




**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**



# Everything In Our Power

Second Annual Report  
2022-2023



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-  #StroudDistrict2030





**An Encourager**



**An Enabler**



**An Exemplar**

**Our Powers**

# FOREWORD

As global temperatures continue to rise and with nature under threat, action on the climate and ecological crises is now more urgent than ever. We all have a part to play in this challenge of our time: to reduce carbon emissions and to help wildlife recover and thrive.

The 2030 Strategy for Stroud district provides the focus for our local action to limit, adapt, recover and respond in a changing climate. From the outset, we pledged that we'd do everything within the council's power to make Stroud district carbon neutral by 2030, and this inspiring report sets out the ways in which we are working towards that goal.

It involves improving our own estates and practices, working in partnership with others, and encouraging locally-led action. We've developed closer links with community representatives, supported the deployment of renewable energy and the greening of our local economy. We've also been helping residents reduce the quantity of resources which are discarded as waste, and support nature; we've adopted more sustainable methods of land management and planted thousands of trees.

The vast majority of our carbon emissions in the district are from transport and the built environment, so these have been key areas of focus. On transport, we're preparing for the installation of electric vehicle charge points in council car parks, reducing emissions from licensed vehicles, and funding walking and cycling projects to offer an alternative to the car.

Improving the energy efficiency of the 53,000 homes in Stroud district remains a huge challenge, as more than 70 per cent of these properties do not yet meet baseline energy performance standards. We are still waiting for the national funding and schemes which are needed to meet national climate targets for the housing sector. But in the meantime, we are forging ahead with local investment to retrofit our 5,000 council homes, as well as demonstrator projects, like the nationally recognised 'deep retrofit' of flats in Berkeley.

It's been a particularly busy year for our Warm and Well partnership, due to the cost of living crisis, and I'm pleased we've been able to provide some financial support to the most vulnerable households to help them through this difficult time, as well as valuable advice to hundreds more residents on reducing their heating costs.

**Cllr. Catherine Braun,**  
**Leader of Stroud District Council**





To achieve a resilient,  
inclusive, equality driven  
district we will...

lead by example; be an enabler;  
encourage positive action;  
collaborate; do everything in  
our power to be carbon neutral  
by 2030.

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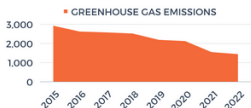
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# COUNCIL PERFORMANCE

## COUNCIL EMISSIONS 2015 - 2022



## 2022 EMISSIONS LESS THAN HALF OF 2015 EMISSIONS



...AND WE'VE CONTINUED TO  
REDUCE OUR EMISSIONS YEAR-  
ON-YEAR SINCE

We are continuing to reduce our carbon related environmental impacts and are working hard to secure more renewable generation opportunities on our estate. We are proud to have been carbon neutral in our direct operations since 2015.

The council's biggest carbon challenge sits in those emissions classed as scope 3. This refers to emissions controlled and/or owned by suppliers and servicers within our value chain.

Stroud District Council deploys social value procurement analysis and criteria to influence the environmental impacts in our value chain. The council needs to apply balance as well as encouragement so that we can continue to service district needs in a timely way whilst progressing the development of our low carbon value chain.

## CARBON EMISSIONS BY SCOPE

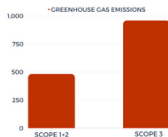


## SCOPE 1 FLEET EMISSIONS DOWN 12%



...as we continue to reduce our  
reliance on combustion engine  
vehicles

## SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS DOUBLE THAT OF SCOPE 1+2 COMBINED



## HEADLINES

**£2,430K**

IN GRANT MONEY FOR IMPROVED SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES AT THE MUSEUM IN THE PARK

**24**

'A' RATED NEW COUNCIL HOMES BUILT, SAVING AN ESTIMATED 74 TONNES OF CARBON A YEAR

**171**

NEW NATURAL FLOOD INTERVENTIONS COMPLETED

**SCORE: B**

2022 CLIMATE DISCLOSURE PROJECT

ASSESSED THE COUNCIL AS "B" FOR OVERALL PROGRESS

**£450K**

SUCCESSFUL BID SPONSORED BY STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR GREEN/RETROFIT SKILLS CENTRE AT BERKELEY GREEN

**>£5M**

SECURED TO REPLACE AGEING GAS BOILERS WITH LOW CARBON HEAT PUMP TECHNOLOGY AT 3 MAJOR COUNCIL-OWNED BUILDINGS

**1300  
TREES;  
2 NEW  
PONDS**

The council is responsible  
for fewer than 1% of  
annual emissions.

Our district community  
holds the real power to  
make the difference for  
2030.

# COMMUNITY

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**119,019**

(ONS 2018 Mid-year estimate)

POPULATION

Projected Population 2041

**136,000**

# 2030: It's all about **you!**

The scope for the council to be a direct influence on climate and environmental issues is relatively small due to the scale of the problems relative to the size of our estate. The 2030 Strategy recognises that more focus is needed on the levels of community inclusion in action and, on understanding how we can work to improve so that significant cumulative progress can occur.

To do this, the council has recruited a wide range of voluntary community representatives, which includes some political representation and council officers to be part of what is called, 2030 Community Engagement Board (2030CEB). They have been recruited via a drive through existing community networks and a general open invitation to apply and membership is evolving steadily to fill the recognised gaps in representation.

In March 2022, a local facilitator, Ann Finlayson from Sustainable and Environmental Education (SE-Ed), was contracted in to support the development of a community focused workplan with the board which is due Easter 2023. This will plan out action that increases participation by a broader range of the community to lower greenhouse gas emissions and increase care of the environment. These actions will be reviewed regularly and developed to respond to changing needs.

The facilitated process has included supporting the board to listen to issues faced through their networks and current life priorities, like the cost of living concerns, which has helped the board to be grounded in the day-to-day reality of people's lives and how climate action isn't able to always be a priority issue for people. They looked at the district's unique characteristics and opportunities these may present and researched theories around how to encourage participation and lasting change and build momentum in social movements.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOARD

2030 Community Engagement Board has up to 20 members who are all district-based community representatives.

As a collective there are intersecting interests and networks in: arts, education, families, people under 24, older people, people living with disabilities, people with technical skills in the built and natural environment, those with experience of community and business development and climate activists. We are a varied bunch who have delved into real life issues in our networks and explored the opportunities there are to build on the motivation and assets already found through our district.

## Everyone Counts

When I saw the brief for the 2030 Community Engagement Board two opposing thoughts immediately sprang to mind – 'I would love to do this and help get the district at the forefront of making those changes to help the climate' BUT ALSO 'I am not the right person for the job'.

Strangely, although I applied for this volunteer role and was accepted onto the Board, around a year on and I still feel exactly the same. However, there is a difference now, the understanding that...

**... although you might not be perfect, everything we do that is the right thing is a good thing. If everyone did a couple of really good things every day, we would all make so much difference over time.**

The 2030CEB is here to learn and understand what makes that difference. We have outside help for this of course, but we also have some experts of our own on the Board, we are helping each other.

*"...we have learned to give and take with our views, which has made us a stronger group and more able to have measured conversations over climate action."*

We can then pass on what we have learned to everyone in the community, and you can choose to do what you are able to and want to do.

Knowledge enables us to make good decisions, and if we want our planet to still be here ecologically for our grandchildren, their grandchildren and more generations after that, then we need to know what to do.

For me, the heat of last summer was a stark reminder that our planet really is changing and, it is going to be serious. Our aim is for all of us to work together, do what we can, to slow down what is happening and to repair some of the damage that has been done.

**Don't make the mistake of thinking that you are too small to make a difference. A huge number of good small things make a huge difference.**

Written by: Carol, 2030 CEB representative



# COMMUNITY ROLE



## Community Connection

Communities are more sustainable and thrive when people that live and work in them are empowered and enabled to build on the things that are important to them.

Connecting Communities is one of three workstreams in the council's modernisation programme. The 2030 encourager work has always been grounded in this asset-based approach, developing a work plan for action by listening to the community and incubating their ideas, supporting a process of collaboration between people with a common goal and diversity of thought.

The 2030 team is working within the Connecting Communities workstream to offer lessons learned towards the development of a council asset-based community engagement plan and sharing information about how we can all better meet the needs of the community.



## 2030 Solutions

Community representatives have collaborated on a workplan for the 2030 Community Engagement Board, with a first draft being prepared in March 2023. This has been developed with a focus on what is already working in the community, what assets there already are that could be supported further, what issues are prevalent in people's lives, the solutions needed and what climate action would support people most with these issues.

The 2030CEB and its workplan recognises that environment and climate is not the primary concern for most people but that everyone in the community has needs and ambitions that could be serviced through 2030 aligned solutions.



## Interested..?

If you would like to know more about our 2030 Community Engagement Board and our work with communities you can:

Find information on our webpages:

 <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/building-a-sustainable-future-together>

Follow us on social media:

 #StroudDistrict2030

Send us an email:

 2030@stroud.gov.uk

# CONVERSATIONS

A group of a dozen Stroud District Youth Councillors (SDYC) and the 2030 Community Engagement Board (2030CEB) reps met in a facilitated discussion about their reflections of the international climate conference, 'COP27' and what we could learn from it as a district. Two members of the youth council tell us about their experience here:

### Cate – SDYC Leader

*"Whilst Megan and I represent the Youth Council on the 2030 CEB, we are both aware that other youth council members are just as interested in the topic and the board's progress and so it felt right to facilitate a wider youth council engagement. The intergenerational group brought many different perspectives together in a more comfortable and equal environment, that gave each voice the same weight."*

### Megan – SDYC Principal Member for Environment

*"The youth council and 2030 CEB discussion was interesting and I'm glad we could get more of the youth council involved. I am really glad that we were able to have that discussion and I think it was a good starting point. I also think that we all need to be more focused and proactive in formulating a plan to move forwards otherwise this year's COP event is going to look the same as last years."*

This discussion has helped us to develop a plan for more engagement with local educators in line with the youth councils commitment in the 2030 strategy, along with some additional youth engagement around climate action in the district, with the 2030CEB and youth council working closely together.





**Renewable energy is:  
low carbon,  
resistant to global shocks  
and, can be locally  
produced.**

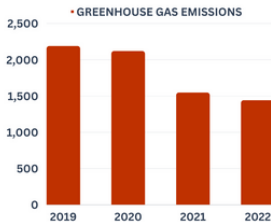
**Renewable energy is a  
safer future.**

# ENERGY

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## EMISSIONS BY YEAR

WE HAVE CONTINUED TO DECREASE  
EMISSIONS FROM OUR OWN  
ESTATES YEAR ON YEAR



# OUR ROLE



## Decarbonising Leisure

The council's Ebley Mill HQ and Brimscombe Port Mills have both been heated by water source heat pumps since 2021. Now, thousands of tonnes of carbon emissions from three more of Stroud District Council's biggest buildings will be cut by heat pump technology in place of ageing gas boilers.

This is possible as we have accepted a £4.6million grant from the government's SALIX fund, and added a further £700k investment to the project at Stratford Park Leisure Centre, Museum in the Park in Stroud, and The Pulse leisure centre in Dursley.

The heat pump systems are expected to last for a minimum of 20 years and will reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 14,652 tonnes over that time.



## Supporting Renewable Economies

This year we were required to renew our energy supply contract for the council. We are pleased we retained our commitment to a tariff in support of renewable generation. In conjunction with reducing our reliance on grid supplied energy through onsite renewables. The picture of council energy consumption is progressing very positively despite the limiting of choice in the current energy markets.

In the community we are supportive of Transition Stroud's partnership with 'Big Solar Co-Op' which is working to identify community investment projects for roof top solar. Community energy schemes are an opportunity for local wealth building and raising awareness of renewables opportunity. Independent financial advice should, of course always be sought and followed before investing in any schemes.



## Encouraging Energy Saving

In December 2022, the 2030 team collaborated with the tenant engagement team for its annual 'Café Conversations' which we framed through a facilitated workshop on saving money by action in the home.

With approximately 50 tenants attending, the workshop explored how motivations for reducing energy use at home not only saved money but also reduced the impact on the environment from burning fossil fuels. We looked at global warming and how emissions from roads and buildings make up the largest impact in the district. The tenants shared so many of their own actions that they take at home, like harnessing daylight, managing the central heating, and reducing draughts.

**Economic Resilience,  
Economic Sustainability,  
Safe and Comfortable  
Workplaces, Low Waste  
and Low Cost, Local  
Supply Chains, Local Jobs**

# ECONOMY

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# OUR ROLE



## Supporting Low Carbon Economy

We are implementing the national framework for social value measurement through our procurement portal. Within this national set of standards there is some scope to identify some priority areas in your local framework for contracts in excess of £75k. The council has integrated 2030 goals across the piece but, specifically in our decarbonisation aspect of the framework, there are 5 outcome areas cited and 8 measures for evaluating contracts in terms of emissions, waste, biodiversity and other sustainability outcomes.



## Supporting Renewable Economies

Over the last year the council have worked alongside partners to offer opportunities for businesses of all shapes and sizes across a range of sectors to access support for how they can take steps towards net zero:

- We have funded 'Stroud Farmers Tech Talks: driving productivity, sustainability and innovation into the future of agriculture'
- We are supporting a dedicated energy advisor role to evolve low carbon communities.
- We are collaborating with the Stroud Growth Hub, marketing their net zero workshops and support offer via the Growth Hub
- We also collaborate with Glos B, a supportive network helping to evolve a whole generation of 'B' Corp certified businesses in the district



## Encouraging Greener Tourism

RSPB research shows that people with a greater connection to nature are more likely to behave positively towards the environment, wildlife and habitats.

The council has resourced a Tourism Officer who is working in partnership with key stakeholders such as the Parish and Town Councils to develop a Place Making App, 'Discover Stroud Trails'. The app encourages visitors and residents to find new walks around the district, linking our footpaths with historical monuments, visitor destinations and hidden treasures of the area. It enables users to find activities that are not reliant of the car and to explore the place. The app is supported by a place making social media presence that highlights the walks and activities across the district.

**£450k  
secured for  
Retrofit Skills  
Centre,  
Berkeley  
Green**

# 'GREEN' SKILLS

Green skills is a big conversation in the South West at the moment not least because all jobs need to go 'green'. The Local Skills Improvement Plans are in consultation and other bodies are busy forecasting on specific skill provision needs. In November 2022 a regional round table was hosted at Stroud District Council to deep dive into the action on Green Skills and to highlight the particular issue of skills for retrofit.

Stakeholders from around the South West gathered in our chambers to discuss the current provision, future needs and how to unlock potential through collaboration and identified some clear first next steps in terms of working with experts to shape local provision.

SGS representatives from Berkeley Green UTC played a key part in the discussions and are working fast to bring to implementation the Retrofit Skills Centre being developed at their site. This follows the successful securing of funds, facilitated by SDC through Gloucestershire Economic Development Funds.



***"Employment in the  
retrofit sector  
will need to  
at least double  
in next 5 years  
to meet net zero by  
2030"***

Green Jobs and Skills, West of England Combined Authority.



Because of changing climate we need to make sure buildings are: easy to heat; easy to cool; resistant to climate shocks; part of our energy solutions; powering themselves and supplying/regulating the grid.

# BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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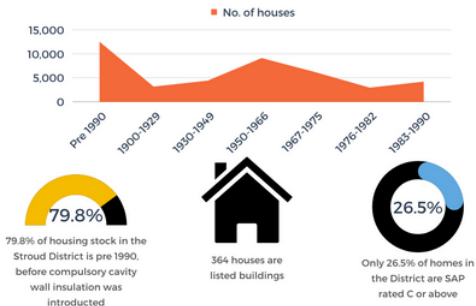


# CHALLENGING US ALL

Here are some things you need to know about building standards to understand your own home's potential energy weak spots:

- From the Victorian era cavities in walls began to be introduced but they were not insulated as standard until 1976. Standards did not really become effective until 1990 and continued to improve. So the age of your home relates to how well its walls work to maintain inside temperatures. Even up until the year 2000, partially filled cavities could still benefit from retro-filling with insulation.
- Older homes that are listed, or in conservation areas, will be subject to restrictions that may impact the energy related improvements you can make, but it will often still be possible with bespoke approaches and natural materials. The restrictions are national law and the council is required to enforce them but our officers will help you make good decisions if you get in touch.
- A SAP rating is the calculation, based on specifications, that is required at construction in order to predict energy performance and underpins the creation of Energy Performance Certification (EPC)
- An EPC rating scale puts 'A' classification as high. Achieving 'C' rating is generally considered good and has been cited as something to be aimed for as a minimum.

## DISTRICT HOMES; A RETROFIT CHALLENGE



# Climate, Cost and Crisis

Responsible for about one quarter of our district's annual emissions, our built environment literally represents the foundations of our daily lives. Interlinked with our habits, our image, our needs and our lifestyles, buildings are a complex part of a low carbon vision.

In this last year our nation's 'cost of living crisis' means it has never been more important to seek life improving solutions. Finding ways to adapt buildings so they require less energy to remain comfortable and functional is seen as a key strategy for supporting families to live healthier lifestyles and for developing our communities, their economies and opportunities for a low carbon future. At Stroud District Council we are coordinating countywide collaborations in the areas of affordable warmth, social housing decarbonisation and, developing support for private householders.

We have formalised our leadership through the retrofit theme for Climate Leadership Gloucestershire and are coordinating efforts through local authority partnerships.

Working in partnership increases our resources and multiplies the impacts of our efforts. This year we have been able to create new posts across the council dedicated to reducing the carbon and cost impacts of our districts homes. We have been focused on securing further funding and enhancing our approaches to helping people achieve lifestyle improvements through investments in the energy performance of their homes.

OUR DISTRICT'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT INCLUDES

> **53,580**  
HOMES





## Climate, Cost and Crisis

Retrofitting our district to ensure our buildings are as cost and energy efficient as possible is an important part of achieving our mission for a just transition to a low carbon future.

The complexity of creating effective retrofit programmes keeps us focused on delivering everything in our power across multiple challenges.



**Equivalent to 4.7 full time council employees dedicated to retrofit progress**

**EVERYTHING  
IN OUR  
POWER**

Address energy infrastructure to enable on site renewables; decarbonised heat and keep our energy systems secure against global shocks.

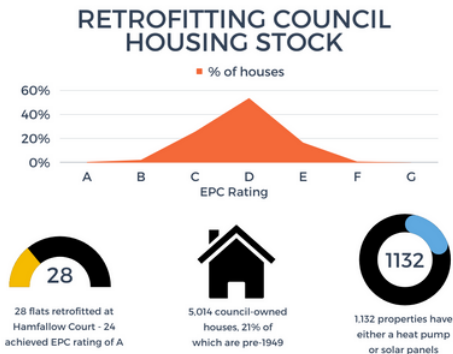
Create an accessible, reliable retrofit economy that gives consumers confidence and ensures skills and supplies are locally available.

Maximise personal investments into homes and businesses and provide financial support services for those who can't.

Drive a steadily increasing demand for retrofit providing the retrofit economy security to grow.



# BETTER HOMES FOR TENANTS



The council's housing stock is reflective of district wide challenges for home energy efficiency.

Since we have a larger proportion of older homes it is important that we are working continuously to improve the Energy Performance Certification standard (EPC Rating) across all our stock as this ultimately reduces the cost of energy for our tenants. This has become even more important given the current situation of the energy market.

We are proud that so many of our homes are not far off the C grade standard that is set to be deemed as good from 2030 and even more pleased that our new builds far exceed this.

Total annual carbon emissions across the Stroud District Council stock based on the assumptions of EPC measures are estimated at 15 966 tonnes per annum. This is equivalent to 3.18 tonnes per home. This data is only based on specifications not actual energy use. We would expect actual consumption emissions to be higher as building users have huge influence on home energy performance; however, we can be certain that in our approach to housing the direction of travel is right.

***We are ahead of the curve on national 2030 goals for good social housing practice.***



# Lower Carbon; Better Living

In early 2022, we completed our project at Hamfallow Court, an independent living site which incorporates 28 flats, based in Berkeley. This site benefited from £425,834.60 of grant funding from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator project. Alongside the grant money, the council provided £638,750 match funding.

The properties were originally heated by night storage heaters and hot water was supplied via an electric cylinder. We carried out installations of cavity wall insulation, ground source heat pumps, PV Panels with battery storage and top-up of loft insulation where required.

A huge improvement has been seen in the performance of the flats. Energy usage and carbon output has reduced and, following the works, we have received very positive feedback from the tenant's of Hamfallow Court. They say that their homes are now a lot warmer and their energy bills are more economical, because of the works that were carried out.

- Of the 28 flats, 4 have achieved a very high B score for Energy Performance Certification purposes; the remaining all achieving an A.
- 74 tonnes of carbon are saved across the site per year due to the works carried out.
- Following the works, it is expected to save the resident £730.43 per annum (a mean average across the 28 flats) on their energy spend, even in the current energy market!
- The whole project is net carbon negative for energy use, as excess solar power generated by rooftop solar offsets the carbon indirectly imported from the grid by 2.5 tonnes a year.

***"Have it done because it is much better (and more) economical!"***

**Tenant, Hamfallow Court**

### Cavity Wall Insulation



### Site Preparation



### Ground Source Boreholes Drill





# Effective Partnerships

For two decades, SDC has improved the energy efficiency of local homes through our Warm and Well fuel poverty partnership with local charity Severn Wye Energy Agency.

This year has been busier than ever before, as the cost-of-living crisis has led to an estimated 18% of households in Stroud District living in fuel poverty, almost doubling pre-pandemic numbers. Severn Wye estimate that up to 28% of households in the area could be under 'fuel stress', spending more than 10% of their income on energy bills.

**Since Spring 2022, the programme has supported a record 668 households across the district.**

We have been busy visiting 81 residents at home, advising nearly 200 at community events and drop-ins and supporting 248 of the District's most vulnerable households with £54k of emergency financial support via the UK Government's Household Support Fund.

Every one of the 1,500 conversations the Warm and Well team have had leads to households reducing their carbon emissions and becoming more aware of their energy use. Home visits involve making small energy saving changes, and every household is signposted to grant funding for deeper retrofit where applicable.

Despite Warm and Well's focus on short-term emergency intervention, energy-saving retrofit projects continue to bring long-term economic and environmental benefits.

Hundreds of retrofit surveys and assessments have taken place in the District, with 70 retrofit improvements to homes through ECO and Sustainable Warmth funding schemes. Insulation, low carbon heating upgrades and renewable technologies are being installed across the District. These improvements will save 1,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and represent £410k of outside funding invested in domestic energy efficiency in the area.

For every £1 SDC invested in Warm and Well this year, residents of the District have benefitted from support worth £4.32. Crucially, as the cost-of-living crisis rages on, Warm and Well's retrofit schemes are saving residents £21,200 from their bills each year, at current energy prices.

Stroud District Council's Warm and Well partnership demonstrates the impact of taking different approaches to the energy crisis, where deep retrofit, financial support and home energy advice all play their part.

## District Achievements through Warm and Well



70

Retrofit home improvements



£410,000

Retrofit funding secured



1,500 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>

Lifetime carbon savings



£21,200

Saved from household bills based on energy price cap



## What will you do?

Home improvement in most instances is led, financed, and delivered by private householders. Every home improvement, no matter how small, is an opportunity to get people thinking about building in resilience against rising energy costs and a climate that is becoming increasingly extreme.

We know that, where householders have the means, they are keen to improve their homes in low carbon ways and reap the multiple benefits. For those with less to invest they are keen to maximise this and top it up through financing options. We are also told that people don't know where to begin, who to trust and what options are available.

To remedy this we have worked hard to pool resources with the 6 councils of Gloucestershire and also, S. Gloucestershire Council to enable us to form a team focused on developing solutions for those looking to self-finance low carbon retrofit.

Easing the path for private investment into retrofit is not only important for families seeking to improve their personal energy resilience but it is also crucial to evolving our local retrofit economy. If we are to address our whole built environment, we need to see significant expansion in the numbers of people employed or training to deliver retrofit solutions.

**2030:  
LET'S MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

- Engaged experts (Building Services Research Institute Associates from London South Bank University's Net Zero Building School and national sustainability charity and engagement specialists, Ashden)
- Deep dived the issues, needs and motivators of private householders, stakeholders and suppliers
- Joined networks and strategic partnerships to keep us well informed on good practice and ready to take funding opportunities.
- Invested in online tools that will become available to support householders when starting their home improvement journeys
- Secured further funding and resources to continue our work to develop a knowledge hub, signposting and support for those wishing to improve their own homes.



# HELPING US TO HELP YOU



**We will soon be looking for homeowners that are planning home improvements to work with us in 2023-24.**

We want to 'learn by doing' and collaborate with you to help us make sure our future support to homeowners hits the mark in meeting their needs.

We are teaming up with experts to provide bespoke technical support and advice to those who participate.

**So, if you are committed to investing in your home over the next 12 months and willing to contribute to promotional activity to encourage others to do the same we will be interested to hear from you.**

An expression of interest and suitability questionnaire will be circulated soon.

[Keep an eye on our webpage and news feeds.](#)

We are building  
a support  
service for  
householders



According to Travelwest:

- **In car pollution** levels in slow traffic are **2-3 x more** than outside the car.
- **A 10 minute walk** takes **3 minutes by bike**.
- **90% of children own a bike. 48% want to cycle to school. 2% actually do.**

# MOBILITY

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# OUR ROLE

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## Engaging Our Staff

Through our staff benefits packages we are encouraging and enabling staff to transition to lower carbon travel. Last year we launched an electric vehicle salary sacrifice scheme and with 5 new EV now in motion our providers estimate a saving of 6.25 tonnes of carbon as a result. We are also continuing to see uptake of the cycle to work scheme with 4 new riders last year.



## Creating EV Infrastructure

Having explored with experts the best approach to EV infrastructure delivery we are now taking steps to use the advice and metrics to inform our delivery approach.

We are looking to deploy electric vehicle charge points in council managed car parks across the district. A report will go to Environment Committee in March with the aim that, over the next 12 – 18 months, the introduction in car parks will complement the on street offer being undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council.

The investment will be a major step towards the district's 2030 goal, through lowering the barriers to zero emission vehicle use.



## Policy for Licensed Vehicles

The results from a formal consultation on the draft vehicle emission policy will be considered for adoption in March 2023. Proposals are that new applications are not accepted for vehicles that are over 5 years old and existing vehicles that are not Euro 6 compliant or EV are phased out through the renewal process. Current exemptions for elite vehicles to end but exemptions for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV) is to continue. If adopted the forecast outcome is that by 31 March 2026 all licensed vehicles will be Euro 6 compliant or EV apart from WAV.



# BIKE WEEK 2022

The challenge of increasing walking and cycling across the district was given centre stage at a special meeting of local organisations and community groups.

Town and parish councils, cycling advocacy groups and SDC councillors heard from a wide range of expert speakers who covered how to identify and implement walking and cycling projects, how councils can help in this process, and the role town and parish councils can play in increasing the uptake in cycling and walking as a travel option. There were also updates on public rights of way, Bikeability training sessions and information about the Bike Drop project in Stroud.

At the event, town and parish councils were asked what they could do for active travel and the top response was to improve safety by creating more routes, car-free roadways, maintaining routes, making crossings safer and enforcing 20mph speed limits.

The meeting was also attended by two mums on their cargo bikes who wanted to raise awareness of the changing needs of cyclists as more switch to an active mode of transport. The event was about bringing our partners together to share local knowledge and understanding, to inspire and enthuse each other, and to drive forward the move towards ending our dependency on fossil fuels, improving our air quality, and our mental and physical health. The council is supporting the development of an integrated active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport network in collaboration with county and regional partners

The council is also recruiting a volunteer to become Stroud District Bicycle Mayor, to help advocate for cycling in the district, and help make cycling accessible to all as part of a global network of Bicycle Mayors, as well as organising a second walk or bike to work week to encourage staff to leave their car at home.

***"There are so many barriers to this healthy, low carbon form of transport: step-only access to cycle paths that are ankle-deep in mud, lack of segregated lanes and insufficient lighting to name but a handful."***

**Kiera Jones, district Mum**



**"Our relationship with nature – is critical in supporting good mental health and preventing distress"**

**Mental Health  
Foundation**

# **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

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*Image Credit: Bisley Community Composting & Local Scouts*

# OUR ROLE

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## Managing our Green Spaces

We are moving away from intensive maintenance to more sustainable methods of land management such as: reducing chemical use, composting green waste; practising mulching we slows the release of carbon from soil; less frequent mowing and 'No Mow May'; creating new wildflower areas and increasing our planting of trees, orchard fruits and vegetables.

An ongoing project in Stratford Park is using existing tree resources to mitigate flooding and reduce stream erosion in partnership with Glos. Wildlife Trust.



## Working Together with Nature

The Stroud Valleys Natural flood Management project works with local land owners and farmers to create natural flood management features, reducing flood risk, improving water quality and helping nature recovery throughout the Stroud Valleys. In 2022-23 a number of new sites and projects have been worked up including projects in the Slad, Painswick and Nailsworth Valleys and on the Holy Brook upstream of Chalford.

The project has also been working with Environment Agency and Wildfowl and Wetland Trust colleagues to develop a monitoring plan to take advantage of £80k worth of equipment that the Environment Agency are donating. We have also been working with the Severn Vale Catchment Partnership on the drafting of a Strategic Vision for the River Frome, for consultation.



## Enjoying and Connecting to Nature

Walking is one of the safest and easiest forms of physical activity and can help to prevent illness. It's completely free. No special equipment needed, and it can be incorporated into everyday life.

Walking is a low risk and accessible activity that most people can do at any stage in life. Explore the hidden gems within the district via the [Discover Stroud Trails App](#) or by participating in one of the [Strolling in Stroud District Walks for Wellbeing](#).

# ONE YEAR ON..

## ...At Salmon Springs

Written by: Stuart Roweth, Stroud Valley's Project

By the end of March 2022 Stroud Valley Project had done much of the tree planting of over 5000 trees at Salmon Springs. With four more volunteer days in April and May and one or two days per month during the summer, the trees were watered and volunteers maintained the electric fence (strimming underneath) during the summer. From October 2022 we have had regular workdays, scarifying and sowing wildflower seed, planting orchard trees and working on the pond liners.



- 32 volunteer days
- 41 corporate volunteers
- 2 beached ponds



Frogs, toads and newts will use even small bodies of water to breed and insects such as pond skaters and dragonflies as well as snails and water beetles are expected to be supported.

Other animals including birds will feed off the insects and drink the water in our ponds.

We also hope for amphibians and maybe even grass snakes (they do swim!) to use our ponds as well.



We would like to see  
**'circular economies'**  
where waste is designed  
out of products and  
processes. Until then we  
must continue to **Reduce;**  
**Reuse; Recover; Recycle;**  
before we think of  
disposal.

# WASTE

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# OUR ROLE

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## REUSING AND RECYCLING...

**98.5%**

OF WASTE  
MATERIALS FROM  
BRIMSCOMBE PORT  
REGENERATION

**90%**

OF MATERIALS FROM  
COUNCIL NEW BUILD  
HOMES AND  
MODERNISATION  
PROJECTS

We are addressing waste issues in partnership with UBICO Ltd. and other contractors and partners involved in council project delivery. This collaboration has already seen electric waste vehicles being trialled in the district and we continue to investigate alternative solutions to large diesel vehicles that can meet the challenges of the topography in our district.

In other areas of the business we have ensured schedule of work agreements pay attention to the need for careful waste management through our procurement process and this is how we are achieving such high recycling rates on our capital schemes.

**SCOPE 3 WASTE COLLECTION  
VEHICLE EMISSIONS DOWN  
15% ON LAST YEAR**



SEVERAL COMBUSTION-ENGINE  
VEHICLES REPLACED WITH ELECTRIC



# OUR ROLE

Oxfam estimate that more than two tonnes of clothing are bought each minute in the UK, more than any other country in Europe. That amount produces nearly 50 tonnes of carbon emissions the same as driving 162,000 miles in a car.



## No wasted opportunities

A fabulous collaboration between 2030 officers, tenant support officers and library services realised an interview clothing initiative.

Internationally there is research evidence that lack of access to suitable wear for work and interviews is a barrier to employment. Locally with today's cost of living crisis there is increasing anecdotal evidence of similar issues in parts of our communities. Since fashion waste is also a major sustainability issue the library based, Interview Clothes Rail is a solution with multiple benefits.

Council officers donated good quality interview and work clothes that were available in a range of sizes in Stroud and Nailsworth libraries for people to take away to keep and use to help them in their goal for a new job. It is now hoped more areas will take similar action.



## Waste wizard

Use our waste wizard search to find out what to do with an item.

Find out how you can repair, reuse or recycle household items and which bin it goes in.

You will need to put in your postcode (with a space e.g. GL5 4UE) the first time you use it and then search for the item.

What does it mean? or Back

Waste Wizard Need help?

Waste Wizard

← Laptop Take an item

**Electronic items should not be put in your refuse or recycling container.**  
Please ensure you remove all personal data from electronics before recycling.

Showing locations near GL5 4UE

Bin Option

Reuse

## Waste Wizard

Collaboration and joint commissioning as part of the Gloucestershire Waste and Recycling Partnership has realised this interactive online tool.

It will allow anyone puzzled by recycling and waste to type in the name of any item along with their postcode to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated or recycled, or if it needs to go into a specific bin or collection.

The tool will reduce the quantity of resources discarded as waste, and minimise its environmental impact.

Residents can access Waste wWzard by visiting:

 [www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-and-recycling/waste-wizard](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-and-recycling/waste-wizard)

In the coming year we will maintain **our commitment** to innovate, pioneer and creatively resource so we can continue maximising on doing **'everything in our power'**.

## FORWARD LOOK

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# WHAT'S NEXT?



## Progress 2030 Infrastructure Projects

- Low carbon refurbishment of leisure and museum facilities
- Continuation on social housing decarbonisation
- Implementation of EV infrastructure projects
- Further define plan of action on own estates land use



## Keep Powering our Partnerships



- Working with UBICO for continuous improvements in parks and waste services
- Taking the lead to secure more funds to support householders of all kinds
- Engaging with landowners on adaptation and mitigation



## Encouraging & Enabling Communities

- Collaborate with 2030 Community Engagement Board to realise its workplan
- Launch support to private householders and develop our understanding of their retrofit needs
- Advise, inform and encourage through all our services and news campaigns



*"The growing impacts of the climate and ecological crises are increasingly evident, with record-breaking temperatures and extreme weather events across the globe. But this past year has also seen momentum building in the action being taken by individuals, communities and authorities, especially in Stroud district. We are learning from the scientific community, from our peers and from our residents, and using all available funding to accelerate the pace of action.*

*From the case studies in this report, you will get an idea of the many and varied ways we are working to create a resilient, inclusive and equality-driven district by 2030. We won't do it alone – our partnerships are core to our progress – and now we invite every member of our communities to join us" Visit [our webpages](#) to find out more.*

Clr. Chloe Turner  
Chair of Environment Committee,  
Chair of Climate Leadership Gloucestershire



**2030:  
LET'S MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**