

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

10 MAY 2021

CLIMATE EMERGENCY – 2030 DECARBONISATION AGENDA UPDATE

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update on the BCBC decarbonisation work programme and raise issues of relevance to Town and Community Councils in their decarbonisation work.

2. Connection to corporate Well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** –Taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 Welsh Government (WG) declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019 and set out its priorities to address change for Wales to build resilience. In July 2020, the Welsh Government committed to achieving a net zero carbon public sector in Wales by 2030. This commitment includes the public sector in its entirety, including Town and Community Councils.
- 3.2 Bridgend supports the net zero goal and we have adopted it into our updated Corporate Plan for 2021-22. In addition, the Council is committed to coordinating action to help other areas of the economy make a decisive shift towards decarbonisation, by engaging in collaboration with other public sector organisations (including Town and Community Councils), academia, industry and the third sector.

- 3.3 The areas of focus for our internal decarbonisation efforts are energy, transport, buildings, procurement and open spaces. We will be optimising our use of buildings, reducing energy use, designing new builds to the highest standards of energy efficiency, ensuring judicious use of our open spaces to enhance biodiversity and sequester carbon through tree planting, seeking out renewable energy opportunities, and buying better overall. Most importantly, we will be having conversations internally across the Authority so that staff can coalesce around a genuine shared ambition for making a significant step change in our climate impact.
- 3.4 99% of emissions from within the boundaries of the county borough come from sectors other than the public sector. The Authority has a clear leadership role in influencing, driving and facilitating change right across the Authority. So aligning low carbon strategies and sharing best practice with Local Partnership Boards, regional neighbours, communities, and business, including our Town and Community Councils, is essential to tackling the full range of emissions, including those from goods and services procured.
- 3.5 All public bodies need to address becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030, based on tackling the different scope emissions shown in Figure 1 below. Our public sector partners are establishing their carbon baselines and seeking to address the same issues. Businesses are also identifying their corporate and social responsibilities to address climate change to reduce their impact and improve social well-being. A collaborative approach across sectors is therefore both desirable and practical.

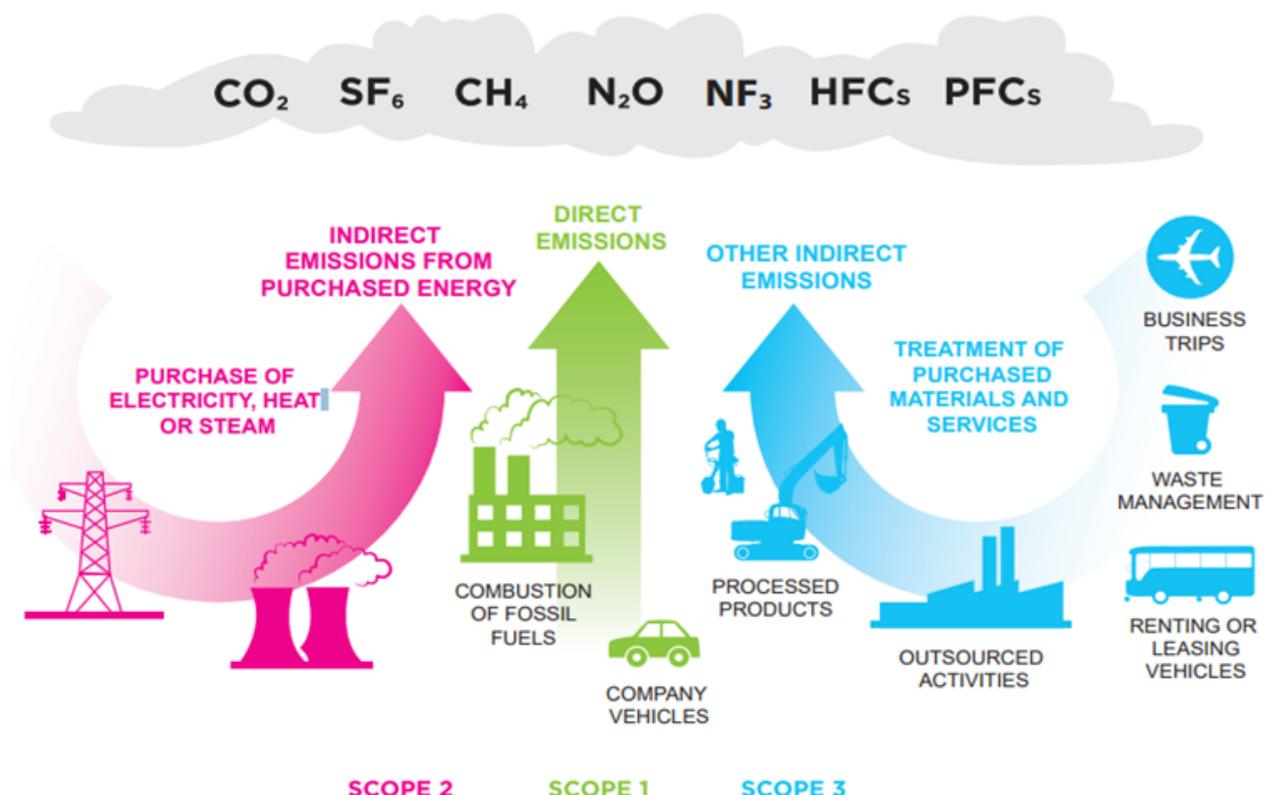


Figure 1 Scope for public sector emissions reduction

3.6 The shift to a low carbon system increases economic output and is part of our national recovery plans. Our strategy and action plan for carbon neutrality will therefore contribute to local economic prosperity.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 BCBC has engaged Carbon Trust to conduct a baseline emissions audit of our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. This baseline will be used to prepare a plan for full decarbonisation by 2030.

4.2 Our provisional estimate is that around 60% of our emissions result from procurement. Our work with our suppliers and the supply chain will be crucial in ensuring swift progress to net zero.

4.3 The Council cannot achieve its decarbonisation goal alone and we will engage widely with partners for sharing experience, knowledge, and delivering on our aims. Our draft action plan will be shared widely for consultation so that members of the public, civil society, and all stakeholders have an opportunity to shape our work.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An initial EIA screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 Setting the Carbon Neutral Bridgend Council 2030 strategy and action plan pathway is a positive step in regard to the Council's role in complying with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. A clear pathway to decarbonisation demonstrates BCBC taking a positive, proactive leadership role within the decarbonisation agenda in Wales which will ensure that the significant environmental, social and economic opportunities will be captured for Bridgend as well as the authority being able to demonstrate its compliance with national carbon reduction targets. Our engagement with Town and Community Councils will help provide a shared level of high ambition and ensure that our approaches are coordinated for maximum societal benefit.

7.2 In terms of meeting the 5 ways of working within the Act a "Bridgend 2030" Decarbonisation strategy and our engagement with Town and Community Councils will provide the following:-

1. **Long Term:** A decarbonisation strategy and action plan will provide the pathway for Bridgend County to develop a decarbonised set of enhancements that meet the Welsh 2030 decarbonisation targets. Our engagement with Town and Community Councils will help us to reach our shared ambition for

making early emissions reductions which are critical for long term climate stability.

2. **Prevention:** The decarbonisation strategy and action plan are premised on fully realising BCBC's contribution to preventing the worst excesses of climate change. Likewise, our engagement with Town and Community Councils will facilitate their action to take preventative steps.
3. **Integration:** A decarbonisation strategy and action plan offers an opportunity to work with a wide range of partners, including Town and Community Councils, to ensure that effort is coordinated and that resources are used effectively.
4. **Collaboration:** Working with and through our own staff as well as multiple external stakeholders, collaboration is critical to achieving our shared decarbonisation goals.
5. **Involvement:** Creating and delivering a decarbonisation strategy and action plan will involve working with a variety of stakeholders, including Town and Community Councils and the public we serve.

8. Financial implications.

- 8.1 The report is for noting and what is covered is being carried out within existing budgets.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum notes the report.

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES
28 April 2021

Contact officer: Ieuan Sherwood, Group Manager: Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability

Telephone: (01656) 815333

Email: ieuan.sherwood@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB

Background documents

None