



ENVIRONMENT

Environment Action
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Overview

- Introduction
- Background
- Existing initiatives
- Ambition
- Survey and results
- Next steps

Introduction

- Environment and Waste Commissioning service within Environment and Transport Department
- Environment Policy and Strategy Team – lead on Environment Strategy and related delivery
- Waste Policy and Strategy Team – lead on waste policy and strategy and initiatives
- NEW Carbon Reduction Team – lead on the council's net zero carbon commitments
- Joint activity – grants, volunteering, campaigns and engagement

Council commitments

- Environment Strategy 2018 – 2030
- Climate Emergency Declaration May 2019
- County Council committed to reducing emissions from its own operations to be carbon neutral by 2030
- Committed to work with business and other partners across the county and region to deliver net zero carbon by 2050 for the County (subsequently 2045 – UK 100 Pledge)
- Facilitate and enable community involvement and local action on carbon and climate

Existing initiatives

- Parishes Nature Network, Biodiversity Training, Urban Wildlife Verges, Tree Survey and Management.
- [SHIRE Environment Grant](#)
- Waste Action Volunteers / Environmental Action Volunteers
<http://www.lesswaste.org.uk/>
- Waste initiatives – talks, events, nappy packs, cooking classes
(wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk)
- Parish Council Climate Action Day with Centre for Sustainable Energy with LRALC
- Survey of local councils and community groups
- Carbon Literacy training with Transition Loughborough

Ambition

- Information and guidance
- Engagement and consultation
- Facilitate action
- Focus on areas of most interest and most helpful

Engagement

- A short survey was drafted to invite comments on environmental action by grassroots organisations including parish councils
- The survey was promoted through the LRALC bulletin, contact networks and by District councils
- Hosted as a Snap Survey on the council's web portal.
- Open for comments between February and April.

Survey – themes and support options

Invited expressions of interest in action on various themes

- Energy use and generation
- Transport and travel
- How we use the land, water and air
- In our homes

Survey – themes and support options

Invited expressions of interest in various support options

- Information and guidance
- Project development and funding bids
- Grants and finance
- Procurement
- Expert advice
- Communications and engagement
- Networking with other councils/groups
- Sharing best practice examples

Survey - Headline Results

- Received 31 responses
- 45% Parish/Town councils
- 50% fairly or very active on climate change and environment initiatives
- 71% did not have an environment sub-group
- 87% fairly or very interested in doing more on environment issues
- Time; funding; knowledge; lack of information on local support; no national/local plans quoted as main barriers to action

Survey - Headline Results

Most popular themes for action were

- Community energy, renewables and energy efficiency
- Public and community transport and Electric Vehicles and charging
- Improving the local area for nature
- Reuse, repair, recycling and avoiding waste

Survey - Headline Results

All support mechanisms proposed were popular:

- Sharing best practice examples 93%
- Information and guidance (e.g. talks, events, leaflets) 93%
- Grants and finance 93%
- Project development and funding bids 86%
- Expert advice 86%
- Communications and engagement 85%
- Networking with other councils/groups 82%
- Climate Change training courses 82% (50% fairly interested)
- Support for volunteers 82%
- Procurement and working with suppliers 77%
- Other suggestions included engaging young people, audit and checklist for parishes, lead by example, easy to understand information

Next steps

- Net Zero Roadmap and Council Action Plan
- Projects to support net zero and environment strategy and policy alignment
- Communications and engagement plans
- Use survey results to target activity – 60% respondents currently not involved with existing initiatives