

Action Plan

2026-2030

to support the

Environment and Climate Strategy 2026-2035

Action Plan 2026-2030

This document represents the first five-year Action Plan and covers the period from 2026 to 2030.

Progress made during the 2026-2030 period will be reviewed to assess the carbon emissions reductions achieved. The remaining emissions reductions required to meet the 2035 objectives will then inform the development of the 2030-2035 Action Plan.

Reviewing the Action Plan at the five-year mid-point provides an opportunity for stakeholders to ensure their commitments reflect the latest opportunities, technologies, funding and policy developments. It will also prompt a formal assessment of what additional actions the council, its partners and the wider borough can take to accelerate emissions reductions during the final five years of the strategy.



Strategic Priority: Energy

Action ID	Strategic Priority	Strategy Ambition	Target	Action	KPI Indicator
1.1	Energy	Decarbonise buildings and increase renewables generation	Ensure 75% of the current properties at EPC D-G to be upgraded to EPC A-C by 2035	Increase support and enable energy efficiency improvements on domestic properties across the borough with the aim of having 75% of the current properties at Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) D-G to be upgraded to EPC A-C by 2035. This will require upgrades to 18,657 homes across the borough, according to the government's most recent data (Domestic Energy Map - 2024). The council will take a data-led approach to targeting properties with low EPCs which will inform a pipeline of localised areas to target and offer energy efficiency support. Heating and cooling interventions will be supported where appropriate to deliver climate-resilient homes. Roll out of a new energy efficiency and retrofit tool in 2027. The scheme will aim to engage and enable the adoption of energy efficiency and decarbonisation in households to deliver carbon savings and reduce energy costs. This will be delivered in partnership with the RBWM Climate Partnership alongside relevant public sector and community organisations to support capacity and reach.	The percentage of households in EPC Band A-C, as per the most recent available government data
1.2	Energy	Decarbonise buildings and increase renewables generation	Engage with 80% of households at risk of fuel poverty by 2035	Expand campaigns and increase audience reach to reduce fuel poverty across the borough. Delivery of this will be supported by the engagement component of the energy efficiency and retrofit scheme trail noted in Action 1.1. Engagement targets will be measured against the most up to date government data for the number of households at risk of fuel poverty in the borough. Currently, the total number of fuel poor households in RBWM is 4,951 (7.6% of RBWM households) based on the government's Domestic Energy Map using 2024 data.	Number of residents engaged with campaigns
1.3	Energy	Decarbonise buildings and increase renewables generation	Increase the borough's worst-performing private rented domestic properties by one EPC band by 2035	Supporting the borough's PRS properties in EPC band F-G will require increased engagement and a support programme across the borough. Delivery will include the analysis of data on PRS properties to deliver a targeted campaign to focus engagement and EPC improvement mechanisms. Data will be collected and reviewed against the first-year baseline of this project which allows for a progress trajectory to be established and developed upon.	The percentage of private rented properties in EPC Band F-G, as per the most recent available data
1.4	Energy	Decarbonise buildings and increase renewables generation	Reduce the council's emissions by 88% by 2035	By 2035, reduce the council's emissions by 88% against a 2018/19 baseline, in line with the Tyndall Trajectory. The council will implement a new energy management system to further identify opportunities to decarbonise the council's estate. Decarbonisation pipelines will prioritise the upgrade of assets which are nearing their end-of-life. The upgrades will include the installation of low and zero carbon heating and cooling technologies as well as renewable energy sources and fabric upgrades.	Annual carbon emissions data from the council's estate
1.5	Energy	Decarbonise buildings and increase renewables generation	Enable an increase in community energy opportunities	Increase support for community groups to enable the delivery of community energy opportunities. Delivery will require regular stakeholder check-ins between the council, community groups and the Climate Partnership to identify collaboration opportunities to enable the delivery of renewable energy systems for the community.	Annual number of community renewable energy projects in the borough
1.6	Energy	Decarbonise buildings and increase renewables generation	Have clear net zero aligned policies in all council development plans	Embed climate mitigation, adaptation and nature recovery into the council's new Development Plan.	Development Plan
1.7	Energy	Improve air quality	Ensure air quality indicators are below their statutory thresholds over the course of the Environment and Climate Strategy 2026-2035	Ensuring air quality indicators remain below their statutory government thresholds over the course of the Environment and Climate Strategy 2026-2035 term will require collaborative working across the council and borough to ensure healthy environments and air quality are aligned with the council's Air Quality Management Strategy.	Annual air quality data in line with statutory government thresholds
1.8	Energy	Health equity and behavioural change	Embed Climate Action into all areas of the council	Each Directorate within the council is to have one active Sustainability Champion. Sustainability Champions will identify opportunities for energy efficiency and sustainable resource use across the council's functions and to monitor the delivery of agreed actions. The council will create an internal Sustainable Places Policy to deliver positive behaviour change among users of the council's buildings. This policy will be implemented as a trial by April 2027.	Annual energy consumption data from across the council's estate

Strategic Priority: Sustainable Transport

Action ID	Strategic Priority	Strategy Ambition	Target	Action	KPI Indicator
2.1	Sustainable Transport	Prioritise walking, cycling and wheeling for short journeys	Increasing rates of walking by 50% and cycling by 75% by 2031	The improvement of walking and cycling infrastructure and the delivery of relevant schemes will support the increase in walking and cycling as an alternative to travelling by car in the borough. Walking and cycling infrastructure improvements include reviewing opportunities to improve cycling corridors and footpaths. To support this progress a minimum of 10 walking and cycling improvement projects will be considered over the next two years. Delivery will be supported by engagement campaigns to improve road users' awareness of safety on the roads and active travel options.	The annual number of pedestrians and cyclists using walking and cycling infrastructure
2.2	Sustainable Transport	Prioritise walking, cycling and wheeling for short journeys	Annual year-on-year decrease of cars used for the school commute by 2035	Supporting a reduction of cars on the school commute will require collaboration with Achieving for Children and engagement schemes. Engagement schemes will consider the range of audiences who commute to school and their needs. These considerations will be covered by a range of schemes such as School Streets, Name a borough Bus, the concessionary pass campaign and bus service improvements in key areas.	The annual number of cars dropping-off / picking-up pupils
2.3	Sustainable Transport	Prioritise walking, cycling and wheeling for short journeys Improve public transport connectivity and reliability	By 2035, see an annual increase in resident engagement for active travel and low-carbon transport information	Increasing meaningful engagement will include the delivery of engagement campaigns which support modal shifts in travel choices. Engagement will be delivered both in-person and digitally.	The annual media engagement data and event attendees
2.4	Sustainable Transport	Support the transition to zero-emission vehicles	70% of homes without driveways within a five-minute walk of a public electric vehicle charge point, by 2035 at the latest	Improving residents' low-carbon travel choices will require the installation of EV charge points and rapid EV charge points to broader audiences. The scoping of opportunities to build investment proposals and identify delivery capacity is underway. Engagement with residents will be delivered alongside the installation of charge points to improve residents' familiarity and confidence in using electric vehicles.	The annual number of EV charge points operational across the borough
2.5	Sustainable Transport	Support the transition to zero-emission vehicles	The council will have a zero emissions fleet by 2035, subject to vehicle availability	A fleet vehicle audit and contract review will be undertaken by the end of 2027.	council Fleet carbon emissions

To be viewed in line with the Local Transport Delivery Plan, the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

Strategic Priority: Natural Environment

Action ID	Strategic Priority	Strategy Ambition	Target	Action	KPI Indicator
3.1	Natural Environment	Protect and increase nature for biodiversity, climate and health	Increase the number of practical conservation opportunities in the community from 10 to 24 a year by 2028	The council will facilitate and support local community action in enhancing biodiversity in our local nature reserves and wildlife areas. Opportunities will be regularly advertised and geographically spread across the borough to make it as accessible as possible for people to join.	Number of practical conservation sessions offered each year
3.2	Natural Environment	Protect and increase nature for biodiversity, climate and health	Review all conservation management plans for council-owned reserves and update all by 2030 including new ecology surveys	All existing conservation management plans will be reviewed by the end of 2026. A programme of ecological studies will be scheduled for 2027, 2028 and 2029 covering all council-owned nature reserves. Conservation management plans will be updated based on studies to ensure the council is delivering on its commitment to nature recovery.	Conservation management plans reviewed and complete
3.3	Natural Environment	Protect and increase nature for biodiversity, climate and health	Coordinate delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, in support of 30% of land managed for nature in Berkshire by 2030	The council will act as the Responsible Authority for delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, working with supporting authorities and wider stakeholders across the county.	N/A
3.4	Natural Environment	Strengthen local partnerships for biodiversity and inclusion	Coordinate and promote the Local Nature Partnership for Berkshire, enabling a programme of action by 2026	The council will host the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership, coordinating action on nature recovery across the county.	Establish new Local Nature Partnership Board by the end of 2026
3.5	Natural Environment	Strengthen local partnerships for biodiversity and inclusion	Support residents to deliver nature recovery on their own land and in gardens	council environment specialists will visit any landowners (over 1 hectare) who request a visit to provide advice on how to maintain and enhance biodiversity. The council will continue to support the Wildlife Garden Awards to provide advice and guidance to residential homes that have gardens of less than 1 hectare.	Number of visits made each year by council officers
3.6	Natural Environment	Strengthen local partnerships for biodiversity and inclusion	Deliver nature education and engagement to 1,500 children per year to support nature recovery, health and wellbeing	Braywick Nature Centre to deliver sessions to school groups, scouting and guiding groups, religious and community groups using the outdoor education facilities at Braywick. Offer school visits to schools in the borough to provide advice to teachers and present at assemblies.	Number of children who attend sessions each year
3.7	Natural Environment	Embed nature-based solutions across planning and flood management	All major planning applications are assessed by a sustainable drainage specialist and an ecologist by 2026 to ensure development in the borough delivers for nature and flood risk	Planning Officers will be provided with guidance and training on flood risk and ecological issues. Specialist council Officers will act as consultees to planning officers where further, detailed input is required to support flood risk and ecological protections.	Number of applications reviewed by Ecology and Flood Risk teams
3.8	Natural Environment	Embed nature-based solutions across planning and flood management	Undertake feasibility into embedding rain gardens into highways improvements to deliver nature recovery and climate resilience	Ensure staff have appropriate training to undertake feasibility. Each highways project that comes forward is assessed for rain garden suitability.	Number of rain gardens installed
3.9	Natural Environment	Embed nature-based solutions across planning and flood management	Develop a biodiversity net gain habitat bank to ensure biodiversity lost from development is retained in the borough by 2027	Assess opportunities for a habitat bank across the council's estate. Undertake biodiversity improvements to the site.	Number of habitat banks created

To be viewed in line with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Strategic Priority: Reducing Waste

Action ID	Strategic Priority	Strategy Ambition	Target	Action	KPI Indicator
4.1	Reducing Waste	Strengthen engagement and education	Year-on-year increase in resident engagement with waste reduction services and initiatives	Increasing the engagement will improve residents' knowledge of re-using products and materials to support sustainable waste behaviours of residents across the borough. The council will host engagement events such as Preloved to Reloved days and participate in national campaigns to support residents' awareness of sustainable waste disposal and recycling. Key focus areas will be addressed such as reducing food waste from flats, and further supporting residents' ability to recycle items effectively. Engagement campaigns will be delivered alongside partnerships with charities to promote reuse of furniture and household goods, participating in national initiatives, hosting roadshows and supporting the creation of SWAP networks.	Number of residents engaged in campaigns annually
4.2	Reducing Waste	Strengthen engagement and education	Year-on-year increase in engagement with schools to improve their waste habits	Increasing engagement with schools across the borough to support the reduction of waste and increase their recycling habits. The council will deliver both in-person and digital campaigns in partnership with Achieving for Children. Programmes such as Eco-Schools, school sustainability action plans and Pupil Profits will be investigated and rolled out where suitable.	Number of schools actively engaged with annually
4.3	Reducing Waste	Strengthen engagement and education	Year-on-year increase in engagement with fly-tipping campaigns	The reduction of fly-tipping will require working with residents and businesses across the borough to inform them of alternative and convenient options for disposing of waste. The council will support the Keep Britain Tidy campaign against fly-tipping. The council will work with partners and stakeholders to hold at least two fly-tipping campaigns annually.	Number of residents and businesses engaged in campaigns annually
4.4	Reducing Waste	Build a successful circular borough	Advise on all new development planning consultations to improve domestic waste facilities	Review all planning applications for new developments, ensuring that the waste and recycling provisions are adequate, allow space for bulky waste to be stored whilst waiting for collection, and that access is suitable for council refuse collection vehicles, adhering to health and safety guidance for pull distances and carry distances.	All new developments comply with Simpler Recycling legislation and have followed planning guidance published on the RBWM website
4.5	Reducing Waste	Build a successful circular borough	Achieve a 65% household recycling rate by 2035	A survey will be undertaken to gain a better understanding of the awareness of the recycling facilities and recycling infrastructure for a broader range of materials and products such as increasing TRAID, WEEE and coffee pods.	Data reporting through the Waste Dataflow
4.6	Reducing Waste	Improve everyday waste services	Increase recycling by 100% across flatted developments by 2035	Increasing the recycling rates from flatted developments will require improving engagement and enabling better access to waste and recycling provisions. The council will undertake waste audits, improve recycling infrastructure and communal bin store areas alongside accurate information sharing. Further services and initiatives that encourage the reuse of items will be delivered such as expanding the "Reduce and reuse" webpage and broadening the range of events such as 'Preloved to Reloved' days.	Number of collections rejected due to contamination from flatted properties
4.7	Reducing Waste	Improve everyday waste services	Reduce household waste sent to energy recovery by 44% by 2035	Reducing waste sent for energy recovery through incineration will support better waste management across domestic households by diverting the waste for recycling and reuse. The council will work with partners to improve service reliability, expand opportunities for recycling and composting and make recycling at home more convenient.	Waste sent to energy recovery data

Strategic Priority: Governance, Finance and Risk

Action ID	Strategic Priority	Strategy Ambition	Target	Action	KPI Indicator
5.1	Governance, Finance and Risk	Integrate climate into council governance and decision-making	Climate impacts included as standard in all council decision-making processes and boards by 2030	To deliver on the inclusion of climate impacts and decarbonisation opportunities across the council's processes and boards, delivery will require collaboration with the council's Democratic Services Team and across all boards to integrate climate impacts as standard.	The % of reports submitted with the inclusion of climate impacts
5.2	Governance, Finance and Risk	Integrate climate into council governance and decision-making	Support parish councils to align their policies with the council's Environment and Climate Strategy 2026-2035 by 2030	To support parish councils in aligning their policies with the RBWM Environment and Climate Strategy 2026-2035 by offering training and guidance.	Number of parish councils' participation in training
5.3	Governance, Finance and Risk	Align finance and investments with net zero principles	All procurement processes to address climate impacts by 2030	Ensuring all the council's contracts and procurement processes address climate change will require collaboration across the council to embed the suitable criteria and monitoring. Consultation from the council's Sustainability Team can guide responses.	Number of contracts and procurement processes which address climate impacts
5.4	Governance, Finance and Risk	Align finance and investments with net zero principles	All Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund team to receive climate training by 2030 at the latest	Support the Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund to seek sustainable investments through training for the team and supporting their Responsible Investments Policy.	The % of team trained
5.5	Governance, Finance and Risk	Strengthen risk management and transparency	By 2030 at the latest, develop a climate risk register	Development of the climate risk register to reduce the council's vulnerability to climate impacts.	Publication of the climate risk register



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