



Council's Climate Action Plan



Belfast
City Council



Climate Action Plan



- Context
- Purpose
- Structure and content
- Tracking progress

Climate Action Plan



Aims to close the gap between BCC's current climate action and its ambition to be a net zero¹ and resilient Council

Includes actions to be delivered in the short term (by 2025), medium term (by 2030) and longer term (2030+)

All short-term actions have been mainstreamed into the Corporate Annual Delivery Plan for 2025-26

Going forward, the plan will be reviewed annually with priority actions brought forward by Departments for inclusion in the Council's Annual Delivery Plan

Ensures that the Climate Action Plan supports the delivery of the Annual Delivery Plan and that climate actions are resourced as part of the annual planning cycle

1 Net zero includes scope 1, 2 and 3, and focuses on the Council's own operations

71 climate actions

across

5 themes



Tools for Transition



Adaptation



Energy and Buildings



Transport



Waste Management

N. Ireland Climate Change Act 2022 – Public Body Reporting

The Northern Ireland Assembly passed its first ever climate change legislation in March 2022. The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 received Royal Assent on 6 June 2022 and sets out the legal framework for tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions for decades to come in Northern Ireland.

The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024, which came into operation on the 3rd May 2024, set climate change reporting duties on specified public body organisations, which are listed within its Schedule. There are 40 public bodies listed in the Schedule and Belfast City Council is one of them. The regulations place reporting duties on the specified public bodies. These duties cover both adaptation and mitigation.

Mitigation – every 3 years

The first mitigation report is due first – **31st October 2025** and will include:

- a statement, in respect of each of the three preceding financial years, of the amounts and the sources of the Council's greenhouse gas emissions;
- a statement of the Council's proposals and policies for reducing those amounts and otherwise for mitigating the effects of climate change in the exercise of its functions;
- a statement of the time-scales for implementing those proposals and policies; and
- an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change mitigation report.

Adaptation – Every 5 years

The first adaptation report is due first – **31st March 2025** and will include:

- an assessment of the current and predicted impact of climate change in relation to its functions;
- a statement of Council's proposals and policies for adapting to climate change in the exercise of its functions;
- a statement of the timescales for implementing those proposals and policies; and
- an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change adaptation report.

Key climate actions to be delivered in the short-term

The CAP identifies priority short-term actions for each of the 5 themes which have been integrated into the draft Council's Corporate Annual Delivery Plan 2025/26

Tools for Transition



1. Develop a sustainable food policy for the Council that addresses waste, sourcing, packaging, emissions measurement and an events protocol (1.14)
2. Develop a sustainable/ low carbon procurement policy and supplier guidance documents to support a transition to an inclusive, net zero and resilient future (1.15)
3. Develop and launch an accessible climate data platform to track progress on delivering climate adaptation and mitigation actions (1.7)
4. Prepare departments for data collection required for Public Body Reporting under the Climate Change Act (1.17)
5. Prepare mitigation report (Oct 2025) and adaptation report (March 2026) for submission to DAERA in line with Public Body Reporting requirements (1.18)

Adaptation and Resilience



1. Update the BCC Climate Risk Assessment in line with the new mandatory Public Body Reporting requirements (under the Climate Change Act) (2.2)
2. Apply SUDs policy and guidance (SUDS Manual C753) as standard practice in the Capital Programme (2.3)
3. Start to deliver the Tree Establishment Strategy and continue the One Million Trees Programme (2.19)

Energy and Buildings



1. Complete a second phase of building energy audits (3.3, 3.4)
2. Develop the integration of whole life carbon assessments as standard practice in the Capital Programme (3.8)
3. Launch a phased metering and retrofitting programme across BCC's top energy users based on the findings of the building level audits of Adelaide, Cecil Ward, City Hall and Duncrue (3.11)
4. Scope out a strategy to increase renewable and low-carbon energy use through corporate power purchase agreements (3.15)

Transport



1. Review the Business Travel Policy and develop the Sustainable Staff Travel Plan to encourage modal shift, active travel and more fuel-efficient driving for Council staff (4.1)
2. Through sustainable procurement, aim to use local suppliers to the Council to reduce miles travelled within the confines of procurement legislation and Local Govt Act restrictions (4.4)
3. Conduct a commercial assessment of Council land suitable for installing low emission vehicle (LEV) charging points (4.9)
4. Repurpose parking spaces for car clubs and cycle parking and integrate appropriate facilities to support active travel e.g. shower and changing facilities (4.10)

Waste Management



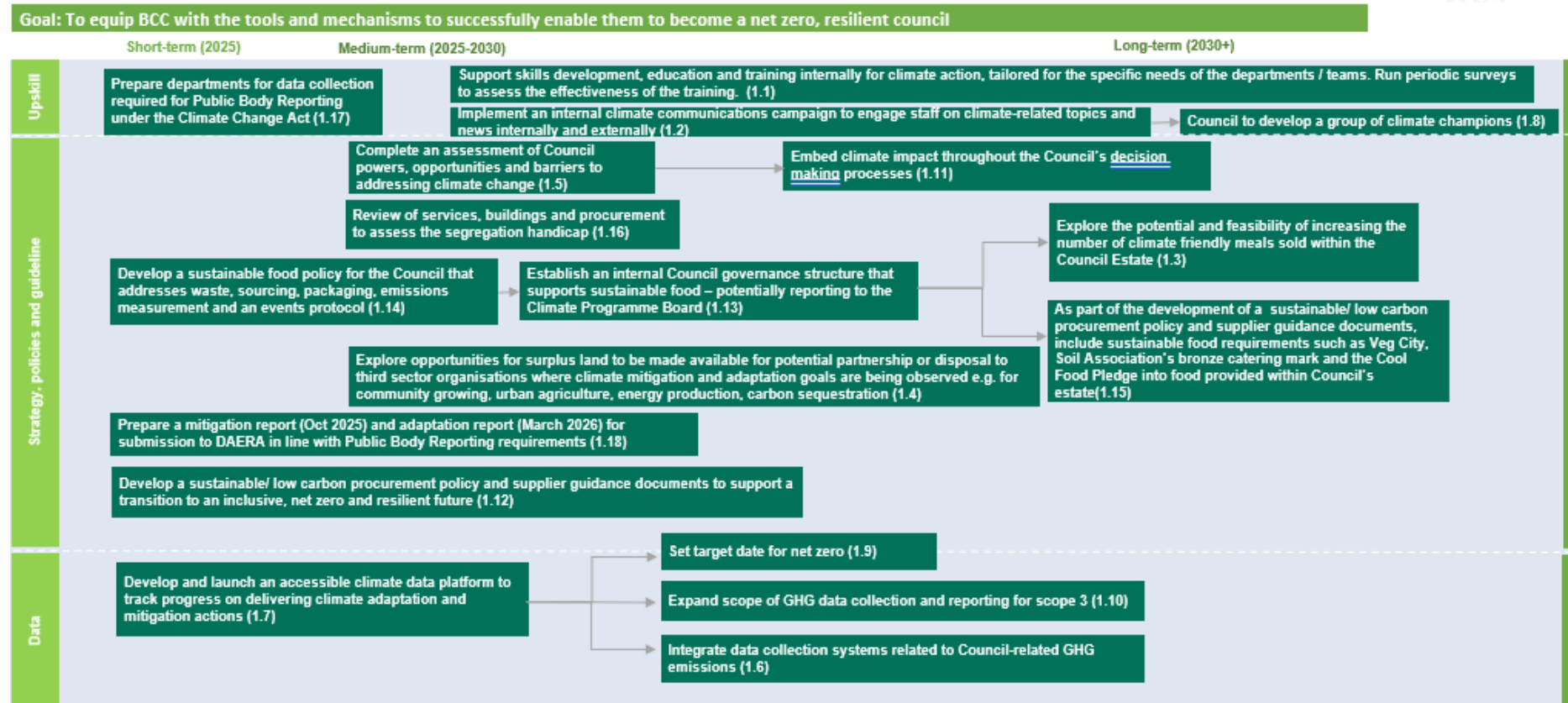
1. Continue to progress the proposal for a single use plastics policy for the Council (5.4)
2. Initiate an internal Council-level Waste Management Plan which aligns with the Waste Management Hierarchy and with an emphasis on green waste (5.3)
3. Develop a mechanism to track and report on internal Council generated waste (5.7)

2025-26



1. Develop and launch an accessible climate data platform to track progress on delivering climate adaptation and mitigation actions (1.7)
2. Develop a sustainable/ low carbon procurement policy and supplier guidance documents to support a transition to an inclusive, net zero and resilient future (1.12)
3. Develop a sustainable food policy for the Council that addresses waste, sourcing, packaging, emissions measurement and an events protocol (1.14)
4. Prepare departments for data collection required for Public Body Reporting under the Climate Change Act (1.18)
5. Prepare mitigation report (Oct 2025) and adaptation report (March 2026) for submission to DAERA in line with Public Body Reporting requirements (1.19)

Tools for Transition



Belfast City Council Climate Action Tracker



Select all

Adaptation Extreme Heat

Adaptation Flooding

Buildings

Tools for the Transition

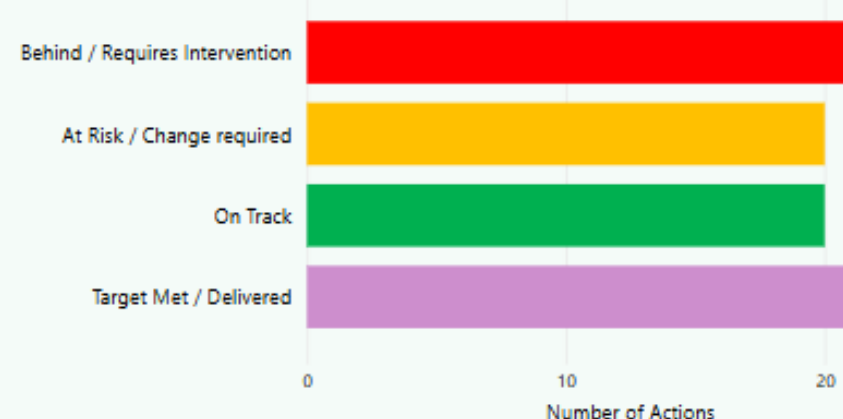
Transport

Waste

Number of Actions by Department



Number of Actions by Status



Action No.	Proposed Action	Status	Department	Comment
1.1	Support skills development, education and training internally for the net zero transition, tailored for the specific needs of the departments / teams. Run periodic surveys to assess the effectiveness of the training.	Behind / Requires Intervention	City and Organisational Strategy	No Comment
1.10.	Expand scope of GHG data collection and reporting for scope 3	On Track	City and Organisational Strategy	No Comment
1.11	Embed climate impact throughout the council's decision making processes	Target Met / Delivered	City and Organisational Strategy	No Comment
1.12	Update and align procurement policy and supplier guidance documents with the Net Zero transition and including a focus on circular economy (aligned with action 4.5)	At Risk / Change required	Finance and Resources	No Comment
1.13	Establish an internal Council governance structure that supports sustainable food, potentially reporting to the	Behind / Requires Intervention	City and Organisational Strategy	No Comment