

# Sustainability, Environment & Climate: Freedom of Information Requests

We are frequently asked for information about building energy usage & renewable energy generation, carbon literacy training, climate change actions & policies and active transport schemes. Below are the commonly asked questions and the answers.

## Solar Panels for Buildings and Schools

Please provide your detailed plans with dates for installing climate change avoidance actions for all properties in your area including schools

1. Sustainable energy in public buildings:

As of [May 2022](#)

**July 2023 update – This project has now concluded in June 2023. No further plans or funds have been confirmed for 2023/24 to date.**

2. Council commercial stock (improvement in EPC rating):

As of [May 2022](#)

**July 2023 update – EPC assessment surveys have been undertaken to identify those commercial investment buildings that have a rating of less than ‘E’ so that improvements can be identified and undertaken to improve the buildings ratings.**

3. Council assets (not schools):

**The council is carrying out assessments and surveys to identify how low carbon technologies can be incorporated into designs as part of our normal planned investment programme. This work is happening now and will be ongoing. To be effective, the council aims to conduct decarbonisation surveys of assets to inform our capital programme and provide a whole system approach using all available and suitable technologies. The works we undertake will be monitored for carbon reduction.**

4. School surveys:

As of [May 2022](#)

**July 2023 update – Decarbonisation Audits have been carried out at all maintained schools. A number of schools have been put forward to Phase 2 and reports will be generated that can be used to apply for funding.**

5. Any other schools work:

For roofing works planned at Herefordshire Council schools, upgrade of the current insulation is incorporate in the new specification to comply with current building regulations.

Peterchurch Primary School is at RIBA Stage 3 design stage with a view of, if approved, rebuilding Peterchurch Primary School on its current site, which will be net carbon zero in operation.

6. Solar PV for schools:

As of [May 2022](#)

July 2023 update – to be installed mid-late 2023 (before end of September 2023):

- Marlbrook Primary School, HR2 7NT
- John Masefield High School & Sixth Form Centre, HR8 2HF
- Fairfield High School, HR2 0SG

## Energy usage guidance for Local Authority maintained schools

7. Since the start of this academic year (2022/23), has your authority issued any guidance to Local Authority maintained schools about how they can cut energy usage? If so, what advice have they been given, what medium was it sent via, and when was it sent?

As part of Herefordshire Council's and the Climate & Nature Board's commitment to achieve net zero by 2030, Herefordshire Council have partnered with Let's Go Zero, the national campaign uniting teachers, pupils, parents and their schools as they work together reducing their carbon footprint. All Herefordshire schools are encouraged to join this climate change action support programme. An article was included in the 9 June 2022 edition of the Spotlight newsletter, which goes out to all local authority maintained primary, secondary and special schools in Herefordshire, plus the colleges and early year settings.

In addition, a link to Herefordshire Council's guide on energy savings and carbon reduction was sent to all schools on 23 September 2022 via email. This guide provides each school that uses this method many ideas for reducing energy usage that will automatically lead to a reduction in carbon emissions. The data collected will also enable schools to calculate their own carbon footprint.

[Guide for schools on energy savings and carbon reduction \(herefordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

8. Since the start of this academic year (2022/23), have you told your Local Authority maintained schools that they should cut energy usage? Have they been given targets for energy reduction, and if so, what targets have they been given?

Energy supplies are provided through our supplier West Mercia Energy (WME). WME are committed to supporting "net-zero" ambitions and since May 2022 have been promoting a "Use Cleaner, Use less" service supporting all customers including schools to reduce their carbon emissions, become more energy efficient and utilise cleaner energy options. Newsletters from WME are sent out quarterly to schools reminding them of this project -

the last time sent in September 2022 via email. All schools can also access a new portal that graphically shows energy usage over time.

## Energy Supply Procurement & Costs

9. For the year ending March 31 2022, please provide your organisation's approximate total annual cost expenditure for grid supplies of:

- Electricity
- Natural gas

As of [November 2022](#)

**July 2023 update – for the year ending 31 March 2023:**

**Electricity £672,743**

**Natural Gas £182,243**

10. Please provide the current total number of supplies (billed meter points) for:

- Half Hourly metered electricity
- Non Half Hourly metered electricity
- Natural gas

As of [November 2022](#)

**July 2023 update:**

- **Half Hourly metered electricity**

**32**

- **Non Half Hourly metered electricity**

**176**

- **Natural gas**

**82**

11. Please provide the name of your current primary licenced retail suppliers for:

- Half Hourly metered electricity

**Total Energies Gas & Power Limited**

- Non Half Hourly metered electricity

**Total Energies Gas & Power Limited**

- Natural gas

**Total Energies Gas & Power Limited**

12. Please provide the relevant reference number or similar reference detail of the OJEU framework or tender exercise through which supplies were procured for:

- Half Hourly metered electricity

**WME002**

- Non Half Hourly metered electricity

**WME002**

- Natural gas

**WME001**

13. If the procurement route is facilitated by a Public Sector Buying Organisation (PBO) (e.g. CCS, YPO, etc.), please provide the name of the PBO facilitating your contract for:

- Half Hourly metered electricity

**West Mercia Energy**

- Non Half Hourly metered electricity

**West Mercia Energy**

- Natural gas

**West Mercia Energy**

14. Please provide contact details for the procurement manager at your Organisation responsible for these call-offs or awards of energy supply contracts, or where this person is no longer employed by your Organisation, for the relevant procurement manager currently in post. Please provide their:

- Name

**Commercial Services**

- Job Title

**N/A**

- Email Address

[commercialservices@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:commercialservices@herefordshire.gov.uk)

15. Please provide contact details for the operational manager at your organisation primarily responsible for day to day management of these supplies & costs. This would usually be an Energy Manager, Estates/Facilities Manager, or similar. Please provide their email address.

[energy@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:energy@herefordshire.gov.uk)

## Council electricity tariffs and renewable electricity generation

16. Does the council have a 100% renewable green electricity tariff for all of the electricity that the council is directly responsible for, and is this tariff with Green Energy UK plc, Good Energy Limited or Ecotricity? This includes all electricity that the council is directly responsible for, in council offices and any other buildings leased and managed by the council where the council pays the electricity tariff. This does not include homes owned or managed by the council. If unsure, please state your provider and tariff.

**Yes the tariff is 100% renewable green electricity - the tariff is not with the listed companies and is provided by Total Energies.**

17. Does the council generate and use energy from waste? And if so, what percentage of the council's total electricity use is powered by these energy from waste electricity sources?

**Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council jointly own an energy from waste facility which is operated and managed by Mercia Waste Management Ltd. It is situated in Hartlebury in Worcestershire. The council send residual waste to the facility but there is currently no direct use of the electricity produced by Herefordshire Council.**

18. Does the council buy directly from a local renewable electricity source or have its own renewable electricity sources? And if so, what percentage of the council's total electricity use is powered by this/these renewable electricity sources?

This includes council owned renewable electricity sources that are located outside of the council area, such as solar farms located further south to maximise electricity generation.

**The council has a number of solar PV renewable installations in buildings where we are directly responsible for this accounts for c.14.4% of electricity consumed in financial year 2021-22.**

## Council house EPC ratings & MEES enforcement

19. What is the energy efficiency of the council's homes (managed or owned by the council)? As of February 2023. Please provide either a distribution table with the number of buildings for each EPC rating or the percentage of the council's homes that have received an EPC rating of C or above.

EPC Rating	Number of Units
A	0
B	0
C	11
D	12
E	9

<b>EPC Rating</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>No rating</b>	<b>12</b>

20. What is the number of investigations, enforcement notices and enforcement actions that the council did, related to MEES (Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards) in the 2021/22 financial year.

**Number of investigations – 2**

**Number of enforcement notices – 1**

**Number of enforcement actions – 1**

## **Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property)**

21. In respect of non-domestic properties only, how many tenant-reported breaches of the MEES Regulations did the Local Authority receive in the following periods:

- a. 01.04.2018 (when the MEES Regulations came into effect) to 31.03.2022
- b. 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023
- c. Since 01.04.2023

**0**

22. In respect of non-domestic properties only, how many compliance notices in total have the Local Authority issued during the following periods:

- a. 01.04.2018 (when the MEES Regulations came into effect) to 31.03.2022
- b. 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023
- c. Since 01.04.2023

**0**

23. In respect of non-domestic properties only, how many penalty notices in total have the Local Authority issued during the following periods:

- a. 01.04.2018 (when the MEES Regulations came into effect) to 31.03.2022
- b. 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023
- c. Since 01.04.2023

**0**

24. In respect of non-domestic properties only, what is the total monetary value of the MEES-related penalty notices issued during the following periods:

a. 01.04.2018 (when the MEES Regulations came into effect) to 31.03.2022

b. 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023

c. Since 01.04.2023

**£0.00**

25. In respect of non-domestic properties only, how many publication penalties have been issued by the LA during the following periods:

a. 01.04.2018 (when the MEES Regulations came into effect) to 31.03.2022

b. 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023

c. Since 01.04.2023

**£0.00**

26. In respect of non-domestic properties only, how does the Local Authority identify properties that are not compliant with the MEES Regulation?

**Action is taken based on received intelligence.**

27. Does the Local Authority have one or more individuals with specific responsibility for the compliance of non-domestic properties with the MEES Regulations? If so, which team, function or department are they part of?

**Yes - Trading Standards.**

## **Council staff working on climate action as of February 2023**

28. How many staff does the Council directly employ (excluding contractors or subcontractors, and excluding teachers), that work directly for the Council as opposed to a school, leisure centres or other venture?

**1,346 (as of 10 February 2023)**

29. How many directly employed staff spend 3 or more days per week (0.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects? Please provide a list of all the roles.

**The Council has a dedicated Sustainability & Climate Change team supported by our Project Management Office which has 13 staff as shown below:**

**Head of Environment, Climate Emergency & Waste (1FTE)**

**Sustainability & Climate Change Manager (1FTE)**

**3 x Principal Sustainability & Climate Change Officer (2.6 FTE)**

**5 x Sustainability & Climate Change Officer (3.9 FTE)**

**1 x Sustainability Projects & Promotions Officer (0.61 FTE)**

**2 x Sustainability & Climate Change Assistants (1 FTE)**

**2 x Senior Project Manager - (1.8 FTE)**

30. Does the council have one or more staff member who works on home energy efficiency retrofitting, such as retrofit officers or project managers across the council area, for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE)? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE). The work of this officer may include working on any retrofit projects, including council buildings, council homes or private rented or owned households.

**Yes**

31. Please list any roles that work in this area, including the full time equivalent (FTE) if they work part time. Please include staff members that are shared with other councils, such as between county and district councils, and note if they are shared across other areas.

**1 x Principal Sustainability & Climate Change Officer (1 FTE)**

**1 x Sustainability & Climate Change Officer (1 FTE)**

**1 x Senior Project Manager - (1 FTE)**

32. How many planning ecologists (ecologists within the planning department) or equivalent working for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE) does the council employ to scrutinise planning reports for Biodiversity Net Gain? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE).

**1 x Principal Natural Environment Officer (Ecology) (0.65FTE)**

**1 x Ecology & Arboriculture Officer (1FTE)**

**1 x Senior Ecologist (1FTE)**

**1 x Graduate Ecologist (1FTE)**

**1 x Apprentice Ecologist (1FTE)**

## **Carbon literacy training for senior councillors and staff as of February 2023**

33. Have all senior management received carbon literacy training or equivalent since 1st January 2019? Please state the type of training.

**Most of the senior management board attended an all-day member training session which was held on 21 October 2019. The number of senior managers who attended is not recorded. A separate training session for senior management has not been held, but officers have carried out numerous briefings and workshops for senior managers on carbon projects, and the performance of the citizen assembly.**



**There is also an e-learning module on climate change which is available for all staff. The number of senior managers who have completed this module is not recorded.**

34. Have all current councillors in the cabinet or committee chairs received carbon literacy training or equivalent since being elected? Please state the type of training.

**Yes, an all-day full members' session was held on 21 October 2019, the number of councillors who attended that session is not recorded. Further training sessions took place on 13 June 2022, which had 28 attendees and on 15 June 2022, which had 19 attendees.**

## **Lobbying for climate action & funding**

35. Has the council written to or met with UK national or devolved governments to ask or lobby for climate action since 1st January 2019?

**On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the Leader of Herefordshire Council wrote to its two MPs in support of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill, please see letters here: [Lobbying for climate action & funding](#)**

## **Climate Change Emergency Declaration Follow Up Actions as of February 2023**

### Housing and Building

36. Progress in renewable electricity generation: How much reduction in carbon emissions from the heating of buildings has been achieved through the installation of heat pumps?

**As of [February 2023](#)**

**July 2023 update – no council buildings have heat pumps installed. There have been a total of 24 heat pumps installed under the grant scheme across eligible domestic properties (2 properties were withdrawn since February 2023 response).**

### The state of Future Homes and Passive Housings

37. Has the erection of such housing under the 5,000 existing planning permissions already started?

38. Has the Future Homes standard inspired better house-building standards, for instance in combination with current affordable housing developments?

**In response to the above questions, Herefordshire Council is aware of a small number of homes that are being built to standards higher than current Building Regulation standards, but does not have specific policies regarding this. The council does not collate information relating specifically to the standard of housing and as such does not hold any information on whether the Future Homes standard has had a positive impact.**

### Energy

39. Pomona Solar Cooperative: To what extent has selling solar panel to local businesses increased emission free electricity and encouraged them to take further actions?

**Herefordshire Council does not hold this information. To obtain this you would need to contact Pomana Solar Co-operative.**

Installation of LED lighting:

40. In addition to the installation of LED lighting at Widemarsh, in which other buildings has the council installed LED lighting?

**LED lighting has been installed in the following buildings: Hereford Crematorium, 8 St. Owen Street, Museum Resource Learning Centre and Blueschool House using the same grant scheme as Widemarsh Children's Centre.**

41. By how much have carbon emissions been reduced through their installation?

**As of [February 2023](#)**

**July 2023 update – A total of 18.5tco2e (based on carbon factor 0.35156)**

Installation of 1.1 MWp of Solar PV:

42. How many council buildings have been fitted with solar PV?

**As of [February 2023](#)**

**July 2023 update – 24 buildings (based on 9.52Wp)**

43. By how much have carbon emissions been reduced through their installation?

**As of [February 2023](#)**

**July 2023 update – 411tco2e (using appropriate GHG emission factors for tco2e).**

Transport

44. EV charging points: By how much has the council's network or EV charging points expanded since 2021?

**Rapid chargers (3 x 50kw chargers that can charge 2 cars at a time) were installed in 2021, but since 2021 to date there have been no further installations.**

45. What percentage of the council's fleet has been switched to EVs?

**16%**

46. By how much have carbon emissions been reduced through these changes?

**Approximately 250 tco2e**

Farming and land use

47. Has the Supplementary Planning Document on reducing pollution in the River Wye provided new strategies?

**The agricultural supplementary planning document (SPD) includes a methodology that can be used to demonstrate nutrient neutrality in relation to planning applications for agricultural development. It is prepared in the context of the adopted Core Strategy. Public consultation on the SPD is running until the 24 February 2023, during which time we are inviting comment on the scope and detail of the SPD. Further information can be found via the following link: [Local Plan - Herefordshire Council](#)**

48. Have green spaces in new and existing development sites been included in new Planning Policies?

**As of [February 2023](#)**

**July 2023 update – The council has recently undertaken an update of the Open Space Study in Herefordshire: [Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy – By LUC \(lucmaps.co.uk\)](#)**

**This document provides part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and the development of policy moving forward.**

#### Food and Waste

49. Have the ways in which household and business waste is collected and treated changed and schemes that support and encourage a reduction in the amount of waste produced been successful in reducing emissions?

**There have not been changes to the collection or treatment of waste in a number of years. However, new contracts are being tendered for both this year (2023). Whilst our waste collection emissions may increase in the new service due to the introduction of new collections for food, garden and paper and card, our carbon assessment was that this was the lowest carbon option and resulted in significant carbon emission savings in waste disposal. Herefordshire will see the UK's first cargobike collections for food waste in 2024. The new collection contract is pushing for high levels of electric RCV's to reduce CO2. Whilst this will take time to appear work will be underway by next year.**

#### Scope 3 of GHG emissions

50. There is little information available concerning progress in reducing scope 3 GHG emissions: Have you evaluated new data concerning emissions linked to organisation's operation, e.g. goods purchased, disposal of products sold?

**As of [February 2023](#)**

**July 2023 update – Emissions reporting continues to evolve and improve as more data becomes available.**

**The following sources are already included in Scope 3 emissions reporting:**

- **Business travel (staff mileage, rail travel by Herefordshire Council staff for business purposes)**
- **Staff commuting**

- **Electricity, gas, burning oil and LPG consumption in buildings operated by outsourced services for waste management, highways, leisure, cultural services, education (academies) and residential care homes.**
- **Petrol and diesel consumption by contracted fleet vehicles.**
- **Fleet and staff mileage undertaken by main outsourced contractors on behalf of Herefordshire Council.**

#### Other Organisations

51. Please confirm how many Town Councils and/or Parish Councils/Community Councils in your area have made Climate Change Emergency Declarations;

**Herefordshire Council does not hold this information. Further information can be found via the following link: [Map of Local Council Declarations | Climate Emergency UK](#)**

52. Please provide the names and contact details of each of these

**Herefordshire Council does not hold details of whether or not a town or parish council in Herefordshire has made a climate change emergency declaration. The names and contact details for all town and parish councils in Herefordshire are available via the following link: [Parish Council information](#)**

53. Please confirm how your Council collaborates with each Town Council and/or Parish Council/Community Council

**Via the Talk Community network. All 137 parish and town councils are invited to a Talk Community Parish Summit every other month. In October 2022 the theme was 'reducing carbon together' and included ideas on how they could get involved with greener footprints. 3 parish councils talked about their climate change programme.**

54. Please confirm which other community groups/organisations that you liaise and cooperate with that may have made a Climate Change Emergency Declaration and how your own declaration [links] with any other work.

**Via the Greener Footprints newsletter we communicate with a wide range of organisations, council, businesses, school and individuals.**

55. Please provide details of any other local community action your Council carries on to pursue any plans and commitments relating to your Climate Change Emergency Declaration.

**As of [February 2023](#)**

**July 2023 update – Funded 40 farm carbon audits**

**Commissioned a renewables mapping exercise to identify optimum locations and constraints for renewables in Herefordshire.**

**Commissioned 60 business energy audits**

**Active transport, cycle to work scheme**

56. Over the past five years, broken down by year -

a) How many staff members used the Cycle to Work scheme?

b) What percentage of staff was this?

c) What was the average value of the vouchers claimed on the scheme?

d) What was the number of those who took up the scheme, who then failed to complete, leaving the Council with costs?

**In respect of questions 1(a)-(d) please note Herefordshire Council does not use a voucher scheme. The bike shop invoices the Council for the value of the bike plus accessories. Please see the table where we have provided the average value of invoices [here](#)**

57. What tools does the organisation use to encourage cycling for their staff -

a) On a work basis

**Herefordshire Council have staff sustainable travel intranet pages which include information about staff travel, pool cars and bike schemes and further information on business travel and commuting, including the cycle to work scheme. Staff have access to covered cycle parking, showers, changing, clothes storage and drying facilities at the main Council office base. Staff are also provided with free minutes for bike hire scheme bikes for business journeys. There are free park and cycle sites for commuters to park on the edge of Hereford City and finish their journey by bike.**

b) On a leisure/health basis

**Herefordshire Council provide free adult cycle lessons and cycle route maps.**

58. With regards to staff, does the organisation -

a) Have any monitoring for what modes of transport staff use -

i) For their journey to work

**Herefordshire Council does not record staff modes of transport for commuting.**

ii) For journeys during work time

**This is recorded in terms of mileage claimed.**

b) And if this data is recorded, I request a copy of such data as detailed as it can be reasonably given, while still protecting personal data rights

<b>Transport</b>	<b>Miles Claimed 2022-23</b>
Home to work Mileage (members only)	1000
Car Mileage (school staff only)	74679.1
Car Mileage with passengers(s) (school staff only)	7589.3
Motorcycle Mileage	278
Bicycle Mileage	795.2
Car Mileage	887306.41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>971648.01</b>

59. How many of the following does the organisation have available for staff use

a) Pedal cycles

**Zero - but staff can request free hire bike minutes for business use in Hereford.**

b) Electric bikes

**Zero**

c) Motorbikes

**Zero**

d) Internal combustion cars

**Zero**

e) Electric or hybrid cars

**6 electric cars; 5 hybrid (petrol/EV)**

f) Internal combustion vans

**31**

g) Electric or hybrid vans

**1 electric van**

h) Heavy trucks

**Zero**

60. Does the organisation mileage scheme clearly state the claim rate for cycling?

**Yes. The following are extracts from the mileage scheme guidance:**

**In accordance with the council's commitment to sustainable transport and its local travel plan, employees are encouraged to use public transport (for which approved costs will be reimbursed), car sharing and alternative methods of travel, other than by car, wherever possible. Cycles 20 pence per mile**

61. How many cycling miles have been claimed by the organisation's staff in the past five years?

<b>Year</b>	<b>Bicycle miles claimed</b>
<b>2022-23</b>	<b>795.2</b>
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>556.2</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>263.15</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>819.3</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Not recorded</b>

62. Regarding your current cycle to work scheme -

a) What scheme is currently in place?

**Herefordshire Council manages its own in-house cycle to work salary sacrifice scheme. It does not use a third-party provider.**

b) What is the maximum limit on the cost of a bike, if a limit is currently in place?

**Cycle and accessories are limited to a maximum value of £4,000.**

## **Advice & Assistance**

The following links may be of interest:

[Climate & Ecological Emergency](#)

[Citizens Assembly](#)

[Waste and recycling](#)

[Waste management performance data](#)

[Environmental Policies](#)

[Electric vehicle charging points](#)

## **Further Information**

Why not check our [disclosure log](#) before making a new request as your question may already have been answered by a previous FOI request or information already published on our website.