



EXETER
CityFutures

SUSTAINABILITY



NET ZERO EXETER 2030 PLAN

SUSTAINABILITY

Nature's contributions to humanity is critically important for our livelihoods, economies, quality of life and wellbeing. It is imperative that cities work independently to achieve their climate targets to protect our global environment and the finite natural resources that are available to us.

Establishing **'Green Spaces and Local Produce'** through local food supplies, capturing rainwater and halting biodiversity loss are vital to ensure that Exeter is a happy and healthy city where both people and nature can thrive in unison. Maintaining access to open spaces will also be key to maintaining a high quality of life as well as critical to achieving the commitment to becoming a carbon-neutral city.

A key objective for Exeter is to ensure that we have **'Clean Air'** to breathe. Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts particularly affecting the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions.

Alignment to Ingredients for Future Placemaking: [\[see page 10\]](#)

- Prioritise Healthy Travel
- Reclaim Roads
- Less Cars - More Trees
- Less Parking - More People
- Diversify Uses
- Future Building Typologies

We also aspire to ensure that we manage our waste efficiently and start to build in regenerative design principles. Achieving Exeter City Futures' **'Efficient Resource Management'** goal will involve increasing the awareness of Exeter's residents and businesses around how we manage and reuse our waste. The benefits of achieving this goal are more than reducing landfill or plastic in our oceans. By thinking differently about what we throw away (whether that's plastic, cardboard, food or even water and heat) we can generate many benefits to the city; such as reducing the number of heavy-load vehicles on our roads, alleviating congestion and improving air quality or creating partnerships between organisations to use waste material from one as power for the other, feeding into our local, circular economy.

Ultimately we want Exeter to build a culture of **'Regenerative Design'**, recognising that we all have a responsibility to leave the planet in a better state than we found it.

"We need a skills bank to support recycling. Where / how can I learn to darn socks and turn shirt collars?"

Resident Voice



Green Spaces and Local Produce



Clean Air



Efficient Resource Management



Regenerative Design



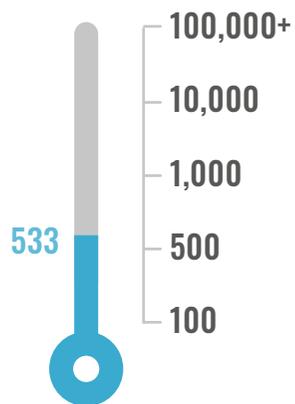
PRIORITY ACTIONS

Initiate programmes that enable residents and schools to adopt more sustainable and healthy food habits (e.g. promoting a plant-based menu, and sustainably sourced meat and fish).



CARBON SAVING

TONNES PER YEAR



INDICATIVE COST / RESOURCE

£ 0

0.5

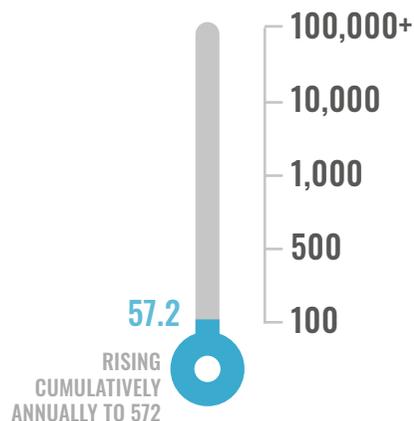


Increase Exeter's tree canopy cover by a quarter, compared to 2018 figures.



CARBON SAVING

TONNES PER YEAR



INDICATIVE COST / RESOURCE

£ ~£200k

0

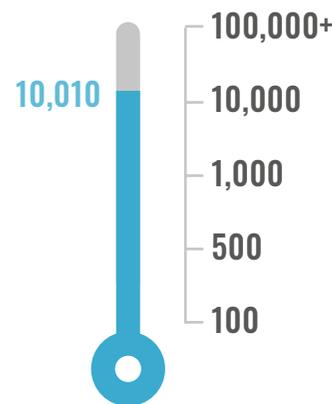


Replace existing buses in Exeter's network with Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Buses using non-fossil fuels.



CARBON SAVING

TONNES PER YEAR



INDICATIVE COST / RESOURCE

£ > £10m

0.2

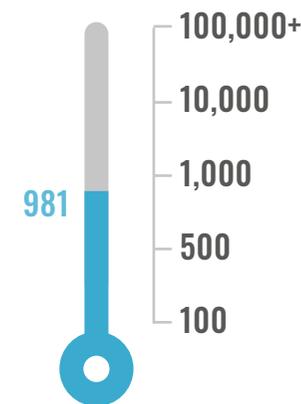


Ensure all public sector fleet vehicles across the city are ULEV / non-fossil fuel. Use licensing to require that Exeter's taxi and private hire companies transition their vehicles to ULEV / non-fossil fuels.



CARBON SAVING

TONNES PER YEAR



INDICATIVE COST / RESOURCE

£ > £2m

0.4



PRIORITY ACTIONS

Enable a shift to all private cars across the city being in the ULEV category.



Deliver a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging points (including on-street) to support transition to electric vehicles, with priority for shared vehicles.



Reduce business waste and where possible use residual business waste to support a circular economy (e.g. by providing source material for industries such as construction).

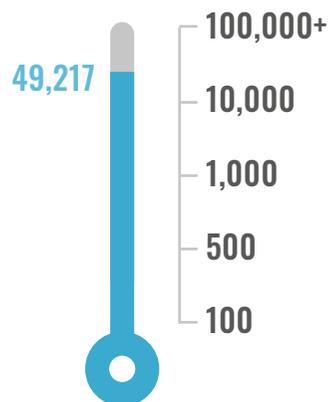


Halve the per capita food waste at retail and consumer level by encouraging sustainable food consumption and production.



CARBON SAVING

TONNES PER YEAR



INDICATIVE COST / RESOURCE

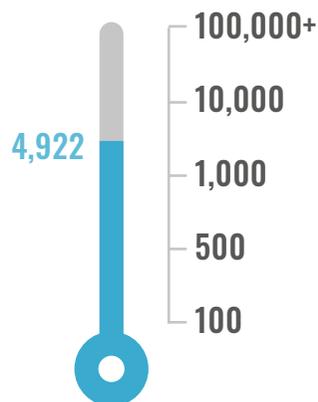
£ > £5m

1



CARBON SAVING

TONNES PER YEAR



INDICATIVE COST / RESOURCE

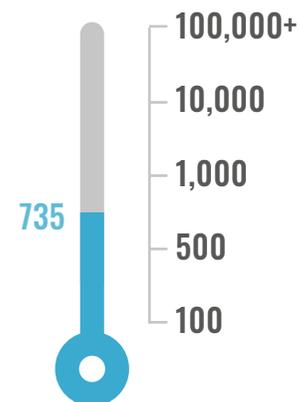
£ < £1m

0



CARBON SAVING

TONNES PER YEAR



INDICATIVE COST / RESOURCE

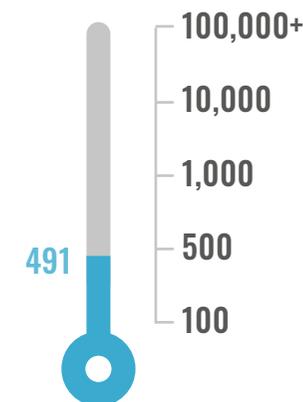
£ 0

0.5



CARBON SAVING

TONNES PER YEAR



INDICATIVE COST / RESOURCE

£ 0

1



GOAL 6

GREEN SPACES AND LOCAL PRODUCE



Nature's contribution is critically important to our livelihoods, economy, quality of life and wellbeing. Halting biodiversity loss, encouraging local food supplies and managing our water is vital to ensure that Exeter is a happy and healthy city. Measures to deliver a carbon-neutral city must seek to identify, preserve and monitor the most important habitats including areas of flower-rich grassland, broadleaved woodland, wetlands and hedgerows; especially in light of the planned growth of Exeter and the surrounding region.

A Net Zero Exeter will protect its natural ecosystems, favour local food supplies and sustainably manage its natural resources to combat the degradation of its local environment.

Related Plans and Policies:

- [Air Quality Action Plan](#)
- [Exeter Core Strategy - CP12 – SUDs](#)

“We need more trees in parks and more wildflower nature walks to encourage people to go outside”

Resident Voice

DIRECT ACTIONS

- 6.3** Initiate programmes and activities that enable residents and schools to adopt more sustainable and healthy food habits, including promoting a plant-based menu, and where used, meat and fish from sustainable sources.
- 6.7** Increase Exeter's tree canopy cover by a quarter, compared to 2018 figures.

ENABLING ACTIONS

- 6.1** Ensure that everyone living in the city has access to excellent quality green space within a 10-minute walk from their home.
- 6.2** Ensure all communities in Exeter have access to land that is reserved for local food production via allotments and city farms.
- 6.4** Provide access to sustainably produced local food to everyone in Exeter, at affordable prices, through a wide range of shops, markets, buying groups, online purchasing, community-supported agriculture etc.
- 6.5** Create a regional produce distribution hub to keep food miles low and make sustainable locally produced food accessible.
- 6.6** Protect Exeter against flash flooding in high-density and infrastructure critical areas (e.g. railway stations) by delivering sufficient sustainable urban drainage infrastructure.
- 6.8** Safeguard Exeter's wildlife, making it significantly more abundant, compared to 2018 figures.

INDICATORS

- 6.9** Exeter has been recognised as a sustainable food city, highlighting the success of the city in taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and how Exeter has achieved significant positive change on a range of key food issues.



CASE STUDY

OXYGEN HOUSE: SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY



Based at Exeter Business Park, the Oxygen House Group is a dynamic mix of established companies and start-ups focused on impact investment in data analytics, education, sustainable property development, renewable energy, and city planning, leveraging patient capital for a better-educated, carbon-neutral society.

As a Member of the Exeter City Futures Board their aim is to mobilise expertise to create a carbon-neutral society.



“As part of an internal project to look at saving and supporting biodiversity, Oxygen House have recently provided a home to two colonies of honeybees. With over 50,000 honeybees now calling Oxygen House ‘home’, we are looking to grow and support these colonies, whilst training our staff on how to look after them.

To start this project we undertook an ecological survey to track which species are present in the area, and we are looking to record these figures annually with the hope existing species will thrive, and new species will be discovered.

Staff have been encouraged to take part in our ‘Meet the Bees’ sessions, to learn and help take care of these fantastic creatures. We are looking to train a small group of staff so that they can pass on their knowledge to their colleagues and get them interested and excited about supporting biodiversity not just at work, but also at home. We hope that by learning about endangered species, our staff, and their friends, family and acquaintances, will in turn be more attune to wildlife and the natural environment around them and therefore play an active part in helping to save biodiversity.”



Tom Anning, Head of Facilities
at Oxygen House



GOAL 7

CLEAN AIR



Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer and particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions.

There is also often a strong correlation with equality issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas. In the UK, the annual health cost to society of the impacts of particulate matter alone is estimated at around £16 billion.

A Net Zero Exeter will have clean air through the reduction of pollutants from private cars and fossil fuels.

Related Plans and Policies:

- [Exeter City Council Taxi Licensing Policy](#)
- [Exeter City Council Electric Vehicle Policy](#)

DIRECT ACTIONS

- 7.1** Replace existing buses in Exeter's network with Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Buses using non-fossil fuels.
- 7.2** Ensure all public sector fleet vehicles across the city are ULEV / non-fossil fuel.
- 7.3** Use licensing to require that Exeter's taxi and private hire companies transition their vehicles to ULEV / non-fossil fuels.
- 7.4** Enable a shift to all private cars across the city being in the ULEV category.
- 7.5** Deliver a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging points (including on-street) to support transition to electric vehicles, with priority for shared vehicles.

ENABLING ACTIONS

- 7.6** Implement an education programme / awareness campaign about air quality within homes.
- 7.7** Embed health outcomes in all key city policies to assess current and future wellbeing.

INDICATORS

- 7.8** Air quality meets World Health Organisation (WHO) targets, at all locations across the city; with a comprehensive network of air quality sensors continuously monitoring air quality down to pm2.5.

"Behaviour is a barrier in business and cost leads to resistance to change unless people feel this is the right thing to do"

Business Voice



CASE STUDY

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING



Exeter residents are already leading the way to decarbonise vehicle travel. The city had the fastest growth in ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicles) ownership in the UK.

As of Q3 2019, 1,200 ULEVs were registered in Exeter, an increase of 157% over the past 12 months¹.

Devon County Council is working with private and public sector partners to build on this momentum and accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles. Over £5m has been secured to expand the provision of public electric vehicle charging points.

StreetHUBZ Project (delivered by Zapinamo)

Devon County Council has formed a consortium with Zapinamo and Gamma Energy to install and operate 150 charge points across Exeter over the next two years. The £4m Innovate UK project will increase the number of publicly accessible charge points by 400 per cent.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01

The dual StreetHUBZ charging units will provide 50 miles of travel after 30 minutes of charge.

Co Cars have also partnered with the project to deliver several electric car club vehicles to further support the wider uptake and use of electric vehicles.

Read more on the Devon County Council website [here](#).

Alongside this project, Devon County Council is progressing the Devon Low-carbon Energy & Transport Innovator (DELETTI) programme which is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The two-year £1.3m project will install 25 electric vehicle charge points for public use in key car parks across Devon and is set to be complete by December 2021.

*Alex Thomas, Transportation Planning
Officer, Devon County Council*



GOAL 8

EFFICIENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Waste is not just an environmental problem, contributing to air, land and water pollution, but low recycling rates are an economic loss as well.

By thinking differently about what we throw away (whether that's plastic, cardboard, food or even water and heat) we can generate many benefits to the city. These could include; reducing the number of heavy-load vehicles on our roads, alleviating congestion and improving air quality or creating partnerships between organisations to use waste material from one as power for the other. All of which would feed into our local, circular economy.

In a Net Zero Exeter, waste will be seen as a resource and recycled wherever possible; waste collection and deliveries will be made via operationally and energy-efficient means.

Related Plans and Policies:

- [Exeter City Council Recycling Plan 2016-2021](#)

DIRECT ACTIONS

- 8.4** Reduce business waste (including paper and single-use plastics) and where possible use residual business waste to support a circular economy, e.g. by providing source material for industries such as construction.
- 8.6** Halve the per capita food waste at retail and consumer level by encouraging sustainable food consumption and production.

ENABLING ACTIONS

- 8.1** Designate a 'zero-waste zone' to test and implement practices and policies that support our carbon-neutral ambition.
- 8.2** Deliver a city-wide programme to achieve zero residual household waste and by 2030, aiming for 95% of all household waste to be sent for reuse, recycling or composting.
- 8.3** Support zero-waste shops, making them commonplace on the high street.
- 8.5** Optimise waste collection for both business and household waste to minimise the number of vehicles within the city.

INDICATORS

- 8.7** Exeter is named as a single-use, plastic-free city.
- 8.8** Nobody in Exeter thinks that litter is a problem in their community.

"City wide zero waste education is difficult with a 48% population turnover"

Political Voice



CASE STUDY

PLASTIC FREE EXETER



Plastic Free Exeter is a community-led project made by a group of volunteers with the aim to spread awareness of the oceans plastics crisis. We aim to inspire individuals, businesses and community organisations to take action.

The group was set up in January 2018 under the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Communities initiative and since then we have hosted various events - from hosting flagship Exeter businesses such as the University of Exeter, Met Office and Oxygen House to inspire other local businesses with their plastic free initiatives, to litter picks on the Quay attended by 100+ members of the community.

We have supported over 30 businesses in Exeter to pledge action including construction workers, cafes, offices and sports grounds and we are also honoured to be supported by a number of valued allies within the local council, local governance and schools along with a social media following of 1500+. We are always keen to have new volunteers on the team.

We will soon be launching a website with shared examples from individuals and organisations in Exeter who have taken action to eliminate or at least reduce, reuse and/or recycle single-use plastic and are keen to promote all efforts via our social media pages. Find us on Facebook!



GOAL 9

REGENERATIVE DESIGN



For lasting net-zero transformation in our city, we need to embrace a culture of 'Regenerative Design' for our new developments.

This design philosophy recognises that we all have a responsibility to leave the planet in a better state than we found it. The guiding principles of regenerative design seek to create fair and resilient developments that consider materials reuse, carbon footprint, water stewardship and integrate the needs of society with the limitations of the planet.

In a Net Zero Exeter, new building developments will go further than net-zero impact, generating more energy than they consume and embedding principles of regenerative design.

Related Plans and Policies:

- [Exeter Local Plan](#)
- [Exeter Core Strategy - CP12 – SUDs](#)

DIRECT ACTIONS

All actions within this goal are enablers rather than directly contributing to significant carbon reduction.

ENABLING ACTIONS

- 9.1** Require that all new developments in Exeter are undertaken in a way that achieves the highest standards for wildlife, water and wellbeing, making a positive contribution to the local environment.
- 9.2** Refine local planning standards to ensure that new commercial developments embrace principles of regenerative design.
- 9.3** Implement systems in new commercial and public buildings to capture and reuse waste energy.
- 9.4** Ensure rainwater is recycled on all properties across the city.

INDICATORS

No specific indicators have been identified for this goal at this stage.

"We need to have real information about the carbon impact of technology. May lose public confidence if we invest in things that don't deliver"

Political Voice



CASE STUDY

DESIGNING THE UK'S FIRST PASSIVHAUS SWIMMING POOL



The UK's first Passivhaus swimming pool, currently being developed by Exeter City Council, seeks to halve energy use and create a chemical-free, healthy environment.

The bespoke commercial Passivhaus is expected to open to the public in the winter of 2021, forming part of a £300m city centre vision from the council.

Key design standards to be implemented:

- The first Passivhaus leisure centre in the UK
- Building Biology IBN best practice guidance in healthy design
- Best practice guidance developed under the Technology Strategy Board's (TSB) "Design 4 Future Climate" programme

Key benefits by implementing these strategies will be:

- 70% saving on energy costs when compared to a current good practice pool
- 50% reduction in water use
- Outstanding internal water and air quality
- Excellent daylight levels
- Healthy, uncompromised, uplifting, comfortable indoor climate
- Lower maintenance costs due to high quality building fabric
- Resilience against predicted future climate change



TIMELINE: NET ZERO EXETER 2030



6. GREEN SPACES AND LOCAL PRODUCE

	Short Term 2020 - 2022	Medium Term 2023 - 2026	Long Term 2027 - 2030
6.1 Everyone living in the city shall have access to excellent quality green space within a 10-minute walk from their home.			6.1
6.2 All communities in the city shall have access to land that is reserved for local food production via allotments and city farms.			6.2
6.3 Exeter shall have initiated programmes and activities that enable residents and schools to adopt more sustainable and healthy food habits; including promoting a plant-based menu, and where used, meat and fish are from sustainable sources.	6.3	6.3	6.3
6.4 Sustainably produced local food shall be accessible to all in Exeter, at affordable prices, through a wide range of shops, markets, buying groups, online purchasing, community-supported agriculture etc.		6.4	
6.5 A regional produce distribution hub shall be created to keep food miles low and make sustainable locally produced food accessible.		6.5	
6.6 Exeter's sustainable urban drainage infrastructure shall be sufficient to protect against flash flooding in high-density and infrastructure critical areas (e.g. railway stations).		6.6	
6.7 Exeter's tree canopy cover shall have been increased by a quarter since 2018.	6.7	6.7	6.7
6.8 Wildlife in Exeter shall be significantly more abundant than in 2018.	6.8	6.8	6.8
6.9 The city shall have been recognised as a sustainable food city, recognising the success of the city in taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and how Exeter has achieved significant positive change on a range of key food issues.		6.9	



7. CLEAN AIR

	Short Term 2020 - 2022	Medium Term 2023 - 2026	Long Term 2027 - 2030
7.1 Exeter's bus network shall comprise only Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Buses and use non-fossil fuels.		7.1	
7.2 All public sector fleet vehicles in Exeter shall be ULEV / non-fossil fuel.	7.2		
7.3 Exeter's taxi fleet and private hire fleet shall be in the ULEV category / non-fossil fuel.		7.3	
7.4 All private cars in Exeter shall be in the ULEV category.			7.4
7.5 Exeter shall have a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging points (including on-street) which supports transition to electric vehicles, with priority for shared vehicles.	7.5		
7.6 Exeter shall have implemented an education programme / awareness campaign about air quality within homes.	7.6	7.6	7.6
7.7 Health outcomes shall be embedded in all key city policies to assess current and future wellbeing.	7.7		
7.8 Exeter shall have achieved the World Health Organisation (WHO) targets for air quality, at all locations across the city, using a comprehensive network of air quality sensors across the city to continuously monitor air quality down to pm2.5.		7.8	

TIMELINE: NET ZERO EXETER 2030



8. EFFICIENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- 8.1** Exeter shall have established a ‘zero waste zone’ to test and implement practices and policies that support our carbon-neutral ambition.
- 8.2** Exeter shall have a city-wide programme in place to achieve zero residual household waste and by 2030, 95% of all household waste shall be sent for reuse, recycling or composting.
- 8.3** Zero waste shops shall be commonplace on the high street.
- 8.4** Business waste shall be reduced (including paper and single use plastics) and where possible residual waste used to support a circular economy by providing source material for industries such as construction.
- 8.5** Exeter shall have optimised waste collection for both business and household waste to minimise the number of vehicles within the city.
- 8.6** The city shall aim to halve per capita food waste at the retail and consumer level by encouraging sustainable food consumption and production.
- 8.7** Exeter shall be named as a single-use plastic free city.
- 8.8** Nobody in Exeter shall think that litter is a problem in their community.

Short Term 2020 - 2022	Medium Term 2023 - 2026	Long Term 2027 - 2030
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8.1

8.2

8.3

8.4

8.5

8.6

8.7

8.8



9. REGENERATIVE DESIGN

- 9.1** All new developments in Exeter shall achieve the highest standards of design for wildlife, water and wellbeing making a positive contribution to the local environment.
- 9.2** Local planning standards shall ensure that new commercial developments embrace the principles of regenerative design.
- 9.3** New commercial and public buildings shall have systems in place to capture and reuse waste energy.
- 9.4** Rainwater shall be recycled on all properties across the city.

Short Term 2020 - 2022	Medium Term 2023 - 2026	Long Term 2027 - 2030
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9.1

9.2

9.3

9.4

WHAT EXETER CITY COUNCIL CAN DO

SUSTAINABILITY

- Use planning provision to support communities in the city to access land for local food production via allotments and city farms. Ensure this is built into new developments [6.2]
- Invest in structures and mechanisms (including funding to access venues and resources) to support local co-operatives, groups, charities, social enterprises and start-ups that can help the city to collectively deliver the net-zero ambition [6.3, 10.5, 11.7, 11.8]
- Work with food suppliers / producers and private-sector investors to develop proposals for a regional produce distribution hub. Support with planning provision [6.5]
- Continue to invest in sustainable urban drainage infrastructure to protect high-density and infrastructure critical areas, ensure developers are working to the highest standards [6.6]
- Commit to a programme of tree protection and planting; requiring developers to appropriately establish trees and wildlife areas within new developments [6.7, 6.8, 9.1]
- Continue to manage council-owned land to increase biodiversity and restore habitats, including through reduced pesticide use and increased planting of wildflowers [6.8]
- Appoint an officer to engage with Devon County Council and bus operators to achieve transition to ULEV buses and ensure planning provision is made for the bus charging [7.1]
- Complete transition of all Council fleet vehicles to ULEV / non-fossil fuel [7.2]
- Use licensing to require all taxis within the city to be ULEV and ensuring planning provision is made for EV charging ranks [7.3]
- Investigate options to (including potential grant schemes) to help households and businesses upgrade to ULEVs. Appoint internal team or private sector partner to implement [7.4]
- Ensure that all council-owned car parks have electric vehicle charging points to support transition to electric vehicles, with priority for shared vehicles [7.5]
- Include a policy within the Local Plan that seeks to deliver electric charging points within all new developments [7.5]
- Implement an education programme / awareness campaign about air quality within homes [7.6]
- Work with campaign groups and private sector to design and install a comprehensive network of air quality sensors, continuously monitoring air quality down to pm2.5 and openly sharing data [7.8]
- Designate a 'zero-waste zone' to test and implement practices and policies that support our ambition to be net-zero carbon [8.1]
- Continue to invest in waste and recycling operations; optimising business and household waste collection, aiming to achieve zero residual household waste by 2030 [8.2, 8.5]
- Evaluate and implement options to encourage / incentivise shops on the high-street to be zero waste [8.3]
- Reduce council waste (aiming for zero to landfill) and ban the use of single-use plastic and unnecessary printing in council offices [8.4]
- Appoint an officer to engage with stakeholders on food waste and prepare a plan to achieve an award from Sustainable Food Cities [8.6]
- Work with partners to launch an accreditation scheme for socially responsible businesses in Exeter who are actively working towards being carbon-neutral [10.3]
- Continue to invest in Wellbeing Exeter and the Community Builders to ensure that every neighbourhood in Exeter has a strong and sustainable community anchor organisation [10.7]
- Continue to Chair the Board of Exeter City Futures CIC to ensure that there is a clear strategy and mechanism for organisations to access support and resources to develop and deliver their own net-zero carbon plans [10.8]
- Use membership of Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) to ensure that the Devon Climate Plan reflects the actions within the Net Zero Exeter 2030 Plan [10.8]

WHAT DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL CAN DO

As the transport authority Devon County Council will play an essential role in achieving a Net Zero Exeter and will work to accelerate measures which prioritise carbon reductions within the Transport Strategy Action Plan. Alongside these actions, Devon County are also developing their own plans to become a carbon-neutral council, as well as leading the Devon Climate Plan. In this section we concentrate only on actions that Devon County Council could do to directly enable Exeter to become net-zero carbon.

SUSTAINABILITY

- Work with bus operators to achieve transition to ULEV buses [7.1]
- Work with Exeter City Council to identify where Clean Air Zones may be appropriate within the city in line with the principles of DEFRA's Clean Air Zone Framework [7.4]
- Deliver a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging points to support transition to electric vehicles, with priority for shared vehicles [7.5]

WHAT ORGANISATIONS CAN DO

We understand that there are many different types and sizes of organisations in Exeter and that not all of the below actions can be achieved by every organisation. Many factors limit an organisation's ability to make change, for example if a building is controlled by a landlord.

However, this list is presented to help organisations consider, in light of their own circumstances, what role they might play in the city's collective effort to become carbon-neutral.

We are acutely aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has delivered a sudden blow to businesses, and many are struggling with loss of income and dealing with the rapid transition to remote-working arrangements. We present these actions sensitively so that when the nation, and the city of Exeter, can return to some sense of normality, we can take the learnings from our current challenging situation and turn them into positive action.

SUSTAINABILITY

- Take steps to increase biodiversity and restore habitats on land surrounding premises; including through reduced pesticide use and increased planting of wildflowers [\[6.8\]](#)
- Transition company owned / leased vehicles to ULEV / non-fossil fuel [\[7.2\]](#)
- Work with local authority and private sector providers to install electric vehicle charging points to support transition to electric vehicles, with priority for shared vehicles and those with limited mobility [\[7.5\]](#)
- Reduce business waste (including paper and single-use plastics) and where possible use residual business waste to support a circular economy, e.g. by providing source material for industries such as construction [\[8.4\]](#)
- Where applicable, organisations should take steps to significantly reduce the food waste they generate by encouraging sustainable food consumption and production [\[8.6\]](#)
- Ensure that new commercial developments achieve the highest standards of design for wildlife, water and wellbeing, making a positive contribution to the local environment [\[9.1\]](#)
- Ensure new commercial buildings have systems in place to capture and reuse waste energy [\[9.3\]](#)
- Install systems to recycle rainwater [\[9.4\]](#)

WHAT INDIVIDUALS CAN DO

We look to the government and the local authority for action, but tackling climate change is everyone's responsibility. Here are many things that individuals can do to play a role in the city's carbon ambition, because together small changes can make a huge impact. This isn't intended to be an instruction list but instead a response to regular questions we are asked around what individuals can do to help.

As with the list for businesses, we know that not everyone is able to do all the things we outline here, especially given the impact that COVID-19 is having on our lives. These present steps that can be considered and actioned if and when able to.

SUSTAINABILITY

- Adopt more sustainable and healthy food habits; including a plant-based diet, and where consumed, ensuring meat and fish are from sustainable sources [\[6.3\]](#)
- Buy sustainably and locally produced food where possible [\[6.4\]](#)
- Rewild your garden; plant trees and wildflowers to encourage and support local wildlife [\[6.8\]](#)
- When upgrading cars, consider one in the ULEV category [\[7.4\]](#)
- Reduce household waste; including food waste and single-use plastics [\[8.2, 8.6\]](#)
- Be part of a local circular economy by supporting pre-loved clothing stores and repair cafés [\[8.2\]](#)
- Collect and reuse rainwater for home and / or garden [\[9.4\]](#)



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