

District Councillor report – September 2022

Annual Review of Mendip District Council's Carbon Management Plan: more must be done to tackle climate change

The annual review of the Council's Carbon Management Plan shows positive progress has been made to tackle climate change but it also highlights the need for collective action by all, including government, to make a real difference.

The Council adopted its Carbon Management Plan in August 2021, listing a number of targets to enable it to achieve its climate and ecological commitments by 2030.

The latest annual report show positive progress has been made including increased recycling rates (over 52% of Somerset's household waste was recycled in 2019/20) and increased tree canopy cover in Mendip – an increase of an estimated 1.53% since 2019. Plus, Mendip have begun installing electric vehicle charging points in selected Council-owned car parks across the district's five major settlements.

Other initiatives launched by the District Council include a £50,000 Climate and Ecological Emergency Fund which has supported 16 local projects, as well as hosting sustainable land management webinars, in partnership with *The Farm Carbon Toolkit*, throughout July and August 2022.

However, the Plan highlights areas for improvement, including acknowledging the slow take-up of renewable energy. For example, the target for onshore wind generation is 77.3MW by 2030 whilst currently the district has 3.636MW installed.

The report shows that only 885 Mendip households have adopted retrofitting measures to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. More support is needed from government-funded grant schemes for the Council to reach its 2030 target of 15,400 retrofitted properties.

The Plan also recognises that without national government assistance, Mendip can only reduce its district emissions by a maximum of 37.5% against the 2017 baseline. National government assistance is required to achieve net zero.

For more information on the Council's climate change work,

visit: www.mendip.gov.uk/climatechange

Read the Carbon Management Plan

here: www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10314/Carbon-Pathway-Emissions-Strategy

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