

Appendix 1 Torbay-wide climate related work

1.0 Torbay Council can influence and help reduce Torbay's carbon emissions and help it prepare for a changing climate. Below is a list of actions carried out by the council or its partners to support Torbay-wide action to tackle climate change.

1.1 Powering and heating homes and buildings accounts for 60% of Torbay's carbon emissions. A further 30% arise from travel across Torbay. The following is a summary of some of the specific work currently being led by Torbay Council to reduce Torbay-wide carbon emissions and deliver a range of co-benefits for Torbay.

Decarbonising homes and businesses

1.2 Given the cost of living crisis, Torbay Council has worked with Exeter Community Exeter to help residents save energy (and carbon). Since August 2020, 547 homes have been supported, 180 homes visited and issued practical advice and 63 events and clinics attended. With Devon County Council, and through the Local Authority Delivery Grant scheme we have helped 119 homes to save energy through installing a range of measures such as insulation and replaced old gas boilers with new low carbon heat pumps. Through the Shared Prosperity Fund, we will support carbon and energy saving advice for residents and launch the new Make it Net Zero businesses support programme, these schemes will be available from 2023 – 2025. The Make it Net Zero Programme aims to support over 230 businesses.

Sustainable transport

1.3 The Council has secured £7.8m from the Government's New Stations Fund to deliver Edginswell Station, providing a new rail connection for residents and those working in Shiphay, The Willows, at Torbay Hospital, Edginswell Business Park and in surrounding areas. In 2021 we adopted the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, identifying Torbay wide key routes for walking and cycling and setting out some priorities to make those routes safer and more attractive to walk and cycle. In 2022 the footpath on Marine Drive, between Preston and Paignton beaches, was widened, with both a new and upgraded crossing to improve access and safety for pedestrians in that area. We have produced a Bus Service Improvement Plan, demonstrating our ambition for bus services in Torbay and forming the basis of a new partnership with bus operators starting this year. We have financially supported local bus services, ensuring the community retained access to public transport and did not need to rely on private vehicles. These need to continue, be prioritised and more needs to be achieved to sufficiently reduce emissions either by 2030 or other date i.e. 2050.

1.4 The actions above also deliver a range of wider economic, social, and environmental benefits to Torbay. For example through helping the homes above in para 1.2 to save energy and carbon it is estimated to have saved £387k pounds off residents' fuel bills. It will also keep people warmer reducing winter and respiratory illness and reduce fuel poverty (currently 12% for Torbay). Doing more around retrofit may create other employment and skills opportunities alongside addressing residents cost of living and/or health issues.

1.5 Emissions from Waste, Industry, Fluorinated Gases and Agriculture and Land use make up the remaining 10% of Torbay's carbon emissions and are not covered in the report. Priority going forward should be decarbonising homes, buildings, businesses, and Torbay's transport sector.

1.6 In addition to actions to reduce carbon emissions, we also need to make sure Torbay adapts and is resilient to a changing climate. There are a range of predicted impacts that Torbay will face as our climate continues to change. To date, with partners, we have invested in a range of flood alleviation projects helping to protect more homes and businesses from flooding, and recently approved Paignton and Preston Masterplan which

includes the sea defences that are needed on both Paignton and Preston seafronts to protect these areas from rising sea levels.

- 1.7 Torbay Council also currently works closely with the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership. They adopted the Devon Carbon Plan in 2022. The full plan is available [here](#). Some priority actions from this plan were included in the draft TCEAP. Very recently a new Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly (DCIoS) Climate Adaptation Strategy has also been developed. A public consultation on this draft has just closed. The draft is available [here](#).
- 1.8 This strategy will help communities and organisations across the Southwest better understand the risks their area might face in the future, as climate change increasingly affects the UK. It will also help them to adapt to these changes, thereby improving their preparedness and resilience and ensuring community safety. Led by Torbay Council, Torbay will need to assess the highlighted risk locally and add actions into future iterations of our corporate risk management framework, TCEAP, flood, emergency planning (where relevant) and other strategic plans. This will also help reduce future costs of recovering after weather related events, because inaction/lack of preparedness may cost more than if we prepare now and avoid a range of detrimental impacts on our economy and society.