

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Communities Scrutiny Committee
MEETING DATE	30 November 2023
TITLE	Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23
AUTHOR	Dafydd Gibbard, Chief Executive
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader
PURPOSE	Update on progress made since adoption of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan in March 2022

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council adopted the [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#) following a Cabinet meeting on 8 March 2022. The ambition of the plan is "Gwynedd Council will be net zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030." "Responding to the climate change crisis" is also one of the Council's 8 Improvement Priorities within [The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 \(llyw.cymru\)](#).
- 1.2 The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (the Plan) outlines how we as a Council will adapt the way we work and deliver services to reduce our carbon emissions and increase carbon absorption capacity. It provides examples of projects we will be pursuing, their outline costs and the timeframe to deliver.
- 1.3 The Plan became effective in April 2022 and it is therefore timely to present a Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23 (Annual Report) which takes stock of what has been achieved during the first year of the scheme's existence. The Annual Report can be found in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 The Annual Report will be presented to a meeting of Cabinet on 19th December, so the Communities Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to offer any comments on the contents of the report for Cabinet consideration.

2. UPDATE

- 2.1 The 'Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23' provides a summary of the work undertaken during the first year of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan's existence. Below is a summary of the work that has continued between April and October 2023.

2.2 Buildings and Energy –

Consultants have been appointed to the Solar Panels Phase 4 project and are currently assessing the designs and installations of the buildings, along with possibilities for connecting to the national grid.

We have researched a new method of powering LED lighting over the web, but the costs were prohibitively expensive if retrofitting buildings. It can be, though, a technology to be used in buildings that will be built from scratch. A business plan is currently being developed to replace LED lights and power them through a traditional wiring system.

A grant application is being submitted to the Welsh Government for a feasibility study to install heat pumps at 3 sites.

2.3 Mobility and Transport -

As part of the Solar Panels Phase 4 project, some of our buildings are being assessed for solar panel electricity to feed charging points for the use of our fleet or staff and member cars. The Communities Scrutiny Committee received an update of the situation to install charging points for public use at its meeting on 5 October 2023 - [Introducing Public Charging Points for Electric Vehicles](#)

A grant was received from the Welsh Government Energy Service to contribute towards the purchase of electric cars for the Council's fleet, and at the end of October we had 17 electric vehicles. We are waiting for 44 more cars and small vans that have been ordered to be delivered.

2.4 Training –

50 staff and Council members have received Carbon Literacy training, and a training e-module is currently being developed for the use of all staff and Council members.

2.5 Finance -

Our current projects have been funded from a variety of sources - Council Funds; Welsh Government grants (eg. Energy Service, Very Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund), Biodiversity Partnership Wales.

Additional funds we are investigating for funding future work – Welsh Government (Low Carbon Heat Grant) Sport Wales, Westminster Government (ORCS – street charging)

2.6 The Future / Phase 2 -

In the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan we note that we will wait to produce a Local Flood Strategy in 2023/24 before seeing how to bring projects and targets to reduce the impact of climate change into the Plan. As the Local Flood Strategy is also being discussed at this meeting on 30 November we will reflect on that discussion going forward.

Our current focus remains on planning and funding projects that are going to reduce carbon emissions for which the Council is responsible. However, a number of our projects are being developed in collaboration with external partners, or contributing to reducing Gwynedd's carbon emissions as a county – eg. Installing public charging points for electric vehicles; public recycling bins; supporting the successful grant applications of the Ogwen Partnership, Antur Waunfawr and Siop Griffiths; biodiversity promotion projects through the Gwynedd Nature Partnership.

3. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

3.1 Following discussion in the Communities Scrutiny Committee any comments the Committee has on the Annual Report will be brought to the attention of Cabinet.

3.2 The Council's Cabinet will consider the Annual Report at its meeting on 19th December.

3.3 If Cabinet approves the report we will share publicity about it and encourage Gwynedd residents.