

# Denbighshire County Council's Climate & Nature Strategy 2021/22 - 2029/30 (Year 3 Updated)



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:

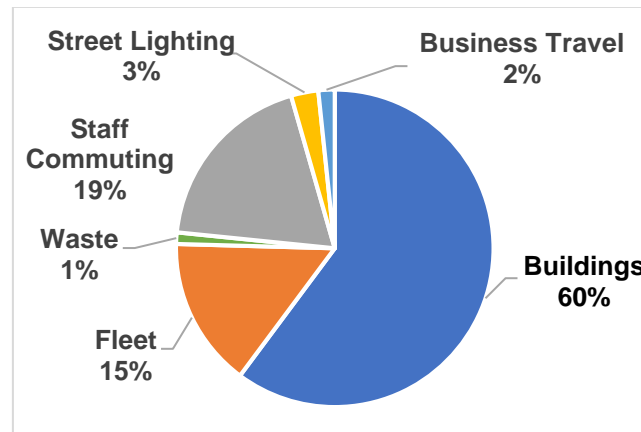
## Net Carbon Zero Council and a Nature Positive Council

The council's strategy is reviewed every 3 years and this document has been updated after the first of those reviews. It tells you more about the two aims and the tasks we are going to try to deliver to achieve our 2030 goals.

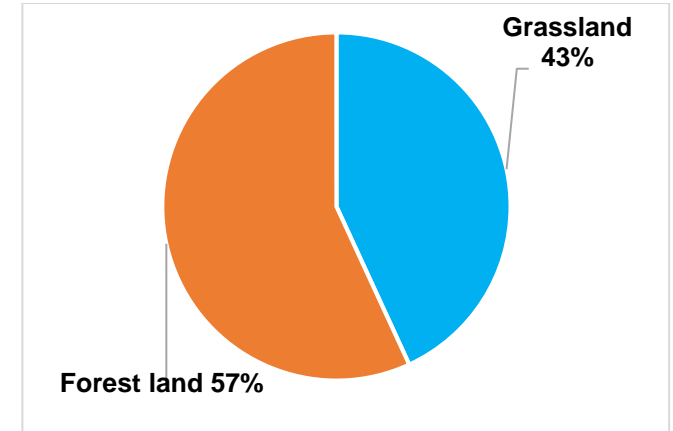
The Council wants to become net carbon zero by 2030 and improve local spaces for nature's recovery and community benefit. This means that the total carbon created by the Council minus the total carbon absorbed from Council owned land needs to equal zero by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2030.

The Council's Net Carbon Zero position in 2019/20 was +16,448 tCO<sub>2</sub>e and is +15,091 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022/23.

The charts below show where the Council's Carbon emissions come from and where it is absorbed (updated for 2022/23).



**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

## How will nature recovery be achieved?

### 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, and the changes made to this new strategy, 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. Increasing the scope of our work to include helping to support reducing carbon emissions and increasing carbon absorption across Denbighshire
- Working to make sure we are resilient and ready for the effects of climate change across Denbighshire



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:

- Have wildflowers grow in school grounds and Council car parks
- Avoid cutting grass in certain areas
- Create a new 70-acre nature reserve in St Asaph, restoring habitats and supporting rare and important wildlife.
- Reintroduce species which have previously been lost, as habitat restoration works allow.
- 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
- Increasing our scope to support nature recovery across Denbighshire

Many people have contributed to these ideas, through different workshops and meetings as part of this 2023/24 review.



Some of these things will take a long time to be put into place. We are currently in year 4 of our 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 Greener Denbighshire Board which includes Councillors, Heads of Service and a Director of Denbighshire County Council. The 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.