

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL'S

# Climate strategy & handbook

# 2020-2024

Version 1 (Last updated December 2020)

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# Introduction

The concept of sustainable development was described by the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Sustainable development weaves together societal, environmental, cultural and economic goals. One threat to all of these goals is the climate crisis.

In June 2019, Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) signed up to the Devon Climate Declaration. MDDC acknowledges the evidence that shows that our climate is changing fast, and will have far-reaching effects on the UK’s people, places, economy, society and environment.

MDDC members unanimously agreed to aim for net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and is seeking to address the challenge through our services, as well as by enabling the wider district. The Council can make a positive impact through the quality of housing, energy supply, planning decisions, choice of transport, tree planting, education and more. As a large partner in the area, we can influence wider decision making.

Climate knowledge, actions and case studies are evolving, and so this strategy, as well as the action plan itself, are living documents which will be reviewed frequently. In addition, MDDC is setting up a Mid Devon Climate website, which will showcase local initiatives, events, resources, actions, targets and progress.

The aim of this document is to lay out the background to our work, as well as the areas that will need attention if we are to achieve net zero by 2030. We hope it can be used in these ways:

- For **Council staff** seeking guidance on opportunities for collaboration, efficiencies and change.
- For **elected Councillors** who want to familiarise themselves with MDDC efforts to tackle the climate crisis, and to support their communities.
- For **residents** who want to understand and input to MDDC’s approach, and to find resources and opportunities to support their efforts to reach net zero.

The past few months have presented another crisis – Covid19. Many communities, organisations and others have faced unprecedented challenges. In this time, we’ve learned lessons, too – like how Mid Devon can adapt quickly; that we can partner with communities to achieve more together; that the air has become cleaner; that there is an opportunity to rebuild in a way that supports the present as well as the future. Making decisions about MDDC’s work through the lens of the climate crisis will be part of our responsibility to build back better. Our plan is a first iteration, and not perfect – we welcome your input on the journey to net zero.

**Cllr Elizabeth Wainwright**  
**Portfolio holder for Climate Change**

# Background

## The climate is changing

In the last century our climate has started to change rapidly. There is overwhelming evidence that most of the warming we have seen is due to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere. Human activities have directly increased the amount of carbon dioxide, methane and some other greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide and methane are the GHGs which have the greatest impact on our changing climate. Methane has a stronger greenhouse effect, but there is less of it. Carbon dioxide is more abundant in the atmosphere and remains much longer, having a greater cumulative effect on our climate. By the start of the 20th century, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere had exceeded the highest levels of the past 800,000 years. Ice cores show that in the time that human beings have roamed the planet, CO<sub>2</sub> levels have stayed well below 300 parts per million (ppm). This threshold was crossed in 1910. As of January 2020, it stood at 414ppm. Globally, three quarters of GHG emissions come from fossil fuels and industrial processes such as cement-making. Agricultural practices like forest felling and peatland destruction account for much of the rest. As we emit more GHGs they continue to build up.

The average temperature of the world has increased by at least 1degC since the pre-industrial era. Two thirds of that warming has taken place since 1980. A single degree might not sound like a lot – but life survives in a 'Goldilocks zone' of not too hot, not too cold.

(During the last ice age, the global average temperature was only about 5decC below what it is now).

On top of this we have seen more extreme weather events like heatwaves and heavy rainfall, and there is increasing attribution of this to increased GHGs in the atmosphere. And 16 of the 17 warmest years on record have occurred since 2001, with 2016 being the warmest yet.

### References:

- 'Carbon Dioxide: vital signs of the planet', NASA, 2020
- 'Global GHG Emissions (by economic sector)', EPA, 2014
- '800,000 years of Carbon Dioxide', Climate Central, 1 May 2019
- 'What are Climate Change and Global Warming?' WWF, <https://www.wwf.org.uk/climate-change-and-global-warming>

If we are to prevent the worst effects of climate change, there is global agreement that temperature rises need to be kept well below 2°C from the pre-industrial era, with an ambition to keep it below 1.5°C.

Assessments suggest that we are currently on course for temperature rises of up to as much as 4°C or higher.

## Globally...

A warming planet increases the risk of coastal flooding and population displacement. More than half of the world's population now lives within 60 kilometres of shorelines. As well as injury or death, floods increase risks of infection from water-borne diseases. Population displacement could increase tensions and the risk of conflict.

More variable rainfall patterns are likely to compromise the supply of fresh water. Water scarcity already affects four out of every 10 people. A lack of water and poor water quality can compromise health, e.g. an increased risk of diarrhoea, which kills approximately 2.2 million people every year, and other illnesses.

Malnutrition already causes millions of deaths each year, from a lack of sufficient nutrients to sustain life and a resulting vulnerability to infectious diseases like malaria, diarrhoea, and respiratory illnesses. Increasing temperatures and more variable rainfalls are reducing crop yields in many regions, where food security is already a problem.

## In the South West...

Sea levels are likely to be 26–29 cm higher by the 2050s than they were in 1991.

Between 1961 and 2006, winter precipitation increased by 15.9%. By the 2050s, winter precipitation is likely to increase by a further 17%.

Between 1961 and 2006 summer precipitation decreased by 8.8%. By the 2050s, summer precipitation is likely to decrease by 20% (and possibly by as much as 44.5%).

These figures have been taken from the UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCPO9) and are based on the 1961–1990 baseline.

This report also contains information about how these changes may affect key sectors across the South West's environment, economy and society. In November 2010 Climate South West hosted a workshop to bring together partners in order to identify the climate impacts which are most pertinent for the South West. The following key themes emerged:

**Critical Infrastructure** – Disruption to infrastructure and transport links from flooding and severe weather, which affect access, utilities, and services. This is a particular issue for rural and isolated communities. Such disruption also poses a risk to business due to the impacts on logistics and supply chains.

**Tourism** – Impacts on tourism from coastal change, disruption to infrastructure, health effects (particularly heat-related); as well as the effects of increased visitors (due to hotter, drier summers) on infrastructure and the environment.

**Health** – Impacts of heat (e.g. heat stroke, skin cancer) particularly on elderly and transient populations (tourists), as well as increased risk of tick-borne diseases and mental health issues arising from flood events.

**Biodiversity** – Impacts of climate change on ecosystem services (i.e. availability of water, changing natural habitats and landscapes).

**Coastal Change** – Sea level rise and erosion impacting on business, people, property, transport and wildlife, it is recognised that agriculture is an important sector locally and that local government will have an increasing responsibility for delivering on adaptation in their local areas and engaging communities.

# UK regulations & legislation

The Government has taken a number of steps to limit the UK's emissions of greenhouse gases through legally binding targets. The UK has been signed up to the Kyoto Protocol since 1995.

The Paris Agreement followed the 2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change of 195 countries, and aimed to hold the increase in global temperature to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.

## The Climate Change Act

The Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 and established a framework for an emissions reduction path. At the time, it also strengthened the UK's leadership internationally by highlighting the role it would take in contributing to urgent collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol. The Climate Change Act includes the following:

1. A **2050 Target**. The act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. This target was based on advice from the CCC report: Building a Low-carbon Economy.
2. **Carbon Budgets**. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'Carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of GHGs emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The first four carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2027. The CCC has recommended a target for a further 4 year period (see table opposite).
3. A **National Adaptation Plan** requires the Government to assess the UK's risks from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage critical organisations to do the same.

4. The **Committee on Climate Change** was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions

## UK carbon budgets:

Year	Million tonnes of CO2 equivalent
2008-12	3,018 MtCO2e
2013-17	2,782 MtCO2e
2018-22	2,544 MtCO2e
2023-27	1,950 MtCO2e
2028-32	1,765 MtCO2e

## See appendix for details of:

- The Energy Act 2011
- The Green Deal
- Housing Assistance Policy 2019-22

# National indicators

On 31 January 2011, the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) requested views from local authorities on a way forward on sharing information on GHG emissions from local authority owned estates and operations.

DECC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Local Government Association (LGA, formerly the Local Government Group) in 2011 to recognise the pivotal role local authorities have in reducing emissions at the local level.

The first milestone in the Annex to the MOU was to develop and agree an approach for sharing information on greenhouse gas emissions from council own estate and operations. DECC and the LGA agreed and signed an updated MOU in 2013 that recognises councils have a unique insight and reach into communities, and can ensure carbon reduction policies and programmes benefit communities and protect the most vulnerable. The reporting criteria for greenhouse emissions have been split into various 'scopes' as outlined below:-

SCOPE	DETAILS
1 (direct emissions)	Activities owned or controlled by MDDC that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. Examples include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, owned or controlled vehicles.
2 (energy indirect)	Emissions being released into the atmosphere associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of MDDC's activities but which occur at sources we do not own or control, e.g. electricity purchased for own consumption from the National Grid or a third party.
3 (other indirect)	Emissions that are a consequence of MDDC actions, which occur at sources which we do not own or control, e.g. business travel not owned or controlled by MDDC (eg. use of public transport), commuting, use of 'grey fleet' (use of employees' own cars for which fuel costs are claimed back), emissions from contractors, and supply chain procurement.
4 (other not categorised in other scopes)	Emissions produced by secondary sources such as businesses and Farms (see action plan for details)

MDDC has reported the following baseline emission figures to the Department of Energy as well as making them available on our website:

Scope	Emissions for 2018-19 (tCO2)
1	6500.8
2	3550.6
3	10350
4	Refer to Action Plan

In MDDC's climate action plan, we have determined a figure for the impact of each scope's actions on carbon emissions. This will provide a way to visually track the reduction in emissions over the years, and will give a quick-glance sense of impact of the various actions we plan to undertake.

**20,390**  
**tCO2e**

MDDC's baseline  
annual carbon  
footprint, as of  
January 2020:



# MDDC context

## Corporate Plan 2020–24

MDDC states in its Corporate Plan that its aims with respect to the Environment are:

- Encourage retro-fitting of measures to reduce energy usage in buildings.
- Encourage “green” sources of energy, supply new policies and develop plans to decarbonise energy consumption in Mid Devon.
- Identify opportunities to work with landowners to secure additional hedgerow planting, biodiversity and reforestation.
- Consider promoting the designation of the Exe Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- Encourage new housing and commercial developments to be “exemplars” in terms of increasing biodiversity and reducing carbon use.
- Increase recycling rates and reduce the amounts of residual waste generated.
- Explore large-scale tree-planting projects and re-wilding to enhance biodiversity and address carbon pressures.
- Promote sustainable farming practices in partnership with local farmers, district and county councils; including research into best practice re better soil management and animal husbandry.
- Work with parish and town councils to promote the development and retention of parks and play areas across the district.
- Support community activities that improve the environment such as litter-picks, guerrilla gardening, or community adoption of assets.
- Work with developers to develop and embed net zero principles where possible, e.g. Culm Garden Village

## Local Plan

The Local Plan was adopted on the 29th July 2020. It includes policies to achieve sustainable design and reduce carbon emissions and pollution in accordance with the latest national policy and guidance.

However MDDC is keen to begin work on the next version of the local plan imminently, to create a plan that more ambitiously supports our aim to become carbon neutral by 2030.

## Climate Action plan

Building on previous work, our Climate Action Plan was created in 2020, and runs to 2030 and beyond. This is a tool and a guide for reducing our carbon emissions to net zero.

The plan was created in a context of years of reduced funding for local government, and more recently, the Covid19 global pandemic. Recognising these challenges, alongside the ever-worsening climate crisis, our plan starts by identifying actions that will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our existing work in reducing emissions. The plan will become more ambitious as new funds, capacities and projects are identified. The unanimous Council commitment to the climate agenda in 2019 also promised to take all future Council decisions through the lens of the climate emergency. So, rather than seeing our climate plan as a separate 'project', it should be seen as a curator of workstreams that -- with some support, training and climate-friendly decision-making -- will support council services and our residents in a climate neutral way.

## How is MDDC strategically addressing the climate crisis?

- Play our part in helping to deliver local targets on climate change.
- Implementing adopted planning policies that require new development to mitigate and adapt to climate change through sustainable materials.
- Allowing renewable energy development in suitable locations and at an appropriate scale in accordance with planning policies and guidance.
- Achieve significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's operations through energy conservation, greater use of renewable energy and low/zero carbon transport, reducing the consumption of resources and minimising the environmental impact of procurement of goods and services.
- Ensure that the Council's policies and actions are consistent with the concept of sustainable development.
- Develop plans with our partners and local community to progressively address the causes and impacts of climate change.
- Empower and encourage sustainable communities by committing support and where possible, resources to community-led initiatives.
- Work with partners in tackling the climate crisis, encouraging our partners to commit to positive action.
- The Council has a number of Policy Development Groups that will all work to monitor and review the Climate Change Action Plan.

**Mitigation** – this refers to actions that reduce our contribution to the causes of climate change. This means reducing our emissions of GHGs like carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), through energy efficiency and using alternative forms of transport and energy. Mitigation is important in the long term as it is only by reducing our GHG emissions that we will minimise human-induced climate change. Many of the measures to help reduce emissions may also have other benefits such as saving money and encouraging a more inclusive society.

**Adaptation** – addresses the impacts and opportunities resulting from a changing climate. Irrespective of the success of mitigation efforts, there will still be some degree of climate change. This stems from our historic greenhouse gas emissions and the persistence of these gases in the atmosphere.

### See appendix for details of MDDC's:

- Planning Strategy policies
- Development management policies
- Procurement sustainability policy
- Enforcement policy 2019
- Energy projects

# What is MDDC doing already to tackle the climate crisis?

This section provides an insight into a number of schemes introduced by Mid Devon District Council that directly benefit its corporate aim to reduce its carbon footprint.

1. Solar PV to Housing Stock – In 2012 the Council signed an agreement to allow over 1,170 Solar PV systems to be fitted to the Council's housing stock
2. Across the non-housing stock property portfolio, the Council has implemented the following measures:
  - Low voltage lighting upgrades.
  - Air handling unit upgrades.
  - Variable Speed drives for large motors in air handling units / pool pumps etc. In order to reduce energy consumption.
  - Vending machine controls at three leisure centres.
  - Boiler optimisation at three leisure centres
  - Valve Insulation
3. Solar PV panels have been installed on the roofs of our main offices at Phoenix House and our leisure/sports centres.
4. Individual home owners have benefitted from energy saving council initiatives such as the energy tariff switching scheme, the Eco Flex Scheme and referrals to the LEAP scheme.
5. Two Electric Car charging points (that serve four cars) have been installed at each of the Councils three Leisure Centres.
6. Biomass Boiler has been installed at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre. This is fuelled by locally sourced woodchip and heats water for the whole building.

7. Waste and recycling – No waste is sent to landfill – all waste collected by Mid Devon is either recycled or used as feedstock for a recovery process

8. Fleet Contract – The new fleet contract for Mid Devon, in partnership with Exeter City Council, was awarded on 7th March 2019. This allows the council to trial new Eco-friendly vehicle types as technology emerges over the life of the contract which will make an impact on decisions regarding fleet replacement.

# Devon-wide collaboration

Across Devon, there are processes and plans to support the County to become net zero in its carbon emissions by 2030. Mid Devon is collaborating with these processes, including with the following groups and processes: :

## Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG):

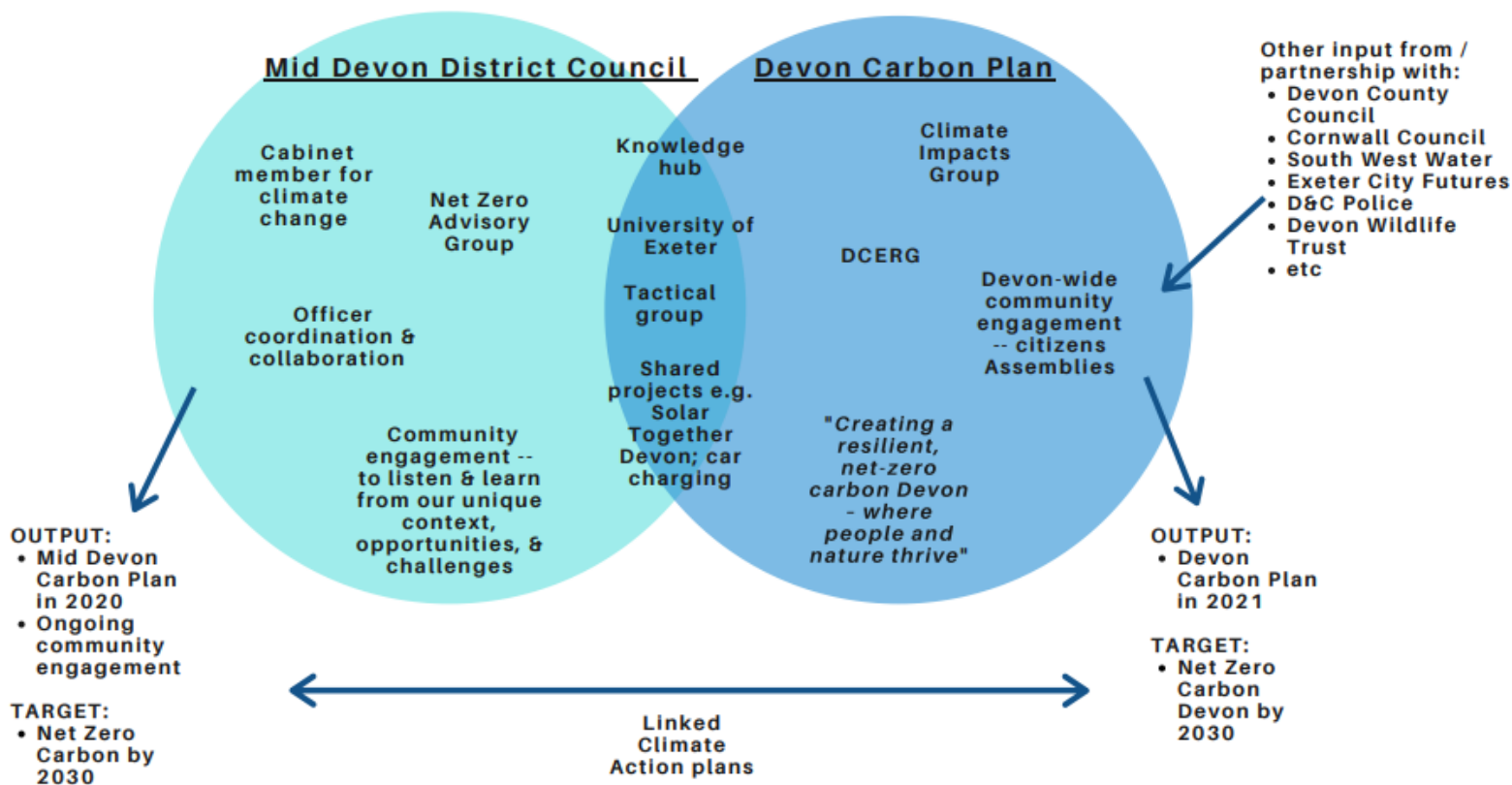
Responsible for coordinating a Devon-wide response to the Climate Emergency. In 2019, the DCERG put out a call for ideas from the public on how to get Devon to net zero. Almost 900 responses were received.

## Knowledge Hub

A platform that brings together various neighbouring authorities to discuss initiatives, share resources, and prioritise shared work.

## Devon Carbon Plan

A Devon-wide plan being coordinated by the DCERG. A Citizens Assembly to inform the plan was planned for 2020 will now happen in 2021 because of the Covid19 pandemic. MDDC is working with the DCERG to apply relevant parts of the Devon Carbon Plan to our own work.



# Connection & conversation

The climate agenda is not one that will be tackled without discussion, connection and conversation. Understanding different priorities and perspectives will help us identify opportunities, challenges and priorities.

With this in mind, in 2020 the Cabinet member for Climate Change set up two platforms to enable this:

## Internal 'climate connector' meetings

An opportunity for staff within different service areas of the council to meet together and discuss current priorities, challenges and decisions through the lens of the climate agenda. The aim is to reduce siloed thinking and increase the opportunities for sharing knowledge, resources and capacity.

*If you are an MDDC staff member (or elected member) and would like to join these meetings, please get in touch.*

## External 'Mid Devon Climate Conversations'

The Climate Conversations were set up to enable connections and collaboration between community members, Town and Parish Councils, organisations and MDDC.

There are various organisations, businesses and community groups that are also working on the climate agenda, and working to reduce their carbon footprint. There is much expertise and experience in the community, and MDDC would like to learn from and work with this.

## The Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG)

This is a group of Councillors who meet to discuss, advise and support the rest of Council on climate priorities, bringing in external expertise where needed. The NZAG reports to the Environment Policy Development Group.

## Feedback after the first 'Mid Devon Climate Conversation':

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"It was very interesting and so useful to connect with like minded people. I now have a lot to think about!"

"I would like to say how much I enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in the discussion about the Net Zero action plan. You laid out an interesting programme of topics which generated much sensible discussion."

"Thank you for organising and leading the meeting today which I thought was very interesting."

# Our Climate Action Plan

Our plan broadly breaks down into actions that will 1) directly reduce MDDC's own emissions, and 2) enable the wider district to reduce its emissions. Our target is for MDDC to be carbon neutral by 2030, but we will also work to support the wider district to become carbon neutral.

You can view the plan by clicking here **\*\*MAKE THIS A HYPERLINK\*\***

Directly reducing MDDC's emissions

Theme	To include
<b>Internal structures and processes</b>	Internal process that support our climate plan, e.g. through procurement; communications; decision-making guidance; home-working; remote meetings
<b>Training</b>	Climate literacy training for Officers and Councillors, plus key thematic briefings
<b>Housing, energy, assets</b>	Tree-planting; hydro electric scheme up and running; energy efficient homes
<b>Planning</b>	Update our Local Plan to include ambitious climate policies; lobby government for powers and finances
<b>Transport</b>	Replace vehicles with hybrids / electric

Enabling the wider District

Theme	To include
<b>Tree planting &amp; biodiversity</b>	Partnering with residents to provide sites and trees for planting; support community-led biodiversity projects; review and revise verge-cutting policies to promote greater biodiversity
<b>Food and farming</b>	Promoting local farmers and suppliers; supporting farmers to adapt and lead
<b>Business</b>	Create business toolkit; raise business awareness of the Devon Climate Declaration
<b>Transport</b>	Improve walking, cycling and public transport; roll out EV charging points; engage with taxi companies re: training, car types, etc
<b>Community engagement</b>	Benefit from expertise and partnership opportunities; support community-led projects

# Key 2020–24 climate priorities

## 1 Increase climate knowledge, literacy and capacity at MDDC

Climate literacy training will be created and rolled out to staff and Councillors. This will take the form of:

- Basic online modules for everyone.
- More in-depth training of key staff who can act as internal experts on particular activities.
- In-person thematic briefings to relevant officers and Councillors.

Extra staff time will be brought in to drive and coordinate our climate work.

## 2 Identify schemes that will put us on track for net zero carbon by 2030

Working with partners and residents, we will identify new initiatives and ways of working that will develop and progress our plan. This includes working with the Devon Carbon Plan, as it emerges.

## 3 Enable and encourage the use of renewable energy locally

Including getting the hydroelectric scheme in Tiverton running to provide renewable energy to the Council offices.  
Roll out Electric Vehicle charging points – residential and commercial. Partner with Solar Together to support residential solar panel uptake.

## 4 Create a 'Community Climate & Biodiversity Support Fund'

There are many local residents and community-led organisations that, with a bit of financial support, will work to reduce carbon emissions and increase local biodiversity. We see this as part of our partnership approach.

## 5 Identify cycling and walking priorities and opportunities

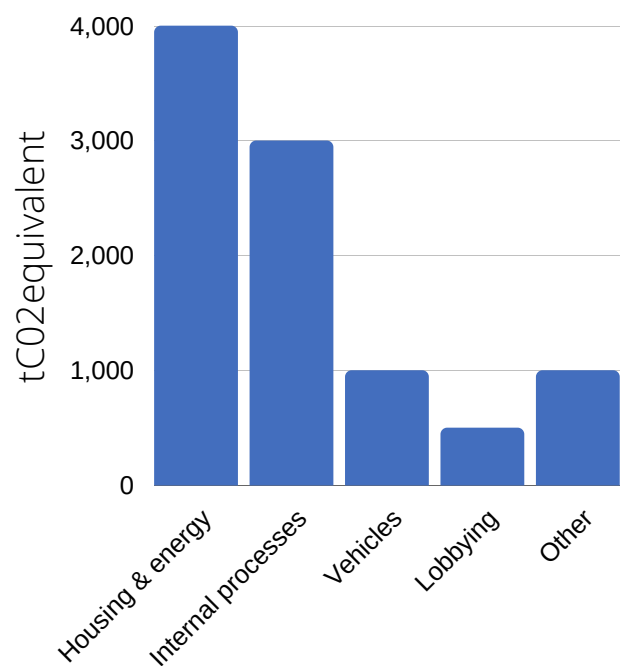
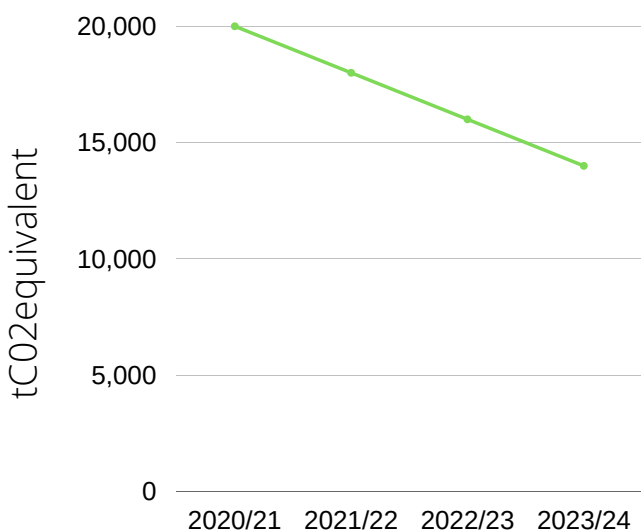
The Covid19 lockdown in the UK saw increased demand for cycling and walking infrastructure, and the Government committed funding for Active Travel schemes. Though Devon County Council is responsible for transport infrastructure, MDDC nonetheless wants to create partnerships and opportunities to improve active and public transport in Mid Devon. Transport is one of the biggest contributors to CO2 in Devon.

## 6 Review and update MDDC Procurement strategies

MDDC's supply chains are a significant contributor to emissions. There are various tools and frameworks that can improve the social and environmental value achievable through procurement.

# Tracking the impact of our actions

Our plan will include graphs and tables to show the impact of different actions on the reduction in CO2. This will be viewable by year, by project, by Council workstream, and by category of activity, e.g. efficiencies, lobbying, upgrades, etc. (The below are for demonstration and are not accurate).



Tracking our impact this way will allow us to test and monitor the impact of our proposed activities. We have figures for MDDC's annual carbon baseline as of 2020. This figure covers MDDC property and assets, and our direct and indirect activities. It does not cover the wider District of Mid Devon e.g. businesses, farms, private households, transport.

Some Parishes are working to determine their own carbon baseline, with the help of Exeter University. This is something we will explore and encourage in Mid Devon, so we have an accurate picture of the District's entire carbon footprint, and can better support our towns and Parishes to decarbonise.



- Information about the Devon Carbon Plan
- Resources to support residents, Town and Parish Councils, businesses and others to reduce their own carbon footprint and / or increase biodiversity.
- Updated versions of our action plan, and our progress against the plan.
- Opportunities, e.g. events and funding.

# Resources & reading

This is just a selection. Please see our climate website for further resources, links, toolkits and more

## Planning:

**The Centre for Sustainable Energy** – support and tools for creating neighbourhood plans: <https://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1343>

**How Green in My Neighbourhood Plan?** – <https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/reports-and-publications/policy/community-energy/planning/renewables/how-green-is-my-plan-rural.pdf>

**The Town and Country Planning Association** – the role of the planning system in carbon reduction, and legislative underpinning – <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy-and-Regeneration/PDF/3-Town-and-Country-Planning-The-Climate-Crisis.pdf>

Letter: **tightening the Future Homes Standard** part L (Making a new home genuinely zero-carbon at the outset is around five times cheaper than retrofitting it later, and almost always will reduce residents' energy bills too. The letter proposes recommendations). <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/letter-future-homes-standard-and-proposals-for-tightening-part-l-in-2020/>

**Garden Villages and Garden Towns: Visions and Reality:** <https://www.transportfornewhomes.org.uk/the-project/garden-villages-and-garden-towns/>

The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) contains ambitious policies on climate change but on-the-ground delivery remains slow, largely because of a lack of practical advice and support to local councils on how to secure a radical reduction in carbon emissions. Government guidance has also been weak on adapting to climate change, particularly in relation to addressing issues such as heat waves and sea-level rises. The guide was launched in May 2018 by Caroline Lucas MP. It provides an overview of policy and legislation which can be used to address climate change at a local level, overcoming the barriers faced by many local authorities in England. The guide, '**Rising to the Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change**', has been relaunched in December 2018 following the publication of the revised NPPF. The report is here: <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=fd66dbe5-2b88-4acf-b927-256a82db9abe>

Subsequently, the TCPA, RTPI and ClientEarth have produced a short briefing document which outlines the **key overarching legislative and policy requirements for local planning authorities on climate change**. This can be downloaded here: <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=4927d472-a9f0-4281-a6af-463ddc642201>

## Resources & reading continued

### News articles:

'Switch road cash to broadband, adviser says' – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52371140>

Are Local Plans planning for the zero carbon future we need? – <https://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2484>

Environment Journal – New Plans unveiled for UK's first net-zero neighbourhood: <https://environmentjournal.online/articles/new-plans-unveiled-for-uks-first-net-zero-neighbourhood/>

### Transport:

Collaborative mapping tool to understand and prioritise walking, cycling and public transport (MDDC is creating a similar tool): <https://bathnesliveablestreets.commonplace.is/>

UK Government: Creating the transport decarbonisation plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-the-transport-decarbonisation-plan>

### Other resources:

**SCATTER** – local authority focussed emissions tool – <https://scattercities.com/>

**Climate Action Tracker:** <https://climateactiontracker.org/>

**Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT)** – resources and guidance that supports Teignbridge Council, as well as local parishes and towns: <https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/>

**LGA support on climate work:** <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/climate-change>

**How Climate Friendly is Your Area?** a tool to search by local authority: <https://takeclimateaction.uk/climate-action/how-climate-friendly-your-area>

**Devon Climate Emergency Response Group:** <https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/>

## Supporting disadvantaged communities:

Climate Just is a free webtool for public service providers designed to:

1. Identify who is vulnerable to climate change and fuel poverty and why.
2. Highlight neighbourhoods where climate disadvantage is highest.
3. Explain the factors involved and help you decide what actions to take.

Resources available here: <https://www.climatejust.org.uk/resources>

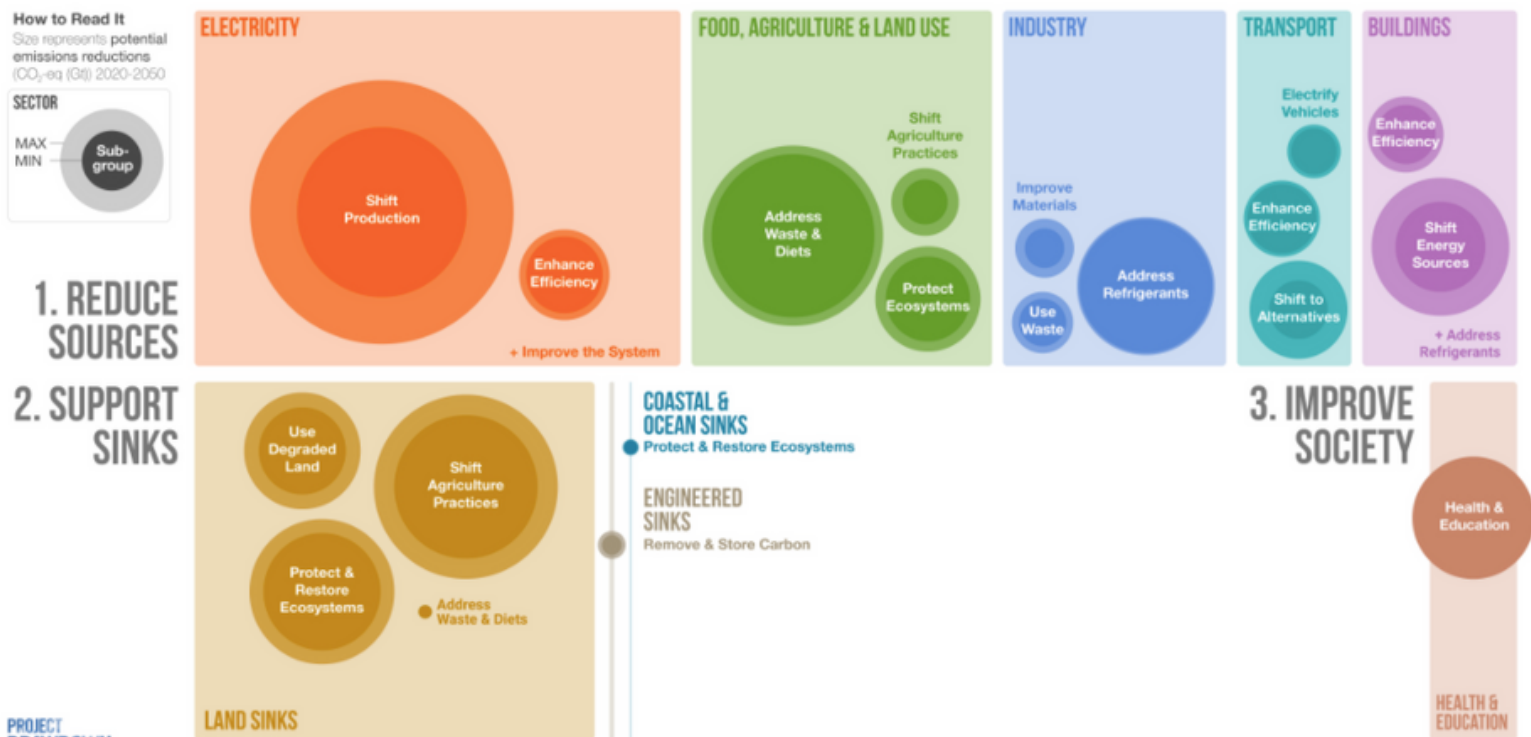
## Project Drawdown – taken from <https://drawdown.org/drawdown-framework>

We must work on all aspects of the climate equation—stopping sources and supporting sinks, as well as helping society achieve broader transformations.

1. Reduce Sources – bringing emissions to zero
2. Support Sinks – uplifting nature’s carbon cycle
3. Improve Society – fostering equality for all

Nested within each area of action, there are sectors and subgroups of diverse solutions—practices and technologies that can help the world stabilize and then begin to lower greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere. Together, they comprise the Drawdown Framework for climate solutions.

## DRAWDOWN FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



## Appendix 1: UK regulations & legislation continued

### The Energy Act 2011

The Act is underpinned by three policy objectives: tackling barriers to investment in energy efficiency, enhancing energy security, and facilitating investment in low carbon energy supplies.

The majority of the Act is made up of provisions to enable the financing and facilitation of the installation of energy efficiency measures in homes and businesses – the ‘Green Deal’ – with the remainder of the Act dealing with securing fair competition in energy markets and the supply of low carbon energy.

#### The Act is made up of five parts:

**Part 1: Energy efficiency.** Improving energy efficiency by tackling barriers to investment in energy efficiency through the Green Deal and measures to maximise its uptake; introducing powers for a new Energy Company Obligation from 2012 to complement and work in tandem with the Green Deal; making energy performance data from Energy Performance Certificates more widely available; extending powers to direct the roll out of smart meters; and conferring powers to require cheapest tariff information to be included on energy bills.

#### **Part 2: Security of energy supplies.**

Enhancing energy security through better monitoring of future electricity security; strengthening market incentive mechanisms for ensuring sufficient gas is available during a Gas Supply Emergency; improving third party access to UK oil and gas infrastructure; putting in place a Special Administration Regime for gas and electricity suppliers; and maximising the UK’s ability to exploit the UK Continental Shelf.

#### **Part 3: Measures for reducing carbon emissions.**

Enabling implementation of the enduring offshore electricity transmission regime beyond 2010, giving investors in the new nuclear sector increased certainty as to their obligations and making provision in respect of the decommissioning of infrastructure converted for carbon capture and storage demonstration projects and pipe-lines for conveying carbon dioxide.

**Part 4: Coal Authority.** Extending the power of the Coal Authority in relation to offering and charging for services relating to non-coal mining activities.

**Part 5: Miscellaneous.** Including the repeal of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995.

### The Green Deal

The Green Deal was initiated in 2013 under the 2011 Energy Act. It was a UK government policy initiative that gave homeowners, landlords and tenants the opportunity to pay for energy efficient home improvements through the savings on their energy bills from 2012 to 2015. At the heart of the Green Deal was the rule that savings on bills would exceed the cost of the work.

## *UK regulations & legislation continued*

### **Housing Assistance Policy 2019–22**

This policy covers the financial assistance that the Council may provide to help support the improvement of private sector homes within the district. The funding associated with this policy relates to the Better Care Fund (BCF) and therefore there are some restrictions on the use of the funding.

The main purpose of the policy and the BCF is to focus the funding on helping disabled people to remain safe and independent within their own homes. Alongside this, discretionary grants have been introduced to help deal with urgent repairs to homes not related to disabled adaptations, assisting with hoarding, and to help top up eco flex applications.

ECO flex 3 is a scheme that was introduced by the Government in 2018. Each of the big energy companies are required to help fund energy efficiency measures in dwellings in the private sector. ECO (Energy Company Obligation) has evolved over a number of years and been through a number of cycles. The current flexible scheme allowed each Council to develop its own Statement of Intent expanding the eligibility for ECO funding to fit with the requirements of the local area.

HHCRO (Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation) is still being provided so that households on a qualifying benefit are eligible for the energy efficiency measures to be installed for free. But the Statement of Intent increases the number of households able to apply for free measures.

In some cases the cost or extent of the measures to be installed falls outside of the ECO scheme and in these cases the Council is committed to provide a top up grant of up to £2000 to ensure the installation can go ahead and the household can take advantage of the other free measures available.

As this 'ECO Flex Top Up' grant is discretionary priority is given to helping those with a contribution that have qualified for HHCRO or have an underlying health condition.

In order to qualify under the Statement of Intent the installer or lead generating company on behalf of the installer must apply for a Local Authority Declaration (LAD). This provides a unique reference number for the household and the installer to apply for the free measures.

The LAD must be submitted to the Council for checking and signing before the installation can proceed or funding can be claimed. Between April 2018 and March 2020 730 LADs had been signed for measures within the district.

## Appendix 2: Existing MDDC policies

### Mid Devon Local Plan Policy S1:

**Sustainable Development** is now an adopted planning policy. Relevant clauses are summarised below:

All development will be expected to support the creation of sustainable communities by:

e) Promoting sustainable transport by delivering appropriate infrastructure, reducing the need to travel by car, integrating public transport and other forms of sustainable travel such as walking and cycle, and providing safe environments while recognising Mid Devon's rural locality;

h) Requiring good sustainable design that respects local character, heritage, surroundings, and materials, creates safe and accessible environments, designs out crime and establishes a strong sense of place;

j) Meeting the challenge of climate change by supporting a low carbon future, energy efficiency, increasing the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, managing flood risk and conserving natural resources. Encourage the effective use of land, taking into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land.

l) Minimising impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity by recognising the wider benefits of ecosystems, delivering natural environment objectives, providing a net gain in biodiversity and by the protection of international, European, national and local designated wildlife sites;

**Policy S9: Environment** requires that development will sustain the distinctive quality, character and diversity of Mid Devon's environmental assets and minimise the impact of development on climate change through:

a) High quality sustainable design which reinforces the character and distinctiveness of Mid Devon's historic built environment, mitigates and adapts to climate and creates attractive places;

d) Renewable energy development in locations where there is an acceptable local impact, including visual, on nearby residents, landscape character and wildlife, balanced with the wider sustainability benefits of renewable energy.

**Site Allocations:** In relation to the strategic allocations at North West Cullompton and East Cullompton, The Local Plan includes policies on carbon reduction and Air Quality (CU5 and CU11). These policies require that the development of these strategic sites will be required to implement a Carbon Reduction and Low Emissions Strategy. This will propose measures to minimise the overall carbon footprint of the development, making provision for sources of decentralised onsite renewable or low carbon energy and ensure that impact of the site on air quality is acceptable, such as:

- a) Renewable & low carbon energy to provide a proportion of the site's energy use;
- b) Measures to ensure that residents, employees and businesses are encouraged to travel in the most sustainable fashion, including travel plans, information, car clubs, lift-sharing and infrastructure for low emission vehicles;
- c) Measures to encourage the sustainable treatment of waste;
- d) Measures to manage the impacts of construction;
- e) Offsite tree planting where sufficient cannot be accommodated onsite;
- f) Energy improvements to existing buildings;
- g) Other measures to capture or mitigate carbon emissions and air quality impacts from development.

## Existing MDDC policies continued

### Development Management Policies

**Policy DM1: High Quality Design** stipulates that designs of new development must be of high quality and based upon and demonstrating the following principles:  
d) Creation of safe and accessible places that also encourage and enable sustainable modes of travel such as walking and cycling

**Policy DM2 Renewable and low carbon energy** states that the benefits of renewable and low carbon energy will be weighed against its impact. Proposals must demonstrate that impacts are or can be made acceptable in relation to:  
a) Landscape character and the character and setting of heritage assets;  
b) Environmental amenity of nearby properties and the wider locality;  
c) Quality and productivity of the best and most versatile agricultural land grade (1,2 and 3a); and  
d) Biodiversity (avoiding habitat fragmentation)

**Policy DM3 Transport and Air Quality** request that development proposals that would give rise to significant levels of vehicular movement must be accompanied by an integrated Transport Assessment, Travel Plan, traffic pollution assessment and Low Emission Assessment.

**Policy DM5: Parking** establishes planning policy standards for the provision of EV charging points as laid out below:

Use Class	EV Infrastructure (Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton)
<b>Residential</b>	
C3,C4 Dwellings	1 charging point per 10 units
<b>Non-residential</b>	
A1 Non-food retail	
A1 Food retail	2 charging points per 200 sqm (gross)
A2 Financial and professional	
A3 Restaurants	
A4 Public houses	
B1,B2 Business and general industry	
B8 Warehousing and distribution	2 charging points per 10 parking spaces (employees/visitors)



## Existing MDDC policies continued

### Procurement Sustainability Policy

The purpose of this Strategy is to provide a sustainable focus to the procurement of goods, works and services, recognising the need for improving our environment and the quality of life enjoyed by people who live in the area and those who visit, ensuring all stakeholders who purchase anything on behalf of the Council(s) have due regard to the potential impacts. The 7 Devon Districts spend annually in the region of £90 million on goods, works and services. "Sustainable procurement is about delivering value for money, whole-life costing and benefits to society and the economy as well as the environment".

The Districts have a key role to play in helping to deliver a more sustainable Devon; as an employer with responsibility for staff and buildings; as a provider of local services; and as a community leader working in partnership with other organisations and local communities. The Districts' Sustainable Procurement Strategy sets out our commitment to put sustainable procurement at the heart of everything we do.

The EU Procurement regulations state that sustainable products can only be specified if they are reasonable and relevant to the nature of the contract. There must be a legitimate business need to specify sustainable products. The procurement process must not be anti-competitive or non-commercial (capable of being supplied). Criteria must be specified in the ITT document together with the allocated weighting. Evaluation criteria used needs to take into account:

- Social benefits
- Economic benefits
- Environmental benefits

### What is a sustainable product / service?

- One that is fit for purpose, providing value for money.
- One that is energy efficient / resource efficient.
- It uses minimum materials.
- It might be made with maximum use of recycled materials.
- Non (reduced) pollution.
- Durable, easily upgraded, and repairable.
- Reusable and recyclable.
- Ethically sourced.
- Reduced delivery miles.

### Whole life costing:

**Whole Life Costing (WLC) = taking into account and evaluating the Social, Economic and Environmental impacts of a product or service – the total 'cost' of the solution.** Whole Life Costing could consider areas such as:

- Direct Running Costs
- Training
- Disposal Costs
- Indirect Costs
- Recycling capabilities
- Disposal Options (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle)
- Administration Costs
- Refurbished products

## *Existing MDDC policies continued*

### **Enforcement policy**

In addition to the Housing Assistance Policy the council has a number of regulatory powers to improve the condition of private sector homes.

In particular the Council has a duty to take action to improve a property where it has been assessed to have a category 1 hazard under the Housing Act 2004. There are a number of hazards that are assessed by officers but the two most relevant to this strategy are the hazard of Damp and Mould and the hazard of Excess Cold. These hazards are often connected and result from poor insulation, inadequate heating provision and poor ventilation.

As well as the provisions under the Housing Act 2004, there have been various new regulations relating specifically to energy efficiency in dwellings.

The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 made it a requirement for an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) to be provided at the beginning of any rental agreement or sale of a property.

The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 and amended by The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 includes provisions that enable a tenant to make reasonable requests for energy efficiency measures to be installed and a private residential landlord will be unable to refuse a reasonable request where the work is not more than the cost cap and can be wholly financed by the landlord or can be funded wholly or partly by external means.

The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 also introduces power to the council to take action against landlords that rent out a residential premises with an EPC rating of less than an E. This means that the council can issue fines to landlords for renting out substandard properties and also for trying to exempt a property from the regulations without valid justification.

The Enforcement Policy provides detail on the enforcement approach to be taken in respect of these regulations and the Housing Act 2004.

## Existing MDDC policies continued

### Energy projects

In Mid-Devon about a fifth of all homes pre-date 1919 and have solid walls, previously there have been no cost-effective measures (in terms of the economic payback periods) for treating them. In comparison with cavity wall insulation, for example, external insulation has cost up to ten times as much for a similar dwelling. Early Park Homes have similar, poor insulation, and can be difficult to improve internally because of the loss of floor space. There are developing technologies that are making the insulation of solid walls more cost effective. Many homes in Mid Devon are not on mains gas. For households on low income, fossil fuels are becoming increasingly expensive.

From April 2016, private residential landlords have been unable to refuse a tenant's reasonable request for consent to energy efficiency improvements, where a finance package, such as the Green Deal and/or the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), is available. Provisions in the Act has also provided for powers to ensure that from April 2018, it is unlawful to rent out a residential or business premise that does not reach a minimum energy efficiency standard (the intention is for this to be set at EPC rating "E"). These requirements are subject to there being no upfront financial cost to landlords; therefore, landlords will have fulfilled the requirement if they have reached "E" or carried out the maximum package of measures funded under the Green Deal and/or ECO.

We have been working with Devon County Council, Torbay and the other Devon Districts to bring back a scheme that will provide free insulation and replacement boilers to targeted fuel poor households (rented and owner-occupied). This was launched in 2014 under the Cosy Devon brand and with energy partner commitment will run to 2017.

The Council is seeking the provision of funding to support the installation of central heating systems in homes with no gas supply and benefit dependant household.

Mid Devon supports the use of renewable energy and would, if funds became available, be prepared to chase those funds to assist with renewable energy. However, because of financial restraints, the policy merely confirms support and signposting at present.

### Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy and vehicle emission standards will likely be reviewed during the life of the carbon reduction strategy and subject to change. To do this we need to consult with all interested parties including the trade with potential options including a review of 'grandfather rights' for existing licenced vehicles and mechanisms to accelerate the adoption of low emission or ultra-low emission vehicles licensed within the District either on a voluntary or mandatory basis

## Existing MDDC policies continued

### Air Quality Management

Air quality management work does not have a policy but is related to our managing the environment work and has resulted in planning policies and action measures designed to improve local air quality.

Local Air Quality Management, known as LAQM, is a statutory regime introduced by the Environment Act 1995 which requires us to regularly assess outdoor air quality across the district. We do this through a network of monitoring locations and modelling work where required in the context of statutory LAQM technical guidance provided by Defra. The focus is on key pollutants which are harmful to health with an emphasis on transport emissions. Consequently, whilst this regime does not directly tackle carbon emissions it can have an direct impact through the reduction in transport emissions overall which also include CO<sub>2</sub>. This work is led by the Public Health and Regulatory Service within the Council working closely with planning, transport management and other services.

Information available at <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/environment/air-quality/local-air-quality-management/> includes our latest air quality monitoring review and assessment reports and our statutory Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) required in response to our declaration of two Air Quality Management Areas in the district (Crediton and Cullompton). We also have a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Air Quality, resulting from our AQAP. The AQAP is updated regularly as measures are completed and new ones are adopted with the next update due in 2021 alongside a review and update of the Air Quality SPD.

With the new Local Plan adopted, the Council expects to continue fund air quality improvements through the planning obligations including s106 agreements and also through the new Community Infrastructure Levy going forward, details of which are available on the Council's website.

### Housing Stock Reducing Fuel Poverty

Although the work MDDC has done towards addressing fuel poverty is not current policy, this work has strong links with our work towards protecting the environment. Housing Services continue to deliver energy saving measures to help our tenants with fuel poverty such as solar photovoltaic panels that help reduce electricity costs, air-source heat pumps, replacement boilers and associated controls, insulation, solar thermal hot water and trials of air to air heat pumps. There is no single fix for all circumstances and alternative treatments for those unable to benefit directly from the extensive solar PV installations are being implemented with revenue stream provided by the solar PV and other funding. Investigations into the benefits of other and developing technologies are on-going. Opportunities will be taken to provide a main gas supply to those currently 'off-gas.