



## Well-being Objective 10 Healthy & Safe Environment - Look after the environment now and in the future

### We have significant Environmental challenges to address

- ! A big challenge will be delivering against the decarbonisation priorities. We'll need to significantly increase future carbon savings to meet the Council's commitment to become a Net Zero Carbon (NZC) local authority by 2030.
- Our Planning Service had significant and long-standing performance issues and an external audit brought this to the fore and in year the Council has intervened and made significant progress.
- ! Maximising recycling has been difficult following a fire at our main materials recovery facility and with COVID-19 relaxation of black bag rules. We have a new recycling contamination action plan and a new waste strategy which will help us deliver improved performance.
- Compared to previous years, 2021/22 has not seen as many significant flooding events resulting in high numbers of Carmarthenshire businesses and residents affected by internal flooding.

### Why this Well-being Objective is important

- ⊙ A biodiverse natural environment is good for well-being, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supporting social, economic and ecological resilience.
- ⊙ A good planning service is essential to deliver the Council's ambitions.
- ⊙ We have declared a climate emergency as a Council and were the first in Wales to have published our [Route Towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030](#).



### How well are we doing (and how do we know)? 📄 Sources of evidence

#### Success Measures / Explaining the Results



We generated  
1,059,364 kWh of  
renewable energy  
during 2020/21  
(increased from 997,480 kWh in  
the previous year)



The Council's Energy  
Consumption  
(kWh) decreased  
by **9.5%**  
from 70,332,391 kWh in 2019/20  
to 63,684,340 kWh in 2020/21



Our recycle rate is  
**61.68 %**  
(This is a decrease  
on the previous  
year's figure of 62.20%.)

- ⊙ In 2020/21, our overall Energy Consumption reduced by 9.5% compared to 2019/20, with all four areas showing a reduction in both consumption and carbon emissions i.e., Non-Domestic Buildings; Street Lighting; Fleet Mileage; and Business Mileage.

Whilst these reductions are in part attributable to the impact of COVID-19, the continuation of staff home working, together with changes in working practices such as an increased use of video conference facilities and online communication, should see a lasting reduction in carbon emissions in the longer term.

- ⊙ A fire at the Nantycaws Materials Recycling Facility this has meant that achieving the 64% recycling rate target for the 2021/22 financial year has not been possible. This is due to the restrictions and difficult market position facing CWM Environmental and the Council following the fire and continuing to have to rely on third party facilities throughout the year. This remains the case going into 2022/23, however we do have specific plans for improving recycling capture and quality going forward.

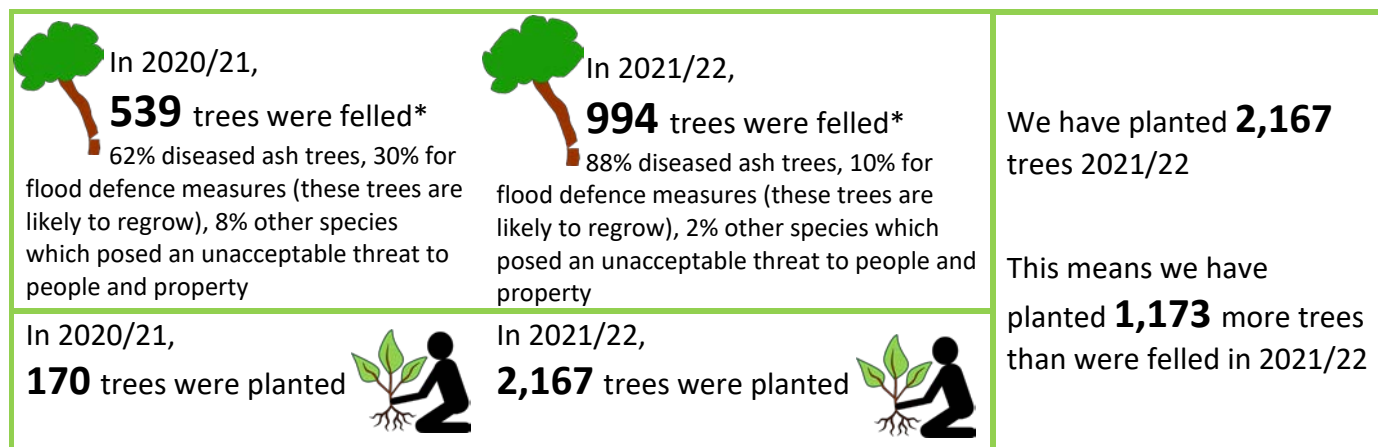
## Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

### Address requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

#### ⦿ Declaration of Nature Emergency:

! A nature emergency has been declared by Welsh Government and we are setting up a Climate Change and Nature Emergency Advisory Panel to address this issue. We are delivering several projects to ensure nature recovery:

- We have improved heath and bog habitats at Figyn, Mynydd Figyn and Mynydd Staffalu Carn.
- Restored a pond at Llyn Llech Owain Country Park that can now be used for pond dipping.
- Enabled the Wildlife Trust to train staff and use tracking tunnels for monitoring dormice.
- Purchased grass cutting equipment to experiment with pollinator friendly practices.




\*Trees are being felled due to ash die back, storm damage, safety, and some development requirements

#### ⦿ Phosphate in Rivers

! New evidence about the damaging effects of phosphates to water ecosystems and species has resulted in the publishing of new targets by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to reduce river phosphate levels in special areas of conservation (SAC) across Wales. We have implemented several positive interventions, some of which are noted below:

- Developing and implementing the first and only Nutrient Calculator in Wales.
- Published a [phosphate webpage](#) which has been replicated by other authorities.

### Deliver planning according to Planning (Wales) Act 2015

	<p>Audit Wales published the '<a href="#">Planning Service Review</a>' report in July 2021 that contained 17 recommendations and stated that:</p>
	<p><i>"Significant and long-standing performance issues in the planning service need to be urgently addressed to help support delivery of the Council's ambitions".</i></p> <p><b>A range of interventions were implemented to focus on delivering the recommendations and a turnaround in performance has been achieved.</b></p>


⦿ There has been significant improvement on the determination of planning applications during the year. This is demonstrated by the following End of Year 2021/22 results:

	2020/21	2021/22	Improved by
% applications determined in time (PAM/018)	<b>60.3%</b> (735 of 1,219)	<b>80.8%</b> (1,536 of 1,900)	<b>20.5%</b>
% of planning appeals dismissed (PAM/019)	<b>53.8%</b> (7 of 13)	<b>76.5%</b> (13 of 17)	<b>22.7%</b>

The approval of major planning applications has a significant impact on job creation and the improvements made in planning during 2021/22 has resulted in the creation of 539 full-time and 52 part-time jobs (including 300 locating with the County) from the 95 applications approved. (See more WBO5 – Create More Jobs and Growth).

### Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Local Authority by 2030

There have been 2 Internal Audits completed on NZC arrangements and their audit ratings were High.


	<b>Internal Audit</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Good Systems in Place</b>	<b>Good Governance</b>
		High	✓	✓
		Acceptable		
		Low		

- Our Re:Fit Cymru Phase 1 project has now been completed. This comprised various energy conservation measures, including solar PV installations, at 29 of our non-domestic buildings including schools. Phase 1 is projected to save £315,726 | 675 tCO2e each year.


### Working towards Net Zero Carbon we are trying to reduce energy consumption and emissions:

① Annual Report Link	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21 vs 2021/22 % change
<b>Non-Domestic Buildings</b>				
Consumption (kWh)	66,407,242	59,808,497	Data not available at time of publication	Data not available at time of publication
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	14,443	12,581	Data not available at time of publication	Data not available at time of publication
<b>Street Lighting</b>				
Consumption (kWh)	3,925,149	3,875,843	3,599,124	7%
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	1,088	981	832	15%
Continued reduction in annual electricity consumption (kWh) in 2021/22. Virtually 100% of all CCC managed street lighting has now been converted to LED. Future savings will plateau until more energy efficient technologies become available and installed.				
<b>Fleet Mileage</b>				
Mileage (Miles)	5,154,668	4,427,070	4,262,681	3.7%
Diesel Used (Litres)	1,419,336	1,267,437	1,320,551	4.2%
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	3,814	3,407	3,573	4.9%
Whilst total mileage has marginally reduced, there was a marginal increase in the total diesel consumed which resulted in higher emissions in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. [Note: The BEIS calculation is a very blunt instrument that defaults to a national average for fleet vehicles. This could be refined by calculating actual carbon emissions for each individual CCC vehicle. I understand that a Fleet Review is to be completed by September 2022 – this which inevitably result in the procurement of more electric / ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) which will significantly reduce carbon emissions]				
<b>Business Mileage</b>				
Mileage (Miles)	3,971,513	2,251,986	2,511,091	11.5%
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	1,132	621	693	11.6%
There was a very significant reduction in emissions in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20 (-45%). This was largely attributable to the impact of COVID-19 resulting in far greater homeworking and the use of ICT technology which reduced the need for travel. Whilst there has been a marginal increase in mileage and associated carbon emissions in 2021/22, emissions have not returned to the pre COVID-19 levels. [Note: The BEIS calculation is a very blunt instrument that defaults to a national average for fleet vehicles. This could be refined by calculating actual carbon emissions for each individual vehicle].				
<b>Total</b>				
Consumption (kWh)	70,332,391	63,684,340	Data not available at time of publication	Data not available at time of publication
Mileage (Miles)	9,126,181	6,679,056	Data not available at time of publication	Data not available at time of publication
Carbon Footprint (tCO2e)	20,477	17,590	Data not available at time of publication	Data not available at time of publication


- As well as procuring all its electricity from renewable energy sources, the Council has made other efforts to reduce carbon emissions including converting street lights to low energy LED and upgrading its fleet to include electric cars and more energy efficient refuse and gritting vehicles.

	<p><a href="#">Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030</a>: July 2022</p> <p>In the report, the Auditor General makes the following five calls for action from public bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen your leadership and demonstrate your collective responsibility through effective collaboration;</li> <li>Clarify your strategic direction and increase your pace of implementation;</li> <li>Get to grips with the finances you need;</li> <li>Know your skills gaps and increase your capacity; and</li> <li>Improve data quality and monitoring to support your decision making</li> </ul>
---	--

**NB:** Early feedback shows that we are one of only a few authorities in Wales to have Net Zero Carbon plans in place

<p><b>Prosiect Zero Sir Gâr 2030:</b> Carmarthenshire County Council has engaged thousands of children through this initiative - a targeted effort to bring people together to support the Council’s journey towards becoming net carbon zero by 2030. Primary school children across the county have been challenged to become ‘<a href="#">Prosiect Zero Super Heroes</a>’, sharing their super powers and ideas to help Carmarthenshire tackle climate change.</p>	
---	--


### Flood & Water Management Act & Shoreline Management Plan

<p><b>Internal Audit</b></p> 	<p><b>Flood Defence (May 2021)</b></p> <p>The review sought to provide assurance that the Authority is managing flood risk in accordance with the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the Flood Risk Management Plan.</p>	<p><b>Assurance Rating:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>High</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Acceptable</b></td></tr> <tr><td>Low</td></tr> </table> <p><i>Actions being tracked to improve rating</i></p>	High	<b>Acceptable</b>	Low
High					
<b>Acceptable</b>					
Low					

- Compared to previous years, 2021/22 has not seen as many significant flooding events resulting in high numbers of Carmarthenshire businesses and residents affected by internal flooding. That said, the winter of 2021/22 did result in significant flooding in places in October; which was followed up with Storms Arwen and Barra in late November and early December. The Council does not have responsibility for main river flooding, that rests with Natural Resources Wales.
  - Our flood incident management work has developed in 2021 and we are utilising more technology to advise on flood risk and prioritise resources.
  - Following the flooding events in Kidwelly in October 2021, we undertook a formal investigation and have successfully applied for Welsh Government grant funding to make improvements.
  - We have met with community leaders regarding current flood risk and future capital schemes. We continue to work collaboratively with partners, including Natural Resources Wales on the evolution of flood risk management interventions where appropriate.
  - The move from traditional sea defence to coastal adaption will be key in the future. In addition, all our coastal assets were inspected, and defects actioned accordingly.

- In 2021/22, following the development of business cases, we received £650,000 in revenue and capital grants from Welsh Government. Furthermore, we have received grants for developing feasibility work and business cases for various specific flood mitigation works worth circa £245,000.
- This year we have managed a £2.5 million works programme across 15 mitigation projects.

### Towards Zero Waste strategy

	<p>During the last year Audit Wales undertook a <a href="#">review of the Waste Services</a>, it's principal finding was that: "The Council has met its statutory recycling targets and has recently drafted a strategy to make its waste service more sustainable, but it has not finalised the strategy or got a clear plan for dealing with the large number of fly-tipping incidents in the county"</p> <p><b>An action plan to fully address the report's recommendations has been implemented.</b></p>
---	--

- We have finalised our [Waste Strategy](#). This strategy sets out the considerations and measures proposed for future improvement of the waste service to achieve 70% recycling by 2024/25 and the expected 80% target by 2030.
- Our consultation and engagement on the Future Waste Strategy had over 4,000 responses and directly shaped our future service design. We have listened to that feedback, and from next year we will be carrying out separate collections of nappies and glass so that there is less waste to put in black bags.

### Local Environment Quality (LEQ)

- We have published a [LEQ Management Plan 2022-2026](#) which details the direction of the Council's litter management within the county for the next 4 years.
- We have responded to 5,026 fly tipping requests with an average response for clearance within 2.4 days. This response rate has returned to pre pandemic rates.
- We have worked with our volunteers from communities throughout Carmarthenshire to tackle Local Environment Quality (LEQ) issues. In the past twelve months, the Council, community groups, schools and partners have collected over 2,000 bags of littered and fly-tipped waste from throughout the County. This fantastic result has been achieved with help from almost 1,400 volunteers working hard to help keep Carmarthenshire clean, with almost 350 litter picks organised in partnership with us.



Cleanliness Performance Data	2020/21	2021/22	Comment
<b>Keep Wales Tidy Cleanliness Index for Highways</b> <i>(STS/005a)</i>	80.7% <i>(740.5/918)</i>	76.8% <i>(903.5/1,176)</i>	! These measures are on target but <u>have declined on the previous year</u> . The number of inspections undertaken this year are back to pre-COVID numbers and we have exceeded the number of inspections and plot hotspot areas.
<b>We will maintain a high level of streets that are clean</b> <i>(PAM/010)</i>	98.1% <i>(177/181)</i>	94.1% <i>(369/392)</i> <small>This result exceeds the National Target of 92%</small>	

## SIOP ETO

The Eto shop opened in February 2022 and has a real buzz about it. Popular with locals and visitors alike it is an Aladdin's cave of all sorts of affordable domestic goods ranging from, sports equipment, pictures, ornaments and much, much more. These are all items that would have otherwise been thrown away. Now though they are brought back to life and benefiting others.



This project is the start of a long-term ambition for the Council to ensure that as much of these items can be reused to benefit the environment and reduce the need to create further products. Preventing the waste entering the waste stream through repair and reuse is the overall goal so that local people can benefit from the project.

Since opening in late February over 750 items have found new homes, this equates to just under six tonnes of waste items being reused rather than being landfilled. Staff at the shop are continuously helping shoppers to look for what they need and note down items of interest or would like to see stocked in the shop.

Working in partnership with CWM Environmental on this project has allowed for a collaborative approach with residents to provide goods which they will benefit from buying. The shop has a community feel and our aim is to connect with the people of Llanelli town and the County to make this project meet their needs and ensure they are able to benefit from it.



## What and how we can do better

### Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
<b>A</b>	<b>Address requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016</b>		
1	To advise and shape our response to the Nature Emergency declaration by Welsh Government in June 2021 <a href="#">Action ID 15665</a>	March 2023	Rosie Carmichael
2	Three new areas of woodland are being established for the creation of new wildlife habitat that will contribute towards nature recovery, sequestration of carbon, creating areas for nature close to where people live and work. <a href="#">Action ID 15711</a>	March 2023	Rosie Carmichael
3	To continue to work with partners to meet the damaging challenge of Phosphate in Rivers. <a href="#">Action ID 15681</a>	March 2023	Ian Llewellyn
<b>B</b>	<b>Deliver planning according to Planning (Wales) Act 2015</b>		
1	To implement the adopted LDP and monitor its success or otherwise against its identified delivery measures ensuring policies, procedures and practices are being adhered to. <a href="#">Action ID 15674</a>	March 2023	Ian Llewellyn
2	Ensure determination of all Planning Applications within agreed Welsh Government timescales. <a href="#">Measure PAM018</a>	March 2023	Hugh Towns
3	To learn the lessons from the Planning Audit Wales report and the successful intervention approach taken and use as a blueprint if needed in future. <a href="#">Action ID 15682 (relates to audit report only)</a>	March 2023	Rhodri Griffiths

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
<b>C</b>	<b>Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030</b>		
1	The development of a strategic regional Eco- Park. <b>Action ID 15662</b>	March 2023	Dan John
2	To produce and manage the implementation of the Authorities Net Zero Carbon Plan to achieve the Council's commitment to become a Net Zero Carbon Plan local authority by 2030. <b>Action ID 15699 + 15705</b>	March 2023	Kendal Davies
<b>D</b>	<b>Flood &amp; Water Management Act &amp; Shoreline Management Plan</b>		
1	Manage and mitigate flood risk within our communities. <b>Action ID 15993</b>	Oct 2024	Ben Kathrens
<b>E</b>	<b>Towards Zero Waste strategy</b>		
1	Maintain, enhance, and improve the quality of the built and natural environment through the reduction of litter pollution, thereby creating a healthy and safe environment. <b>Action ID 15689</b>	Sep 2022	Geinor Lewis
2	Improve the way we manage waste in Carmarthenshire, increasing the waste reused, recycled or composted. Delivering against national beyond recycling strategy. <b>Measure PAM030</b>	March 2024	Dan John



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective