



Ribble Valley RVBC Climate Action Plan 2026/2027

“Aspiring to be a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030”

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The 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan was approved by Economic Development Committee on Thursday, 11 June 2026

The Climate Change Action Plan objectives / goals and actions have been considered by the Climate Emergency Working Group taking into account the 14 October 2025, Notice of Motion to Declare a Climate Emergency was approved by Council.

The current position with respect to the sections of the Motion have been highlighted in red text

The 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan							
Objective / Goal	Actions	Owner / lead officer	How will we do this	Current progress	Target / milestone	Est. costs	2026/2027 Outcome
Theme 1 – Understanding Our Emissions							
Measure and monitor the council carbon footprint	Report yearly on the council carbon footprint and identify high emission sources to target for reductions.	JH	Undertake the Annual One Carbon World (OCW) Assessment. Publish the Councils carbon footprint on the Council website	2024/25 OCW report received – include findings in 2025/26 Annual Report to ED Committee	Annually - Apply for OCW grant funding towards the cost of the annual 2026/27 assessment. Complete and return 2026/27 RFI to OCW following closure of 2026/27 Annual Accounts.	Officer time. Apply for OCW 50% grant funding towards the cost of the annual assessment awarded. 2024/25 fee £1,500 + VAT 2025/26 fee £1,800 + VAT 2026/27 fee £1,800 +VAT	MOTION Identification of energy consumption and carbon output of council owned buildings and potential savings

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Objective / Goal	Actions	Owner / lead officer	How will we do this	Current progress	Target / milestone	Est. costs	2026/2027 Outcome
	Provide improved data for the OCW annual request for information (RFI)	JH / Finance team	Review the council's data processing procedures and implement improvements to enable more accurate carbon footprint calculations especially for Scope 3 to identify any high impact activities that are not currently accounted for.	Follow up recommendations made in the OCW 2024/25 and future OCW Carbon Footprint Reports	Ongoing	Officer time	Improved collection of data for calculating the Council's annual carbon footprint
Monitor and report on the borough carbon footprint	Report yearly on the borough carbon footprint.	JH	Complete the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions to provide baseline GHG emissions for the RVBC area overall including annual energy consumption, annual CO2 emissions, local electricity production and corresponding CO2 emissions, local heat/cold production (district heating/cooling, CHPs).	Consider analysing our local authority emissions data produced by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (released with a two-year time lag).	Annually Publish new figures on the website on an annual basis. Include findings in 2026/27 Annual Report to ED / P&F Committee	Officer time	MOTION Have a better understanding of the boroughs carbon footprint.
Performance Framework	Establish a performance and targeting framework to demonstrate tangible reductions in Carbon Emissions.	AA / JH	Report to ED Committee	Start to establish a performance and targeting framework	Ongoing Post April 2027	Officer time	
Engagement and policy change	Use the council's influence to lobby the government on issues such as funding, planning,	AA/ JH / Climate Emergency	Develop an effective campaign to influence other levels of government, industries and organisations		Ongoing	Councillor & Officer time	

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	pollution, and resourcing local climate action	Working Group	that have the greatest power to take urgent and appropriate action to respond to the climate emergency				
Sharing Progress with all Councillors & Staff	<p>Annual Report to ED Committee detailing reductions in emissions.</p> <p>Develop a costed action plan to address this emergency and feed into the 2026/27 budget</p>	AA/JH	Use the 2025/26 OCW Annual report and Climate Change Action Plan to monitor and report RVBC's corporate emissions performance each year	Data and information for inclusion in the report not yet collated.	<p>Annually</p> <p>Pre April 2027</p>	Officer time	MOTION
Ensure climate change is considered in council decision making	Consider climate change in key decisions and other high-level reporting	AA/JH	Embed this work in all areas of the Corporate Plan, ensuring that all strategic decisions, budgets, project delivery and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to carbon neutrality by 2030 (the Council) and by 2050 (the wider Ribble Valley Borough)		<p>Annually</p> <p>Report to ED Committee</p> <p>Post April 2027</p>	Officer time	MOTION
Embed climate action into the council's procurement strategy.	Review the procurement strategy to embed guidance to support climate action.	LO	<p>The new Procurement Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28 was approved by P&F Committee on 20/01/26</p> <p>Consider reviewing a supplier sustainability statement or strategy to ensure minimal environmental impact, before being awarded a contract.</p>	The strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis going forward. Any changes to the National Procurement Strategy for LG will be reflected in any such reviews	Ongoing	Officer time	

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Training and awareness raising	Deliver councillor and staff training on climate change. Engage and keep councillors and staff informed - promote good housekeeping.	AA/JH/Comms / Backchat / HR Team	Carbon Literacy training for members, especially those on the Climate Emergency Working Group Staff to complete the Environmental Awareness module on the Me Learning Portal.	Develop a training programme	Ongoing	Officer time	Upskill staff and Councillors about climate change and transitioning to a low carbon economy and technologies.
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 / JR/ Print room/ staff/ Councillors	Comms / Good housekeeping campaign e.g. Print room to design and print posters for display around council buildings.	Develop a good housekeeping programme with regular reminders for staff & Councillors. Work with the Employee Forum reps.	Pre April 2027	Officer time - minimum cost	
	Create a team of Climate Champions across Council departments / teams	AA / JH/ ML / Employee Forum	Comms / Good housekeeping campaign e.g. design and print posters)	For discussion at Employee Forum	Ongoing	Officer time - minimum cost	
	Continue to reduce paper consumption / newspapers / postage costs / improve use of IT	All staff and Councillors	Comms / Good housekeeping campaign e.g. design and print posters)	Linked with the above. Work with the Employee Forum reps.	Pre April 2027	Officer time - minimum cost	
Establish best practice across Lancashire	Work with other Lancashire local authorities, Ribble Valley Town Council and Parish Councils -	JH / AA	JH attends Lancashire Climate Officers meetings.		Ongoing	Officer time	MOTION Partner working

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Objective / Goal	Actions	Owner / lead officer	How will we do this	Current progress	Target / milestone	Est. costs	2026/2027 Outcome
	share / demonstrate best practice in tackling climate change.		Provide Parish Councils with climate change initiatives and information				
Support LCC to deliver LEVI funded EV charging infrastructure project to develop an expanded network of EV charge points across Ribble Valley	Work with Lancashire County Council (LCC) to deliver Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funded EV charging infrastructure project to develop an expanded network of EV charge points across the borough	AA/JH	Support LCC LEVI fund to enhance the presence of on-street low-powered charge points across the Lancashire-12 districts, predominantly to support residents who do not have access to home charging or off-street parking	LCC tender process is now live and in progress. Currently aiming to appoint a preferred bidder in December 2026 to establish a contract to deliver large-scale deployment and installation of low-speed residential charging infrastructure.	Ongoing	Officer time LCC LEVI Funding (£10.1m) Contract dates (estimated) 01/12/26 - 28/02/2041 (15 years)	
Use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to accurately plot council land and key sites of importance	Use GIS to plot council assets, land, tree protection orders, green infrastructure and key sites of importance.	Planning Policy ODP / Tree Officer / Parks & Open Spaces	GIS technical officer to develop this work to assist with identifying key sites		Ongoing	Officer time	MOTION

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Objective / Goal	Actions	Owner / lead officer	How will we do this	Current progress	Target / milestone	Est. costs	2026/2027 Outcome
Theme 2 – Minimising the Council’s Emissions							
Reduce emissions from our Council Office building and other Council owned buildings	Identify Council owned buildings where emissions can be reduced by the installation of, for example, solar panels, mains and LED lighting upgrades, replacement boilers etc.	AA / MB/ DG	<p>Civic Suite and Council Offices replacement boilers.</p> <p>New roof and solar panels on the pool.</p> <p>The Joiners – Architects have been asked to get the project to RIBA stage 2. to make more sustainable and rejig to make self-contained flats. Scoping for solar panels on the roof.</p>	Pool - P&F committee agreed the total funding of £4.2m – this has been confirmed at Council 03/03/26. This allows the project to progress including pool lining, roof and £15k legal costs. Additional provisional sum of £100k for solar panels.	Ongoing	<p><i>4-year capital programme 2026/27 to 2029/30.</i></p> <p>Replacement Boilers – Civic Suite £37.5K & Council Offices £112.7K 2026/27 Council Offices mains & LED lighting upgrade £98K New roof £685k and solar panels Ribblesdale Pool £100k</p>	
Commission and develop a full energy audit of council buildings	Identification of energy consumption and carbon output of council owned buildings with potential savings	DG	<p>Identify energy consumption and carbon output of council owned buildings. Develop an action plan identifying potential savings.</p> <p>Upskill / train RVBC staff to complete energy audits.</p>	To be commissioned and developed.	Ongoing	Training costs and officer time	MOTION

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Objective / Goal	Actions	Owner / lead officer	How will we do this	Current progress	Target / milestone	Est. costs	2026/2027 Outcome
Reduce emissions from Ribblesdale Swimming Pool	Significantly reduce energy consumption and save water through more efficient operations at Ribblesdale pool as part of the refurbishment scheme	AA / MB	Identify and quantify savings as part of the pool refurbishment.	Work will take place on site April-September 2026	All works are programmed to be complete by 01/10/26	Total allocation for the pool of £4.240 million. With works completed by 1 October 26	
Reduce emissions from refuse vehicle fleet / operations	Replacement of diesel vehicles – Evaluate / review the use of Electric or Hydrogen refuse vehicles.	AA	<p>Diesel fleet vehicles to be evaluated / reviewed for replacement by electric or other cleaner carbon reduction vehicles.</p> <p>See Capital Programme for year 2023/24 to 2027/28 for diesel vehicle replacement.</p> <p>No additional funding agreed for increased cost of e-vehicles or recharging infrastructure.</p>	See Capital Programme 2026/2027 – Approved schemes, which includes replacement of Refuse collection and other vehicles.	Ongoing	<p>Capital Programme agreed 2023/24 to 2027/28 for diesel vehicle replacement.</p> <p>No additional funding agreed for increased cost of e-vehicles or recharging infrastructure</p>	
	Monitor the cost of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) for use in refuse vehicle fleet	AA	Monitor HVO prices	Prices being monitored on a regular basis	Ongoing	Officer time	Up to 90% reduction in operational carbon emissions from refuse vehicle fleet

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Objective / Goal	Actions	Owner / lead officer	How will we do this	Current progress	Target / milestone	Est. costs	2026/2027 Outcome
	Replacement of petrol-powered hand tools and blowers with battery powered units.	MB	Look to replace petrol-powered hand tools and blowers with battery powered units	See 5-year Capital programme	Ongoing	Officer time 5-year Capital programme approved. £56K (2027/28)	
Reduce emissions through delivery of services in the community	Promote and / support the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points on Council owned car parks to encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles	NH/AA	Identify potential Council owned car parks / land to install EV charging points.		Ongoing	Officer time	
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	RVBC 50 th Anniversary Redwood tree planting initiative	Countryside Officers continue to seek new sites for planting	Ongoing	Officer time Funded via external funding	MOTION
	Continue to manage the impact of Ash Dieback by compensating for the loss of trees on Council owned sites across the Borough. (Three main council owned sites - Crosshill and Salthill Nature Reserves, and Whalley Moor Community Woodland. Other sites with a number of ash trees, including Edisford).	NH / LH / DH / AS	Further felling of dead, dying and diseased ash trees will need to be carried out over at least 3 years until the threat of tree failure is reduced to an acceptable level of risk. Specialist tree contractors work to minimise the impact of felling operations on the existing network of footpaths, biodiversity and infrastructure.	Officers have undertaken risk assessments and tree counts on sixty-five Council owned sites. Taking into account of the works undertaken already and a worst-case scenario of the	Ongoing	Officer time Referred to P&F as a growth item of £100K to manage Ash Dieback on Council owned sites for 3 years between	

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			Consider planting new trees to compensate for the loss of trees from ash dieback.	works required over the next 3 years		2026/27-2028/29.	
Commit to enhancing RVBC's biodiversity on council land	Regularly review existing management plans to consider biodiversity and carbon sequestration in all our habitats on council land.	MB/DH/AS	Introduce biodiversity enhancement measures where appropriate, including wildflower habitats, reduced mowing schedules and an increase in native low-maintenance bedding displays	Legal obligation Biodiversity Duty introduced by the Environment Act 2021	Ongoing	Officer time / grounds Maintenance team. No cost / minimum cost if seed plugs are required	MOTION
	Market car park - Living wall	MB/RS	Two options being considered on the Market car park. Option 1 - a £1k sq. meter for full install/maintenance or Option 2 - planting with maintenance to be agreed.	Being scoped	Ongoing	Officer time. Approx. £1k (UKSPF / Jubilee Fund)	MOTION
	Review the Local Plan and embed climate change and nature recovery	Planning Policy	Local Plan includes policies on mitigation, adaptation and resilience to address climate change in RVBC. Include policies that support biodiversity and nature recovery.	New Local Plan in progress	Ongoing	Officer time	MOTION
Promote sustainable travel	Maximise opportunities for safe pedestrian and cycle movement and reduce car reliance, including the consideration of the needs of	AA / JH / Planning Policy	Proactively work to reduce car use, encourage walking, cycling, and access to public transport.	Consider sustainable transport as part		Officer time	MOTION Increase the number of

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	older people and people with disabilities.		Ensure that all Council facilities are cycling friendly with facilities available to encourage staff to take up cycling	of the Local Plan review			people across all sectors that regularly use public transport to commute for work or school/college
	Bike and e-bike salary sacrifice scheme	HR / Finance teams	Employee Benefits Platform – Perkbox App. bringing together a range of offers and discounts on shopping, salary sacrifice schemes, such as a cycle to work scheme, and healthier lifestyles by proactively boosting employee wellbeing. e-bike store to be sited outside Blueberries on the market.	Perkbox App to be launched April 2026 e-bike store approx. £10k funding available	April 2026 / ongoing	Officer time	
	Procure electric pool cars for staff and encourage the use of public transport for business travel and commute to work	HR / Finance teams	Feasibility study required for any schemes identified		Ongoing	Officer time	Reduction in carbon emissions from staff travel
Ensure the council's electricity supply is powered by	Review electricity supply to council buildings where the council pays the energy tariff. Switch sites to green tariffs where	LO / Finance team	Change the Electricity contract if financially viable to all renewable in 2027 or earlier if possible (presently 47% renewable).	Review 2027	Ongoing	Officer time - unknown cost to renewing the contract	Increase electricity contract % of renewable

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renewable energy	feasible when contracts are up for renewal.						energy / greener tariffs
Explore greater remote/work from home arrangements for staff	Reduce commuter emissions, lower our digital footprint and raise awareness by promoting sustainable practices.	HR / IT	<p>Encourage full or partial remote work to reduce daily commuting (scope 3 missions) and offer incentives for low-carbon travel (cycling, walking, public transport) on in-office days.</p> <p>Encourage the use of paperless systems and extend device lifespans to reduce digital carbon emissions.</p> <p>Promote sustainable practices and provide resources for staff to improve their energy efficiency at home.</p>			Officer time	Reduction in carbon emissions resulting from staff commuting to work

Theme 3 – Minimising carbon reduction through Business / Partnerships

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		MOTION
	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		2025/26 commenced and ongoing £70K UKSPF allocated		

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Understanding our biggest emitters and actions planned	Continuing 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 / note taker)		On going		
Promote Government household energy efficiency support schemes	Promote energy efficiency resources and support schemes including for example Cosy Homes in Lancashire, ECO flex and HUG	RS / Comms	Throughout the year the council runs different grant schemes offering support to community projects. Promote available grants to private landlords to improve eco-standards and reduce domestic emissions	Promoted regularly via Comms /press releases / social media and on the council website	Ongoing	Officer time Government funding (£1.8 billion collectively – allocated regionally).	MOTION Energy efficiency in homes, reduction in fuel poverty and carbon emissions
Ensure Planning and Building Control supports carbon reduction and growth.	Examine the possible use of additional Supplementary Planning Guidance to enhance carbon reduction in all new developments.	NH/ Planning	Develop effective community engagement, education and comms and proactively use local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of new low carbon or carbon neutral developments and communities;	New local Plan in progress	Post April 2025 - new local Plan in progress	Officer time	MOTION
	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.	NH/ Building Control	FHS regulations came into effect 2025		Ongoing	Officer time	
	Ensure that Carbon reduction is considered in the new Local Plan and supports the local economy.	LH	Look to align the Local plan with the Climate Change Action plan	New local Plan in progress	New local Plan in progress	Officer time	

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Theme 4 – Mobilising the Community							
Campaign to promote reduce, reuse and recycle messages	Newsletters, social media campaigns - Recycling Week / Garden waste service / Contamination campaign (graphics) / recycle it right	Comms	Officer time - minimum cost (Comms / Good Housekeeping Campaigns - design and print)	Commenced	Ongoing	Officer time	
Food Waste	Introduce a weekly food waste collection service	AA	Planning underway to implement a separate weekly food waste collection	Implement food waste collections from February 27 due to circumstances outside the Councils' control.	Ongoing	No additional Govt. funding for food waste collections. Officer time	
Increase recycling	Packaging producers - waste packaging recycling responsibilities	AA	Planning underway to implement waste packaging recycling responsibilities	To be introduced in 2026	Ongoing	Officer time	
Support opportunities to develop renewable energy schemes	Support the development of new renewable energy schemes such as 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.	Planning / CEWG / Parish Councils	Support community initiatives - empower homeowners, tenants, and landlords to use energy from low and zero carbon sources	Consider using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of new low carbon or carbon neutral energy schemes	Ongoing	Officer time Funded by external innovative funding and support	MOTION
	Encourage opportunities in Ribble Valley to develop renewable energy schemes e.g., wind and	NH / Planning /	Support the development of new renewable energy	Planning Policy on renewable energy will be considered	Ongoing		Allocation of sites for renewable

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	solar to generate sustainable renewable energy	Parish Councils	schemes in line with the Local Plan Number and type of renewable energy schemes approved or refused.	as part of the Local Plan review. Government support for renewable energy through national planning policy and guidance.			energy projects in Local Plan review. Increased uptake of energy from renewable energy sources
	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	CEWG/AA/JH			Ongoing	Officer time	MOTION
Identify private and council land for potential community growing initiatives	Use offsetting practices e.g. tree planting as an educational opportunity for local residents and schools	DH/AS/ AA/ JH/ RS/ MB / LCC Treescapes Team	Miyawaki micro forest planting working with LCC Treescapes team to plant on Council and privately owned land – planting with local residents and schools By maintaining council owned land that maximises carbon sequestration, species diversity and mitigates species extinction; fossil fuel divestment; employment; health; agriculture; community wealth building	Countryside Officers continue to seek new sites for planting 3 x Miyawaki micro-forests planted at Edisford (Mar24), John Smith's Playing Fields (Feb25) & Henthorne Park (Feb26 at a cost of £3,790 funded by LCC & Tree Council Trees	Ongoing Planting season November to March each year	Officer time External funding. Planting & funding via the Tree Council Trees Outside Woodland Fund (ToW) managed by LCC Treescapes Team	MOTION

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Objective / Goal	Actions	Owner / lead officer	How will we do this	Current progress	Target / milestone	Est. costs	2026/2027 Outcome
				Outside Woodland Fund (ToW)			
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	RVCAN - Conference of Ribble Valley Schools (CORVS)	CORVS 4 – 26/03/26	School year from September and beyond	Officer time – working with RVCAN	