

COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION SCORECARD 2025

Climate Emergency UK publish Climate Action Scorecards for all Council's in the UK. This assesses Council's on the actions taken to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The scorecard is based around seven themes, with multiple questions within each of these. There is set criteria for each question, which outlines how to achieve marks for each. Each question is weighted differently (eg. low, medium, high), these are used to calculate an overall percentage.

In order to achieve marks for climate action, this activity had to have been undertaken between January 2020 – October 2024. Therefore anything delivered after this cut off isn't eligible for inclusion within this current scorecard.

The scorecards are marked in multiple ways, such as National datasets, FOI's (Freedom of Information requests) and volunteer research. All information has to be publicly available information, therefore if something isn't available on our webpages, then it cannot be awarded marks. This document, will hopefully serve to understand where the Council is making progress against some of the questions where marks were not awarded.

For the complete scorecards and additional details on the criteria for achieving marks, please visit the [Climate Change Scorecard website](#).

The following table presents a summary of the Climate Action Scorecards marks for Rushmoor Borough Council.

There has already been additional progress that has been made since marking closed (Oct 2024), which would be reflected if reassessed again in the future.

The full list of questions and marks are shown on the following pages.

CLIMATE ACTION SCORECARD	2023	2025
Buildings & heat	27%	45%
Transport	-10%	-4%
Planning & Land use	9%	16%
Governance & Finance	11%	25%
Biodiversity	30%	27%
Collaboration & Engagement	57%	51%
Waste Reduction & Food	23%	42%
RBC'S TOTAL:	21%	31%

BUILDINGS & HEAT

	QUESTION	2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
1a	Has the council completed extensive retrofit work on any of its significant buildings to make them low carbon?	1/2	1/1	Mark awarded for work on Council Buildings such as Southwood Country Park.	Southwood Country Park
1b	Does the council have a target to retrofit all significant council buildings (excluding homes) and has this been costed?	N/A*	0/3	The Council does not currently have a target date to retrofit all significant Council buildings.	-
2	Are the council's operations powered by renewable energy?	0/2	0/2	Within the Councils Climate Change Action Plan 25-28 includes an action to consider opportunities arising to reduce gas consumption and increase renewable energy generation, including continued commitment to review the feasibility of transitioning electricity across the Council's sites to 100% renewable tariffs	Climate Change Action Plan 2025-28
5	Is the council part of a programme or partnership to support home retrofitting, through providing the skills and training needed or in other ways?	0/1	0/1	The Council is not currently part of a partnership to support home retrofitting through skills or training.	-
6	Does the council have a staff member employed to work on retrofitting across the council area?	0/1	0/1	Rushmoor Borough Council does not currently employ a dedicated officer for home energy efficiency or retrofitting.	-
7	Are the homes and buildings in the council area energy efficient?	2/3	2/3	This is marked using national data. Rushmoor fall between 60 - 90%	Energy Performance Certificates
8	Is the council actively enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards of homes in the private rented sector?	0/2	1/2	Rushmoor Borough Council actively enforced Minimum Energy efficiency standards of homes in the private rented sector where applicable. The Council undertook a MEES investigation in 2024/25.	-
9	Does the council provide a service to support private homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient?	1/1	1/1	The council provides tailored advice to residents on home energy efficiency and signposts relevant services to residents where applicable. The Council is part of warmer homes consortium with Portsmouth City Council.	Energy Efficiency in Homes
10	Does the council offer funding to private renters or homeowners to retrofit their homes?	1/1	1/1	Rushmoor has received funding from HUG2 (Home Upgrade Grant phase 2) as part of a consortium with Portsmouth City Council.	Energy Efficiency in Homes

*This question has been changed or added since the 2023 scorecard.

BUILDINGS & HEAT (2)

	QUESTION	2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
10	Does the council offer funding to private renters or homeowners to retrofit their homes?	1/1	1/1	Rushmoor has received funding from HUG2 (Home Upgrade Grant phase 2) as part of a consortium with Portsmouth City Council.	Energy Efficiency in Homes
11	Does the council have a scheme to allow residents to purchase renewable energy cheaply, through collective buying?	2/2	2/2	The Solar Together scheme is a group buying scheme that aims to help residents access solar installations. Hampshire County Council and ourselves have been working with iChoosr, who run the scheme (<i>Please note that this scheme is currently closed for registrations</i>)	
12	Has the council supported local community renewable energy creation?	0/1	0/1	The Council is not currently involved in local community energy creation projects.	-

TRANSPORT

	QUESTION	2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
1	Is the council transitioning their vehicle fleet to electric?	0/1	0/2	The Council has switched its CPO fleet to electric vehicles. It is also reviewing options for other Council vehicles, as well as considering opportunities for working with contractors on their vehicle fleets.	Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2028
2	Has the council set up or supported a shared transport scheme that can be used across their whole area?	0/6	0/6	The Council worked with Enterprise Car Club to set up a pay-as-you-go rental vehicle, with discounts for residents across the borough. This was part of the Union Yard scheme.	Enterprise Car Club – Aldershot
10	Has the council supported the expansion of a public network of electric vehicle chargers?	0/2	1/2	There are 123.7 public charge points per 100,000 residents.	EV Charging Map – Department for Transport
11	Has the council approved, expanded or built a high carbon transport project since 2020?	0/0	0/0	The Council has not approved a high carbon transport project since 2020. Note that this is a negatively scoring question – <i>Marks are deducted for any high carbon transport project undertaken</i> .	-

TRANSPORT (2)

	QUESTION	2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
12a	Do the NO2 levels in a significant proportion of neighbourhoods within the council's area exceed the safe World Health Organisation (WHO) air pollution guidelines?	-0.48/0	-0.48/0	Negatively Scoring Question – Marks are deducted for levels higher than the WHO guidelines.	-
12b	Do the PM 2.5 levels in a significant proportion of neighbourhoods in the council's area exceed the safe World Health Organisation (WHO) air pollution guidelines?	-0.31/0	-0.31/0	Negatively Scoring Question – Marks are deducted for levels higher than the WHO guidelines.	-

PLANNING & LAND USE

	QUESTION	2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
1	Is the council's area-wide net zero target a strategic objective of the Local Plan?	0/1	0/1	The Council's Local Plan does not currently incorporate the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration or associated targets into the plan, as it was drafted before this declaration. However, there is still reference to Climate Change. Rushmoor BC is currently in the process of preparing a new Local Plan.	The Rushmoor Local Plan
2	Has the council committed to building all future council-owned or managed housing to a high energy efficiency or operationally net zero standard?	0/2	0/2	The Council has not committed to building all future council-owned or managed housing to a high energy efficiency or operationally net zero standard.	-
3a	Does the council require new homes to make an improvement on the Part L building regulations?	0/1	0/1	The Council does not currently require new homes to make an improvement on the Part L building regulations.	-
3b	Does the council require a fabric first approach for new development?	0/1	0/1	The Council does not currently require a fabric first approach for new development.	-
3c	Does the council set a requirement that all new homes to be built must be operationally (regulated) net zero?	0/2	0/2	The Council does not currently have a requirement that all new homes must be built to be operationally (regulated) net zero.	-

PLANNING & LAND USE (2)

QUESTION		2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
4	Does the council require developers to carry out a whole life-cycle carbon assessment of new build developments?	0/1	0/1	The Council does not currently require developers to carry out a whole life-cycle carbon assessment of new-build developments.	-
5	Does the council require a higher level of water efficiency for all new homes?	1/1	1/1	The council requires a higher level of water efficiency for new homes (110 litres per person per day). Policy DE4 – Sustainable Water Use: All new homes are required to meet the water efficiency standard of 110 litres/person/day, to be achieved by compliance with the Building Regulations <i>Page 126.</i>	Rushmoor Local Plan PDF
6	Has the council removed minimum parking requirements for new residential homes across their area?	0/2	0/2	The Council still has minimum parking requirements for new residential homes.	-
7	Does the council include a policy in the Local Plan to create 15/20 minute neighbourhoods?	0/1	0/1	RBC's Local Plan does not contain a policy to create 15/20 minute neighbourhoods.	-
8	Has the council committed to avoiding new building developments on the functional flood plain?	1/1	1/1	"Future development should therefore be steered towards Flood Zone 1, with only water compatible and essential infrastructure located in Flood Zone 3b." <i>Page 154</i> With the exception of the provision of essential infrastructure, 'undeveloped' Flood Zone 3b will be safeguarded for flood management purposes." <i>Page 184</i>	Rushmoor Local Plan PDF
9	Does the council have a minimum requirement for on-site renewable energy generation for new building development?	0/2	0/2	The Council recognises the valuable contribution that renewables can have to reduce carbon emissions, however does not set out any minimum level of onsite renewable energy generation for new building development. <i>Pages 97 and 119</i>	Rushmoor Local Plan PDF
10 a	Has the council identified suitable areas for new solar energy, wind developments and district heat networks?	0/3	0/3	The Council has not identified any suitable areas for new solar energy, wind developments or district heat networks.	-
10 b	Has the Council approved any planning applications for new or expanded solar or wind developments, battery storage, or renewable district heat networks since 2019?	0/5	2/5	There have been no planning applications for new or expanded solar or wind developments, battery storage or renewable district networks since 2019; therefore none have been approved.	-

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

QUESTION		2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
1a	Does the council's corporate plan include a net zero target and make tackling the climate emergency one of its main priorities?	0/1	0/1	The Council's Delivery Plan highlights Climate Change Action Plan within the Priority of 'with the Priority 'The Future and Financial Sustainability'. As well as this, the Council has committed to ensure that sustainability, diversity, and inclusion are at the heart of all that it does.	Council's Delivery Plan- Introducing Our Priorities
1b	Does the council's medium term financial plan include the council's net zero target and make tackling the climate emergency one of its main priorities?	0/1	0/1	The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan does not currently include a reference to the Council's Climate Change targets.	-
2	Does the council's Corporate Risk Register accurately identify the risks of climate change to the local area?	0/1	0/1	The corporate risk register currently references the delivery of achieving the ambition to become a carbon neutral council by 2030, but does not include the wider climate risks to the local area.	-
3a	Is the council reporting on its own greenhouse gas emissions?	0/1	1/1	The Council does report on the Council's Carbon Footprint, which is published on the webpage.	
3b	According to the council's own reporting, have the council's own greenhouse gas emissions reduced since 2019?	0/3	0/4	The Council assesses it's own Carbon Footprint which will be updated on the Council's Climate Change webpage.	
4	Has the council's area wide carbon emissions decreased, according to UK Government data?	1/3	3/4	According to UK Government Data, the Carbon emissions within the Rushmoor Borough Area have decreased from 10ktCO ₂ e (2019) to 8.3ktCO ₂ e per km ² (2023) per km ² .	Local Authority and Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions
5	Has the council adopted a new governance or decision making process to put tackling the climate emergency at the heart of every council decision made?	0/2	0/2	Climate Change Impact Assessments have been developed and will be considered for all Cabinet report decisions.	-
6a	Does the council have a sustainable procurement policy that includes an area wide net zero target and makes tackling the climate emergency one of its main priorities?	N/A*	0/1	The Council's Procurement Strategy 2025-2028 includes taking positive steps wherever possible to reduce the impact on the environment.	Rushmoor's Procurement Strategy 2025 - 2028
6b	Does the councils' procurement policy require tenders to take action to reduce waste, carbon emissions or other environmental actions?	N/A*	0/1	The Strategy includes additional outcomes, including taking measures to tackle climate change and reducing waste, recognising that sustainability and environmental impacts are considered when making procurement decisions.	

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE (2)

	QUESTION	2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
7	Does the council have a Cabinet member or Portfolio Holder that has climate change explicitly in their remit?	1/1	1/1	At the time of scorecard marking, the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change was the Cabinet Member for Policy, Performance and Sustainability.	Rushmoor Borough Council's Cabinet Members
8	What percentage of the council's overall staff work on implementing their Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects?	1/3	1/3	The Council employs two staff members: - A Climate Change Officer >0.6 FTE - An Ecologist >0.6 FTE	-
9	Have all senior management and councillors in the cabinet or committee chairs received climate awareness training?	0/1	0/1	Carbon Literacy material provided by the Innovation South Virtual Campus (ISVC) was shared with Members and Officers.	-
10a	Has the council raised ring-fenced income for climate action from property development?	0/1	1/1	The Council administer the Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund. For every take-off or landing at Farnborough Airport, the fund receives money to help support local projects.	Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund
10b	Has the council launched a Climate Bond, Community Municipal Investment or equivalent?	0/1	0/1	The Council does not currently have a Climate Bond, Community Municipal Investment or equivalent.	-
10c	Has the council raised income for climate action from any other sources?	0/1	1/1	The council has secured funding from other sources, including the Forestry Commission Urban Tree Planting Fund, Planning Skills Funding for an additional Assistant Ecologist post, and Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund for energy efficiency improvements.	-
11a	Has the council passed a motion in support of divestment from all fossil fuels from the councils' pension funds?	0/1	0/1	The Council has not passed a motion in support of divestment from all fossil fuels from the Council's pension funds.	-
11b	Has the council's pensions fund committed to divesting from all fossil fuels?	0/2	0/2		
12	Does the council have direct investments in airports or high carbon intensive energy industries?	0/0	0/0	The Council does not have direct investments in airports or high carbon intensive energy industries. This question is negatively scoring – Marks would be deducted if the Council has these types of investments.	-

**This question has been changed or added since the 2023 scorecard.*

BIODIVERSITY

QUESTION		2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
1	Does the council use peat-free compost or soil in all landscaping and horticulture?	0/1	0/1	The Council uses recycled compost created from green waste collected from it's Grounds Maintenance operations. It is used for activity such as landscaping works or filling tubs and containers. This is also offered to local projects, such as community gardens.	-
2	Has the council banned the use of pesticides on all council owned and managed land?	0/1	0/1	The Council has not banned pesticide use, but has removed the requirement to use chemicals within its Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.	-
3	Has the council stated they are mowing their green spaces less for wildlife?	1/1	1/1	The Council does mow certain areas of our green spaces less. By not cutting the grass too low on verges and public areas, we can encourage low-growing native plants to thrive and provide pollinating opportunities. For areas of longer grass to develop into wildflower meadows, seeds need time to set, which is why if an area is being managed for conservation, it will only be cut once in late summer or early autumn.	Rushmoor Borough Council's Grass Cutting.
5	Does the council have a target to increase tree cover and is a tree management plan agreed as they grow?	0/1	0/1	Rushmoor has joined the Hampshire Forest Partnership, an initiative to plant one million trees in Hampshire by 2050. Within the Councils 'Tree Maintenance Policy' the aim is to manage trees in a global sense and encourage urban forest with 'continuous cover management' to provide a healthy and diverse tree population. The amenity provided by the trees is preserved for perpetuity by maintaining and improving tree cover for the future and planting of suitable trees in appropriate locations.	How we look after our trees
7	Have the council's parks been awarded Green Flag status?	0/2	0/2	None of the RBC managed parks have applied for Green Flag Status.	-
8	Does the council employ a planning ecologist to scrutinise planning reports for improvements to biodiversity in new developments, such as biodiversity net gain?	1/1	1/1	The Council employs an Ecologist >0.6 FTE	-

BIODIVERSITY (2)

	QUESTION	2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
9	Does the council require a higher biodiversity net gain commitment from new developments?	0/1	0/1	The Council does not currently require biodiversity net gain above the minimum 10% required by the UK Government.	-
10	Has the council introduced a Green Space Factor to increase habitat in new developments?	N/A	0/1	The Council has not introduced a Green Space Factor.	-

**This question has been changed or added since the 2023 scorecard.*

COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT

	QUESTION	2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
1	Do the council's climate pages include information about behaviour changes that residents can make, and are they easy to find?	1/1	1/1	There are practical tips on behavioural changes for residents on the Council's Climate Change webpages.	Climate Change Webpages
2a	Has the council published a Climate Action Plan with SMART targets?	1/1	1/1	There are additional outcome measures within the Council's Delivery Plan aligned to the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.	The Council's Delivery Plan & Priorities – The Future and Financial Sustainability (2025)
2b	Has the council published an up to date and easy-to-read annual report on their Climate Action Plan?	3/3	2/3	The Council's CCAP Annual Reports can be found on the Council's Climate Change webpages. A mark was deducted due to not having SMART targets within the action plan itself.	Climate Change Action Plan
3	Has the council lobbied the government for climate action?	0/1	0/1	Rushmoor Borough Council has not lobbied the government for climate action.	-
4	Is the council working with external partners or other councils to seek to influence national governments on climate action, or to learn about and share best practice on council climate action?	1/2	1/2	Rushmoor Borough Council is listed as a member of Blueprint Coalition.	-
5a	Does the council have an ongoing way for residents to influence the implementation of the council's Climate Action Plan?	1/2	1/2	Rushmoor Climate Community launched in October 2024, as a community engagement forum to share information and gather feedback on Council initiatives. This group fed back to the Council on it's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-26 and made recommendations during the drafting of the current plan (2025-28).	Rushmoor Climate Community

COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT (2)

QUESTION		2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
5b	Does the council's ongoing engagement with residents include those most affected by climate change and climate action policy?	0/2	0/2	In partnership with Hampshire County Council and the Environment Agency, the council held an event at Southwood on potential flood risks. Residents at high risk of flooding in the borough were invited to attend.	-
6	Does the council provide funding for community climate action, for example through an environment fund or climate action fund?	1/1	1/1	The Council administers the Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund. For every take-off or landing at Farnborough Airport, the community environmental fund receives money to help support local projects.	Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund
8	Is the council working in partnership with cultural institutions and organisations to encourage decarbonisation within culture and arts locally?	0/1	0/1	The Council funds and manages a free monthly children's Eco Explorers Club, with practical eco-themed activities and storytelling (May-Oct). The Council has also provided grants for environmental projects for cultural projects such as 'The Places that Link Us Project'. Princes Hall is a Council owned and managed building, where there have been numerous measures put in places to reduce the environmental impact.	Rushmoor's Eco Explorers Club
9	Is the council working in partnership with schools or other education settings to deliver climate action that young people can engage with?	1/1	1/1	The Council has funded 'Climate Trackers' Scheme that is delivered by Wonderseekers in four primary and junior school. A Youth Climate Ambassador group was formed in Summer 2025 for secondary school and college representatives within Rushmoor to engage young people in climate action. The Council has also worked with local schools on other activity such as a climate change competition and a climate debate.	-
10	Is the council working in partnership with local businesses to encourage decarbonisation?	1/1	1/1	The Council is part of the Sustainable Business Network (North Hants), and also support the development of the Sustainable Business Network seminars to improve support and mentoring to SMEs on carbon reduction and sustainable business measures. This is organised and run by Carbon Footprint Ltd.	-
11	Has the council passed a motion to ban high carbon advertising and sponsorship?	0/1	0/1	The Council has not passed a motion to ban high carbon advertising and sponsorship.	-

COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT (3)

	QUESTION	2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
12	Does the council have an ongoing way for employee representative bodies (including recognised trade unions) to influence the development and delivery of the council's Climate Action Plan?	N/A	0/1	The Council does not currently have an ongoing way for employee representative bodies to influence the development or delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.	-

WASTE & FOOD REDUCTION

	QUESTION	2023	2025	RESPONSE	LINKS
1b	Has the council encouraged the reduction of single use plastic at external events on council land, property or public spaces such as roads and parks?	N/A	0/1	The Climate Change Action Plan includes an action to Identify and reduce the use of single use plastics across all council buildings and events.	Climate Change Action Plan
2	Has the council taken steps to support a circular economy locally?	0/1	1/1	The Council facilitated the initial set up of the Rushmoor Repair Cafe and further supports them when needed.	Rushmoor Repair Cafe
3	Does the council support initiatives to redistribute surplus food?	0/1	1/1	The Community Grub Hub offers food support to those who need it within Rushmoor, whilst reducing food waste.	Food and Food Banks in Rushmoor
4a	Does the council have a sustainable food strategy?	0/1	0/1	The Council does not currently have a sustainable food strategy.	-
4b	Is the council part of a sustainable food partnership?	0/1	0/1	The Council is not currently part of a sustainable food partnership.	-
5	Has the council taken steps to support local food growing?	1/1	1/1	The Council has awarded grants to local groups undertaking community gardening including those focused on growing food.	-
7	Does the council provide weekly kerbside food waste recycling?	1/1	1/1	Rushmoor Borough Council has provided weekly food waste collections since 2021.	Food Waste Recycling
8	How high is the councils' area wide annual recycling rate?	0/3	0/3	The Council's annual recycling rate for 23/24 is 42.4% (based on latest data available).	Local authority collected waste management – 2023/24
9	How low is the councils' area wide level of household waste produced?	0/2	0/2	The Council's area wide level of residual household waste per household is 423.46kg (based on latest data available).	Local authority collected waste management – 2023/24

**This question has been changed or added since the 2023 scorecard.*