

(CCC) Carbon Sequestration and Offsetting

1. Has your council declared a climate emergency and produced an action plan/strategy or policy that covers carbon sequestration and offsetting? If yes, please attached a copy of the policy/strategy or provide a link to the online copy.
2. Have you, within your existing or planned strategies/policies, considered carbon sequestration and offsetting? If yes, please outline those plans not included in question 1 or attach a copy or link to an online copy.
3. What forms of carbon sequestration have you considered, and which have you excluded? What was the basis of that decision?
4. How have you or do you plan to quantify the extent of carbon sequestration required to offset your carbon emissions within the council? Please provide any figures and equations you have used. What was the basis for using those figures/equations?
5. Do you as a council or your contractors use any of the offsetting schemes ie Woodland Trust to offset your carbon emissions? If yes, please list those used.

Response:

1. Has your council declared a climate emergency and produced an action plan/strategy or policy that covers carbon sequestration and offsetting? If yes, please attached a copy of the policy/strategy or provide a link to the online copy.

Cambridge City Council declared a Climate Emergency at the Council meeting on 21 February 2019. Further details of the declaration can be found in the minutes of the meeting here:

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=116&MIId=3405&Ver=4>

Cambridge City Council's existing Climate Change Strategy 2016-2021 and action plan sets out a range of actions to help mitigate climate change and manage climate change impacts. A revised strategy and action plan for the 2021-2026 period will be presented to the Council Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 25 March 2021 for approval. The current strategy does not cover carbon sequestration and off-setting, as we have been focussing on reducing the Council's direct carbon emissions and working with partners and communities to reduce carbon emissions from the city as a whole. This will continue to be our focus in the new strategy, but we also intend to explore credible options for carbon off-setting and carbon sequestrations as a last resort for those carbon emissions that cannot be removed.

2. Have you, within your existing or planned strategies/policies, considered carbon sequestration and offsetting? If yes, please outline those plans not included in question 1 or attach a copy or link to an online copy.

As explained in answer to question 1, we have not considered carbon sequestration or offsetting as part of our current Climate Change Strategy, but as

part of our new Climate Change Strategy we intend to explore credible options for carbon off-setting and carbon sequestrations as a last resort for those carbon emissions that cannot be removed.

The current Cambridge Local Plan does not include any policies relating to carbon sequestration or offsetting, but we are considering the role of carbon offsetting for new development as part of our work to develop our new Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This work is ongoing, and is due to be published later this year.

3. What forms of carbon sequestration have you considered, and which have you excluded? What was the basis of that decision?

See answers to question 1 and question 2 above.

4. How have you or do you plan to quantify the extent of carbon sequestration required to offset your carbon emissions within the council? Please provide any figures and equations you have used. What was the basis for using those figures/equations?

See answers to question 1 and question 2 above.

5. Do you as a council or your contractors use any of the offsetting schemes ie Woodland Trust to offset your carbon emissions? If yes, please list those used.

The Council does not currently use any offsetting schemes to offset our direct carbon emissions.

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