

SUMMARY: Climate Change and the Environment is a massive topic so it's important that we understand exactly what Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council's role is in addressing it. Council is committed to supporting a number of different initiatives to help support our local residents and business community to improve their energy efficiencies, as we all work towards Net Zero. In addition, Council has introduced several internal processes to assist with delivering Net Zero across all of its assets.

Strategic Context:

Strategy	How it relates to Energy
Corporate Strategy 2021-25	<p>The Corporate Strategy identifies five strategic priorities of which Climate Change and Our Environment is one.</p> <p>The following outcomes have been established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Borough is a leader in addressing Climate Change;</i> • <i>The Council will deliver its services using less energy across the timeframe of the Corporate Strategy;</i> • <i>Increasing proportion of domestic and commercial waste recycled;</i> • <i>Citizens and visitors will have increased access to natural environments for sport, recreation and leisure;</i> • <i>Our natural assets and spaces are managed and developed to recognised standards and processes;</i> • <i>All citizens are aware of and supported to make lifestyle changes which contribute to reducing the Boroughs carbon outputs</i> • <i>Existing domestic and commercial premises will be retrofitted to improve their energy efficiency; and</i> • <i>The Borough has efficient transport planning which encourages the use of environmentally neutral approaches to accessing work, services and recreational activities.</i>
Recovery and Renewal: An economic strategy for the Causeway Coast & Glens 2020-30	<p>Council's Economic Development strategy outlines 'sustainable energy' as a priority sector to be developed by 2030.</p> <p>It highlights the Girona Project as a novel and innovative energy project within the borough. It is imperative that Council seeks to build expertise in this area.</p>

	Section 4.6.1 highlights how the climate emergency has moved centre stage and notes the importance of the circular economy.
A Better Future Together: Delivery Plan 2017- 2030	<p>The Community Plan focuses on three key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Sustainable Accessible Environment;</i> • <i>A Thriving Economy; and</i> • <i>A Healthy Safe Community.</i> <p>Action 28 requires the development of an Energy and Climate Strategy incorporating an Action Plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens area.</p>

What has Council done to date?

1. Council's Environment Services Directorate have developed its own internal Energy Management Strategy 2015-25.

An audit on Energy Management & Climate Change was completed in May 2023, and was subsequently presented and adopted by the Audit Committee in June 2023. It noted that in addition to the largely mitigation actions identified in the EMS Council must consider and quantify what adaptation is required to help withstand and minimise the effects of climate change that are already affecting the Council district.

2. In June 2020, Council declared a Climate Emergency:

'In alignment with the UK government's position, Members declared a climate emergency and agreed to establish a working group to assist and signpost the decarbonisation of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.'

3. A Climate Emergency Forum (CEF) has been formed and will meet quarterly to assess the climate change need across Council functions all climate change aspects to ensure; firstly, Member awareness of statutory requirements and secondly, to secure a pathway (expectations) to meet climate change need across these functions, all whilst assessing the resource and cost implications.
4. In March 2022, the Environmental Services Committee approved Net Zero Emissions for all new Council Buildings, making Council one of the first Councils in the UK or Ireland to do so.
5. In March 2022, Energy Systems Catapult developed a the Local Energy Asset Realisation report in support of the Girona Project.

NB: Council has just commissioned a review and update of this report, with the objective of identifying potential boroughwide energy projects. This piece of work is viewed as an initial step towards developing a comprehensive Net Zero Roadmap for the Borough.

6. Council will be seeking to appoint a Climate Change Management Officer in the near future.