--|-----------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Campaign to promote reduce, reuse and recycle messages | 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) | | Commenced and on going | Medium A tonne of waste sent to landfill emits 466kg CO ₂ e A tonne of waste recycled or combusted emits 21kg CO ₂ e | Commenced and ongoing |
| Implement food waste collection | Preparation for implementing separate food waste collection in April 2026 | AA | Officer time - working with LCC, our waste disposal authority and the national waste advisory body WRAP to ensure that the new Government weekly | | Post April 2026 | High | Ongoing Regular project meetings scheduled as well as reporting on funding and progress to CMT and Committees |

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| | | | household food waste collection scheme is rolled out as smoothly and effectively as possible. | | | | Roll out in late 2026 / early 2027 |
| Increase recycling | Packaging producers - waste packaging recycling responsibilities (to be introduced in 2026) | AA | Officer time | | Pre October 2025 | High | Project commenced and ongoing for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). |
| 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. | CEWG/AA/JH | Funded by external innovative funding and support | Examples: Chipping Community Energy and Whalley Community Hydro | On going | Medium | Ongoing Principal Policy and Performance Officer regularly circulates external funding information to local community organisations and Parish Councils |
| | Lobby Government to provide funding for the decarbonisation and expansion of local low carbon heat networks, enabling a transition from | CEWG/AA/JH | Officer time | | On going | Medium | Ongoing |

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| | natural gas to low carbon (electrified) heat sources | | | | | | |
| Identify private land for potential community growing initiatives | Community orchards / Work with local ecology and flood groups / enable community groups to manage green space to aid and maximise carbon capture | AA/ DH/ AS /RS | Identify land and external funding | | Planting season November 2025 to March 2026 and beyond | Medium | Ongoing Council land identified by RVBC Countryside Officer/ 3 x Miyawaki micro forests planted to date at Longridge, Edisford and Henthorn Park in partnership with LCC Treescapes team |
| Lobby LCC to actively seek opportunities to creatively engage young people in climate change activities | Work to ensure young people are engaged in solutions. Raise aspirations and skills of young people Work with local schools, sixth forms, and other education bodies to increase understanding and involvement in climate change solutions | SA/AA/JH | Officer time – working with LCC Treescapes team. RVCAN - Conference of Ribble Valley Schools (CORVS) | | September 2025 and beyond | Medium | Ongoing LCC Treescapes team engaged with local volunteers (adults and young people) to plant 3 x Miyawaki micro forests Conference of Ribble Valley Schools (CORVS4) – March 2026 |