

**REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY
COMMITTEE**

DATE: 23 SEPTEMBER 2022

**REPORT TITLE: UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARDS CLIMATE &
ECOLOGICAL STRATEGY**

DIRECTOR: ROGER HOARE, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT

AUTHOR: ROGER HOARE, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides Committee with an update on progress towards tackling the climate and ecological emergency (in line with the requirements of the motion agreed in 2019, that an update would be provided every six months). The report provides an update on action since agreement of the Climate & Ecological Strategy & Action Plan in April 2022.

Recommendation

2. Committee are asked to:
 - Note the progress report as per the agreement set out in the original motion declaring a climate emergency.

Voting arrangements

- ***Decision requires majority agreement of Committee Members in attendance, or their substitutes (one vote representing each Authority) and including the West of England Combined Authority Mayor***

Background / Issues for Consideration

3. As a region, we have set ourselves the ambition to be net zero by 2030 and to ensure that wildlife and the natural environment are in recovery, with their decline halted within the same timescales. This is twenty years ahead of the national target to be carbon neutral by 2050.

Update on Progress towards Climate & Ecological Strategy & Action Plan

4. The Climate and Ecological Strategy & Action Plan (CESAP) that was agreed in April 2022 set out the short-term actions and longer-term strategic approach to achieving these ambitious targets. In order to meet our 2030 targets, we will need to take action and work across the levels of government (both central and local), catalyse the private sector to take action and empower our local residents.
5. This paper provides an update on progress against the actions within the CESAP in an appendix one. Since April, we have been working together to:
 - Support our partner unitary authorities and organisations across the region to take action by launching the Green Recovery Fund and opening the first round of funding allocations
 - Work with our unitary authorities to position ourselves as leaders by increasing our regional resources focused on tackling the ecological emergency in preparation to deliver local nature recovery strategies
 - Catalyze public support and action to address the ecological emergency by launching the Bee Bold Awards & £1m Bee Bold Pollinator Fund, to support communities and organisations to take action to protect pollinators,
 - Work with First Bus to launch the first tap on/tap-off bus services in the region, supporting the ambition to make public transport more integrated and easier to use as part of our work to reduce reliance on using cars to travel across the region.
 - Empower the private sector to take action to improve and increase the range of green spaces in developments through the West of England Place Making Charter.
 - Take action to support an increase in the rate of retrofit across the region by developing a retrofit accelerator project to support local residents to retrofit their home and stimulate the skills and supply chains to deliver more retrofit.
6. Our partner Unitary Authorities have also been leading delivery through across of range of themes, including:
 - Redeveloping local plans to help ensure the delivery of low carbon development, nature recovery and renewable energy
 - Investing in the retrofitting of council owned properties and buildings
 - Enabling sustainable transport choices including investing in active travel schemes and reducing emissions from operational fleet vehicles.
 - Starting the installation of the UK's largest water source heat pump in Bristol (drawing heat from Bristol Harbour) to provide zero-carbon heat, and recycling Bristol's hot shower water to heat homes
 - Providing expert advice on local home energy efficiency and signposting to grants and loans to help cover costs through initiatives like the BANES' Energy at Home advice service

- Inspiring residents to take action e.g. Gloucestershire’s Community climate & Nature Emergency Action Training
 - Planting trees and improving the green spaces within our region
7. Committee will also be considering a paper on the Green Recovery Fund during the September committee meeting. This report details the volume and range of work that is underway to support the delivery of the Action Plan.

Next Steps in delivering

8. As shown in the update on progress, the ambition Committee agreed in April is already having impact. Transport plans are being considered with an ever-increasing focus on contribution to net zero, new skills and training programmes are increasingly focusing on the need to deliver green skills across the region, and business support programmes are enabling a wide range of organisations to make the adaptations needed to improve their carbon footprint. We will continue to build on this work.
9. However, the 2030 ambition remains challenging and much still needs to be done to progress towards this.
- To further support the delivery of the plan and increase the pace and scale of our work, a new Head of Environment has been recruited to the CA and further resource is being brought in to strengthen the ability of the Combined Authority to deliver.
 - To make a real impact, we need government to step up and take action in line with our ambitions and empower us as a region to take action. We need government to:
 - Provide more funding and skills provision to deliver retrofitting across homes and buildings to not only reduce emissions but also support people to reduce their energy bills during the cost of living crisis.
 - Ease planning rules to increase the amount of renewable energy generated within the UK

Risk Management/Assessment

- 10 *Risks associated with the delivery of the Climate Ecological Strategy and Action Plan* are set out in annex 1.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 11 Public Sector equality implications as part of the individual delivery plans for each action within the CESAP.

Climate Change Implications

- 12 The Combined Authority's Climate Ecological Strategy and Action Plan is at the centre of this paper and all actions proposed within it align with its goals.

Finance Implications, including economic impact assessment where appropriate:

- 13 *There are no direct finance implications associated with this report. Individual finance decisions associated with the delivery of this plan will be brought to committee as required.*

Report and advice reviewed and signed off by: Richard Ennis, Interim Finance Director

Legal Implications:

- 14 *There are no direct legal implications associated with this report. Legal implications associated with individual decisions to deliver this plan will be brought to committee as required.*

Report and advice reviewed and signed off by: Stephen Gerrard, Interim Director of Law and Governance, CA

Human Resources Implications:

- 15 *There are no direct HR implications associated with this report. The report notes recruitment undertaken and in train to ensure the CA has the resource in place to support the delivery of this the action plan.*

Report and advice reviewed and signed off by: Alex Holly, Head of People and Assets, CA

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Progress update against CESAP actions

Background papers:

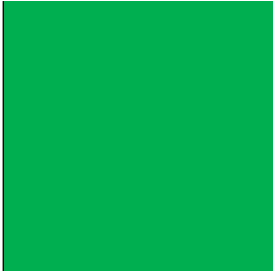
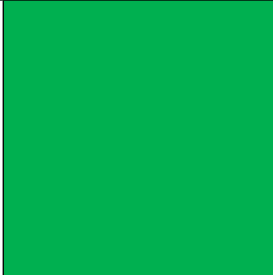
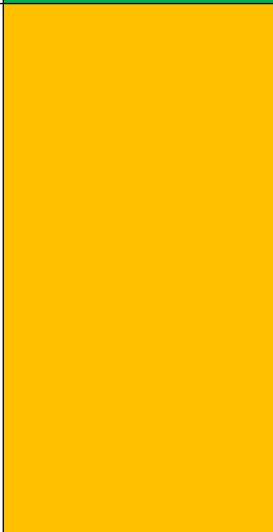
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Climate Ecological Strategy and Action Plan – overview of progress in delivering our actions

Theme: Low Carbon Transport

Actions	Timescales	RAG Status	Sept 2022 Progress
Reduce number of car trips and freight journeys by:			
Reviewing our transport major scheme programme to confirm how our schemes perform in terms of their carbon impact.	Develop for the Oct 2022 Committee		Review underway due to provide updates to officer groups at end of this year will provide updates to committee in Jan
Increasing the pace of transport decarbonisation by progressing demand management measures including Travel Planning, marketing, parking policy, and a package of Workplace Parking Levies and/ or congestion charging areas (we will do this by updating JLTP4)	Oct-22		Transport decarbonisation study being finalised and will inform any further revisions to transport policy incl. JLTP4
Developing detailed plans for a liveable neighbourhood in Bristol and confirming areas to develop liveable neighbourhoods in B&NES and South Gloucestershire with a view to rolling out a programme of delivery across the region to reduce reliance on cars.	Mar-23		Across the region between regional funding and local match, there is over £20m allocated to delivery by 2027, with projects at various stages of feasibility and business case development across the 3 UAs.
Increase cycling & walking by:			
Delivering 14 cycling and walking schemes as identified in the cycling & walking strategy and work with partners to start to design schemes and proposals to submit to active travel fund (round three).	Deliver throughout 2022/23		Of the 14 schemes in total: 4 schemes on target for delivery by March 23, and 2 have been delayed due to supply chain issues. A further 8 are on target to deliver outline business cases.

<p>Launching e-Bike offer within Bristol, with a view to expanding across the region</p>	<p>Deliver throughout 2022/23</p>		<p>The current shared e-bike rental service began in February 2022 and is operated by ShareBike. As of June 2022 the scheme had 150 e-bikes, 33,000 rides and 3,800 users. Planning to explore wider uptake and rollout underway with UA's.</p>
<p>Increase uptake of public transport by:</p>			
<p>Delivering tap on tap off transport ticketing, offering a simpler public transport fares system which provides better value for money through fare capping in place for adult single trips and developing an integrated ticketing plan to provide a single consistent offer to customers across the region.</p>	<p>Dec-22</p>		<p>Scheme launched on 17th July across all First West of England services, including those in North Somerset. Installation of equipment on other operators' buses under way. Target for completion: April 2023</p>
<p>Improving frequency and accessibility of rail services through commencement of key infrastructure delivery including MetroWest Phase 1a and Phase 2 and commencing CRSTS delivery</p>	<p>Apr-23</p>		<p>MetroWest 1 (Portishead Line) funding confirmed by DfT, North Somerset Council and the Combined Authority to support the next phase of project development. MetroWest 2 planning approval confirmed for Ashley Down Station and equivalent approvals are anticipated for North Filton, Henbury and Charfield between now and spring 2023. A CRSTS funded project focussed on delivering step free access at Lawrence Hill station has commenced.</p>





Improving frequency and accessibility of bus services through commencement of key infrastructure delivery including commitments made in the Bus Service Improvement Plans and transport hubs in Future Transport Zones	Deliver throughout 2022/23		Delivery of service improvements underway including extending metrobus routes to Cribbs Patchway and Bedminster Green section works underway. Plans for funding to enable further improvements being finalised incl. CRSTS delivery programme for investment in infrastructure and awaiting DfT confirmation of revenue award for BSIP
Increase uptake of public transport by:			
Building better bus shelters, enabling green roofs and investing in green areas around stops including commissioning at least 15 new green roof bus stops and designing new standards to improve quality of wildlife habitats and buses and the surrounding verges	Mar-23		3 bus stops with green rooves planned for delivery by March 23 (to coincide with Transforming Cities Funding deadlines). Work is underway to deliver a wider programme of bus stop improvements with an aim to rapidly increase the number of green bus stops.
Launching new transport brand to build a consistent brand across the region to increase awareness of public transport capabilities and provision and build trust amongst users	Sep-22		Transport brand under development but aiming for launch in Q1 23/4
Launching public consultation on a new public transport system within the region to prioritise deliverable routes and modes	Autumn 2022		Sept launch, min 6-week consultation period online and in person events to inform strategic outline case
Increase uptake of low carbon vehicles including electric vehicles by:			

Increasing the amount of electric charge infrastructure in the region by investing £5m in a range of new projects (informed by EV charging strategy & feasibility work) and accessing government funds through £500m EV Charging Strategy to enhance our work where possible	Initial Business Case for December 2022 committee		Developing business cases ready for January 2023 committee.
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Theme: Low Carbon Buildings and Places

Actions	Timescales	RAG Status	Sept 2022 Update
Increase the energy performance of homes and buildings across the region by:			
Increasing retrofit across the region. Working in partnership to develop and launch the regional Retrofit Accelerator to increase the scale and pace of retrofit within the region by creating a hub for homeowners to access information on retrofit and increase the number of accredited surveyors, coordinators and designers	Summer 2022		Full Business Case agreed and process underway to secure a delivery partner, with an aim to have them in place by October 2022
Developing further retrofit interventions, building on the retrofit accelerator, and focussing on development of supply chain and skills (developing a business case for this to access funding from the Green Recovery Fund)	Autumn/ Winter 2022		Outline Business Case for phase 2 of the Retrofit Accelerator being drafted and aiming to propose to Sep Committee
Delivering the Low Carbon Challenge Fund's Innovative Housing Retrofit Scheme to retrofit 25 hard to-treat properties within the region, acting as a demonstrator for new technologies and to support the wider roll out of retrofit	Mar-23		100% of funding allocated to a 25 hard-to-treat home project led by social housing provider Brighter Places.
Continue to grow delivery of the Low Carbon Challenge Fund Green Business Grants to improve energy efficiency of commercial and industrial properties (developing a business case for this to access funding from the Green Recovery Fund)	Mar-23		117 SMEs awarded £1m grant to date for energy saving improvements. Regional Low Carbon Delivery Full

			Business Case developed and submitted.
Skills Bootcamps (regional funding): Wave 3 to deliver 4 green elements: 1) Delivering training programmes to increase the number of retrofit installers within the region including construction skills, 2) Green skills for future tech, 3) Modern Methods of Construction and 4) Upskilling retrofit.	Delivery by end March '23 (Wave 3). Wave 4 commences April '23		Green Boot Camps have struggled to attract companies to date but seeking to run further rounds. The Retrofit element of Round 3 (Wave 3) has seen significant interest from providers
Working with South West Net Zero Hub to deliver retrofitting schemes to improve energy efficiency to homes in fuel poverty including Green Homes Grant	Throughout 2022/23		Delivering funding to raise the energy efficiency of low income and low energy performance homes through LAD phase 2. So far, 1007 homes have been retrofitted, with 440 raised to EPC C or above.
Requiring increased development of low emission and net zero new build homes standards through our planning policy	Consultation in 2022, adoption in 2023		UAs are updating their local plans to reflect 2030 ambitions including low emission development and nature recovery.
Support businesses to upskill around retrofit and green skills via Workforce for the Future Programme (namely the Modern Methods of Construction project (YTKO), Skills for Clean Growth (UWE) and digital learning factories (NCC)	Ongoing delivery - programme ends Dec 23		Ongoing delivery - onboarding of new SMEs continues. Learning from this to feed into other projects.
Increase the number of new carbon neutral homes and buildings being developed that deliver Biodiversity Net Gain by:			

<p>Developing a long-term strategic plan setting out where homes, jobs and infrastructure are to support low emissions developments that are linked with biodiversity objectives including increasing wildlife abundance and new habitat creation.</p>	<p>Consultation in 2022, adoption in 2023</p>		<p>UAs are updating their local plans to reflect 2030 ambitions including low carbon development, nature recovery and identify how new development can be linked with renewable energy development and storage.</p>
<p>Use planning policy to ensure delivery of minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain across new developments</p>	<p>Throughout 2022/23</p>		<p>BNG policies will be bought forward by the UAs through their Local Plans The Combined Authority are working with the UAs and partners (Natural England, WENP, AWT) to consider the most effective approach to implementation of BNG across the region</p>
<p>Reduce reliance on fossil-fuel based heating by:</p>			
<p>Using planning policy to develop and implement an energy hierarchy for preferred energy systems to influence new developments and help shift from fossil fuel heating</p>	<p>Consultation in 2022, adoption in 2023</p>		<p>UAs are updating their local plans to reflect 2030 ambitions including low carbon development and renewable energy. Further recruitment is underway for strategic energy specialist within environment directorate who will work with the UAs ,</p>
<p>Releasing the regional Placemaking Charter, setting out the quality standards expected in the region for developers, architects and house builders.</p>	<p>Summer 2022</p>		<p>Launched on 20 July 22</p>

Theme: Nature Recovery

Actions	Timescales	RAG Status	Sept 2022 Progress
Improve the quality and connectivity of existing spaces for nature and wildlife by:			
Improving existing natural spaces including Common Connections, Bath Riverline and Chew Valley Lake (Delivering Green Infrastructure Strategy projects)	Throughout 2022/23		Projects currently being delivered
Developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy that provides a coherent regional vision for nature's recovery, building on the West of England Nature Recovery Network and helps direct investment in the natural environment into the most effective areas	By March 2023 (subject to confirmation of government timelines)		LNRS manager appointed through BANES and work will start at risk as Gov requirements and funding have not been released (expected in Dec) - short-term funding proposal to go to Sep Committee
Opening Green Recovery Fund for projects to create new habitats and improve quality and connectivity of existing spaces for nature	Autumn 2022		GRF round one closed on 22 July - proposed grant awards to go to Sep Committee
Planting more trees and create habitat spaces along strategic corridors (incl. CRSTS and strategic nature recovery networks) and improved bus shelters (as part of replacement programme)	Throughout 2022/23		Pollinator Fund launched to create more spaces and key green infrastructure projects incl. Common connections being delivered. GRF proposed projects will also support delivery of this action
Working with partners (incl. Natural England) to develop a monitoring framework for the natural environment in the West of England to enable us to measure progress towards our ambitions, including the possibility to use a wildlife index to measure	In line with nature recovery strategy		Monitoring framework will be developed in line with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and gov't guidelines.

abundance and diversity of wildlife amongst the current ecological network			
Create new spaces for nature and wildlife by:			
Launching the Community Pollinator Fund to increase the number and quality of habitats for pollinators and bees across the region	May-22		Launched in August 2022 - although the launch was delayed funding should still be delivered for the 2022/23 growing season
Using planning policy to set out where homes, jobs and infrastructure are needed linking in with the biodiversity and ecology objectives, including those set out in Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy, Environment Act, Tree and Woodland Strategy, including the delivery of at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain	Formal consultation in 2022, adopted 2023		UAs are updating their local plans to reflect 2030 ambitions including linking new developments with nature recovery.
Ensuring that transport and planning projects delivered by the Combined Authority positively contribute towards nature's net recovery, including delivering at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain	Throughout 2022/23		Recruitment underway to Environment Team to help monitor and deliver existing CA work.
Supporting WENP and the Forest of Avon Trust in accelerating action to deliver the ambitions of the Forest of Avon Plan and access government funds such as Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund	Throughout 2022/23		Bid submitted by CA on behalf of the region to the Woodland Accelerator Fund, successful applicants will be informed in Sept 2022.
Enable business, other stakeholders and residents to contribute to nature's recovery, including unlocking investment in nature-based solutions by:			
Launching the West of England Placemaking Charter for creating high quality, biodiverse places that support access to nature and encourage health and wellbeing	May-22		Launched on 20 July 22

Working with business to protect pollinators and create green spaces by holding first regional Bee Bold Day and creating a targeted business campaign around this, including reducing pesticide use	May-22		Bee Bold Awards launched targeting organisations within the region to celebrate the action taken within the region to support pollinators and provide information to others on how to do similar. Celebratory award event planned for October 2022. Bee Bold Pollinator Fund also launched.
Supporting and promoting UA and partner organisations (e.g. WENP, Eat Local) engagement campaigns to raise awareness of and engagement with the natural environment, and encourage conservation volunteering and pro-environmental behaviours	Throughout 2022/23		Delivered 'Love Local. Explore Local' campaign, showcasing great spots to eat and shop locally and developing further campaigns to encourage residents to rediscover their local food growers and high streets
Working with partners to support the development of platforms that enable businesses to invest in the natural environment (e.g. Bristol and Avon Catchment Market)	Throughout 2022/23		Recruitment underway to new posts within the Environment Team to ensure sufficient resources
Using regional skills programmes including Skills bootcamps and adult education budget to build skills required for ecology and natural environment sector.	Throughout 2022/23		Some progress being made and uptake in green skills through Workforce for the Future. However, impact is patchy - skills bootcamp uptake is low. Will need to look into supply/demand measures going forward.
Community Support Fund (CSF) £1.5m of community projects including a number with environmental focus - linking communities, social cohesion and environment - HACT social value measures include pride of place and environmental awareness	Ongoing until March 23		Call 2 projects approved by CEOs 21/07/22 and will mobilise shortly.
Green Futures Fund: testing innovative approaches to delivery of school careers activity and curriculum that align with the regional 'green' skills agenda.	Throughout 2022		3 projects funded to provide career information to schools on green skills incl. STEM opportunities.

Theme: Low Carbon Business

Actions	Timescales	RAG Status	Sept 2022 Progress
Support businesses to transition to low emission, sustainable practices and adapt for climate resilience by:			
Delivering 400+ free carbon surveys and funding 200+ small & medium enterprises to make energy saving improvements to their buildings and equipment will be completed for SMEs as part of the Green Business Grant Scheme	Mar-23	Green	274 carbon surveys delivered, and 117 SMEs awarded grant. May be fewer SMEs awarded grant than expected due to slightly higher grant award (with 100% funding allocation expected).
Developing and implementing a carbon literacy programme for businesses to improve their understanding of climate and ecological emergencies and actions they can take to help address it	Mar-23	Green	Business webinar programme delivered as part of Green Business Grant marketing and due to be continued in the Autumn alongside the free Carbon Survey Offer.
Using the Growth Hub Net Zero Cluster to support and promote low carbon business practices with our Net zero enterprise advisers incl. developing a regional communications campaign to business and industry – measure, monitor and reduce emissions, prepare for the local impacts of a changing climate, protect, and restore nature.	Throughout 2022/23	Yellow	National funding for Growth Hubs have reduced and focus on climate set by Government have changed since COP26. Our Growth Hub continues to be the front door for business to access the Low Carbon Challenge Fund, Green BIF & other green/sustainable business support offers (e.g carbon literacy training for staff, sustainable packaging etc) and regularly promote the green initiatives via the Growth Hub newsletter & other social media campaigns.

Continue to grow delivery of Low Carbon Challenge Fund Green Business Grants to improve energy efficiency of commercial and industrial properties (developing a business case for this to access funding from the Green Recovery Fund)	Mar-23		Successful third Green Business Grant window held with 220 expressions of interest from potential applicants. Regional Low Carbon Delivery Full Business Case has been developed.
Ensure local people to access green jobs and bring 23,000 green jobs across the region by:			
Delivering careers advice to school aged children through the Careers Hub and Green Futures Fund to encourage them into careers to support key skills needed to support our 2030 ambitions, including ecology	Mar-23		Delivery underway
Using Workforce for the Future to deliver business support to 220 SMEs to understand what skills / knowledge they need in place to meet the 2030 ambitions and support the growth of modern methods of construction	Throughout 2022/23		Ongoing delivery incl. Skills for Green Growth -Currently 40 SME businesses have expressed interest on the programme and have been/will be supported and Modern Methods of Construction - Currently 27 SME businesses have expressed interest on the programme and have been/will be supported
Ensure that the refresh of the regional skills and employment plan includes focus on green job growth.	Dec-22		Refresh of Skills Plan now underway with green skills/jobs set to be a key component of revised plan. New plan expected to be completed by December 2022
Prepare business for emerging green economies by:			
Helping key sectors (incl. manufacturing & engineering) to innovate new sustainable technologies and supply chains via a range of projects, including through Workforce for the Future, DETI and Made Smarter projects	Throughout 2022/23		Range of projects currently delivering support for businesses to innovate new technologies and methods of construction incl. DETI phase 1, Made Smarter (launched July 2022) and Workforce for the Future. Future

			development underway to ensure continued deliver e.g. DETI phase 2
Encourage businesses to 'green' their procurement, supply chain, and recruitment practices through incorporate green elements into Job Descriptions, all via the Good Employment Charter	Throughout 2022/23		Sustainability objectives have been woven throughout the 7 pillars of the Good Employment Charter - also investigating the possibility of issuing a Green Digital Badge
Encouraging innovation in low carbon services, goods and technologies by awarding 50 new R&D grants to SMEs and 15 new products, processes or services (via Business Innovation Fund)	Mar-23		As a result of the round 3 application window, 9 SMEs were allocated £490,040 in grant funding towards £2,220,528 R&D project costs. The SMEs have forecasted that over a 5-year period 15m tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions would be saved if their R&D is successful and the new products processes or services they create are commercialised as they envisage.
Revising our regional procurement strategy to maximise the use of social value weighting to procure locally sourced goods and services.	Sep-22		Currently revising corporate approach to procurement but time scales have been delayed due to changes in staff.
Using Invest Bristol & Bath to create a campaign to attract new green businesses to the region	Throughout 2022/23		Currently in development

Theme: Renewable Energy

Actions	Timescales	RAG Status	Sept 2022 Progress
Increase renewable energy generation across the region, including through local, community focussed generation by:			
Using Green Recovery Fund to stimulate further renewable energy generation and capacity, including securing ongoing funding for Local Energy Scheme	Apr-22		Round 1 applications for energy projects have been received and are under review and proposals included in September Committee papers. Regional Low Carbon Delivery Full Business Case developed and submitted for ongoing Local Energy Scheme funding.
Undertaking a feasibility study to de-risk the development stage of community energy, including creating a revolving fund	Sep-22		Projects proposed through Green Recovery Fund
Delivering Solar Together to increase number of Solar Panels in the region and reviewing its impact to decide if we will participate in a second round	Sep-22		Solar Together installations underway. Installations have been delayed due to supply chain issues. Participation in further rounds will be confirmed after an evaluation of first round.
Delivering Innovative Local Energy Scheme (round 2) to support the implementation of innovative renewable energy projects of between 50kW and 5MW, that also deliver community benefits	Apr-22		Two projects allocated over £800k - solar array in a community meadow and lido river heat pump infrastructure. £473k still to be allocated.
Encourage development of renewable energy schemes across the region (working with the South West Net Zero Hub to allocate funding and advice focussed on proven cheaper technologies e.g. solar, wind)	Throughout 22/23		New MoU being confirmed between BEIS and Net Zero Hub to ensure continued operation and budgets until 2025
Continue to develop and fund the Low Carbon Challenge Fund's Innovative Local Energy Scheme to support renewable energy generation	Throughout 22/23		Regional Low Carbon Delivery Full Business Case developed for ongoing Local Energy Scheme funding.

Work in partnership to develop new smart approaches to the decarbonisation, storage, management and distribution of energy by:

Ensuring new developments gas & electricity requirements are accurately included energy planning building on North Fringe & SW Bristol development plans (EPIC project)	Throughout 22/23		UAs are updating their local plans to reflect 2030 ambitions linking new development with renewable energy generation and storage.
Increasing energy innovation funding coming to the region, working with partners such as Western Power	by 2023		Held discussions with B&NES about the need for joined up action on this. WPD presented to the regions Climate Action Panel to discuss national funding from OFGEM
Developing a long-term strategic plan setting out where homes, jobs and infrastructure are to support low emissions development that they are linked with renewable energy generation and storage ambitions	Throughout 22/23		UAs are updating their local plans to reflect 2030 ambitions linking new development with renewable energy generation and storage.