

# Denbighshire County Council's Climate & Ecological Change Strategy 2021/22 - 2029/30



Denbighshire County Council declared a [Climate Change and Ecological Emergency](#) in July 2019.

This means by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2030 the Council wants to be a:

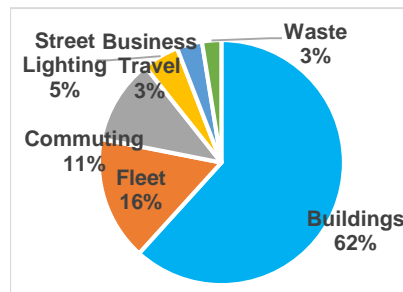
## Net Carbon Zero Council, and Ecologically Positive Council

This document tells you more about those two aims and the tasks we are going to try to deliver to achieve our 2030 goals.

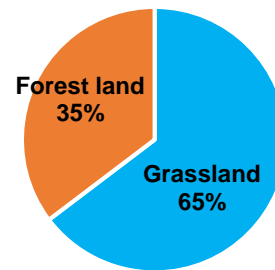
As Denbighshire County Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in July 2019, this means the Council wants to become net carbon zero by 2030 and improve wildlife. This means that the total carbon created by the Council minus the total carbon absorbed from Council owned land needs to equal zero by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2030.

The Council's Net Carbon Zero position in 2019/20 was +16,448 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

The charts below shows where the Council's Carbon emissions come from and where it is absorbed.



Carbon emissions



Carbon absorption

Our next goal is to protect and manage our land and create new spaces for nature so there is lots of wildlife and nature can recover. This is our Ecologically Positive Council goal. Below is an example of the different habitats seen around Denbighshire where we see nature.



Calcareous Grassland



Yew Woodland



Neutral Grassland



Acid Grassland



Bracken



Inland Rock



Coniferous Wood



Arable

## How will Carbon Zero be achieved?

There are lots of ideas of how to reduce the amount of Carbon created by the Council. These changes will take place over the next 10 years, and some will happen before others. Some of the ideas include:

- Introducing electric vehicles and charging points
- Council officers and Councillors to work online, no paper
- All schools and Council building have the same recycling systems
- When building new schools / offices, have eco-friendly materials and ways of building.
- Have more staff working from home, and travelling less when in work
- Make street lights more energy efficient by using LED lights
- Improve energy efficiency of Council buildings by looking at the heating systems, lighting etc.



## How will nature recovery be achieved?



In order to meet the goal to increase biodiversity and help nature to recover, the Council needs to own more land which helps wildlife to thrive and encourages different habitats within it. Some of the ideas of how to achieve that are:

- Finish a project called PLANT where 18000 trees will be planted
- Have wildflowers grow in school grounds and Council car parks
- Avoid cutting grass in certain areas
- Have a tree nursery, where 5000 plants are grown every year
- Have projects where members of the public can volunteer with the Countryside Service
- Think about the impact on the environment when planning new projects and buildings

Many people have contributed to these ideas, through different workshops and meetings since the 2019 Climate Emergency was declared.



Some of these things will take a long time to be put into place as this is a 9 year plan, and there are lots of other plans and projects to think about before some things can go ahead, such as Flood Management Plan and Woodland and Tree Strategy.

Climate and ecological change is the biggest challenge of our time. It impacts all living things that call our planet home including you and me.

By working to achieve these goals we hope to make our contribution to see carbon emissions reduce to net zero in Wales by 2050.

To check the progress of the plans set out in this strategy, a group has been put together called the Corporate Plan Board. The Corporate Plan Board is made up of all the Councillors who are

members of Cabinet and all Heads of Service, Directors and the Chief Executive of Denbighshire County Council.

The committee will check that actions are being done and on time, to make sure Denbighshire is attractive and protected, and somewhere we can all enjoy to live, learn and work.



For more information on anything in this document please contact the Climate Change Team on: Email: [climatechange@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@denbighshire.gov.uk) Phone: 01824 706000 (Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm). Write to us: Climate Change Team, Denbighshire County Council, PO Box 62, Ruthin, LL15 9AZ.