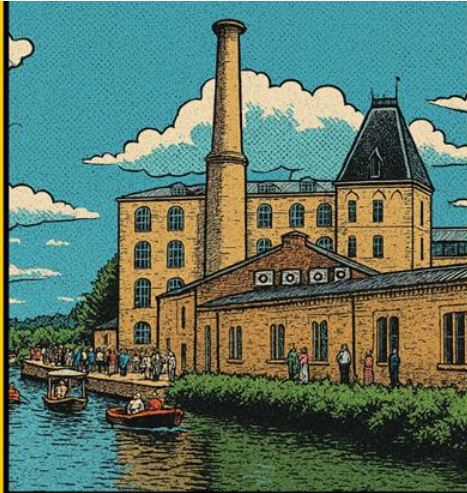


CLIMATE AND NATURE STRATEGY

OUR ROUTE TO NET ZERO



Local Strategic Partnership for Stroud

James Brain
Strategic Director for
Place

What outcomes are we trying to achieve?

Homes, schools,
and workplaces are
warm, healthy, and
energy efficient

Energy is
affordable and
fossil fuel-free

Walking, cycling,
and public
transport are easy
and accessible

Waste is reduced
through a thriving
circular economy

Everyone has
access to
sustainable,
affordable food

Local farmers are
supported to
restore nature

Communities are
prepared for
flooding, drought,
and heatwaves

New developments
support nature and
reduce pollution

Wildlife is thriving
across our towns,
villages, and
countryside

Why does the 2030 Strategy need updating?

No specific activity or focus on Adaptation

Nothing on Strategic Nature issues

No specific emissions targets & no focus on Scope 3

Not much on water, food, planning, decision making

New legislation and policy e.g. Renewables

OUR COUNCIL

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019, our reported council-wide emissions have been steadily decreasing by an average of 179 tCO₂e per year.

In 2024, the Council revised its carbon accounting methodology to include a broader and more accurate dataset. This revision increased our reported emissions, not due to a sudden increase in actual emissions, but rather the inclusion of previously unaccounted-for sources. This has increased our Scope 3 emissions in particular (emissions from the goods and services the Council procures to deliver our services, from our pensions investments and from major capital projects).

Fig. 3 below shows our emissions to date, including our revised methodology, and a projection for where we would be had we retained the previous methodology

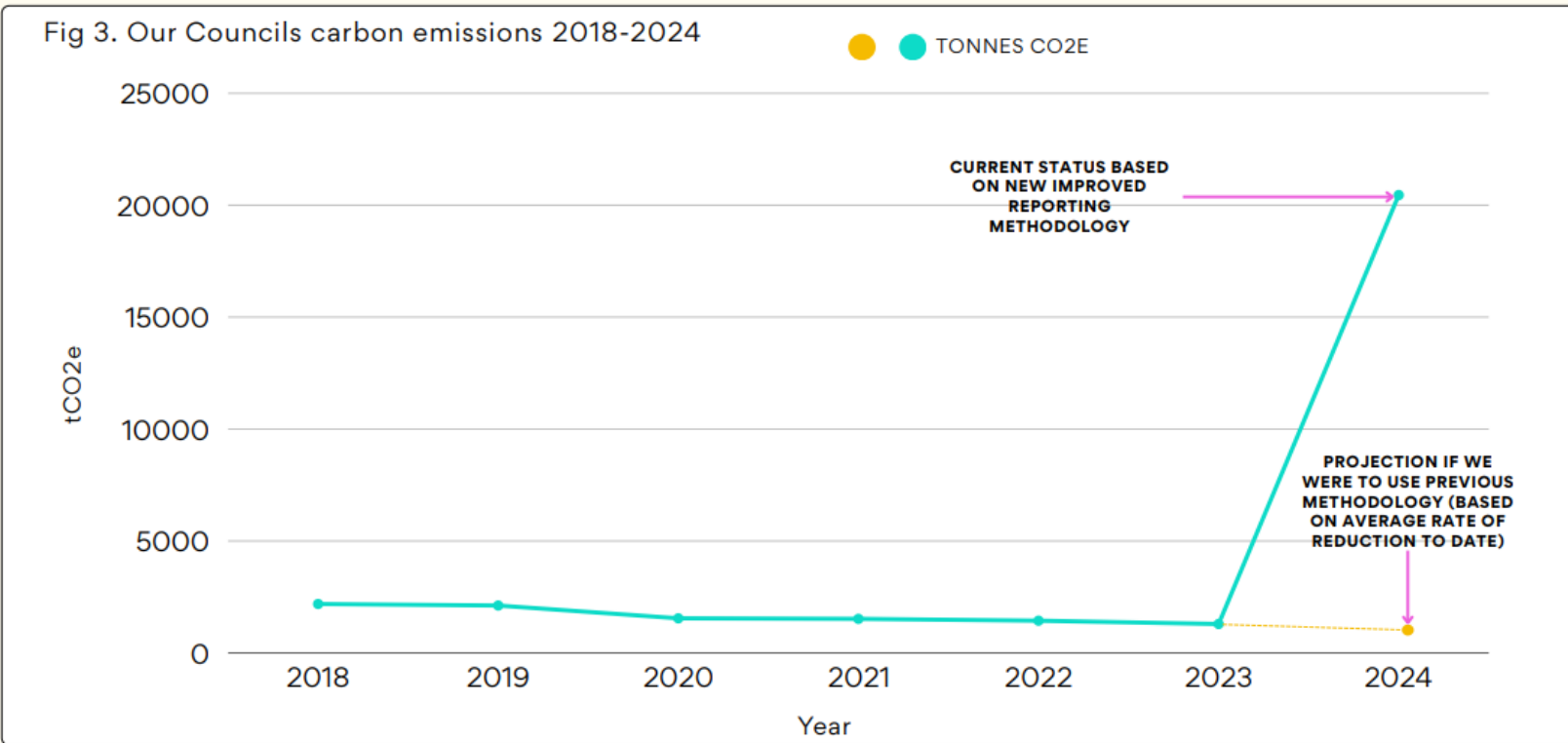
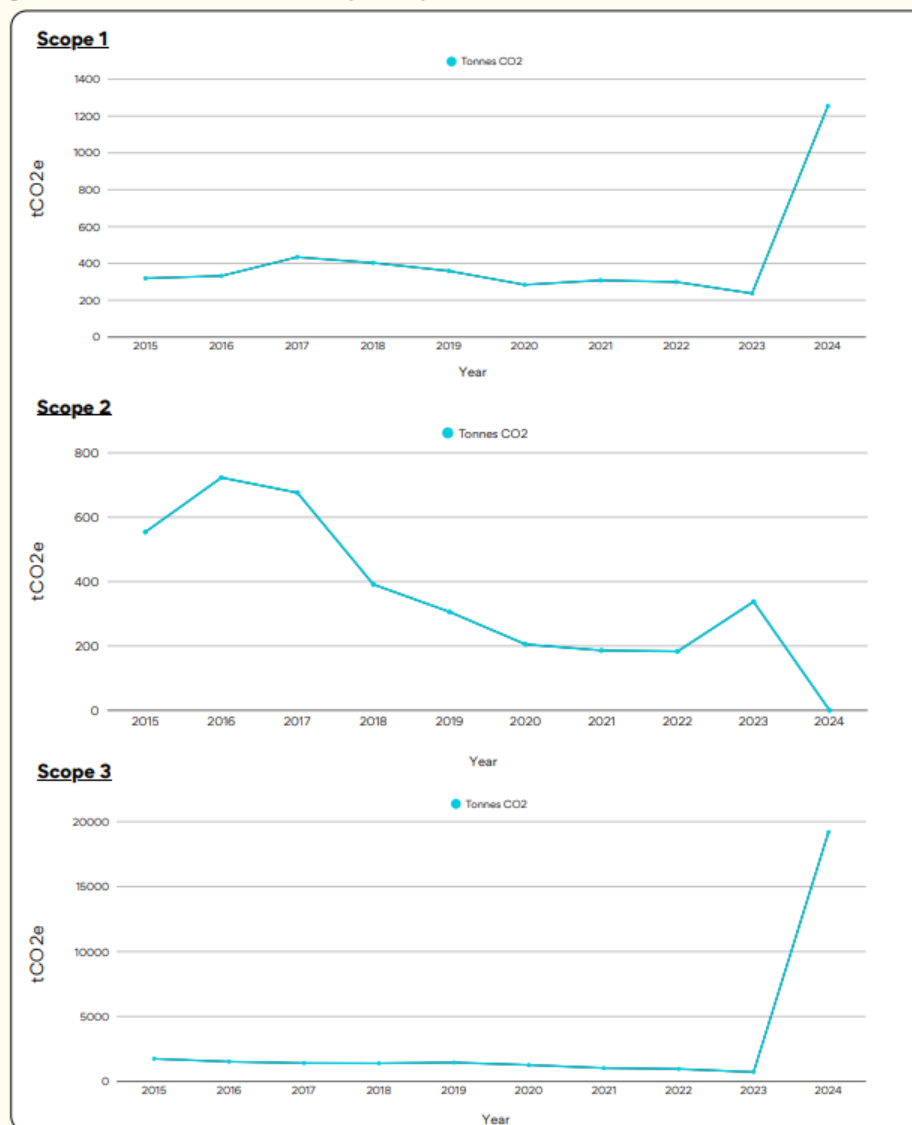


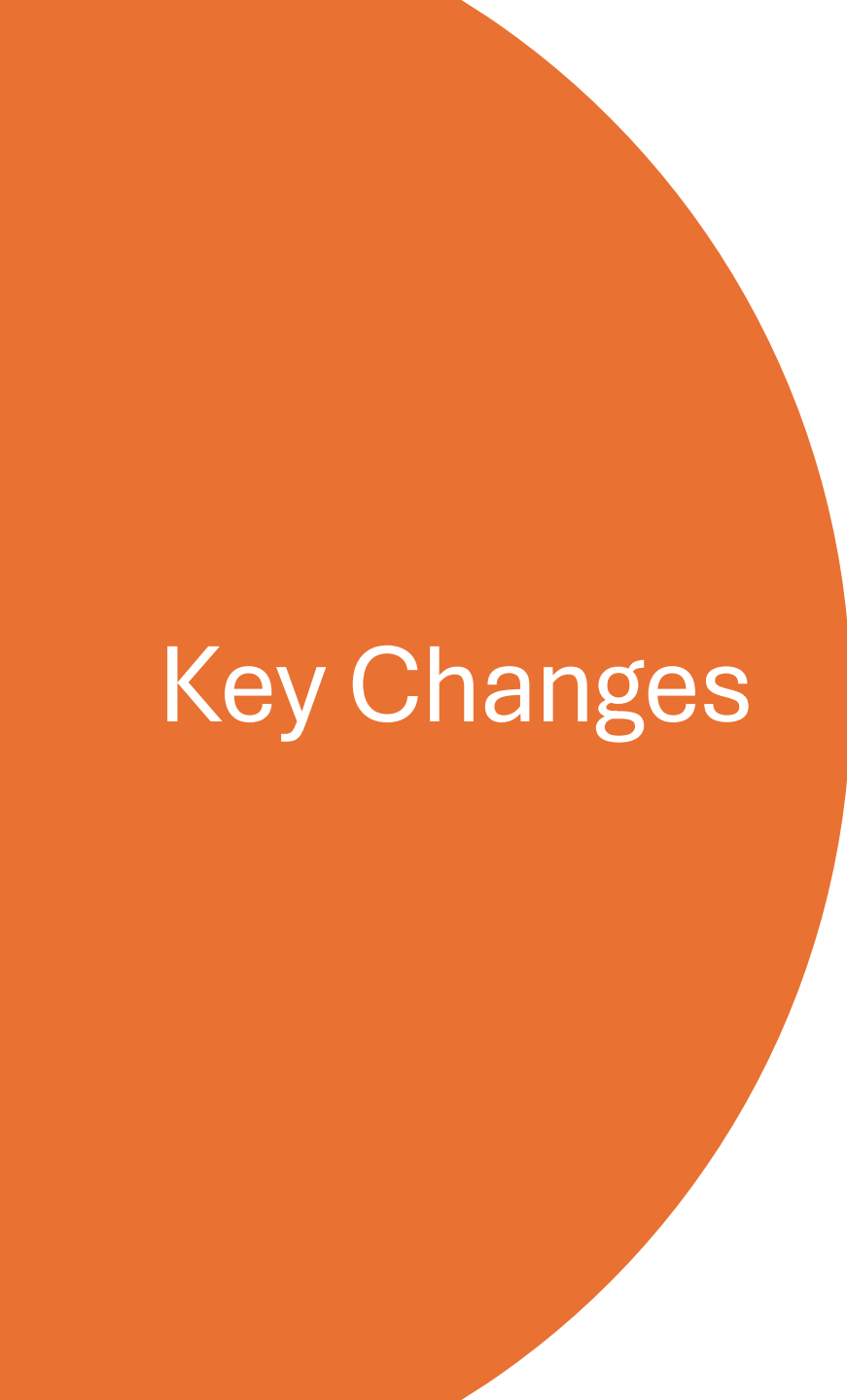
Fig 5. Council emissions by scope



Scope 1 has sharply increased because our waste fleet emissions are now accounted for under scope 1, and we have implemented more accurate calculations

Scope 2 is now accounted for as net zero because the Council's energy contract is based on a renewable energy tariff. We will report our consumption figures separately, but for the purposes of our emissions calculations, scope 2 emissions are zero

Scope 3 has seen the largest proportional increase as we now have data for more of our emissions, which gives us a far more accurate account. This is spend-based carbon accounting, and includes all procurement and pensions

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Key Changes

- **Name of the Strategy**
 - **Carbon Neutrality vs Net Zero**
 - **Additional Themes**
 - **New ambitions for emissions reduction, nature recovery and adaptation**
 - **Just transition**
 - **Nature based solutions**
 - **Strategic Objectives for each theme**
- 
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Carbon neutral vs Net Zero

Criteria:	Net Zero:	Carbon Neutral:
Scope of Emissions	All greenhouse gas emissions	scope 1 & 2 Carbon dioxide.
Absolute emissions reduction	Emissions reduction first	No requirement for emissions reduction
Offset strategy	Offset residual emissions only.	Can offset all emissions if desired
Operational Changes	Significant changes needed	Can be achieved with minor changes.
Alignment with Paris Goals	Fully aligned with 1.5C goal	Partially aligned
Transparency and accountability	High level of transparency and accountability	Lower levels of transparency and accountability.

STRATEGY REFRESH



1

Overarching Visions

- Enable and Encourage District to achieve Net Zero by 2050
- Net Zero Council Operations Scope 1 and 2 by 2030, and Scope 3 by 2050
- Nature Recovery 30/30
- Adaption plan to protect residents from 2 degrees warming

2

Themes

11 new themes

3

Strategic Objectives

3 or 4 for each theme, co-produced through staff engagement

4

Actions

Service area actions linking to Strategic objectives / likely duplicating council plan

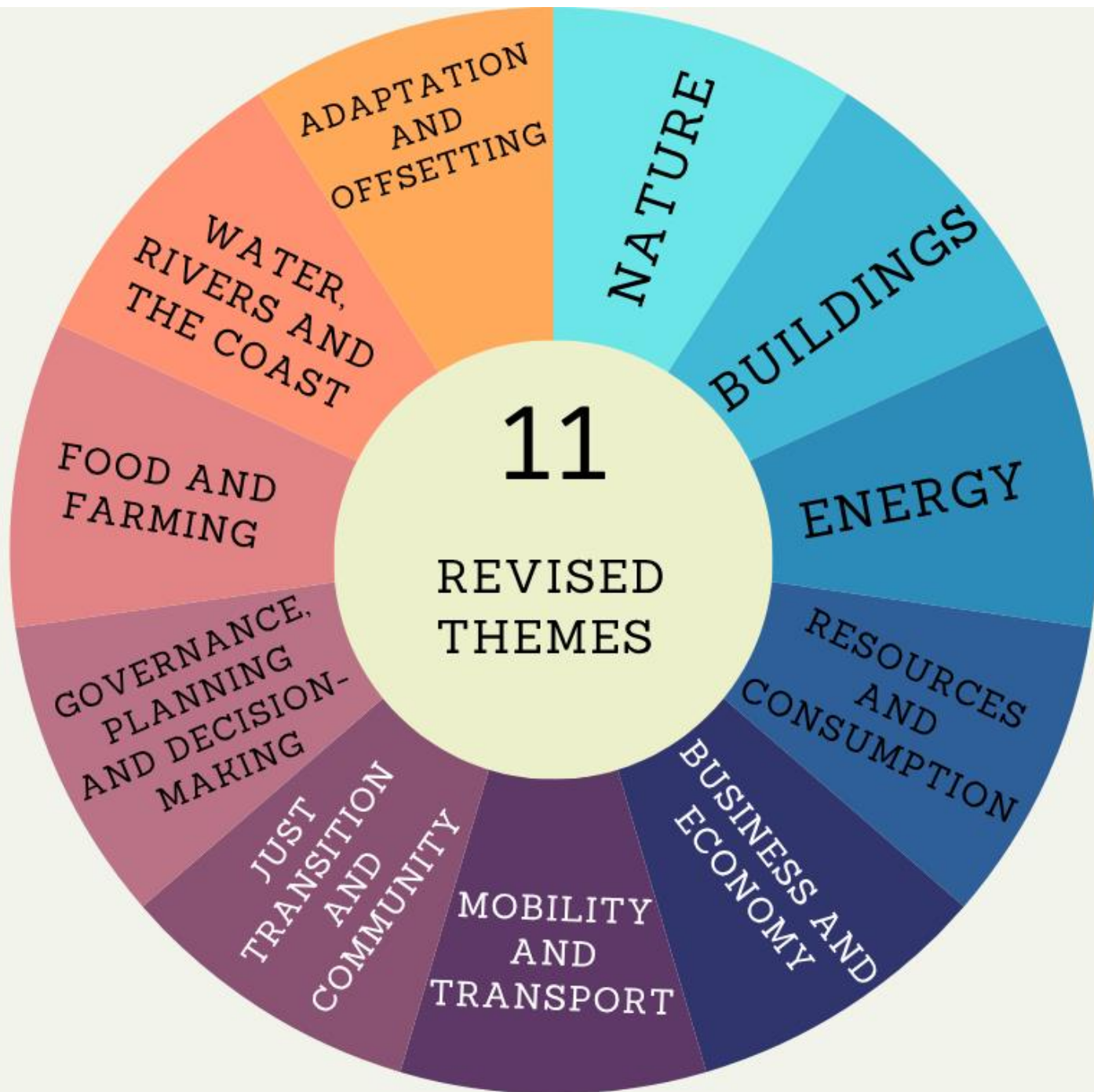
New Ambitions

SDC will reduce its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions to net zero by 2030 and will reduce its Scope 3 emissions to net zero by 2050 or sooner if possible.

SDC will enable and encourage the district to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner if possible.

SDC will work alongside landowners, partners and residents to support the ambition that at least 30% of all land and water in the district is managed for and supporting nature recovery by 2030.

By 2030, SDC will be implementing an adaptation plan to protect nature, residents, business and infrastructure from the impacts of 2 degrees Celsius warming and have assessed the risks from 4 degrees.



Our Principles: *Fairness & Just Transition*

- **Equity and Inclusion:** A just transition aims to protect vulnerable communities and workers who might be disproportionately affected by the move away from fossil fuels or the impacts of climate change.
-
- **Social Stability:** By addressing the social and economic impacts of the transition, we help to maintain social stability and prevent potential conflicts that could arise from abrupt changes in industries and employment
-
- **Political and Societal Acceptability:** Ensuring that the transition is just and equitable should increase political support for climate policies, making it easier to implement necessary changes and achieve climate goals
-
- **Holistic Approach:** It promotes a holistic approach to council policies with the aim to be less reliant on an exploitative relationship with nature.
-
- **Long-term Success:** A just transition will help build resilience and adaptability in communities, making the overall shift to a sustainable future more successful and enduring

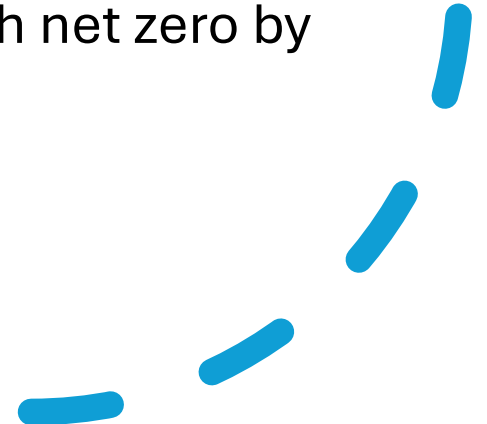
Our Principles: *Nature Based Solutions*

- Coastal wetlands such as saltmarsh can help store carbon and reduce erosion and flood risk.
- Wetlands and woodlands and restored floodplains act as natural sponges, absorbing and storing water during heavy rainfall, reducing the risk of flooding, pollution and drought. E.g. Stroud Valleys NFM, reintroduction of Beavers
- Increasing urban tree cover and green spaces can play a vital role in regulating temperature and reducing surface water flooding.
- Promoting sustainable land management practices and restoring habitats can improve soils, which support increased biodiversity and will also act as a sponge.

Strategic Objectives:

Reducing impacts

- RC01 The total residual waste collected per household will decrease by 5% by 2030
- MT03 - All Council and partner fleet vehicles powered by zero or low carbon technologies by 2030
- N05. Develop a method to measure and reduce embedded impacts to nature in procurement of goods and services
- BCE01 The Councils new economic development strategy will encourage and facilitate our local economy to achieve net zero by 2050
- GPD02 Key suppliers of goods, services and works to the council will have carbon reduction plans that include trajectory of reductions to reach net zero by 2050.



Strategic Objectives: Adaptation

- GPD04 Ensure that a new local development plan / spatial strategy for the district is consistent with achieving net zero by 2050; and provides the framework for adapting to 2 degrees warming
- B04. Council property, estate and car parks are adapted and resilient to the impacts of 2c warming by 2035 and we will understand the impacts of 4c warming.
- WRC03. Increase resilience to surface water flood risk caused by climate change in our towns and villages by implementing a programme of retrofitted sustainable drainage in the district's urban centres and communities.
- AD04. Maximise the use of the public estate to reduce risks by reducing areas of hard impermeable surface, retrofitting SuDs and using trees to create shade in urban areas.



Strategic Objectives:

Fairness & Just Transition

- JTC01 Establish a climate partnership to maximise the district's potential in climate action.
- JTC05 Our adaptation plan will prioritise the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable residents in our District.
- FF03. Increase the amount of food available to people that would otherwise be thrown away or wasted.
- E03 – Ensure all Council tenants, private homeowners and tenants, business and commercial property owners have the knowledge and support to reduce their energy use and costs by as much as possible.
- AD05 Support partners and affected communities to plan for and adapt to sea level rise along the Severn Estuary.

Strategic Objectives:

Circular & Green Economy

- BCE04 We will encourage and support growth in Stroud's nature-based economy
- BCE02 We will support work to increase green skills and capacity in the district's workforce, including skills needed to help nature recover and to help the district adapt to climate impacts.
- E02 – All public buildings, estate and car parks to be generating renewable energy to the maximum level feasible.
- FF01. Support farmers to transition to regenerative and nature friendly agriculture across the district.
- RC04 We will support a circular economy by promoting and encouraging reuse, refill and repair across the district and investigate the use of other regulatory and financial measures to achieve this.

Next Steps

Consultation closes on the 30th September

SDC will publish a summary of the comments received and the changes we are making to the draft

We will prepare a final version for approval at Full Council in December



climate@stroud.gov.uk

Please contact us with any questions or follow up points.

To respond to the survey and read the draft
strategy visit:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/climate-consult>