

(CCC) climate emergency carbon reduction

1. Confirmation of the present status of your climate action plan.
2. In particular, confirmation of the achievements to date by the Council reducing its own emissions
3. The level of carbon reduction, in percentage terms, achieved by the Council to date.
4. The extent of the Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions that are being set as your targets.
5. Any interim targets that have been set to meet the 2030 'carbon neutral' goal.
6. An outline of the practical steps being taken to achieve the goals and targets.
7. Finally, please provide any other information that you may feel is appropriate for us to better understand how the Council is reducing its GHG emissions and meeting its 2030 targets

We recognise that under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 the Council is entitled to charge a reasonable sum for providing this information. However, in the circumstances of the present request and, in particular, given that ELF is a charity working with a very small budget, that the University has no committed budget for this, and that all the research work within this project is being carried out on a pro-bono basis, we ask that any potential fee is waived.

We also understand that the Council has 20 working days to provide this information although we would very much welcome it if the information sought were to be provided at the earliest opportunity. We also ask that the information be provided by email.

If you have any queries at all or would like to discuss the project or the particular information request further, then please do not hesitate to contact the Open Justice Policy Clinic at open-justice-policy-clinic@open.ac.uk

Response

1. Confirmation of the present status of your climate action plan.
The Action Plan of the Climate Change Strategy 2021-26 is available to download from the Council's website at the following link: www.cambridge.gov.uk/climate-change-strategy. It was updated at the time of producing the most recent annual progress report which was presented to Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee on 6 October 2022 and provides an update on progress on the actions during 2021/22.
2. In particular, confirmation of the achievements to date by the Council reducing its own emissions
The Council calculates the carbon emissions from its estate and operations, and reports these in our annual Greenhouse Gas Report and the annual progress report to committee. The most recent Annual Greenhouse Gas Report for 2021/22 is available on the Council's website: www.cambridge.gov.uk/carbon-management-plan. The Council's carbon emissions reduced by 2,793 tCO₂e from the baseline year of 2014/15 to 2021/22. This reduction was partly due to steps

that the Council has taken, including rationalising its office accommodation, investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in its buildings, and reducing carbon emissions from its fleet vehicles. A significant proportion of this reduction was also due to the decarbonisation of electricity generation at a national level, through the progressive closure of coal-fired power stations and increasing renewable electricity generation. Both the Greenhouse Gas Reports and Annual Progress Reports detail the projects the Council has implemented during the year, to reduce the Council's energy consumption and carbon emissions.

3. The level of carbon reduction, in percentage terms, achieved by the Council to date.

As stated in the annual progress report to committee, the Council's carbon emissions reduced by 34.7% from the baseline year of 2014/15 to 2021/22.

4. The extent of the Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions that are being set as your targets. In the Climate Change Strategy 2021-26 the Council set the target to reduce its direct carbon emissions from our corporate buildings (including swimming pools, office buildings, car parks, sheltered housing schemes, community centres, arts venues and the crematorium) our fleet vehicles (including vans, trucks and refuse vehicles), and business travel to net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The emissions included in the Council's target are those reported in the Greenhouse Gas Report, which sets out what is included under each scope at section 9. Operational Scopes.

5. Any interim targets that have been set to meet the 2030 'carbon neutral' goal. The Council has not set a 'carbon neutral' target. The Council has not set an interim target to meet its target to be net zero carbon by 2030.

6. An outline of the practical steps being taken to achieve the goals and targets. The actions that the Council to achieve the Council's net zero target for its direct emissions are detailed in the Council's Carbon Management Plan 2021/26. An update on the projects that are being delivered and plan to be delivered is included in the annual progress report.

7. Finally, please provide any other information that you may feel is appropriate for us to better understand how the Council is reducing its GHG emissions and meeting its 2030 targets

Links to the work the Council is doing to reduce its own GHG emissions are available on the Council's Climate Change & Sustainability section our website.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk
