

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
8 March 2023

Carbon Neutral Nottingham 2028

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on the progress being made towards the ambition for Nottingham to become the first UK city to be carbon neutral by 2028 with a particular focus on how delivery is being measured, partnership working and residents' behaviour change activities.

2 Action required

- 2.1 To note the report and consider how actions to reduce carbon emission reduction form a part of everything the Council does.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The impact of the global climate crisis is accelerating. We are seeing more and more devastating extreme weather events such as flooding and heatwaves around the world and closer to home. The cause of this is undoubtedly the ever increase levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced by the burning of fossil fuels by humans.

In 2019, the City Council along with key city partners such as the Universities and the NHS published the Carbon Neutral Nottingham 2028 (CN28) Charter to achieve carbon neutral by 2028 and tackle climate change across the city. This ambition was subsequently included in the Council's Council Plan published that year. In 2020, the Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency and began delivery of the city wide CN28 action plan. In order to effectively manage the plan, an officer level Programme Board was formed along with a Strategy Board, chaired by the Executive Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment & Waste Services to which the Programme Board reports. This internal groups are supplemented by the Nottingham Green Partnership which provides input contributions from the wider city organisations and partners.

Becoming the first city in the UK to be carbon neutral brings significant benefits to all aspects of living, working and visiting our city. A carbon neutral city results in a cleaner, healthier environment for us all and creates opportunities to live and work in a more sustainable and healthy way.

Our ambition for the city to be carbon neutral by 2028 is based on five key objectives:

- Significant reductions in CO₂ emissions arising from key areas such as transport, our built environment and energy generation

- Offsetting any residual CO₂ emissions through a range of actions including tree planting
- Making the city more resilient and better adapted to the adverse impacts of the climate crisis such as flooding
- Improving the city's natural environment
- Adopting a 'carbon neutral by design' ethos in all we do as a Council.

The key activities to achieve CN28 include:

- Reducing commuting by petrol/diesel cars, increasing active travel, developing clean freight
- Using more renewable energy, improving building efficiencies, developing sustainable procurement
- Developing a local low carbon energy supply
- Reducing waste, increasing recycling, reuse and energy from waste production
- Improving water supply efficiency and demand
- Increasing local low carbon food production, reducing consumption of high carbon products, reducing food waste
- Offsetting emissions e.g. tree planting, improve land management
- Improving natural habitats, increasing woodland, more natural features in new developments, becoming a bee/pollinator friendly city
- Reducing flood risk, making services adaptable to climate change.

The Story So Far

We are now coming to the end of the 3rd year of delivery of the action plan. In this time, the city has delivered a number of key activities which include:

- The City being considered one of the top 122 world cities for climate action (Carbon Disclosure Project)
- 1,700 city residents have signed up to Green Rewards app whose actions have avoided over 70t of CO₂ going into the atmosphere
- City Council is now a bronze accredited carbon literate organisation
- Over 50% of the Council's vehicle fleet is now ULEV
- Nottingham has the highest number of EV charge points per head of population for any UK core city and well above the national average
- 30% buses operating in the city are biogas or electric, with £15m funding secured this year for 78 new electric buses and charging infrastructure for NCT
- Since 2012, over 7,000 social and private hard-to-treat homes have been insulated; over 4,000 social housing properties have solar panels

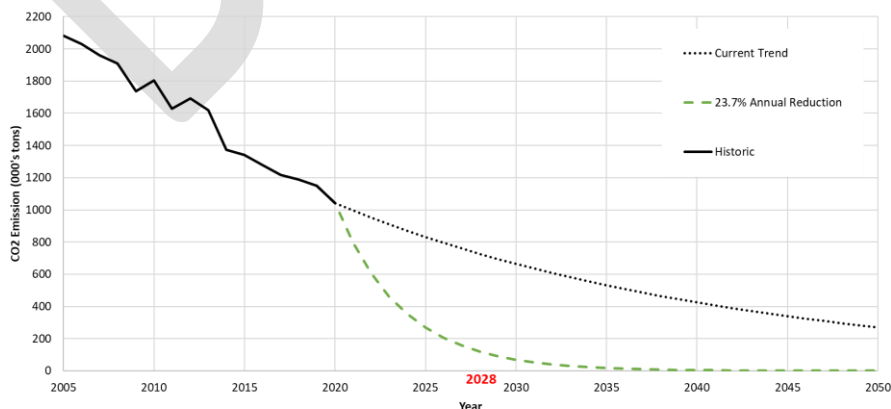
- In 2020, secured over £13m funding for domestic energy efficiency retrofits and with over 1,200 homes included in the domestic retrofit programme
- Over 24,000 new trees planted since 2019/20 (50,000 by 2023). 9,000 in last 12 months. When these are fully grown, they are capable of removing approximately 500k tonnes of CO₂ every year

This is not just about what we as a Council do. The contribution of the wider city is critical to achieving the ambition. This is demonstrated by the following achievements:

- The University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University (NTU) are among the top 5 most sustainable universities in the world
- Nottingham City Hospital is replacing its coal fired boilers saving 800t CO₂e per year
- Nottingham Universities Hospital NHS Trust launched their NHS Green Plan in April to become net zero by 2040
- Free carbon literacy training is being offered to Nottingham city businesses as part of a collaboration between the Nottingham BID and NTU
- Nottingham Contemporary developing carbon budgets for their exhibitions and looking at improving building energy efficiency
- Nottingham Justice Museum recently received Arts Council funding for energy building efficiency improvements at Shire Hall

Measuring Delivery

The key overall measurement of delivery is provided by annual figures provided by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The latest data (2020) shows that, since the baseline year (2005), Nottingham has reduced its overall CO₂ emissions by **49.96%** which is just over 1m tonnes of CO₂. These reductions put the city in the top 10% of all local authorities for emissions reduction. A 57.7% reduction in per capita emissions makes Nottingham the highest for any UK core city.



Working in Partnership

Achieving carbon neutral by 2028 is something that cannot be achieved by one organisation alone. The Council is directly responsible for approximately 3% of the city's CO2 emissions so it is imperative that all business, organisations, workers, residents, and visitors to the city play their part. Key to this is collaboration and the Council is at the heart of this.

The Council works with key city partners through the well-established Nottingham Green Partnership was 30 years old this year having formed in 1992. The partnership, chaired by one of the partners at Browne Jacobsen Solicitors works across the city to develop, share and encourage businesses and organisations to work together to deliver carbon reduction strategies. The partnership consists of nearly 30 organisations includes both Universities, charities, Boots-Walgreen, SMEs and other interested bodies and agencies Sustrans. The partnership works together on tackling key issues in the city and recently formed a number of task and finish groups to look at the circular economy, adaptation, the supply chain and formation of a citizen's assembly.

In 2021, we started the 'We Support CN28' campaign for businesses. This allows any Nottingham based business or organisation to show its support for the CN28 ambition by signing up to the pledges outlines in the City's Carbon Neutral Charter. They are provided with a series of especially designed logos to use on any promotional material, vehicle livery, email signature etc. The Council then work with them on an ongoing basis to help explore ways in which you could reduce their carbon footprint and visibly promote them as a supporter of CN28 in Council communications and marketing. To date, over, 45 organisations were signed up.

Awareness & Behaviour Change

Key to any shift in behaviour is providing sufficient and pertinent information to help people understand why the change is needed and what they can do to help across all sectors. We produce a monthly CN28 newsletter which now has over 1,800 subscribers providing news, tips, and advice on reducing carbon emissions in the workplace and at home. The City Council extensively uses social media to get key messages and information across as well as setting challenges to encourage people to change their habits in often fun and engaging ways. To date, CN28 on Twitter has over 1,300 followers and 700 follow the CN28 Facebook page.

Working with Residents

The City Council is working in partnership with other Nottinghamshire district councils to develop and promote citizens use of a sustainability and wellness app called Green Rewards, which is designed to encourage carbon reduction behaviours through a reward scheme. The app was launched in October 2021 and has been successfully rolled out

with over 4,000 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire households signed up and engaging in sustainable behaviours. In this time, users have logged over 62,250 individual actions equating to over 148 tonnes of CO₂ avoided.

In 2021, we developed the Green Light In The City project with a number of partners and was formed to develop 'popup' spaces in empty retail premises in shopping areas which provide a focus for creativity and engagement with City residents and visitors with key local issues particularly those in relation to climate change and sustainability. The first phase of this project set up such a space in Bridlesmith Gate in November 2021 for three months engaging well over 600 visitors.

We also recently developed an interactive project called Hello Lamppost with the University of Nottingham which allows a virtual conversation to be had with regular street furniture on climate change.

4 List of attached information

4.1 None

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 [Carbon Neutral 2028 Action Plan](#)

5.2 [Carbon Neutral Charter](#)

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

8.1 Wayne Bexton, Director for Environment & Sustainability – wayne.bexton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

8.2 Angie Lillistone – Head of Carbon Reduction Projects and Policies – angie.lillistone@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

8.3 Chris Common, Carbon Neutral Policy Manager – chris.common@nottinghamcity.gov.uk