

Climate Action Workshop

Presentations Pack

Event 1

6th October 2021

Climate Action

Event Summary Report 6th October 2021

Welcome

Tony Green welcomed all participants to the event, provided the running order and online housekeeping suggestions. Tony introduced the first main speaker, Cllr Ian Nellins, Shropshire Council's Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets and the Green Economy.

Introduction and Climate Change Overview

Cllr Ian Nellins provided attendees with an explanation of the Portfolio Holder role, commenting that it is allowing links to be created across services and departments. It is a cross cutting portfolio to best ensure a broad view in the work to address climate change. Areas of service covered include street scene, waste, recycling, active travel, climate change policy and planning and more. It is a broad and challenging area and one that required investment in order to save for the future.

Cllr Nellins provided an overview of the Climate Change challenges and opportunities facing Shropshire. He spoke about the climate impacts ranging from physical impacts such as extreme weather, flooding and water damage and impact on agriculture and food production, to the plant, animal and human health impact including disease, pests, impact on our diets and the way in which climate change can impact children and more vulnerable people, for example through extreme heat and cold or the impact of pollutants. Cllr Nellins described the organisational impacts of climate change including impact on staff productivity and increased demand for support and services. Lastly the financial impact of climate change will be significant.

To provide context, Cllr Nellins displayed a chart with Shropshire's carbon performance in 2017. At the time, Shropshire's total domestic

greenhouse gas emissions stood at 1.76 million tonnes of CO₂e. Road transport, industrial energy use were significant contributors alongside domestic energy use. Cllr Nellins described how significant progress has been achieved since that time but that achieving net zero will require considerably more action. A reduction of 7.7% or 1335,000 tonnes per year is needed to reach the target of net zero by 2030.

Cllr Nellins spoke about the work taking place within the county. Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP) has been formed in recognition that change cannot be achieved unless we work together. Targets include:

- insulating 20,000 homes to a higher standard and encouraging the use of heat pumps
- generating power using 500 acres of solar farms
- introducing 2,00 electric car charging points and swapping to electric vehicles
- encouraging active forms of travel and greater use of public transport
- reducing waste (a third recycling bin will be one of the measures introduced)
- focusing on land use with re-wilded or planted areas and renewal of peatlands and wetlands

Cllr Nellins was able to share the news that Shropshire Council's direct carbon emissions have fallen by 70% from 17,000 tonnes in 2017 to 5,000 tonnes in 2019. There is a recognition that Shropshire Council's influence extends far beyond its own direct impact and its Climate Strategy reflects that ability to influence. There are some overall themes: Power Down (reducing emissions from buildings and transport); Power Up (developing renewable energy sources); and Carbon capture and storage. Cllr Nellins also spoke about main principles for climate planning including prioritisation, clean growth, investment, working with others, influence and evidence. He ended the presentation by emphasising the need to improve resilience and adapt as we face the climate crisis.

Tony Green then introduced Andy Whyte from Sustainability West Midlands and highlighted how important all the work taking place across Shropshire and beyond is to address the challenges ahead. Tony explained that there are Climate Action partnerships and plans for Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire.

Sustainability West Midlands and the SWM Roadmap

Andy Whyte provided some background to his role as an Associate for [Sustainability West Midlands](#), he described how the organisation works across the region and links to key partnerships such as the West Midlands Combined Authority, Construction companies, Local Authorities and Green Business Networks. SWM is an independent not for profit organisation aiming to achieve net zero by 2050. Andy is also a Sustainability Champion for Telford Business Board and involved in a range of activity designed to achieve sustainability, healthy inequality and inclusive growth.

Andy emphasised that sustainability must be based on some key elements: people, planet and profit. Each must be a focus to achieve effective change. Andy went on to describe some key themes:

- Resource efficiency: such as household recycling and reduction of plastics.
- Clean and active travel: walking, cycling, low emission vehicles, cycle hire schemes.
- Clean air and water: improving air quality, protecting water courses etc. Telford Love Your Rivers programme is a good practice example.
- Sustainable growth: e.g. moving to low carbon goods and services, and investment in the low carbon and environmental technology sector and renewables.
- Social equity and health: for example, work to reduce fuel poverty and prevent health inequalities.

ADD MORE IN HERE WHEN HAVE THE SLIDES

Andy suggested that ways of working should allow for innovation, leadership, collaboration and a celebration of success.

Climate Action and Resilience in Shropshire

Adrian Cooper, [Shropshire Council](#)'s Climate Change Manager spoke about the work taking place to reduce Shropshire Council's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. Adrian recapped on the point made by Cllr Nellins that to achieve this target there would be a need to power down (reduce emissions), power up (move to renewable energy and efficiency) and increase work to capture and store carbon through use of Shropshire Council land and by working with land managers across the county.

Adrian explained that Shropshire is one of only 4 areas in the UK to trial new on-street smart EV charging and 50 charge points across Shropshire will be implemented using £200,000 of Government grant funding. In addition to this work to deliver local carbon transport, Shropshire Council is working with businesses and universities in the Midlands to test green hydrogen as HGV vehicle fuel. Shropshire is also delivering the first UK local authority carbon neutral road surfacing programme and has been shortlisted for the National Highways Awards 2021 as a result. This alone should deliver a reduction of over 280 tonnes of carbon.

Adrian updated on action to ensure buildings are more efficient. This includes libraries, offices, leisure centres, social care premises etc. Shropshire Council's energy is now sourced from renewable sources and a programme of improvement is underway to install additional insulation, low carbon heating, lighting and solar power generation with the aim of saving a further 210 tonnes of carbon per year. Lifetime carbon performance appraisal is now an integral part of the design of new council buildings.

Adrian explained that Shropshire Council has done a lot to ensure Climate Change action is incorporated into its governance such as climate and carbon appraisals as part of committee decision making and implementing changes to procurement policy and scoring. Another theme of work has been around a low carbon economy. Adrian spoke more about the work of Zero Carbon Shropshire, working with local Housing Associations and businesses to use energy and heating more efficiently through insulation and renewable energy installations. Adrian also emphasised the commitment of Shropshire Council to help others such as the VCS and town and parish councils through the provision of information and guidance and making resources available online.

Adrian shared the news that there is a Shropshire Goes Electric event on the 7th November to demonstrate new technology, electric vehicles of all kinds and chargers.

The aim of 'Power Up' is being achieved through renewable energy generation and storage. A solar farm will be completed on the old Masesbury Road landfill site, Oswestry, allowing the provision of renewable energy to local businesses. Heat networks are being established in north Shrewsbury and Shrewsbury town centre and other opportunities to move towards more renewable and sustainable energy sources are also being explored.

Under the theme of biodiversity, carbon capture and storage, work is underway to plant trees (although Adrian emphasised that we cannot plant our way out of the climate crisis). Biochar is offering one solution, improving soil quality while capturing and storing carbon. Adrian also explained that Shropshire Council can use its planning powers to promote effective design of public spaces and landscapes to incorporate trees, greenery, effective drainage etc.

Adrian finished his presentation by talking more about the role voluntary and community sector organisations and town and parish councils can play. He emphasised the importance of providing

community leadership for a low carbon future, sharing good practice, collaborating on bids and action planning, challenging any practice that fails to consider climate change, signposting, and taking action to make use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency.

Climate Action and the National Association of Local Councils

Justin Griggs, Head of Policy and Communications at [NALC](#), spoke about the range of work being undertaken nationally and locally to address flooding, the pandemic and climate change. NALC has collated 400 case studies illustrating the vital role town and parish councils have played in supporting people and communities through the Coronavirus pandemic. Being small and local, town and parish councils were not weighted down by bureaucracy but able to respond efficiently and effectively delivering support such as provision of food, medicines and social networks. Justin spoke about the importance of people power.

Justin described the Climate Emergency as the next pandemic. He commented on the hundreds of local councils declaring a climate emergency across England and Wales. They are demonstrating leadership and highlighting what a vital role town and parish councils play, not just in recovery planning but as a link between and within communities, making use of local knowledge and as part of communities, understanding needs in a way that can be more difficult for outside agencies.

NALC has been supporting local action on climate change by providing resources and information, sharing good practice, supporting networking between local councils, gathering evidence through surveys and working to overcome barriers lobbying Government for change. Justin provided examples including:

- Frome: Activities include solar power, electric vehicles, active travel schemes, a sharing hub, installation of a wind turbine, a

community fridge scheme to reduce waste and information events.

- Felixstowe: Actions have ranged from EV charging points, a repair café, cycle to work scheme, car sharing to working with a renewable energy supplier.
- Woodbridge: Here work to address climate change has included tree planting and tree preservation orders, thinking carefully about land use and environment.

NALC is working to support a wide range of local activity through national action including a task and finish group, developing resources and advice, sharing ideas, seeking powers to address climate change and engaging with the Environment Bill. Partnership with the Woodland Trust also means that NALC can offer free trees to members under a Queen's Jubilee project.

Justin provided a link to the NALC Climate Change Case Studies here: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/climate-change/3297-climate-change-case-studies/file>

Justin emphasised the importance of engaging young people in the work taking place locally and this was something the audience commented on following his presentation. Alan Moseley, Shrewsbury Town Council, spoke about the need for young people to be involved and the work Zero Carbon Shropshire is doing in schools.

Others commented on the work of South Shropshire Youth Groups, the work of the Lightfoot Charity in primary schools and the connections being made to the national curriculum. Telford & Wrekin's work to recruit Climate Champions is also seen as an example of good practice. Tony mentioned his experience attending the Clun Climate Day where school children had developed a song to communicate the need for climate action.

Panel Q&A

There were a wide range of questions and comments and some of the key themes are summarised below:

Public Transport

Members of the audience highlighted how important the availability of public transport is to reduce car use and encourage active travel. Concerns were highlighted that rural services can be limited. Cllr Nellins offered to cover this theme in more detail at the next event so he could describe some of the services in place and the planning work currently under development to place more emphasis on active travel and sustainability (this includes the Bus Strategy).

Procurement

A question was asked concerning whether all Shropshire Council officers with commissioning and procurement roles had been trained in climate change. Cllr Nellins explained that training has been undertaken but it has not yet rolled out to commissioning leads. Green champions across the organisation are in place and form a focus for sharing information widely across the organisation. Other action has been delivered to improve procurement practice including building climate change considerations into policy and procurement scoring. Supply chains, carbon status etc. are considered and it is becoming increasingly difficult to win contracts if climate considerations are not in place.

New Build Developments

The audience highlighted the importance of action by developers and in designing and delivering new build sites. There was an acknowledgement that the Local Plan is not agile enough, but the new Local Plan will include higher standards and at the national level the Government is making changes to building regulations.

Biochar

It was commented that this is seen as a game changer and that biochar has significant potential to make a difference in Shropshire. A partnership is in place with Aston University and the roll out of technology is underway with an active pilot in Birmingham beginning later in October.

Working with town and parish councils

Janet Marsh from Claverley Parish Council and Maggie Rowlands from Weston Rhyn Parish Council both emphasised the importance of local action planning and how support would be beneficial for parishes in knowing where to begin. The panel agreed that it can be more challenging in parishes but explained that there was lots of support available and some good examples to follow from some of the town councils. Parishes may not be able to deliver the wide range of actions in the same way but there are steps everyone can take to reduce waste and improve energy efficiency. Jane Cullen Chair of [South Shropshire Climate Action](#) offered to share information and the group have made a wide range of resources available on their website for others to use (covering transport, buildings and energy, land and biodiversity, and community and education).

Another key theme raised by the audience were concerns that there are people within communities denying that climate change is occurring, and this can be challenging when trying to gather support and deliver change. All agreed that the establishment of local networks and making use of volunteers is critical to success. It was acknowledged that clerks and parish councillors cannot be expected to lead work alone.

Funding

Finding funding was raised as a challenge. Justin Griggs encouraged use of council funds but also emphasised that NALC would share information on funding opportunities and that collaborative bids may be an opportunity for some to explore. He explained that some local

councils have been supported by local businesses and have not needed to spend any of their own budgets.

Workshop 2 and Next Steps

Tony Green closed the event with an introduction to the second Climate Action event taking place on the 13th October. Tony spoke about the range of work taking place in locations throughout the county, commenting on the Market Drayton Go Green Day on the 29th October led by Eric Davis, the work of the Marches Energy Agency to address fuel poverty and a range of other local examples. Tony explained that the next event would look in more detail at the action that can be taken locally and should support those hoping to develop local action plans. Gail Power from SALC reminded town and parish council representatives of the Climate Training events taking place on the 21st and 28th October.

Tony thanked the speakers and attendees. He also thanked Dianne and Gail from SALC and Sarah from the VCS Assembly for support and arranging the workshop. Tony then drew the event to a close.

Climate Action Workshop

10am 6 October 2021



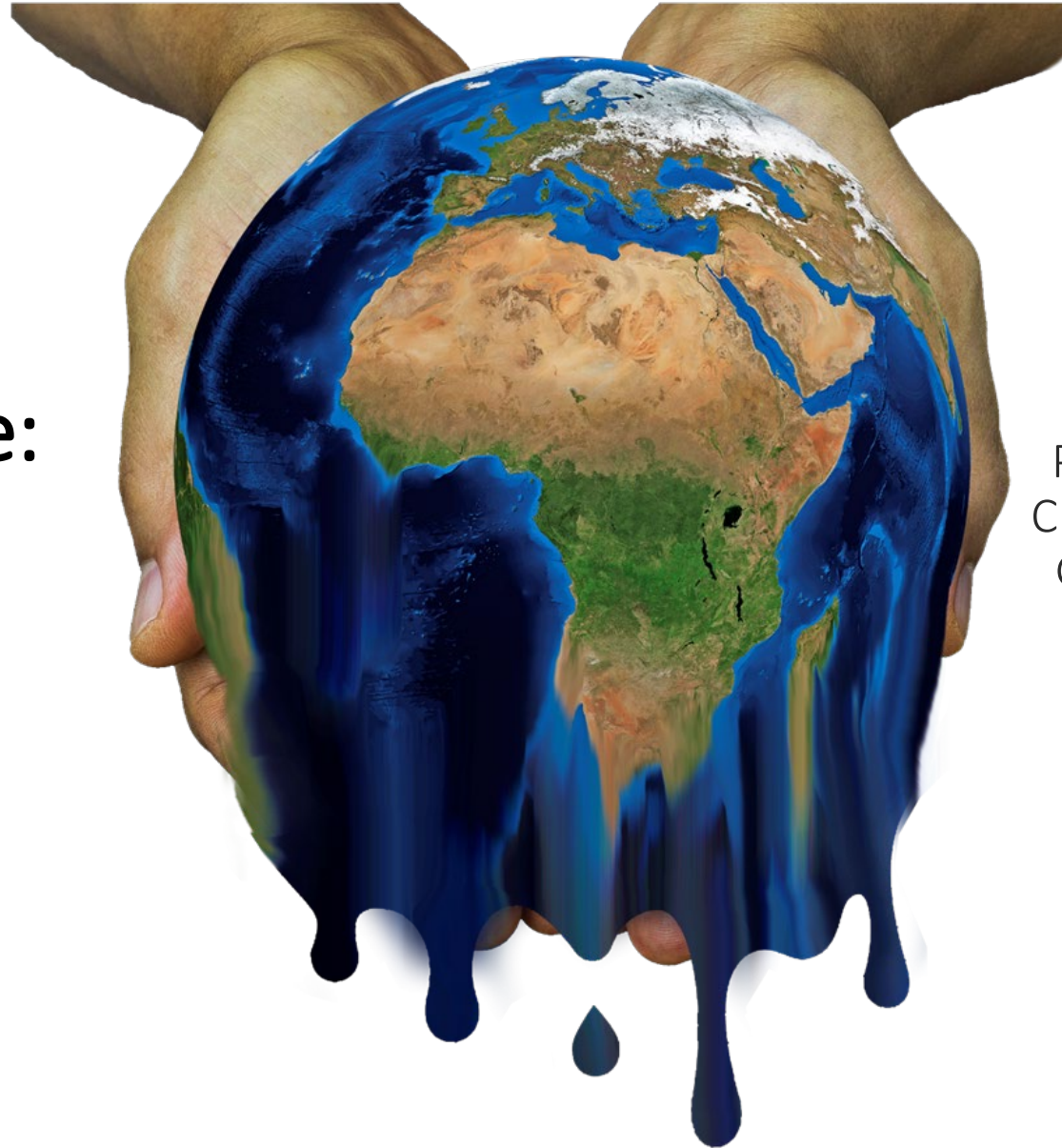
	Item	Presenter	Time
1	Welcome	Tony Green Green Shropshire Xchange and Shropshire VCS Assembly	10:00
2	Introduction	Cllr Ian Nellins, Portfolio Holder, Shropshire Council	10:10
3	Sustainability and SWM Roadmap	Andy Whyte Sustainability West Midlands	10:30
4	Adaption, Resilience and Council Climate Action	Adrian Cooper Shropshire Council	10:50
6	Climate action: the role of town and parish councils	Justin Griggs NALC, Head of policy and communications	11:15
7	Panel Questions	An opportunity to find out more from our panel members	11:35
8	An introduction to workshop 2	Tony Green Green Shropshire Xchange	11:50
9	Close	Tony Green	12:00



Shropshire
Council

Creating a **low carbon**
future for you

Climate Change: Challenge and Opportunities for Shropshire



Ian Nellins
Portfolio Holder for Climate
Change, Natural Assets & The
Green Economy Shropshire
Council

Scope

1. The challenge of climate change
2. Shropshire Council Climate Strategy
3. Key Principles
4. Focus for Action

1. Climate Impacts for Shropshire



- **Physical Impacts:**

- more pronounced and frequent episodes of extreme weather;
- flash flooding, water damage, surface water drainage and road maintenance costs;
- Impact on agriculture and food production.

- **Plant, Animal and Human Health impacts:**

- Adverse impact on diet and exposure to disease and pests;
- Adverse health impacts on children and vulnerable older residents.

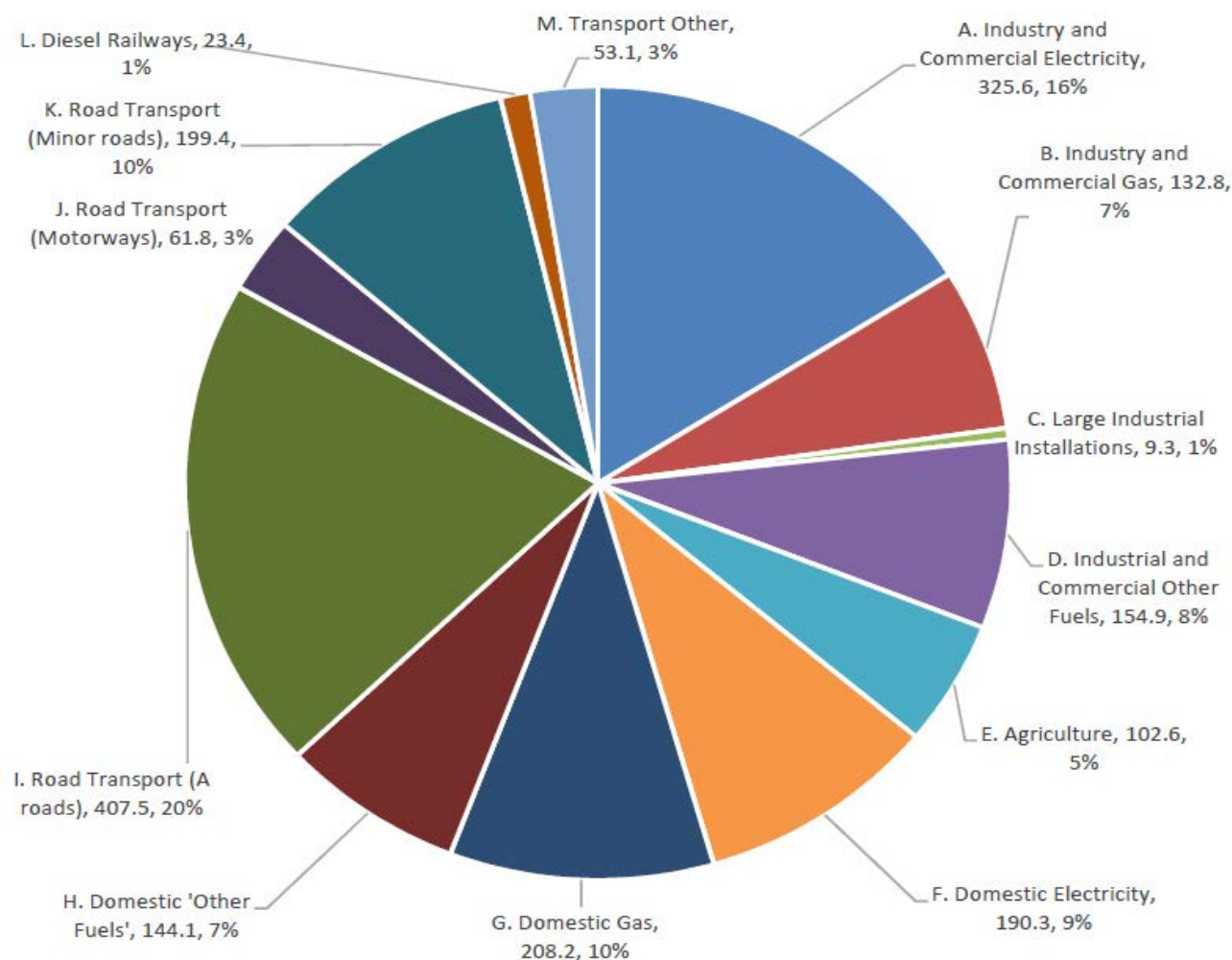
- **Organisation-specific impacts:**

- service delivery and travel costs;
- health and wellbeing and staff productivity;
- health, wellbeing and resilience of service users.

- **Financial impacts:**

- greater frequency of extreme weather events will significantly increase insurance risks and may make many property assets un-insurable
- significant cost of achieving net-zero emissions is likely to be offset by 'green growth' potential

1. Shropshire Carbon Performance



- Total domestic greenhouse gas emissions in Shropshire were 1.76 million tonnes CO2e in 2017;
- Biggest contributors are: road transport (33%) and industrial energy use (23%);
- Including emissions generated by goods imported internationally significantly increases our county carbon footprint to around 6.1 million tonnes;
- Domestic energy use amounted to around 26%;
- Reduced by around 18% 2012-2017;
- Reduction of 7.7% or 135,000 tonnes per year required to reach carbon neutrality by 2030.
- Average annual emissions per person has reduced from 8 tonnes CO2e (2008) to 5.5 tonnes (2017);
- Actual footprint may be higher in reality due to the limited availability of information about local consumption habits, food, and air travel.

1. Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP)



- Shropshire Council takes a lead on reducing its own emissions;
- The Council is a key founder and member of the community-led Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP);
- The Council actively supports and facilitates initiatives and projects led by SCAP and other environment groups, local communities, businesses and charities to reduce wider Shropshire emissions
- **Massive challenge – the only way is to work together!**

Zero Carbon Shropshire - What is Needed?

Each year starting right away Shropshire will need to achieve the following:



20,000 homes insulated to high standards suitable for switchover and switch from gas or oil heating to using heat pumps



Investment of **£200M** in Shropshire renewables



500 acres of solar farms (or wind farm equivalent) installed and powering the grid and private wire demand

2,000 electric car charge points for community car share and car club vehicles



8,000 acres of Shropshire marginal land re-wilded or planted with woodland



Recovery, renewal and protection of **10% of Shropshire** peatlands and wetlands

10% reduction of car use by shifting to active travel public transport and reduced commuting



10% reduction in waste collection volumes by reducing short life purchases and single use packaging and promoting re-use of materials

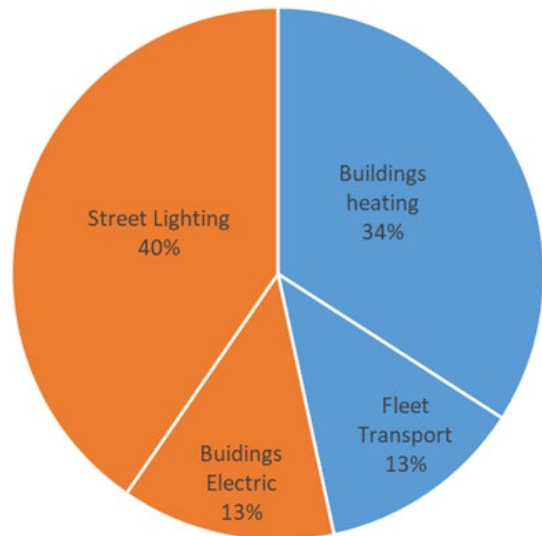
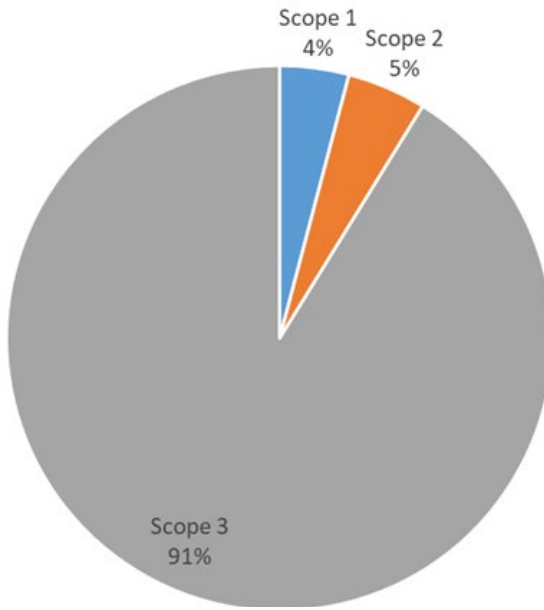


10% of highways budgets dedicated to shifting from car to prioritise active travel

500 miles of new hedgerow laid

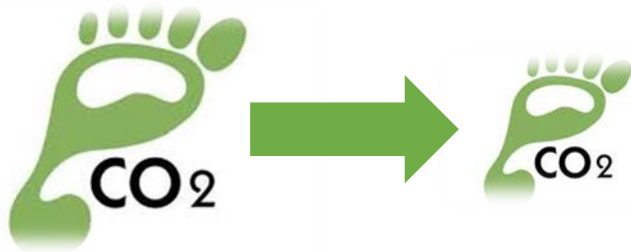


Council Carbon Performance



- The best available data suggests that Shropshire Council's own direct carbon emissions have fallen by 70% from around 17,000 tonnes in 2017, to 5,000 tonnes in 2019;
- The Council's indirect emissions (Scope 3) were assessed as being around 50,000 tonnes CO₂e in 2019, but work is ongoing to refine performance data and establish an accurate picture to support annual monitoring;
- Further significant falls are likely to be reported later in 2021 as the result of moving to an all renewable power supply;
- The Council's emissions represent around 1% of the Shropshire total, however the Council has indirect influence over a significantly greater level of emissions;

Shropshire Council Climate Strategy



Reduce Shropshire Council's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030



- **Power Down:** Reduction of Carbon and other Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from buildings and transport (including staff);
- **Power Up:** Shropshire Council to become energy self-sufficient by 2030 for buildings and travel by developing its own renewable energy sources;
- **Carbon Capture and storage:** increase capture and storage of carbon through on Council land and by working with land managers to capture and store any residual corporate carbon footprint.



Key Principles



“Don’t stop acting just because you’re planning”

Key Principles

Prioritise Actions



- Taking early action on what we can directly control is needed alongside planning and target setting;
- Embed consideration of climate change: annual Carbon Impact Budget in parallel with the Council's financial budget

Foster Clean Growth



- The transition to a green economy can provide significant growth opportunities for businesses as well as providing a cleaner and more inclusive future;

Invest in Climate Action



- Significant investment will be required to achieve net carbon zero by 2030;
- Prioritise interventions which also generate a positive and direct financial return on investment.
- Within these, prioritise investments that benefit those in greatest need first

5. Key Principles

Work with others



- We are on a shared journey: work with others, learn from them and make use of external resources;
- The climate crisis is of particular significance for young people who will inherit the consequences of our actions: work with schools and provide opportunities for schools and young people to contribute directly

Influence the behaviour of others



- lead by example and seek to positively influence the purchasing power or funding allocations of others;
- we have significant influence over emissions indirectly resulting from our policies, procurement and regulatory functions;

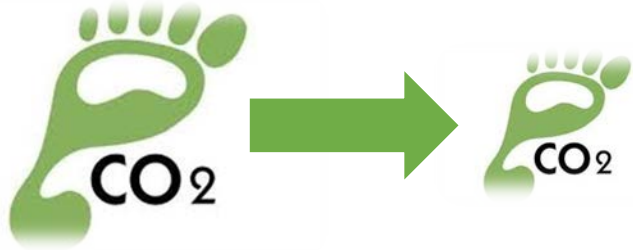
Assemble and publish evidence



- Better local evidence is needed to identify the most effective targets for intervention and investment;
- spell out the monitoring requirements to fully measure our progress towards zero carbon.

Focus for action

(AC to pick this up later in the agenda)



- Reduction of Carbon and other Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions;



- Capture and storage of GHG emissions;



- Improve resilience and adaptation to the Climate Crisis.

Sustainability and 2021 SWM Roadmap Report Summary



Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly

Climate Action Workshop 1

Oct 2021

andy.whyle@swm.org.uk



Andy Whyle
SWM Associate

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/andywhyle/>

- The sustainability adviser to cross-sector leaders of the West Midlands
- Established 2002
- Independent
- Not-for-profit

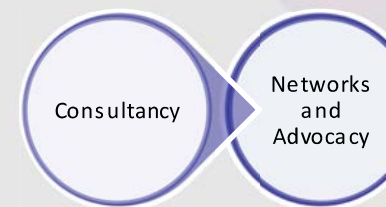


Our 2030 Vision:

The West Midlands is leading in contributing to the national target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 whilst addressing health inequality and driving inclusive growth

Our activities:

- Membership
- Support to organisations
- Networks



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Net Zero Action Plan: Report

August 2021

#NetZeroSolihull 



- Secretariat support to Climate Commission
- Establishing independent comms feeding in key contacts
- Review and report on Net Zero Paper
- Review and report on Net Zero
- Expert advice on key topics

- Development and management of WM Net Zero Business Pledge:
- Support in the design of the pledge
- Management of the pledge
 - Promotion and engagement
 - Support to 'pledglings'
 - Annual review of activity
 - Reporting on progress



- **Wolverhampton Council:** Review of sustainability strategy and action plan, engagement webinars, climate change toolkit
- **Sandwell Council:** Review of approach to delivery of climate change commissions and recommendations to the council
- **Environment Agency:** WM Climate Change Risk Assessment and Action Plan, and Local Authority Benchmark
- **Willmott Dixon:** Support to development and implementation of 'Now or Never' sustainability strategy







- What is Sustainability?

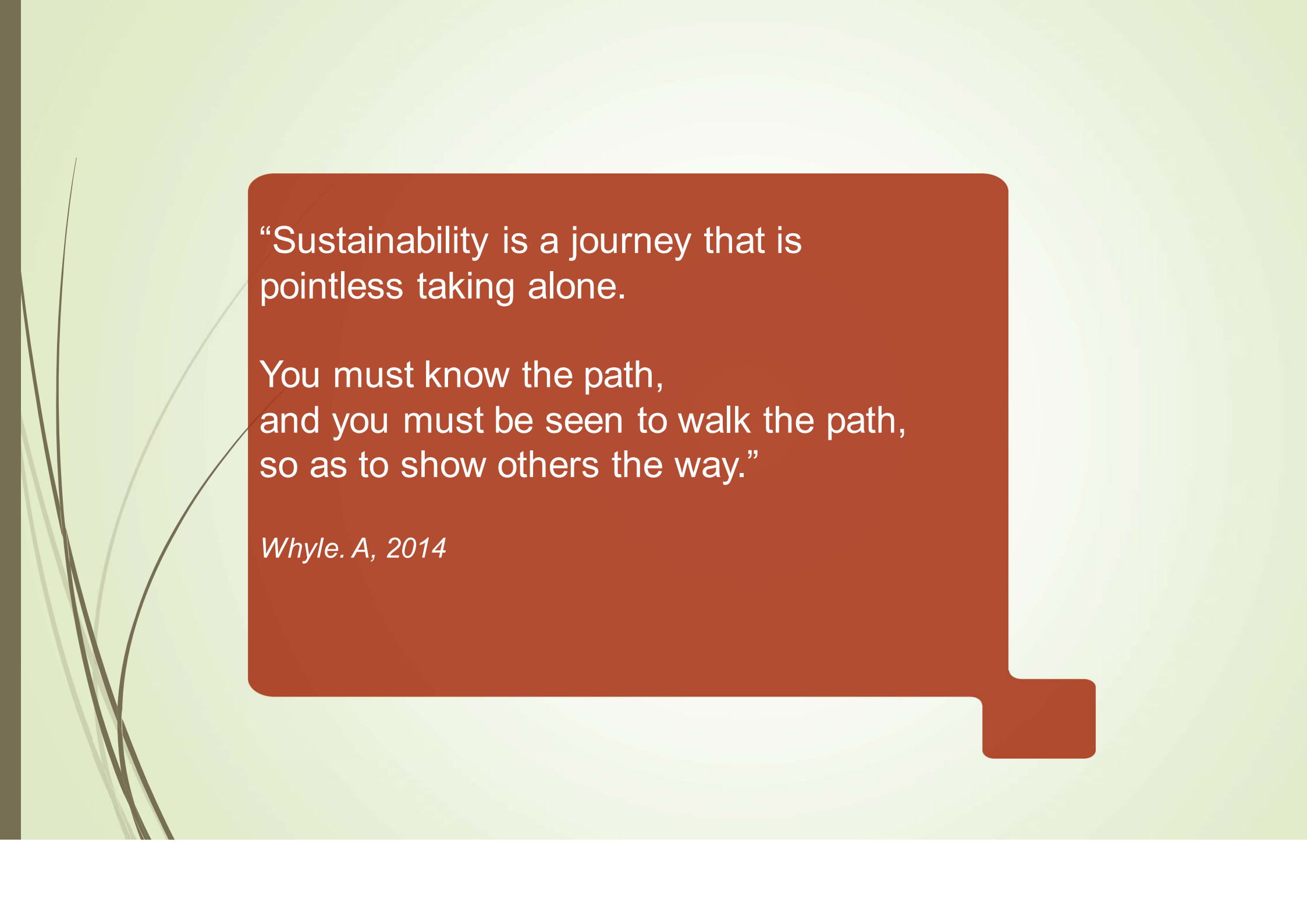
"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" Brundtland Commission

- This simply means *not using everything today, so that there is something left for tomorrow*

Requires a 3P's balance of

- **People (society)**
- **Planet (environment)**
- **Profit (economy)**





“Sustainability is a journey that is
pointless taking alone.

You must know the path,
and you must be seen to walk the path,
so as to show others the way.”

Whyle. A, 2014

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were launched by the United Nations in 2015.
- They are 17 global goals which address key social issues, setting guidelines and targets that address the problems the world faces in increasing sustainability.
- These goals are a call to action for all countries and businesses to join forces and address some of the world's most pressing social and environmental issues.
- Ultimately, they will effect you and your descendants.



Our Vision: The West Midlands is leading in contributing to the national target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 whilst addressing health inequality and driving inclusive growth.



- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
- THE PARIS AGREEMENT
- UK INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY
- CLIMATE CHANGE ACT
- 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN
- CLEAN GROWTH STRATEGY
- ENVIRONMENT BILL
- NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN
- CLEAN AIR STRATEGY
- ROAD TO ZERO
- CYCLING AND WALKING INVESTMENT STRATEGY
- FUTURE OF MOBILITY: URBAN STRATEGY
- RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE
- LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGIES
- LOCAL ENERGY STRATEGIES FOR WM LEPS





SWM AGM










**SWM AGM
Board Meetings**

**20+ meetings
Theme workshops
Online survey
Network meetings
Presentations
Board meetings
Annual Conference**



- 2030 Roadmap: Focuses on improving social, economic and environmental indicators across the West Midlands for a more sustainable, fairer and greener region for all.
 - Building on the previous Roadmap for 2010 – 2020, SWM has consulted with experts, members and with hundreds of stakeholders to ensure that our Roadmap is evidence based and uses the best available data.
 - Through cross-sector working across local authority boundaries, we look to create a region with more low carbon jobs, reduced levels of carbon and improved life expectancy.
 - Changed to a 2019 baseline to reflect a more ‘normal’ year, with the final year still set at 2030.
 - The eight focus areas cover priority challenges facing the West Midlands and each includes a vision statement and, where possible, a target for 2030.
- <https://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SWM-2020-Roadmap-Monitoring-Report-Dec-2018-Final.pdf>



Roadmap priority	Target	Progress
	As specified	Sustain current action
	By 2030, achieve a household recycling rate of 55%	More action needed
	By 2030, one third of all trips made by walking or cycling.	Accelerate progress
	By 2030, 50-70% of new car sales should be Ultra Low Emission Vehicles	Accelerate progress
	By 2030, reduce mortality as a result of PM2.5 pollution exposure by 75% from 2019 levels	More action needed
	None at present	-
	By 2030, increase GVA per head by 40% from 2019 levels.	Unknown
	By 2030, sales in the Low Carbon Goods and Services sector will reach £40 billion.	Sustain current action
	By 2030, achieve a 40% reduction in male and female health inequality from 2019 levels	More action needed
	By 2030, reduce the proportion of households in fuel poverty by 50% from 2019 levels	Sustain current action
	By 2030 achieve a 79% increase in the amount of energy generated by renewables from 2019 levels	Unknown
	None at present	-

Target: By 2030, achieve a household recycling rate of 55%

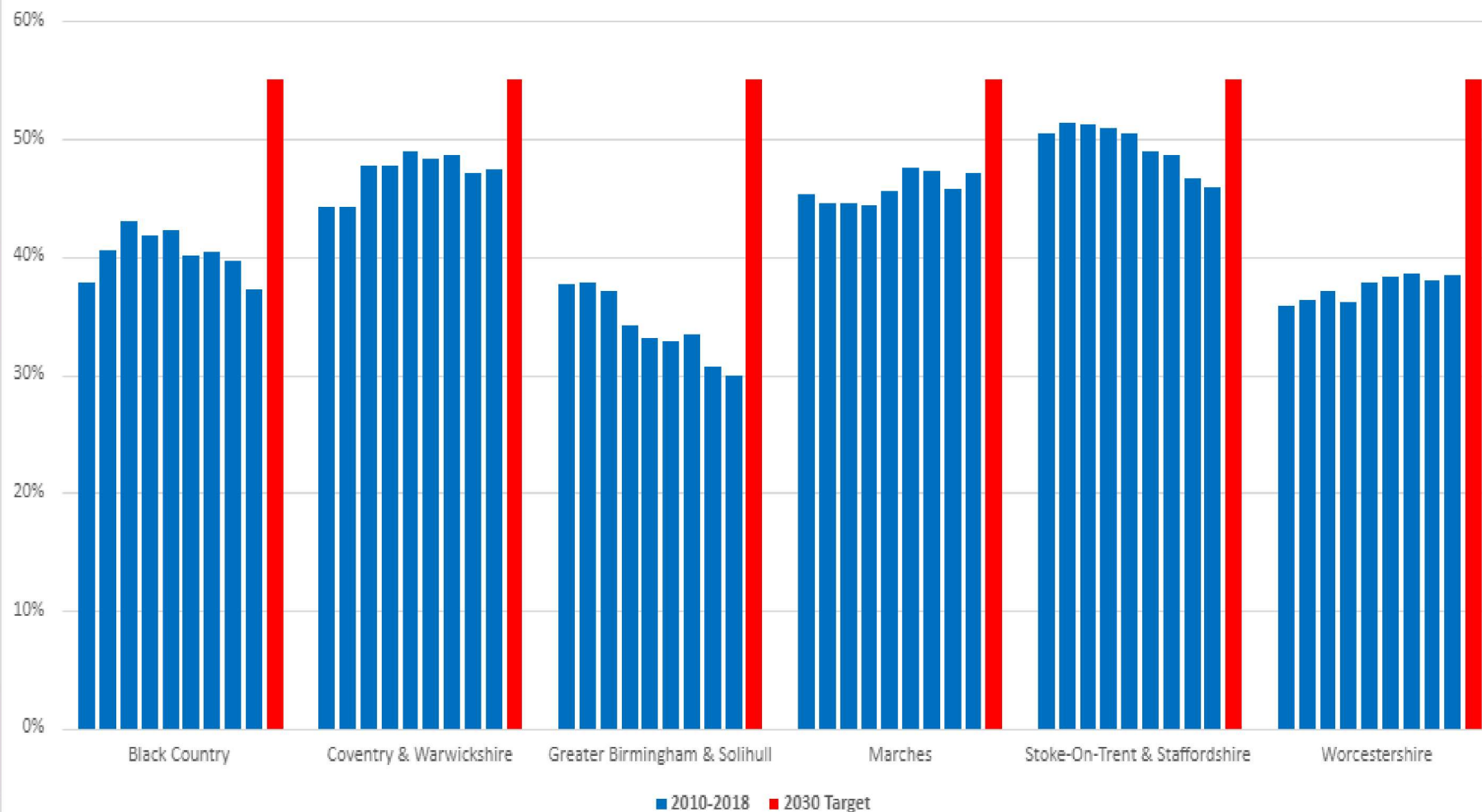
- Resource efficiency is a huge obstacle to tackle
- waste has a huge impact on society, the economy and the environment (plastics crisis)
- *Resources and Waste Strategy for England* target of 50% by 2050
- West Midlands is on average 42% although in some areas it is down at 20%, with some of the lowest rates in the country (2020 Shrops 55%, Telford 58%)
- **What's being done:**
 - Aston University: single use plastic program
 - International Synergies / GBS LEP / University of Wolverhampton (Entress) : developing software data capture to identify lower cost homes for waste , resource matching (industrial symbiosis) and developing circular economy opportunities



Reso
Effic

Status:
action

Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting by LEP



Target 1: By 2030, 30% of all trips made by walking or cycling

Target 2: By 2030, 50-70% of new car sales should be Ultra Low Emission Vehicles

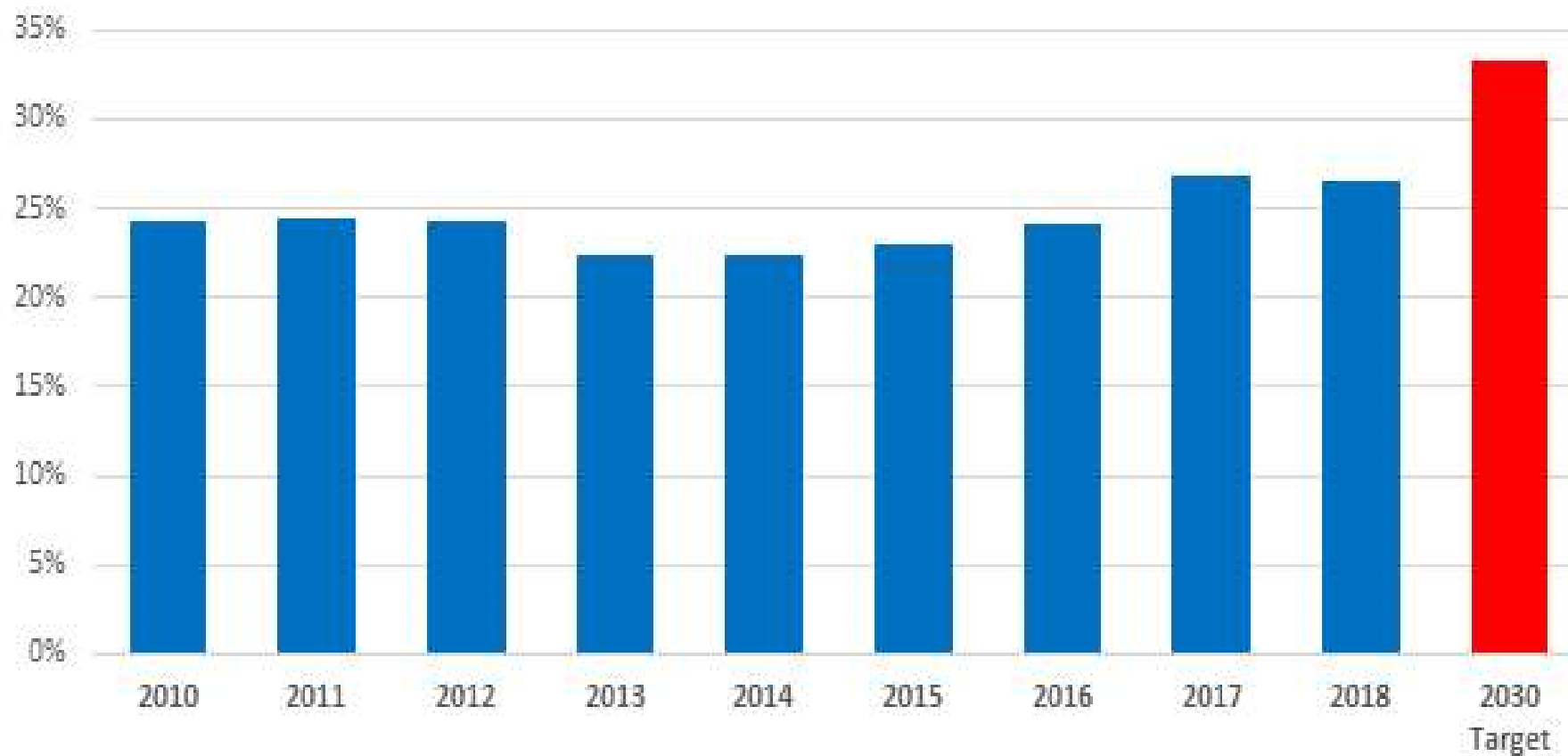
- By not enabling people to change their travel behaviour, we are encouraging more single-occupancy vehicles to stay to stay on the road.
- Huge impacts on the health of the population as a result of high air pollution levels, which ultimately means more deaths attributed to particulate matter
- **What's being done:**
- **Target 1:** Approximately 27% of journeys are made through cycling and walking, so there is still progress to be made. West Midlands Cycle Hire expanding over 2021 resulted in over 150,000 Km saved
- **Target 2:** Analysing and consulting on the [Road to Zero](#), and [Clean Air](#) Strategies,.

Clean and Active Travel

Promoting an active, accessible and connected lifestyle for everyone regardless of demographics



West Midlands percentage of walking and cycling trips against all transport modes



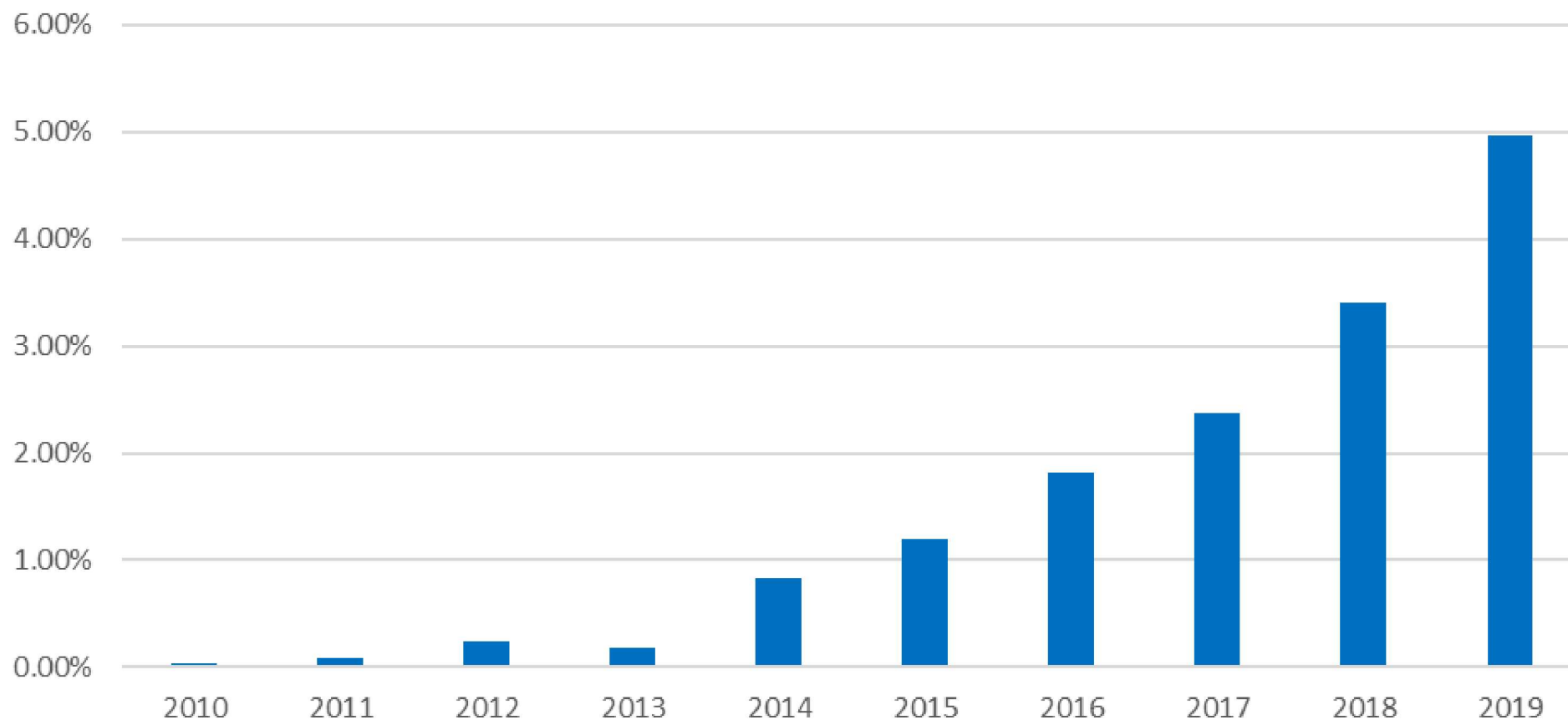
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Status:
pro



2021 Cycle hi
scheme across
boroughs of t
West Midland

Percentage of ULEV car sales in West Midlands



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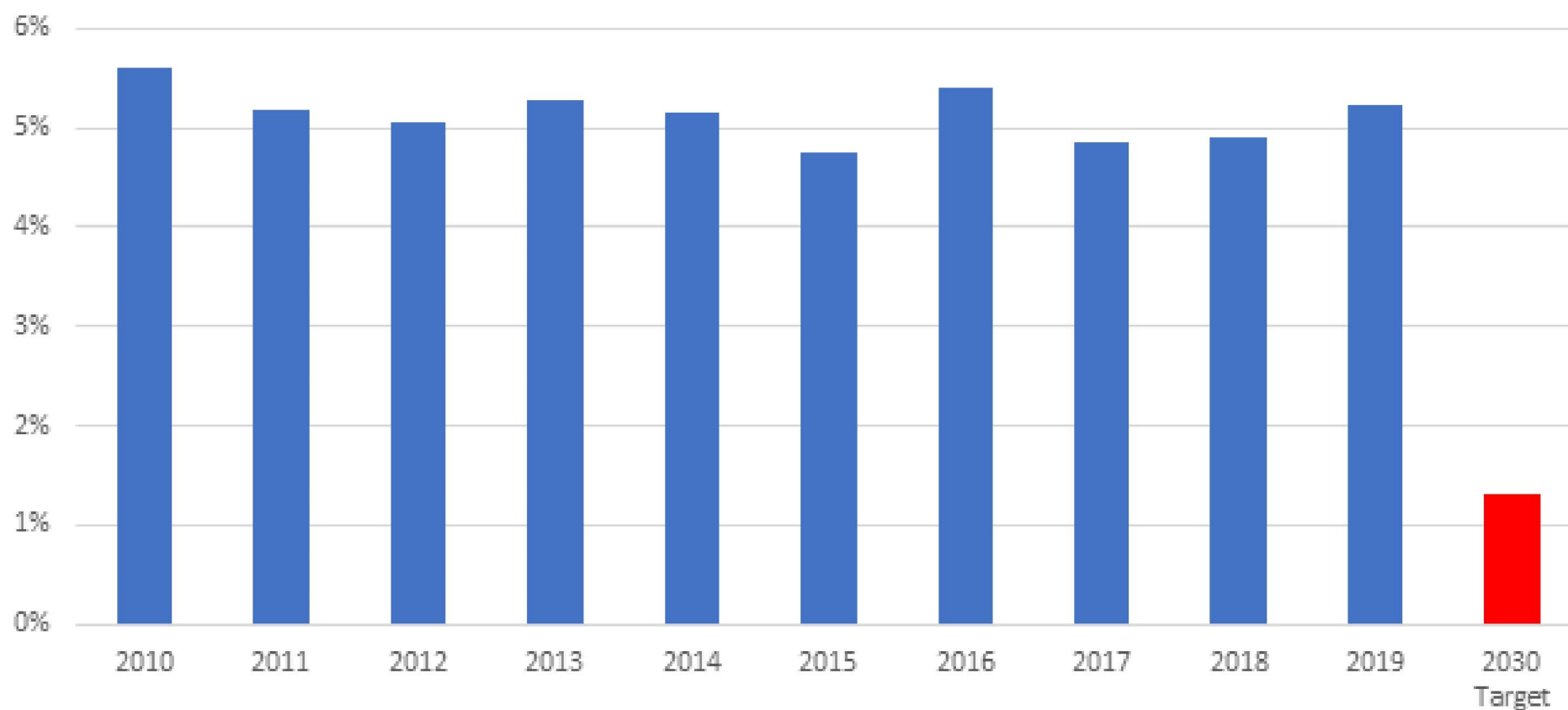
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Target: By 2030, reduce mortality as a result of PM2.5 pollution exposure by 75% from 2019 levels

- West Mids: approximately 900 people die annually as a direct result of poor air quality and 5.1% of the population die early as a result of on-going exposure.
- Watercourses that play a fundamental role in halting the trend of declining biodiversity in the region remain over-polluted
- **What's being done:**
- SWM hopes to encourage our stakeholders to influence and create change for a cleaner and healthier West Midlands.
- Consulting with experts such as the WM-Air team based at the University of Birmingham, Severn Trent and the Environment Agency.
- Working to develop a target that focuses on Clean Water. As yet, we have been unable to access the necessary data to create a suitable evidence based target (potential **Love Your Rivers** program)

Percentage of Mortality Attributed to Particulate Air Pollution West Midlands



Status:
action

Sustainable Growth

Empowering the economic development of the West Midlands whilst encouraging environmental improvement



Target 1: By 2030, increase GVA per head by 40% from 2019 levels

Target 2: By 2030, sales in the Low Carbon Goods and Services sector will reach £40 billion.

- **Target 1** focuses more on the even distribution of economic growth across the region (i.e. 'per head') rather than absolute growth. Developing this target has been carried out primarily by reviewing both national and local strategies.
- **Target 2:** West Mids published its [Local Industrial Strategy](#) which includes low carbon technology and clean growth as sector strengths with the draft Low Carbon Sector Action Plan being [released](#).
- Low Carbon & Environmental Technology sector is expected to grow dramatically in response to the need to decarbonise our economy.
- Predicted 11% per year between 2015-2030 across the UK, which is four times the growth of the UK economy overall.

Target 1: To increase GVA per head by 40% from the 2019 levels by 2030, across the West Midlands

Status: unknown

Target 2: By 2030, sales in the Low Carbon Goods and Services sector will reach £40 billion.

- 2017/18 sales were £16.0bn
- 2018/19 sales were £16.9bn
- 2019/20 sales were £18.0bn

Status: sustain current action

Target 1: By 2030, achieve a 40% reduction in male and female health inequality from 2019 levels

Target 2: By 2030, reduce the proportion of households in fuel poverty by 50% from 2019 levels

- Our population should not live in a region where socio-economic factors disproportionately affect members of society.
- **What's being done:**
- **SWM** established its two health networks in 2014 so that we could work more closely with public health professionals and the NHS to address these concerns.
- **Marches Energy Agency** independent charity supporting communities in the Midlands with a range of partners to address fuel poverty, providing energy advice at home, local authorities and installers and more.
- In 2018, MEA supported 3,500 struggling with fuel poverty, 41% of which had health concerns.

Social Equity and Health

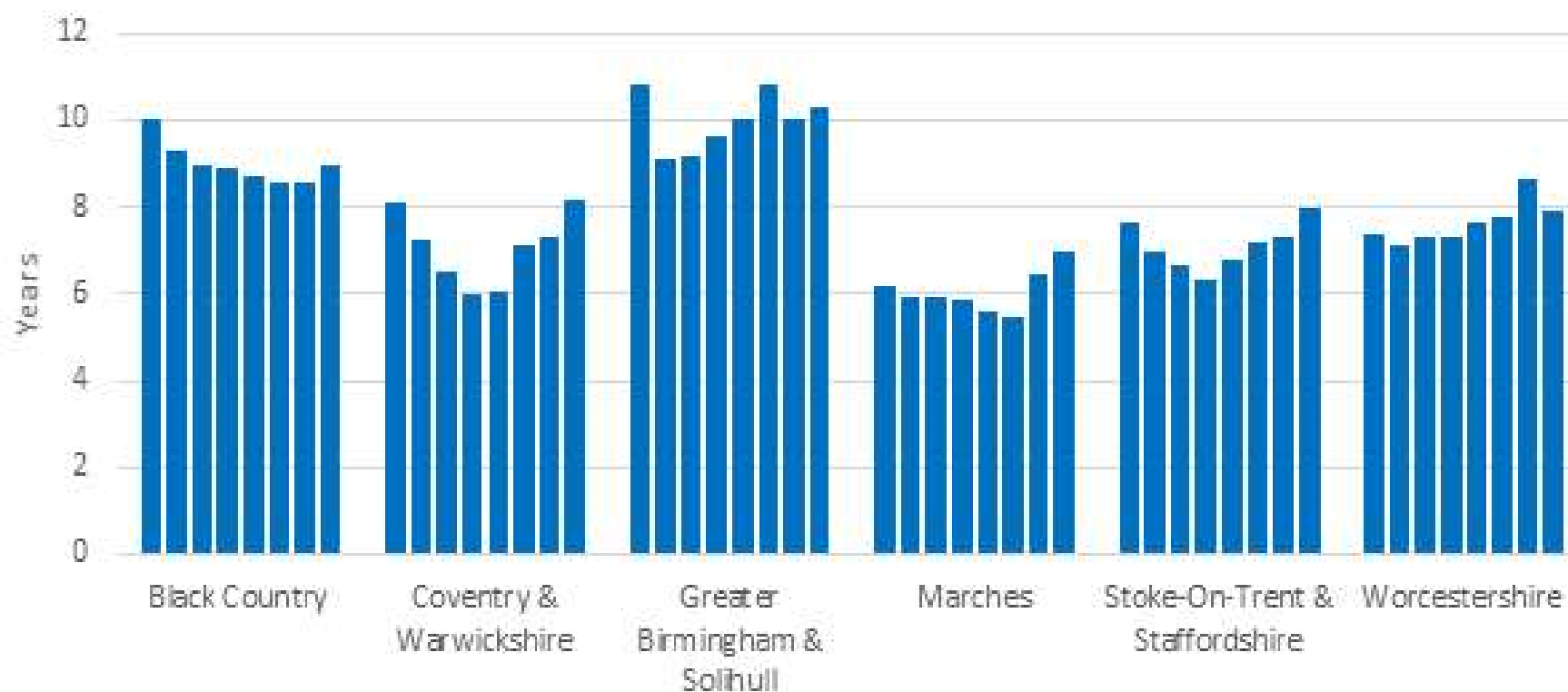
Addressing health inequality to give everyone an equal opportunity in life

[Has Title]





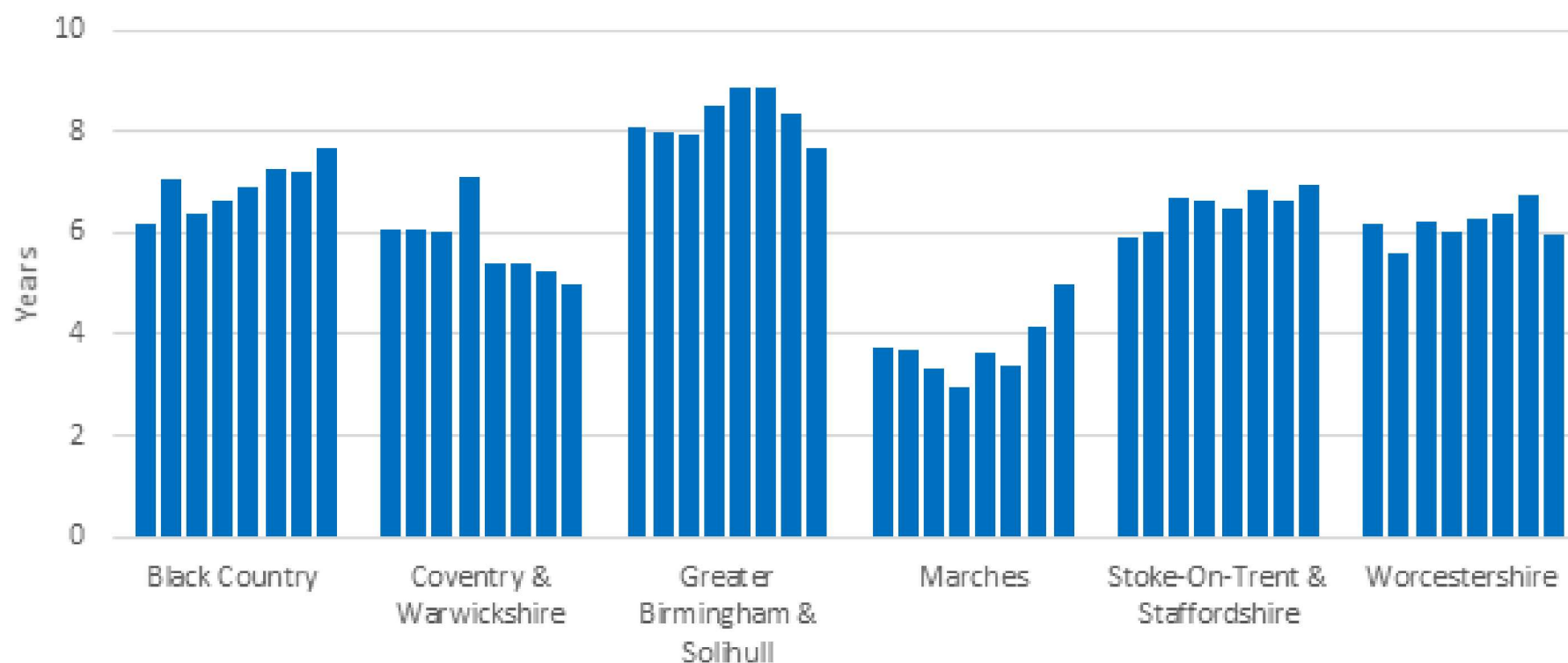
Male Life Expectancy Gap Between Most and Least Deprived Areas by LEP



2010-2018 Data



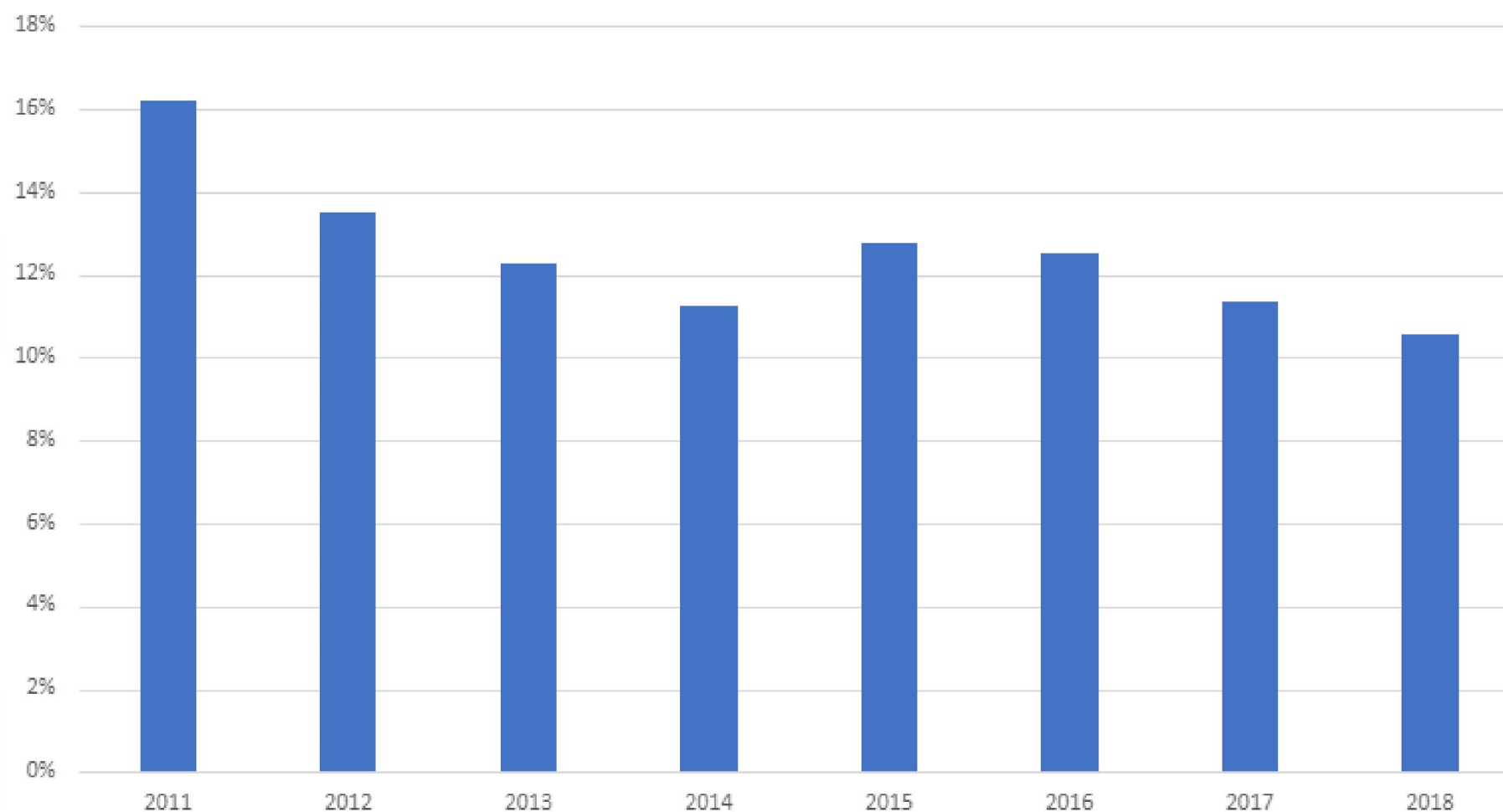
Female Life Expectancy Gap Between Most and Least Deprived Areas by LEP



2010-2018 Data



Percentage of households in fuel poverty across West Midlands



Target: By 2030 achieve a 79% increase in the amount of energy generated by renewables from 2019 levels

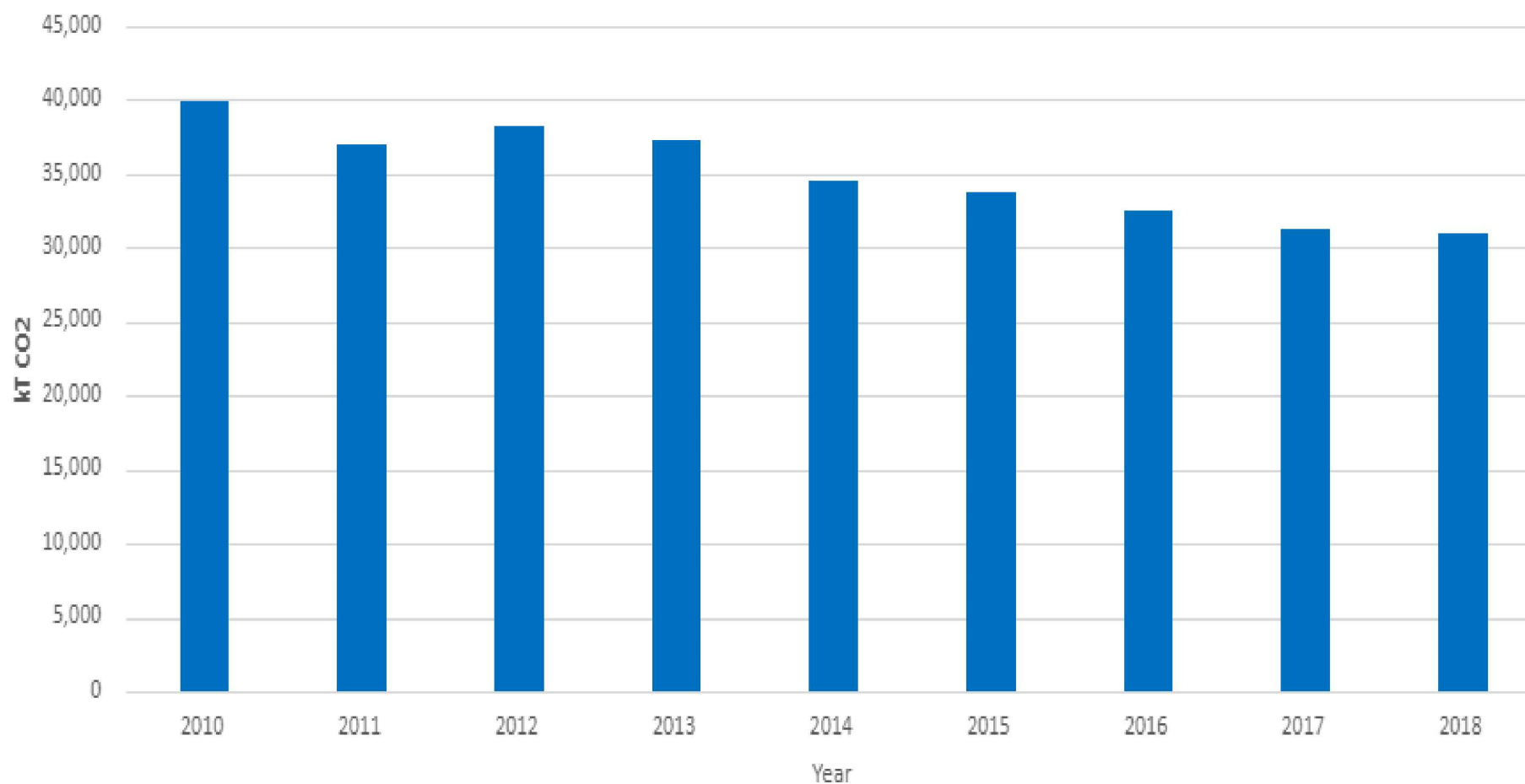
What's being done:

- review of national strategies such as the Clean Growth Strategy to ensure alignment with national ambition, and stakeholder engagement process,
- SWM has developed this target based on National Grid's future energy scenarios planning and aligned to the UK's overall target of net zero carbon by 2050

By 2030 achieve a 79% increase in the amount of energy generated by renewables from 2019 levels

Status: unknown

West Midlands Total Carbon Emissions



Status: s
current a

Target: To be defined

Why this theme?

We are in a climate emergency. Climate change is happening and the West Midlands is experiencing its impact.

What are we doing?

- SWM is working hard to establish a credible target for this area.
- We have consulted with the Environment Agency on obtaining flood risk data, which we will continue to do, and also wish to establish data on health related issues caused by extreme heat.
- We have held Climate Adaptation Workshops with the Environment Agency and Local Authorities to identify both risks and best practice.
- SWM are managing the West Midlands Net Zero Business Pledge on behalf of the WMCA.

Adapting to Climate Change

Recognising how climate change will affect our lives and how we can effectively respond to it



Demystifying Net Zero Tour 2021

 **sustainability**
west midlands

**Demystifying Net Zero
and
West Midlands Combined
Authority - Net Zero Pledge**

NET ZERO SUMMIT 08.09.21
Reconomy
EVENT SPONSOR
Get started on your
NET ZERO journey

Andy Whyte and Nat Weaver
Sustainability West Midlands
andy.whyte@swm.org.uk
nathaniel.weaver@swm.org.uk

Shropshire Chamber Of Commerce

 **sustainability**
west midlands

 Shropshire
Chamber of
Commerce

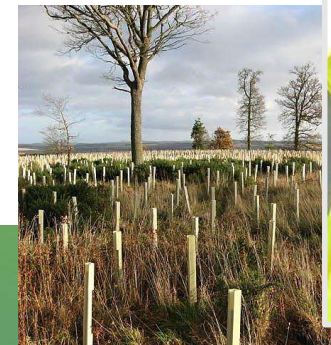
 **Ironbridge**
BIRTHPLACE OF INDUSTRY





Why is Net Zero important?

- Net Zero has been adopted as the best strategy to protect us and the natural world from rising global temperatures.
- Net Zero differs from 'carbon neutral' because it means reducing emissions to their lowest amount through energy efficiency measures...
 - ... and then using offsetting to remove the remaining emissions.





The West Midlands aims to lead the green revolution and become a net zero carbon economy by 2041. The region's businesses have a role to play in making that happen.

What support will you get with Net Zero Business Pledge?

1. Free consultations and guidance from SWM
2. Your pledge will be shared with the sustainable business community, opening your business to an emerging market
3. You'll receive the official pledge logo to use in your publicity following to improve public perception
4. Exclusive access to business networks and contacts

- SWM's role is to help organisations achieve these successes and meet the Roadmap targets by enabling:
 - **Innovation**: Using new ideas, technologies, services and processes to make positive changes quicker and more effectively (Innovation Low Carbon working group)
 - **Leadership**: Leading by example and promoting the ideas and perspectives of influencers and policymakers who can inspire and make a difference (SWM Board)
 - **Collaboration**: Enabling the identification of partnerships and brokering connections between sectors to develop more powerful, sustainable solutions (Networks)
 - **Celebrating success**: Sharing good practice and promoting the achievements of our members and stakeholders and enabling these to be scaled up and applied elsewhere (Case Studies)

For further support

Sign up to the SWM socials for news on funding:

Contact

Andy Whyte: SWM Associate

Mail: andy.whyle@swm.org.uk

Web: www.swm.org.uk

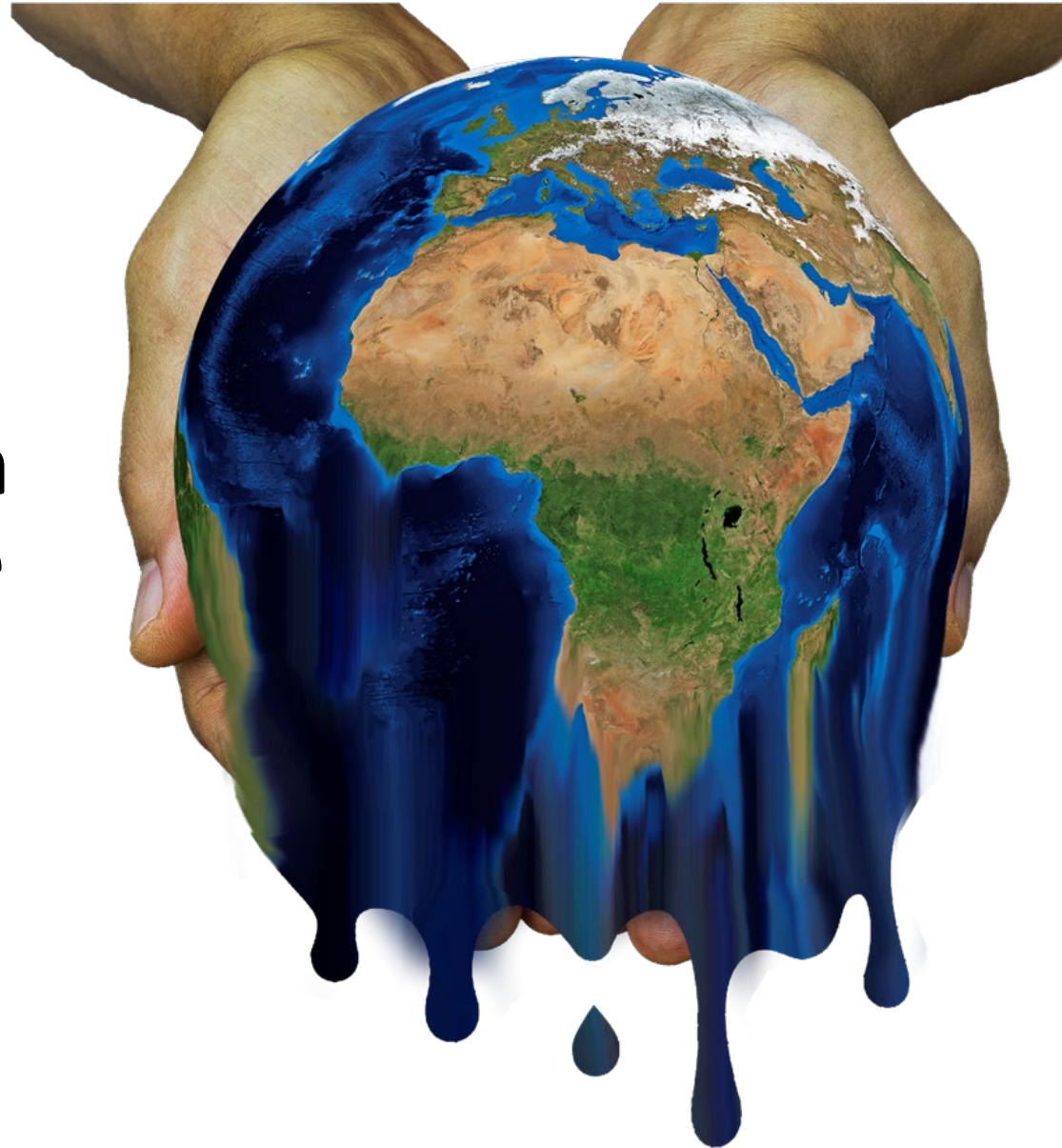
Twitter: @SWMtweet

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sustainability-west-midlands/>

Check out our [Sustainable Business Support Hub](#) for support available in the West Midlands region.



Climate Action and Resilience in Shropshire

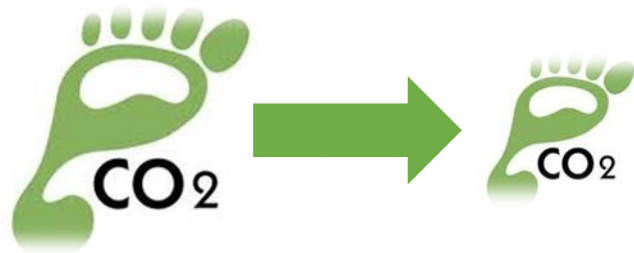


Adrian Cooper
Climate Change Manager
Shropshire Council

Scope

1. Climate Action Projects:
 - Power Down;
 - Power Up
 - Carbon Capture & Storage
2. Climate Resilience
3. The Role of the VCS Sector

Shropshire Council Climate Strategy



Reduce Shropshire Council's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030



- **Power Down:** Reduction of Carbon and other Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from buildings and transport (including staff);
- **Power Up:** Shropshire Council to become energy self-sufficient by 2030 for buildings and travel by developing its own renewable energy sources;
- **Carbon Capture and storage:** increase capture and storage of carbon through on Council land and by working with land managers to capture and store any residual corporate carbon footprint.

What is Shropshire Council doing?

Power Down (Carbon Footprint Reduction)



1. Low Carbon Transport:

- a. One of only four UK areas to trial world-leading on-street smart EV charging and installing an initial 50 new charge points in market towns across Shropshire using around £200,000 of Government grants;
- b. Working with businesses and universities across the Midlands as part of a £0.8m Government-funded project to test green hydrogen as HGV vehicle fuel;
- c. Delivering the first carbon neutral road surfacing programme by any UK local authority (project shortlisted for the National Highways Awards 2021), saving over 280 tonnes of carbon;

2. Buildings - Energy Efficiency improvements:

- a. All corporate power consumption now from identifiable renewable sources;
- b. On-going programme of improvements to SC buildings to install additional insulation, together with low carbon heating, lighting and solar power generation, currently valued at around £1.1m (60% grant funding) and saving around 210 tonnes of carbon per year;
- c. Lifetime carbon performance appraisal as an integral part of the design of new Council buildings

What is Shropshire Council doing?

Power Down (Carbon Footprint Reduction)



3. Corporate governance:

- a. Mandatory climate and carbon appraisals for committee decisions;
- b. Updated procurement policies

4. Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy

- a. Supporting wider community efforts to decarbonise as a founder member of Zero Carbon Shropshire;
- b. Working with local Housing Associations, taking steps to help residents suffering from fuel poverty and helping social housing tenants by installing £5.8m of insulation and heating improvements in Shropshire to date;
- c. Supporting 22 Local business and community to organisations to access £0.4m of EU grants for renewable energy installations;
- d. Developing web-based advice and guidance to help individuals, communities, businesses and vcs organisations.



EV Charging Infrastructure

- Shropshire is one of just four UK areas to trial world-leading 'Agile Streets' on-street smart EV charging;
 - Drivers could cut the cost of charging by around 40%;
 - 24 new on-street Connected Kerb EV chargers installed as part for the project, providing crucial infrastructure for those without off-street EV charging options.
 - 'Try before you buy' - selected residents without an EV offered up to 50% off for the first 2 months EV car hire;
- STOP PRESS! Additional £90,000 government OLEV grant awarded for a further 25 charge points last week.
- 'Shropshire Goes Electric!' - Shropshire Council public EV demonstrator day in Shrewsbury Sunday 7th November to showcase electric cars, bikes, buses, chargers etc

Power Up

(Renewable Energy Generation and Storage)

Low Carbon Energy:



- a. Developing a new 1MW solar farm on the former Maesbury Road landfill site in Oswestry to supply power to local businesses;
- b. Grant funding SCAP to commission a strategic renewable energy mapping project;
- c. Working with local electricity companies to screen SC property portfolio to identify other opportunities to generate power, either for its own use or to supply other public sector organisations and local businesses;
- d. Using £70,000 Government grant funding to work with a range of local project partners, including Zero Carbon Shropshire to develop the potential for local heat networks in north Shrewsbury and Shrewsbury town centre to decarbonise heating in these areas;

Biodiversity, Carbon Capture and storage



1. Seeking opportunities to work with others to capture and store carbon in horticulture and agriculture using carbon credits using a pilot project for Biochar production;
2. Supporting widespread tree planting by making available around 30,000 trees per year free of charge for communities through the annual 'Community Tree Scheme'
3. Working with others to promote landscaping, tree planting and ecosystem services including:
 - a. Street trees / regeneration of urban canopy cover
 - b. Urgent need for urban tree maintenance programme
 - c. Design and management of Public Realm
 - d. Landscaping design;
 - e. Sustainable urban drainage

Climate Impacts for Shropshire



- **Physical Impacts:**

- more pronounced and frequent episodes of extreme weather;
- flash flooding, water damage, surface water drainage and road maintenance costs;
- Impact on agriculture and food production.

- **Plant, Animal and Human Health impacts:**

- Adverse impact on diet and exposure to disease and pests;
- Adverse health impacts on children and vulnerable older residents.

- **Organisation-specific impacts:**

- service delivery and travel costs;
- health and wellbeing and staff productivity;
- health, wellbeing and resilience of service users.

- **Financial impacts:**

- greater frequency of extreme weather events will significantly increase insurance risks and may make many property assets un-insurable
- significant cost of achieving net-zero emissions is likely to be offset by 'green growth' potential

Adaptation and Resilience



Whilst we are no strangers to flood risk in Shropshire, more extreme weather from climate change will require changes to:

- Public service delivery;
- Building design;
- Public realm design and management.



Shropshire Council is to hold a short Virtual Resilience Conference on October 26th this year to engage local businesses and other interested organisations with short sessions on:

- Business Resilience in a post pandemic world;
- Climate Change agenda and sustainable energy;
- Flood Management and Impact



Net-Zero for the VCS Sector

- Provide community leadership;
- Join SCAP / sign the pledge;
- Share good practice, e.g:
<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/7187/climate-change-guide-for-communities.pdf> ;
- Indirect influence more significant than direct organisational performance in most cases;
- Collaborate - Joint bids for funding?
- Recognise cross-cutting links to parallel agendas such as air quality, public health and wellbeing, social justice, active travel and green growth;
- Challenge – raise the issue as a normal part of business;
- Highlight opportunities to generate renewable energy and low carbon heat.



Thank you for Listening!



SHROPSHIRE CLIMATE ACTION EVENT

6 OCTOBER 2021

JUSTIN GRIGGS,
HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

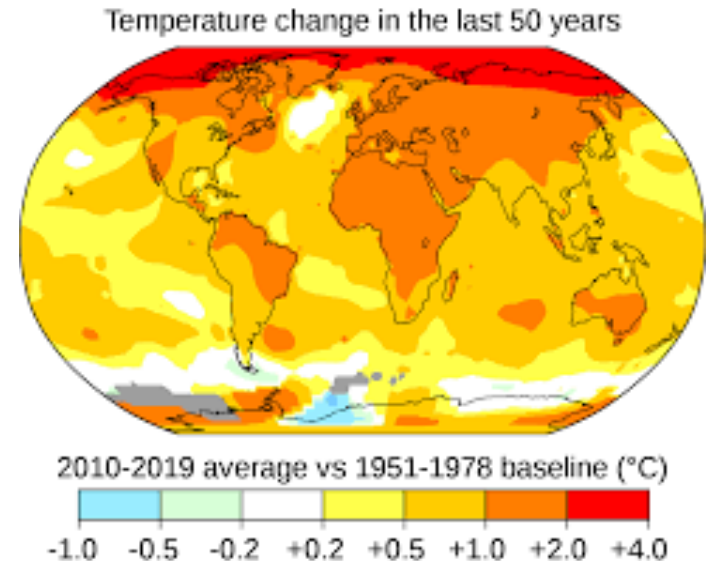
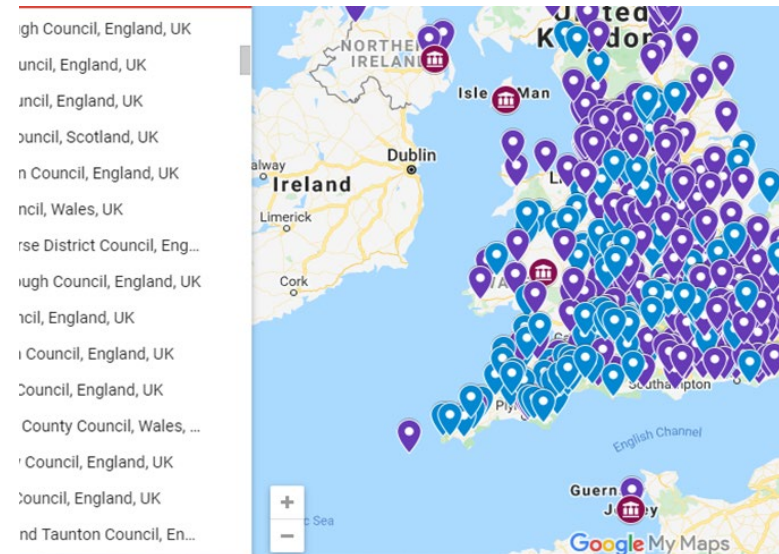
EXTRAORDINARY RESPONSE FROM SECTOR



- Speed of response, [400 case studies](#)
- Local knowledge
- Human focussed, not weighed down by process or bureaucracy
- Reinforced vital role of local councils supporting communities
- Local action on national (and global) challenges

THE NEXT PANDEMIC

- Hundred's of local councils have declared a climate emergency
- working with other agencies and tiers of government to develop action plans and build into recovery planning
- Vital leadership role, a link between and with communities
- Excellent local knowledge and understanding of needs
- Do something simple and bring communities with you
- Talk to and engage with local groups, you can be the point of collaboration



NALC'S WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- Three big themes of health and well being, climate change and young people
- Declared climate emergency in 2019, Tasmanian and Finish Group to drive our work
- Develop resources and advice for local councils
- Researching good practice
- Identify/lobby for change in laws/barriers
- Engage with Environment Bill
- Collaborate with other stakeholders to fit local councils into puzzle of tackling climate change

Local councils' powers to address or reduce climate change: existing powers and future opportunities

As a contribution to NALC's work on climate change, the following is a brief commentary on the powers which local councils possess to tackle climate change. Its purpose is encourage thinking within our sector: both about what local councils may do to make effective use of existing powers, and also to recommend changes to current laws and policies, for consideration and adoption as NALC policy.

From the list of powers that are available to local councils, in NALC's publication 'The Good Councillors Guide'

- 1) **Allotments and markets:** [Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, ss 23, 26 and 42] (Food Act 1984, s. 50)
 - This allows the promotion of local produce and healthy eating
 - This can help to reduce food-miles
 - Allotments powers also enable the provision of communal food-growing sites and initiatives, run by associations and co-operatives.
- 2) **Burials etc:** [Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 & 10; Local Government Act 197, s.214; Parish Councils & Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 s.1]
 - This can allow practices such as green burials, eco-friendly management etc
- 3) **Commons, ponds, open spaces, recreation etc** (Open Spaces Act 1906, s.15; Highways Act 1980, ss 47)
 - Scope to practise good environmental management, accommodate recycling facilities etc on the council's land
 - Scope to plant trees on, and maintain, highway verges
- 4) **Community centres and other public buildings** (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, s.19. (Local Government Act 1972, s. 133)
 - Scope to embrace/include on-site green energy, energy-conservation, electric car charging-points etc
- 5) **Community energy** (s20 of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006):
 - Councils can encourage or promote the local production and use of renewable energy, and also energy conservation, subject to the section 137 of the LG Act 1972 annual spending limit
 - However, restrictions currently on the ability to 'sell' the energy directly to local consumers.
 - Also, the 's 137 expenditure limit' is a severe constraint on making capital investments in energy schemes

TOPICS

Carbon and plastic reduction

Designing greener housing

Electric charging points

Energy

Green recovery

Green travel

How to declare a climate emergency

Trees and tree management

Trusted companies and funding

CASE STUDIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Published [case studies](#) of practical steps councils are taking including on:

- biodiversity
- carbon off-setting
- climate forums
- community projects
- greener housing
- electric charging points
- energy
- heating
- green travel (and more!)



MAKE A CLIMATE CHANGE: FROME TOWN COUNCIL



- December 2018 [Frome Town Council declared a climate emergency](#) and committed to going carbon neutral by 2030
- Solar funding project helps residents install solar panels at a significantly discounted rate
- Hosted climate change talks for other local councils
- Created climate emergency paper, shared for other councils to follow
- Promotes green transport such as electric vehicles, car sharing, public transport, cycling, walking
- Sharing hub for household items, community fridge to reduce waste
- Looking into a council owned wind turbine



MAKE A CLIMATE CHANGE: EAST ANGLIA

Felixstowe Town Council, Suffolk

- Declared climate emergency July 2020
- EV charging points partnering with County Council on 'Plugin Suffolk'
- To discourage buying new, Repair Café to encourage repairing items and Library of Things to enable easy borrowing
- Obtains energy from 100% renewable energy supplier
- Introduced cycle to work scheme and encouraging car sharing

Woodbridge Town Council, Suffolk

- Green Vein project aims to restore and optimise green infrastructure
- Commitment to plant 250 trees a year
- Issuing more Tree Preservation Orders
- Replacing removed trees with new
- Increasing environmental citizenship

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MAKE A CLIMATE CHANGE: QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

- Trees important to local councils: parks, open spaces, allotments, playing fields
- Trees important to all of us: to breathe, combat climate change, mental/physical health, wildlife, flooding
- Tree planting
- Tree Charter project
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee... 'plant a tree for the Jubilee'
- Free trees from Woodland Trust



**YOUR LOCAL
COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!**
MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

LINKS/RESOURCES :

- [NALC website](#) including 'what can your local council do?', 'Trusted companies and funding' and themes of climate action
- [Friends of the Earth](#) '20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency'
- [DEFRA](#) 'Adapting to climate change: A guide for local councils'
- [Climate Action](#) 'Climate Action Plan for councils'
- [The Woodland Trust](#), [The Tree Charter](#) and tree management