



# Climate Change Update - working with communities & grant opportunities

Alison Zarecky  
Climate Change Project Officer  
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

BDAPTC meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

# What I will cover

- Brief update on progress in implementing the borough's climate change and air quality strategy
- Our approach to supporting and working with communities
- Availability of grants and loans to support residents through schemes that we are involved in



# Our climate emergency declaration - our targets, strategy and plan

The climate emergency declaration in September 2019 set two ambitious targets for our council:

- to become carbon neutral in our operations by 2025, and
- to help the borough become net zero carbon by 2030.

Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy - adopted in March 2021.

Themed approach:

- Action by all
- Buildings
- Transport
- Zero carbon electricity
- Waste and consumption
- Natural environment

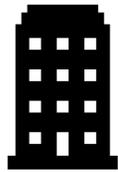


# Progress so far to reduce our own emissions

Net emissions from council operations have fallen by over two-thirds since 2018/19. Key actions include:



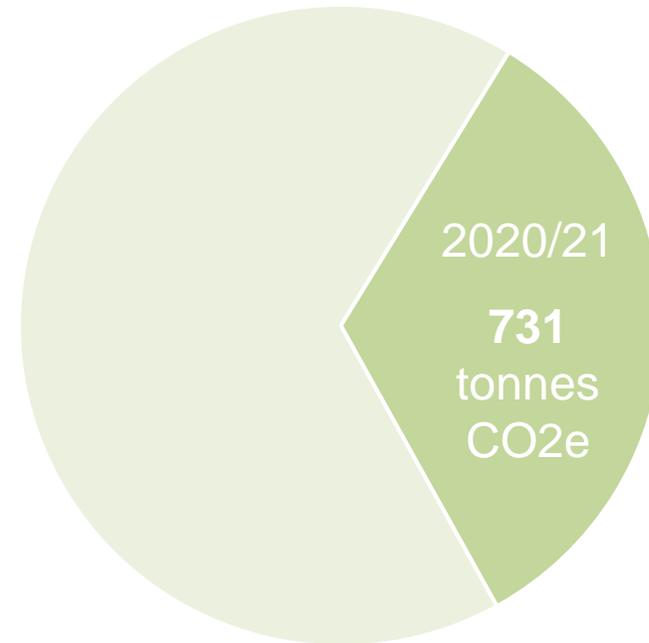
buying renewable energy  
(500 tonnes CO2 per year)



consolidating office space  
(100 tonnes CO2 per year)



improving our property, including installing LEDs  
(25 tonnes CO2 per year)



Baseline net emissions of 2,197 tonnes CO2e in 2018/19



# Our plans for our remaining net carbon emissions

We are continuing to prioritise actions to reduce our own emissions, including:



improving the amount of carbon absorbed by council green spaces



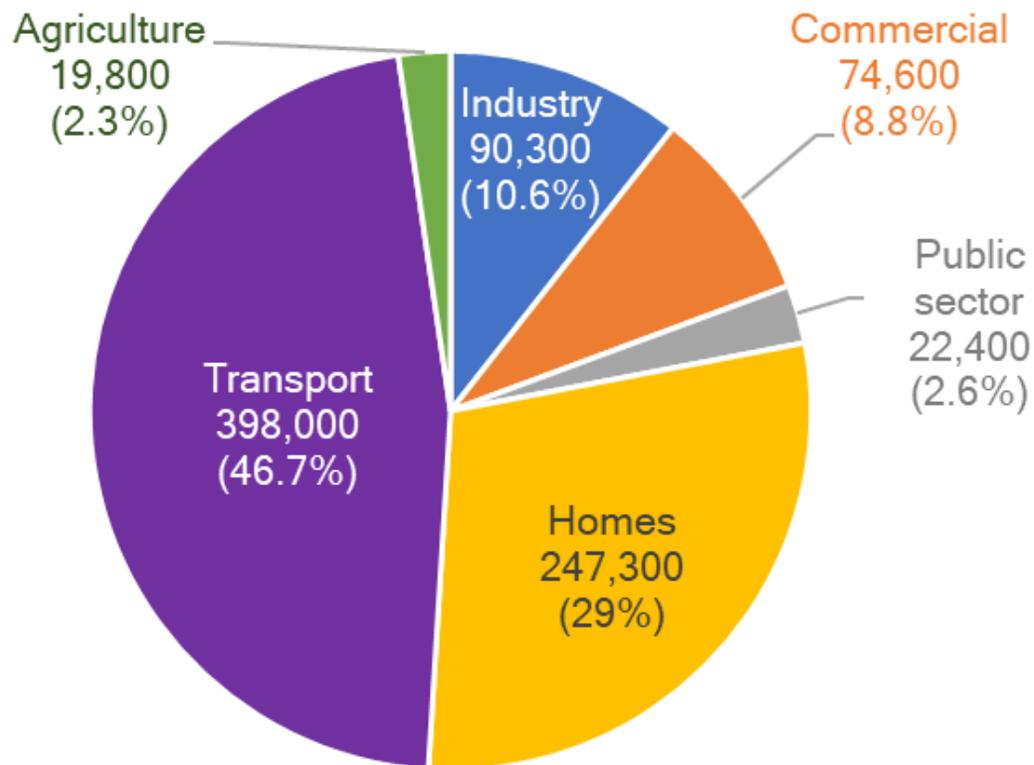
auditing our properties energy efficiency improvements

Alongside these reduction actions, we are also pledging to take mitigating action to balance our known carbon emissions since the emergency was declared by offsetting these emissions



# Emissions across Basingstoke and Deane and reaching the 2030 target

In 2020,  
net carbon  
emissions in  
Basingstoke and  
Deane totalled  
around 795,400  
tonnes  
([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))



# Supporting, enabling and inspiring action



Promoting grants and schemes for residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprints



Rolling out electric vehicle chargers, off-street and on-street



Shaping plans for future walking, cycling and public transport links



Supporting residents and communities – toolkits, best practice and guidance



Increasing awareness through campaigns such as Clean Air Basingstoke and events including Basingstoke Green Week



# Our new initiatives to tackle borough-wide emissions



## Electric car club

Actively exploring the potential for an electric car club



## Green team

Creating a new team to provide in-person and remote support to residents and small businesses



# Engaging with parish and town councils and community groups on climate change

- E-questionnaire sent out earlier this year to all parish and town councils, and community groups
- Feedback sought on what councils are doing/planning, key priority areas for each, communication channels, and ideas for what support the climate team can provide
- 14 responses from parish or town councils
- 40 responses from community groups



# Topline results

- **64% of respondents had made a commitment at council meetings to develop a climate emergency action plan** or to tackle climate change in some way.
- Only **2 (14%) of respondents said that they have specific climate change objectives** in a made or emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- Of the 14 respondents, **26% felt very knowledgeable about climate change, 36% felt quite knowledgeable, 21% felt somewhat knowledgeable and 7% felt not very or not at all knowledgeable about climate change**



# Topline results

- Insulating homes or buildings; biodiversity and protecting green spaces; promoting renewable energy; reducing waste and promoting green travel were seen as **priority areas for the majority of respondents.**
- Agriculture and sustainable food consumption were **not considered a priority by any respondent**
- All respondents had a website and a community noticeboard; 64% printed a newsletter and 29% produce an E-newsletter regularly; 86% used Facebook, 21% used Instagram and Twitter.



# Barriers to taking action

- Overwhelming amount of information
- Difficult to know where to start/focus
- Lack of knowledge in some areas
- Lack of volunteers to carry out activities
- Lack of a point of contact/leader to drive a programme
- Lack of policy from central government and council red tape
- Accessing and navigating funding opportunities
- Engaging with residents to change behaviour - they have other priorities, too busy, confusing - has to be made easy and ideally save money too



# What support do parishes want from BDBC?

- 7 (50%) wanted links to webinars
- 12 (86%) wanted updates on grants
- 6 (43%) wanted a forum or workshop to discuss climate change topics – particularly goalsetting
- 8 (57%) wanted better online resources
- Other suggestions were photos/text for social media posts, websites or newsletters



# Basingstoke Area Sustainability group

- Group of currently 14 parishes
- Meets every 2 months on Teams
- Speakers - e.g. HIWWT Wilder Basingstoke & Deane, Citizens Advice Bureau, Energy consultant
- Next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> November 4pm on Teams - subject energy/retrofit/heat pumps
- Minutes available on the BADPTC website
- All welcome!



# What's happening in various parishes - a few examples:

- Herriard launched a new ecohub [www.herriard-pc.gov.uk/ecohub](http://www.herriard-pc.gov.uk/ecohub)
- North Hampshire repair café - Derek Prior/Stratfield Turgis [www.nhrc.uk](http://www.nhrc.uk)
- Silchester: 200 Brownies doing a new sustainability badge [www.sustainablesilchester.org/badge](http://www.sustainablesilchester.org/badge)
- Thermal imaging camera FLIR iphone plug ins in various parishes
- 2 community energy companies - Test Source and Loddon Energy [www.testsource.org.uk](http://www.testsource.org.uk)  
[www.Loddoncommunityenergy.org.uk](http://www.Loddoncommunityenergy.org.uk)
- Overton Nappy Library and local refill shop [www.sustainableoverton.org.uk](http://www.sustainableoverton.org.uk)
- Various eco fairs - e.g. Kingsclere, St Mary Bourne, Wootton Bee festival, Oakley Deane - energy event this Saturday for Green Week



# Financial support for residents and community groups for energy efficiency

## Grants

up to  
£6,000

from the **Boiler Upgrade Scheme** for homeowners to replace boilers with air source or ground source heat pumps ) £5000-6000

up to  
£3,000

from the **Homeowner Grant scheme** for homeowners on means-tested benefits

## Loans

up to  
£25,000

from the **Community Group Loan scheme** for groups to make improvements

up to  
£3,000

from the **Homeowner Loan scheme** for homeowners on any income



# Green Homes grants for homeowners and private tenants

- Residents with a household income of up to £30,000 or on means-tested benefits and living in homes with an energy performance certificate rating of D, E, F or G can apply
- Up to £10,000 for on-gas homes, with up to £25,000 for homes off the main gas network
- For more information see [www.warmerhomes.org.uk/programme](http://www.warmerhomes.org.uk/programme) or call 0800 038 5737



## Improvements could include



Thank you for listening

Any questions?

Get in touch at [ClimateChange@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:ClimateChange@basingstoke.gov.uk) or call 01256 844 844 and ask to speak to the Climate Change team

