

Environment Theme 2022/23

Aim: Encourage retro-fitting of measures to reduce energy use in building

Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target (2022/23)	Performance
Corporate Renewable Energy Projects	1	8	5	4	Green
Housing Assistance Policy (Retro-fit schemes supported)	5	28	11	5	Green
Home Improvement Loans sanctioned	10	5	14	10	Green

- 100% renewable electricity tariff (Renewable Energy Guarantees Origin backed) for approximately half of council building supply (comprising 3 supply locations: Phoenix House; Exe Valley; Pannier Market).
- Retrofit LED lighting units installed in progress for all-weather pitches at leisure centres.
- The £2.8m dual projects at Exe Valley Leisure Centre and Lords Meadow Leisure Centre is due to be completed Spring/Summer 2023. Retrofit installation of Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) and Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) completed; a new, larger buffer vessel was installed to optimise biomass boiler at Lords Meadow; new buffer vessels and cooling circuits at Exe Valley; solar PV panel arrays being extended; final commissioning of combined heating/cooling systems being done.

Aim: Encourage “green” sources of energy, supply new policies and develop plans to decarbonise energy consumption in Mid Devon

Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target (2022/23)	Performance
Electric Car Charger usage (Number of uses)	1,867	4,639	4,716	2,300	Green
Electric Car Charger Units	3	3	3	8	Red

- During 2020 we had 3 rapid chargers - each with 2 charge points - installed at council leisure centres: Culm Valley, Exe Valley, Lords Meadow. These are owned and operated by Instavolt through a lease with the council.

- During 2022 through participating in Devon's DELETTI partnership we secured at least 5 rapid chargers - each with 2 charge points - which will be installed at council car parks: Crediton Market Street, Crediton High Street, Cullompton Forge Way; Tiverton William Street; Tiverton Pannier Market; Tiverton Westexe South. These will be owned and operated by Wenea/Gamma through a lease with the council. Leases being finalised for the first phase of installations.

Aim: Identify opportunities to work with landowners to secure additional hedgerow planting, biodiversity and reforestation

- Community climate and biodiversity grants: Submitted as apriority for budget spend in 2022/23.

Aim: Consider promoting the designation of the Exe Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

- This aim was determined as not deliverable within the period of the Corporate Plan as part of the Mid-Point review.

Preliminary research project could be devised to understand the scope and scale of the challenge, albeit early estimates suggested a timeframe of many years and a cost in excess of £250k. No budget or resource has been identified for this work and it is not currently being progressed.

Aim: Encourage new housing and commercial developments to be “exemplars” in terms of increasing biodiversity and reducing carbon use.

- The Local Plan includes policies making clear development will be expected to: meet the challenge of climate change by supporting a low carbon future, energy efficiency and increasing the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy; and minimising impacts on and providing a net gain in biodiversity.
- The council's recently updated validation checklist for planning applications introduces the local requirement for a statement to identify how the applicant has addressed impacts of their development proposal in relation to climate change, including evidence how reductions in carbon emissions will be delivered through design, construction and operational systems. The preferred approach will be through the completion of the Climate Emergency - Planning Application Checklist. Officers are working with Devon County Council's Ecologist to put in place arrangements for technical support to deliver the implementation of biodiversity net gain through the development management process.

Aim: Increase recycling rates and reduce the amounts of residual waste generated

Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target (2022/23)	Performance
Household waste collected per household (kg)	364.5	364.5	327.3	362.0	Green
Household recycling rate	53.5%	53.4%	55.4%	54.5%	Green
Households on Chargeable Garden Waste	11,653	11,882	12,009	11,300	Green
Missed refuse/food/garden collections - collection crew error	0.02%	0.02%	0.04%	0.03%	Red
Missed Recycling/Food Collections - collection crew error	0.02%	0.03%	0.05%	0.03%	Red
Fixed Penalty Notices Issued (Environment)	10	0	37	N/A	N/A

- Over the past year the amount of household waste collected per household has decreased from 364.5 kg to 327.3 kg. This improvement can be attributed to the introduction of 3 weekly bin collections in October 2022 alongside education and enforcement activity
- Related to the above, the household recycling rate has increased to 55.4% (2022/23). A target has been set of 56.5% for the next financial year.
- Missed bin collections were higher in 2022/23 than in previous years and exceeded our performance target. Missed collections increased across the winter period due to extreme bad weather.

Aim: Explore large-scale tree-planting projects and re-wilding to enhance biodiversity and address carbon pressures

Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target (2022/23)	Performance
Corporate Tree Planting Scheme	0	650	1,192	500	Green

- On MDDC land: 30 maiden orchard trees (Oak Close community orchard in Tiverton); 33 standards, 5 donated trees, 5 at Tiverton Cemetery, 7 orchard trees planted by volunteers at Newton St Cyres (General Fund land), 12 planted by volunteers (General Fund land). On private land: 1,100 whips planted, achieved through partnership work with Aggregate Industries UK and local volunteers. Total = 1,192 trees.

Aim: Promote sustainable farming practices in partnership with local farmers, district and county councils; including research into best practice re better soil management and animal husbandry

- Reports provided to Environment PDG and to Economy PDG. Engagement supported in partnership through e.g. Connecting the Culm; and at the Mid Devon Show 2021 and 2022. Councillors with farming interests attended the MDDC tent and we hosted farmer advisors with expertise on landscape-scale recovery, natural capital, water catchment conservation, climate adaptation.

Aim: Work with parish and town councils to promote the development and retention of parks and play areas across the district

- Work on this continues and talks with Town and Parish Councils are on-going, the latest meeting taking place on 8 June 2023.

Aim: Support community activities that improve the environment such as litter picks, guerrilla gardening, or community adoption of assets.

Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target (2022/23)	Performance
Community Schemes (Environmental)	0	8	14	4	Green

- Actively engaging with community projects/ networks/ groups/ individuals - also local farmers and other enterprises with a green agenda/ project/ exemplar. Proactively promoting the sustainability projects and activities of community schemes on the Sustainable Mid Devon website (resource map, events and news, etc.).
- Community liaison a range of stakeholders, including: Aggregate Industries UK (community tree planting); Blackdown Hills Transition; Connecting the Culm; Creedy Catchment Crayfish Project; Exeter Community Energy; Mid Devon Parish Wildlife Warden Scheme; New Prosperity Devon; Newton Environmental Wellbeing; Sustainable Bradninch; Sustainable Crediton; Sustainable Tiverton; Uffculme Green Team; Community Action Groups (CAG) Devon.
- The Climate and Sustainability Specialist was involved in the concept stages of the 'Net Zero Visions' public artwork project hosted by the council near the Pannier Market (led by Sustainable Tiverton).
- The Climate and Sustainability Specialist developed and coordinated the MDDC 2022 State of the District Debate which involved pre-event engagement with networks/ groups/ individuals/ local farmers/ farming advisors/ enterprises/ partnerships. Pre-event workshops and event debate involved e.g. Carbon Savvy, Heathcoat Fabrics Ltd, Exeter Community

Energy, bike shops, tourism sector, Co-Cars, growers and farmers, farming advisors, the Soil Association, community food growing and composting, local food suppliers, and several of the community groups listed earlier.

- Devon County Show: worked with Recycle Devon and Devon Climate Emergency. Topical theme: re-use, repair, exchange, upcycle.
- Mid Devon Show: Councillors joined multiple staff teams to promote sustainability messages on: sustainable farming and landscapes (nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and flood resilience at a landscape scale); housing (passivhaus design in proposed affordable and social housing); waste and recycling (Bin-It 123); active travel; what the council is doing to reduce its carbon footprint; what makes up your carbon footprint. Teamwork with Westcountry Rivers Trust, Connecting the Culm, FreeTrike, Mid Devon Housing.
- Sustainable procurement promoted to staff and communities by highlighting bid opportunities and workshops by New Prosperity Devon.

Other Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target (2022/23)	Performance
Council Carbon Footprint (tCO ₂ e)	17,406	20,503	TBC	17,807	TBC

The council's carbon footprint report is commissioned in May (work completed by University of Exeter) and data will be available later in the financial year.