

Appendix A - Climate Change Update Report

15th January 2025



Photo credit – Robin Kersey

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1. Introduction

In line with our Transition to Net Zero Strategy, it is important to monitor progress being within the specific impact areas.

The Climate Action Plan has approximately 100 actions designed to help deliver the aims of the TTNZS.

Key updates are provided for a number of actions within the CAP.

2. Progress

2.1 Actions 95 and 96 – regarding carbon literacy training

- During the last meeting in November, funding was approved to create a bespoke climate awareness training for staff, members and residents. Having tailored it to our council and our own climate aspirations, we tested it with members and staff and some residents (thank you to all the guinea pigs), and we are now ready to launch it at the end of this month.
- Please keep your eyes peeled for the link which will be located on the WelwynHatfield Climate Hub, on the One WelwynHatfield website.
- The training will be promoted internally via the CORE newsletter and promote to residents via social media posts and a press release.
- We are always happy to hear feedback, because of course, we are all on this journey together, so we are encouraging people to please email climatechange@welhat.gov.uk if they have any comments on the training.

2.2 Action 4 – Relating to funding that isn't directly aimed at local authorities

- We were successful in a Museum Development South East Green Grant.
- We were awarded £4,964 to replace all the lighting at the Roman Bathhouse with LED's.
- This will take place in early 2025 whilst the Museum is closed for the winter.
- As LED lights are more efficient than old fluorescent lighting, we should see a reduction in emissions from this building, which will help us on our pathway to net zero.

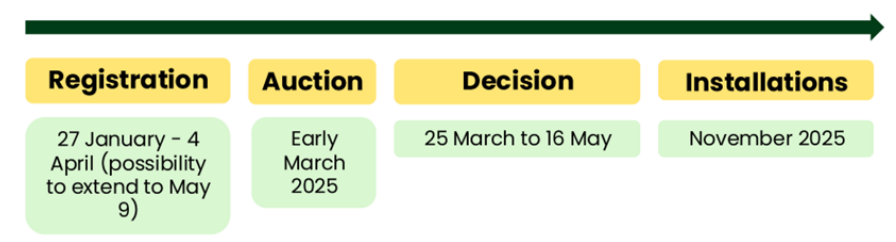
- We are very grateful to MDSE, as the funding has enabled us to upgrade the lighting in both our Museums. (With Mill Green lighting being upgraded last year), which we would otherwise have not been able to do.

2.3 Action 5 – regarding seeking and promoting schemes around the borough

- We received statistics from the Solar Together Second Cohort. Our borough installed £187,270 of solar panels and batteries, which equates to 19,841 kg of carbon savings per year moving forward.

Community	Total paid	Total installations	Number of panels installed	Total mw installed	Installed Co2 reduction kg	Estimated co2 reduction 25 years kg	Total investment	Number of batteries installed	Total mWh installed battery
Total	949	514	5191	2.12	417409	10435214	4481798	455	3.04
St Albans	227	122	1,241	0.5	96,266	2,406,662	1,107,257	110	0.77
North Herts	185	104	1,021	0.41	78,971	1,974,286	863,427	83	0.57
Dacorum	146	91	1,012	0.41	77,174	1,929,358	864,448	80	0.58
East Herts	141	68	684	0.28	61,410	1,535,255	560,304	63	0.36
Stevenage	45	30	333	0.13	21,829	545,725	286,959	28	0.2
Welwyn	35	21	220	0.09	19,841	496,018	187,270	21	0.13
Broxbourne	37	23	236	0.1	18,963	474,079	193,193	22	0.13
Watford	40	20	170	0.07	16,586	414,645	156,158	19	0.11
Three Rivers	47	20	154	0.06	14,246	356,152	151,772	17	0.12
Hertsmere	46	15	120	0.05	12,121	303,035	111,010	12	0.07
Welhat % of total	102.2	133.3	128.3	120.0	117.5	117.5	136.7	141.7	171.4

- The combination of the first and second cohort, since 2022 has seen 68 households and businesses in our borough have 802 panels installed with an estimated carbon saving of 57,193kg.
- Across the whole of Hertfordshire, there has been 1,665 installations, resulting in 6.2MW energy generation and over £17 million in private investment in renewables. This will contribute to over 29,900 tonnes of carbon reduction in the County over the guaranteed lifetime of the systems installed.
- The third cohort will be launching this month, with letters being sent to all households in the borough. Registration of interest will be open from 27th January until 4th April (with a possible extension until 9th May), installations will take place in November 2025.



2.4 Action 20 - regarding the WENTA programme

- This programme, which was approved at the end of 2023, has had approximately 52 sign ups out of the possible 100
- To help promote this scheme, we attended the most recent Meet Your Business Neighbour – Growing Together Event on Thursday 5th December at the Dutch Marketplace in Hatfield.
- We had a presentation from the Head of Net Zero and Advice Team at WENTA to explain the programme and the help being offered to SME's in Welwyn Hatfield.
- The second presenter from Beehive Green, a local business, who has recent experience of being involved with WENTA, was unable to attend, so she kindly recorded a video that was streamed on the night. It highlighted the benefits she has found from her recent experience and showcased some of the great sustainable initiatives she has been able to implement as a result of taking part in the programme.
- We also heard from Welwyn Hatfield's procurement manager to explain our tendering process and provide information about our sustainable procurement appendix in the procurement and commercial strategy and how being environmentally friendly can help you win contracts.
- We also featured the initiative in the One Welwyn Hatfield magazine that was published last November.

2.5 Action 16 – regarding working with partners in education.

- Promotion of Net Zero Go Campaign. As a reminder, the campaign is designed to help educational settings become net zero and encourage sustainable practises. In addition to this, education providers can sign up to have a climate action advisor visit their setting and create a bespoke climate action plan; for free.
- Welwyn Hatfield signed up to support this campaign last year, but, despite efforts, as of yet there has not been much uptake.
- To try increase uptake, our Council have organised an online webinar session with Let's Go Zero. Designed to explain what is being offered, hear from a school who has already benefitted from the campaign and have a Q&A session.
- To widen the impact, we have engaged officers within HCCSP, to promote the event within the other 9 districts and boroughs and try rally interest throughout Hertfordshire.

- We will update on how this goes at the next CBCP meeting, but in the meantime, please do promote this online event to your contacts involved in education.

2.6 Action 35 – regarding opportunity for additional tree planting around the borough

Residents who signed up to the “Your tree our future” initiative collected their trees or hedgerow packs on Saturday 7th December, despite storm Darragh’s best efforts to deter them. Approximately 11,000 trees were collected in the wind and rain.

3. Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership

3.1 HCCSP in person event

To be covered in another item on the agenda

3.2 Other updates

Work continues to progress in the following areas;

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy – This work continues to progress, being led by HCC. Nothing new to update.
- Local Area Retrofit accelerator – Two out of the three work shops have been delivered. The mission statement is the only thing confirmed at this stage, so more information will be provided when available.
- Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure – Documents still going through approval process. More information will be provided when available.
- Offsetting. HCCSP continues to work with the University of Hertfordshire to research and develop a robust and credible approach to offsetting in Hertfordshire.