

Telford and Wrekin borough

# ClimateChange Partnership



## Action Plan



Telford & Wrekin  
COUNCIL

Protect, Care and Invest  
to create a better borough

# Contents

Section	Page
Executive Summary	3
Introduction	4
Organisation and participation	5
Emissions in the borough	7
Action Plan	8
Transport	8
Energy	9
Learning, communications and public engagement	11
Agriculture, forestry and other land use	13
Buildings	15
Industry	16
Approach to implementing and financing the Action Plans	17
Annual monitoring and evaluation	17

# Executive Summary

To support local communities and Telford and Wrekin's vision to address climate change and become carbon neutral<sup>1</sup> by 2030, the **Telford and Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership** was established in June 2020. Made up of a cross section of over 30 local organisations including businesses, educational establishments, community groups, Town and Parish Councils and other public sector organisations this group has helped to identify the climate change challenges we all urgently need to take action on.

The Earth's climate naturally changes slowly but global temperatures are now rising much faster due to increased emissions from human activities. David Attenborough says:

**“We are at a unique stage in our history. Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to the planet, and never before have we had the power to do something about that...”**

All towns, organisations and citizens have a part to play to reduce emissions and adapt to this changing climate.

Our collective vision for the Borough is to become **‘carbon neutral’ by 2030** which means locally: less pollution, cleaner industrial and agricultural processes, better insulated homes, shops & offices. In order to achieve this the Partnership have developed a draft action plan that we are now seeking local people's views on.

The borough's first Climate Change Action Plan has been delivered against a backdrop of a global pandemic. New ways of working has speeded up the transition to low carbon footprint lifestyles, and the Partnership is keen to see these practices continue in a post-Covid world and move to a greener borough.



<sup>1</sup> Carbon neutral means carbon emissions have to be close to zero as possible



# Introduction

Emissions from human activities such as driving cars, industry, energy use and farming practices trap heat in our atmosphere, unnaturally warming the planet. This is causing global temperatures to rise, resulting in the polar ice caps and glaciers melting – leading to rising sea levels. Also increasing extreme weather events, affecting us all as a global community and impacting us on a local level.



In the borough, the impacts of climate change are being felt through incidents of increased flooding, storms and heatwaves and, most notably, the flooding which has directly affected so many local people.

The importance of this issue to our community can be illustrated by the Council’s 2020 Residents’ Survey, which found that the majority of Telford and Wrekin residents were concerned about climate change.

Residents were asked to rate how concerned they were about climate change on a scale of 1 (not concerned at all) to 10 (extremely concerned).

Around 25% of residents were extremely concerned, whereas only 6% were not concerned at all. On the scale of 1-10, 74% answered 6 or above.

There are already many people, organisations and businesses in Telford and Wrekin who are exploring smarter, greener ways of working and living, and the Partnership would like to thank and recognise everyone who is taking action and particularly those who are sharing what they are doing to encourage others.

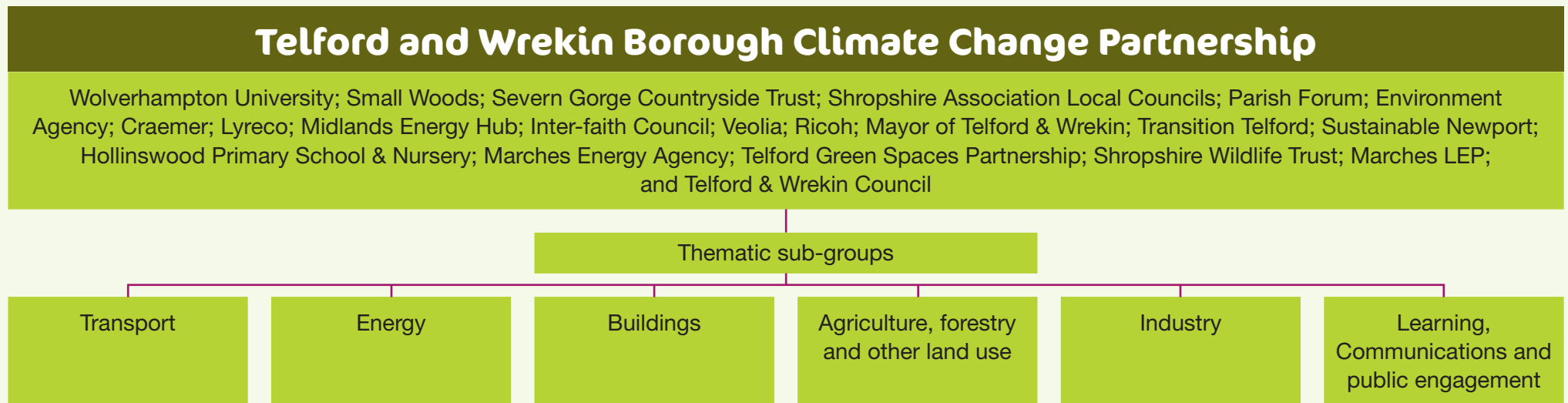
However, we all still need to do much more to tackle climate change. Therefore, following the launch of Telford & Wrekin Council’s Action Plan in spring 2020 <http://www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com/what-the-council-is-doing/action-plan>, the Council established the Telford and Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership in June 2020 – inviting local organisations, representatives of the community and influencers to come together to develop and implement steps for the Borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.

This plan is intended to be a live document that will be developed over time. The Partnership welcomes comments on the plan, and suggestions for future actions that could be included. Please contact [sustainability@telford.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@telford.gov.uk)

# Organisation and participation

The Partnership is made up of businesses, educational establishments, community groups, town and parish councils and other public sector organisations, using their time voluntarily to share their knowledge and expertise to further the climate change agenda borough-wide.

The Partnership is set up as follows:



The Partnership has established six thematic sub-groups. The thematic sub-groups have enabled even more organisations from within the borough to get involved, often bringing a unique skill-set and interest specific to the thematic areas. Each sub-group has developed their own action plan, which has been brought together into this overarching Borough Action Plan.

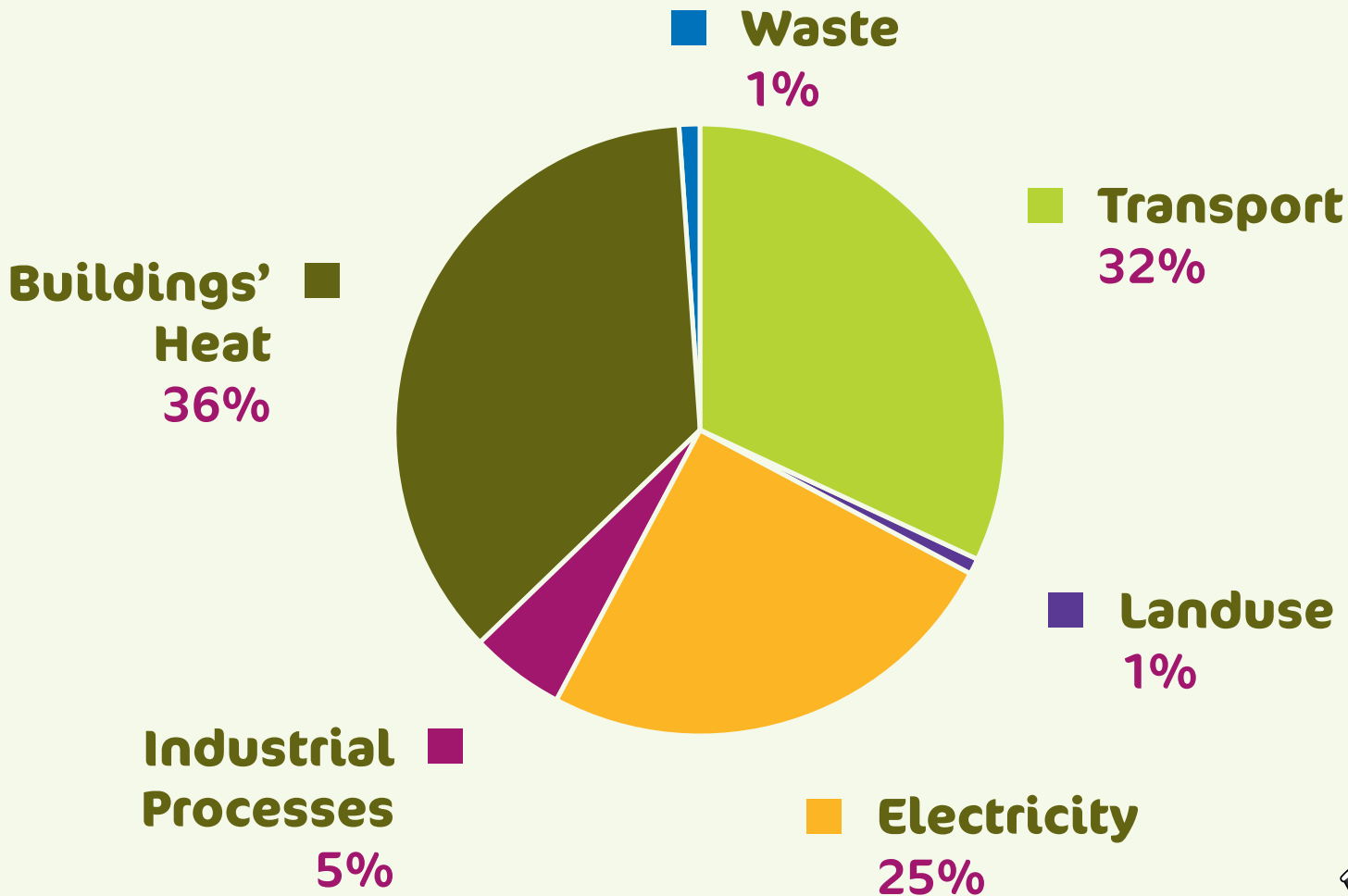
These six crosscutting thematic areas are not intended to represent a comprehensive or exhaustive list; rather they represent a way of organising some of the borough's most critical climate change activities.

Over the coming decade, we will continue to have an open dialogue and engage with individuals, households, organisations and businesses to continue to develop and further the climate change agenda.

# Emissions in the borough

We have used a tool called **SCATTER** (Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction) to find out the current emissions for the borough, see graph below. This gives us a starting point to compare against in the future and helps us understand where the main emissions are coming from in the borough. The aspiration is to get carbon neutral by 2030 – therefore this data will be provided on an annual basis to gauge how we are performing.

## Summary Greenhouse Gas Emissions (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)





# Action Plan

This Action Plan, describes the initial actions we will take to achieve a carbon neutral borough by 2030. The Action Plan will continue to be updated as data, funding, best practice and national policy develops.

Ref	Action	Timeframe for Delivery	Organisation to lead on Delivery
<b>Transport</b>			
Emissions from transport such as cars, trucks, trains, buses and air travel are a key contributor to climate change. We need to introduce more sustainable forms of transport (electric or hydrogen powered transport for example) to help us improve air quality and reduce emissions.			
These are our actions to increase the quality and choices of alternative modes of transportation in Telford and Wrekin.			
1	Target largest employers in the borough to install new electric vehicle charging points in their workplaces and then encourage other organisations to do the same	0-2 years	AceOn, Siemens and Telford & Wrekin Council
2	Promote sustainable transport campaigns across the borough	0-2 years	Telford & Wrekin Council
3	Encourage local transport providers to convert to greener buses (for example electric/ hydrogen buses)	0-2 years	Telford & Wrekin Council
4	Target largest employers in the borough to provide secure cycle storage and changing facilities at workplaces to encourage more people to cycle to work and then encourage other organisations to do the same	0-2 years	AceOn, Siemens and Telford & Wrekin Council
5	Promote of new electric vehicle (EV) charging points in partnership with local business community at selected locations	2-5 years	Telford & Wrekin Council and Midlands Energy Hub
6	Encourage hauliers to switch from diesel to using hydrogen as a fuel	5-10 years	Midlands Energy Hub



Ref	Action	Timeframe for Delivery	Organisation to lead on Delivery
7	Explore with Network Rail how they might switch from diesel to using electrification / hydrogen as a fuel	2-5 years	Network Rail and Telford & Wrekin Council
8	Promote electric vehicle hire to encourage EV use	0-2 years	Midlands Energy Hub, Telford & Wrekin Council
9	Promote eco driving to teach drivers to drive in a more fuel efficient manner	0-2 years	Telford and Wrekin borough organisations
10	Explore trialling a mobility hub – where you can hire and charge e-bikes and/or e-scooters, charge your car, store bikes, repair bikes, wait for a bus/train/taxi	0-2 years	Siemens, Wolverhampton University, AceOn and Telford & Wrekin Council
11	Explore with delivery companies the use of cargo bikes and e-cargo bikes for short distance local deliveries	0-5 years	AceOn and Midlands Energy Hub
12	Encourage borough employers to promote more car sharing journeys to work	0-5 years	Midlands Energy Hub
13	Promote local opportunities for recreation and leisure to minimise travel to local destinations	0-2 years	Telford & Wrekin Council

## Energy

Renewable energy comes from the Earth's natural resources, including sunlight, wind and water. It doesn't pollute the planet and we need to use a lot more of it and develop more locally in order to help us tackle the worst effects of climate change.

These are our actions relating to the production, delivery and use of renewable energy in the borough



Ref	Action	Timeframe for Delivery	Organisation to lead on Delivery
14	The Partnership to work with electric and gas providers to allow for greater amounts of renewable energy schemes	Ongoing	Western Power Distribution, Cadent and Partnership members
15	Work with electric and gas providers on their net carbon zero plans	0-10 years	Western Power Distribution, Cadent and Telford & Wrekin Council
16	Support local communities coming together to develop renewable energy schemes	0-10 years	Telford and Wrekin borough communities and Telford & Wrekin Council through the Climate Change Fund: <a href="http://www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com/get-involved/climate-change-fund">http://www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com/get-involved/climate-change-fund</a>
17	Local organisations to undertake energy efficiency projects to reduce emissions they produce	0-10 years	Telford and Wrekin borough organisations
18	Local organisations to encourage community owned renewable energy projects on their land and buildings.	0-10 years	Telford and Wrekin borough organisations
19	Promote renewable energy grants and energy efficiency grants to eligible groups	0-1 years	Telford & Wrekin Council
20	Explore the possibility of running a large scale solar panel project on the roof of a local industrial estate	0-2 years	AceOn

Ref	Action	Timeframe for Delivery	Organisation to lead on Delivery
21	Explore the possibility of new local renewable energy projects	0-2 years	Shropshire and Telford Community Energy Group with Sharenergy and Midlands Energy Agency

### Learning, communications and public engagement

We all have a part to play in climate change, but the challenge is finding the best ways to raise awareness, help people understand and find out more about what they can do to help.

These are the actions we have identified to support us to do this and ultimately encourage behaviour change from the residents of Telford and Wrekin.

22	Encourage local organisations to promote and get involved with national and local climate change campaigns	1-2 years	Telford & Wrekin Council, supported by partners
23	Actively promote different green volunteer projects/opportunities as they arise	0-1 years to set up then ongoing	Telford & Wrekin Council via the Volunteer Telford webpage <a href="https://www.discovertelford.co.uk/get-involved/volunteering/">https://www.discovertelford.co.uk/get-involved/volunteering/</a>
24	Develop an educational trail in a number of locations across Telford and Wrekin to help raise awareness and better understanding about climate change (this could involve signage and pictures for information sharing).	1-2 years	Combination of partners to support this project
25	Explore the use of solar powered digital screens to promote climate change initiatives	1-2 years	Telford & Wrekin Council
26	Create climate change videos and messages to send to schools and businesses to play on their own display screens to promote to visitors and staff	1-2 years	Telford & Wrekin Council



Ref	Action	Timeframe for Delivery	Organisation to lead on Delivery
27	<p>Create different pieces of artwork that can be displayed around the borough to promote different aspects of climate change, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Plastic Free – create an art sculpture made out of reused/recycled materials that that becomes interactive by encouraging people to drop in their plastic bottle caps (which would be emptied periodically and sent for recycling).</li> <li>■ Using the fish trail (a new sculpture trail to highlight the importance of protecting the oceans is being created for Telford Town Centre by local schoolchildren) to raise awareness about climate change – to get people engaged.</li> </ul>	1-2 years	Lyreco
28	Create opportunities for local people and groups to come together to have their say on important climate change issues, put forward ideas/recommendations and help inform decision making	Set up 2021	Telford & Wrekin Council and partners
29	Explore developing an online climate change hub – to act as a point of contact for all things to do with climate change and what we are doing locally to tackle the issues as a partnership. Also to enable more people to get involved.	2-5 years	Telford and Wrekin borough partners
30	<p>Working with schools and higher educational establishments, to allow them to get actively involved with climate change in a number of ways, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Expanding climate change champions within schools, along with volunteer mentors to support them.</li> <li>■ Partnering up with business sponsors to achieve Green Flag status</li> <li>■ Promoting tap water and use of re-usable water bottles in schools</li> </ul>	1-2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Telford and Wrekin schools and Wolverhampton University</li> <li>■ Support from local businesses</li> <li>■ Schools</li> </ul>
31	Support and promote faith communities / places of worship to sign up to eco faith schemes	0-1 years	Telford Interfaith Council

Ref	Action	Timeframe for Delivery	Organisation to lead on Delivery
32	Promotion of the green social prescribing project to provide health and wellbeing services through green spaces-based activities	2-5 years	Small Woods, Severn Gorge Countryside Trust and Shropshire Wildlife Trust

### Agriculture, forestry and other land use

Agriculture plays an important role in our future food security. However, climate change is causing changes to this sector, for example – the growing seasons, the types and amounts of crops we produce, soil conditions and pests and diseases. This sector would need to adapt by introducing new practices and technologies which in turn will help regulate crop growth, reduce pests/diseases and improve soil health and carbon storage.

Forestry and other land uses also play an important role by conserving existing carbon storage in soils/vegetation and by increasing the size and amount of carbon storage to extract carbon from the atmosphere.

Actions we have identified include:

33	Promote low carbon farming practices and setting aside land for habitat creation	0-5 years	Severn Gorge Countryside Trust
34	Undertake research on peatland soils across the borough to assess the potential for restoration and carbon storage	0-2 years	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
35	Promote growing beans/peas as low emission crops which improve soil health. Provide farmers with information on growing beans/peas and inform them of the support available. Work would involve creating a soils map to show which areas/fields would be suitable for beans/peas.	0-5 years	Partnership project with local universities to map soil suitability; local farmers; and National Farmers Union
36	Engage with cattle farmers to promote year round grass feed to cattle. Emissions associated with cattle are mostly due to feed that is heavily fertilised and shipped.	0-2 years	National Farmers Union



Ref	Action	Timeframe for Delivery	Organisation to lead on Delivery
37	Increase carbon storage of existing woodlands through management practices including restocking trees and encouraging a diverse age structure of trees. Also to create opportunities for the community to be involved in these management practices.	2-5 years	Small Woods; Severn Gorge Countryside Trust and Telford & Wrekin Council
38	Develop small diameter timber processing and marketing to aid in replacing fossil fuel heating and as construction materials	2-5 years	Small Woods and Severn Gorge Countryside Trust
39	Identify suitable land for tree-planting and re-establishing hedgerows/extending existing hedgerows	2-5 years	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
40	Explore options to develop a community tree nursery including working with a network of schools to collect seeds, propagate seedlings and participate in planting opportunities locally.	2-5 years	Telford & Wrekin Council, Small Woods and Shropshire Wildlife Trust
41	Promote community gardens, community orchards, parks, all green spaces, allotments and graveyards to improve levels of community ownership of them and ensure good levels of access	0-5 years	Telford Green Spaces Partnership and Telford & Wrekin Council
42	Promote growing vegetables and fruit, both in gardens and community gardens	0-5 years	Telford & Wrekin Council
43	Develop more community allotments and growing clubs to encourage more residents to grown their own food, helping reduce carbon dioxide from food production and food waste	2-5 years	Community groups and Telford & Wrekin Council
44	Explore becoming a Sustainable Food Borough <a href="https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/">https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/</a>	2-5 years	Partnership project
45	Promote National Farmers Union Achieving Net Zero 2040 Plan.	0-10 years	National Farmers Union

Ref	Action	Timeframe for Delivery	Organisation to lead on Delivery
<b>Buildings</b>			
By making our buildings more energy efficient and environmentally friendly we can reduce the impact they are having on climate change.			
This can be done by repairing or upgrading existing buildings. Building/construction companies can do their bit too, by using modern building methods, changing their planning policies and designing more energy efficient buildings to reduce emissions.			
These are the actions we have identified at a local level to support this agenda:			
46	Maximise funding opportunities for energy efficiency measures across all housing in the borough	On-going	Telford & Wrekin Council
47	Encourage all developers to build in an eco-friendly way	0-2 years	Telford & Wrekin Council
48	Develop and manage a comprehensive list of tools to help businesses and residents of Telford & Wrekin borough measure their carbon footprints and to help them to reduce their emissions.	0-2 years	Telford & Wrekin Council and Midlands Energy Hub
49	Local organisations to identify solar panel opportunities for their buildings where feasible	0-2 years	Borough organisations
50	Local organisations to explore options for adapting buildings and the local environment for a changing climate eg green roofs/ walls (roofs/walls that are vegetated) ventilation , sustainable drainage systems (a system to collect, store and release water).	0-2 years	Borough organisations





Ref	Action	Timeframe for Delivery	Organisation to lead on Delivery
<b>Industry</b>			
<p>As our population increases, so does the demand for products. Unfortunately industrial processes and increased production rates have a negative impact on our environment and cause increased emissions.</p> <p>We can do more to help address this by changing our methods and practices and becoming more resource efficient. This could be (for example) through the use of modern technology, using smarter energy systems, improving waste management and recycling services, and changing the materials we use.</p> <p>Actions we have identified include:</p>			
51	Communicate to the borough the use of recycling services and the waste hierarchy (ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal (eg landfill))	0-2 years	Veolia and Telford & Wrekin Council
52	Borough Businesses to share their environmental improvement plans (outlines areas for environmental improvement including actions and time lines)	0-2 years	Borough businesses
53	Support, expand and promote the borough's existing repair cafes – where tools and materials are available to fix broken goods, rather than throwing them away.	2-5 years	Transition Telford
54	Develop some advice and guidance on eliminating waste. Focus on Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle and use key messages from this in ongoing campaigns and on the Sustainable Telford website.	1 year	Veolia

# Approach to implementing and financing the Action Plans

To implement the actions in the Borough Action Plan we will need to secure funds to deliver the plan. Some actions will be delivered from the Partnership organisations' existing budgets, while some actions will require funds to be delivered.

The Partnership will be exploring the feasibility of setting up a Climate Emergency Crowdfund – to fund actions in the plan for which there is no funds available. Members of the Partnership will also proactively apply for grant funding where appropriate.

A delivery plan will be commissioned by Telford & Wrekin Council to identify which actions can be met through existing Partnership organisations budgets and which actions would require further funds to be delivered.

## Annual monitoring and evaluation

The Action Plan is a live document that is owned and monitored by the Telford and Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership. It will be updated and reported on annually. This will include developing future actions and pressing for additional Government funding to support us to achieve our goals.

SCATTER data will continue to be used for monitoring and analysing performance, and will be published to accompany annual update reports through to 2030.

This document is just the start of our journey for the borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.





Telford & Wrekin  
COUNCIL

Protect, Care and Invest  
to create a better borough