

The Future Must be Green and Accessible

**Bristol Disability Equality Forum
Community Climate Action Plan
2022**



Forum Manager Introduction



For centuries, societies have designed their environment and their adaptation of the natural environment with one type of person in mind: one who can walk comfortably for several miles (if so minded), see and hear what is happening around them, speak to others and understand any signage. Since the development of cars, they have done this within a value system that put accommodating the needs of motorised, road transport above those of even the most able pedestrians.

Aside from the odd individual, those making decisions before the 1990s never checked that the world they were designing would work for Disabled people and, even since the 1990s, they have ignored much of the advice Disabled people have given them. As a consequence, society has generally viewed the cost of 'retro-fitting' places to be accessible as due to the 'inadequacies' (as they see it) of Disabled people's bodies. In reality, the cost is due to a failure to ensure we built an environment suitable for more than one section of society.

This led to a culture where not-yet Disabled people view Disabled people's inclusion as something that only those groups that have plenty of resources to spare need to ensure. This, and ignorance of Disabled people's needs and insights, has meant the environmental/climate action movement has had very little input from them and not noticed the consequent inadequacy of proposed solutions.

That is why we were very keen to secure funding for this project. It is a unique opportunity, at a time of substantial change to the way society operates, to be involved and actively influence the reorganisation of society and the environments it inhabits, from the very start of the design stage to post completion.

We strongly believe that their lived experience makes many Disabled people, especially those who live independently, among some of the most creative problem-solvers the UK has. Why? Well, because they will have encountered, and found ways to overcome/avoid, many barriers they come across on a daily basis – usually without access to expensive solutions.

If we are to achieve a net zero world, it is essential we harness the energy of as many creative problem-solvers as possible. Furthermore, designing with Disabled people in the forefront of one's mind nearly always enhances the lives of not-yet Disabled people too.

So, our challenge to Bristol (and beyond) is, "Listen to and act upon the advice of some of your most talented problem-solvers about how to change, so that we improve the city for everyone."

Laura J Welty

Bristol Disability Equality Forum Manager

Introduction



We are facing a global climate and ecological emergency. We need to act now. Bristol has declared a Climate Emergency and communities have a critical role to play. In response to the Climate Emergency, Bristol has set itself the task of reducing direct and indirect carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. Bristol's One City Environmental Sustainability Board, published the One City Climate Strategy in February 2020, setting out a pathway of action on how Bristol can become carbon neutral and climate resilient.

This mammoth undertaking will require the collective skills, knowledge and energy of the whole city, and this Community Climate Action Plan for the Bristol Disability Equality Forum responds directly to this need.

This plan has been developed as part of the Bristol Community Climate Action Project which aims to enable communities in Bristol to significantly reduce their carbon footprints and contribute to the goal of Bristol becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030. Through co-production and community led climate action the project aims to contribute to three significant impacts:

- A reduced risk of catastrophic climate change;
- A just and inclusive transition to carbon neutrality;
- Supporting wider community needs and priorities through co-benefits which improve quality of life for local people (e.g. improved health and well-being, economic opportunity, resilience, social cohesion and improved biodiversity).

The Bristol Community Climate Action Project consists of a partnership of community organisations across the city: Ambition Lawrence Weston, Ashley Community Housing, Bristol Disability Equality Forum (BDEF), Eastside Community Trust, Heart of BS13 and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust, supported by Bristol Green Capital Partnership, the Centre for Sustainable Energy and Bristol City Council (Sustainability and Climate Change Team). This partnership sees Bristol's communities stepping into a leadership role in the city demonstrating their ability to respond to the challenges of climate change with effective, community-led action.



The programme is led by six Bristol organisations representing communities experiencing multiple disadvantages who have traditionally been excluded from the climate change debate and responses to it. During 2021 these community partners have developed Community Climate Action Plans in collaboration with the communities they represent, which will reduce emissions, and lead to effective carbon reduction programmes in their own communities and across Bristol. The priorities identified in these plans will be implemented from 2022 onwards, with the extent of the delivery depending on the funding and support response to the Community Climate Action Plans from the wider city and beyond.

This Community Climate Action Plan is guided by the principle of a fair and just transition to net zero through climate action, which also improves the quality of life and life chances of citizens experiencing disadvantage and inequality. Equity and inclusion underpin an effective response to climate change. Climate projects are often well intentioned but frequently exploit excluded groups by demanding time for free to help them become “more inclusive”; and many climate actions and solutions make life worse, not better, for groups and communities who are already excluded and experiencing disadvantages. The Community Climate Action Project seeks to do things differently.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

“Disabled people must be at the heart of action on climate change. Not only do we have a lot to lose and a lot to gain, but we can bring invaluable problem-solving and leadership skills.”

Emma Geen, Project Lead



Why

“In 2030, Bristol is carbon neutral and climate resilient. We have collectively achieved a fair and inclusive transition; capturing the opportunities of new jobs and investment, improved health, wellbeing and education, and a better environment for local people. We have helped lead the way to a safer global climate.” - Bristol One City Climate Strategy

In order to significantly reduce the risks of catastrophic climate change, carbon emissions must be reduced rapidly. For Bristol to achieve its ambitious zero carbon ambitions by 2030 the collective skills, knowledge and energy of the whole city will be needed. Communities and Community hub organisations have an important role in this.

Any city looking to reduce emissions as rapidly as possible would not start with disadvantaged and excluded communities, as households in these communities typically have the lowest emissions and environmental footprints in the city. However, any city that seeks to solve the climate and ecological crisis at the exclusion of any of its communities will fail and simultaneously exacerbate other societal issues.

While we are realistic that even the contribution a city of half a million people becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030 is tiny on the world stage, it is through leadership of communities like ours that we can move towards meaningful change on a global scale. Similarly, BDEF and the Community Climate Action Project cannot hope to deliver carbon neutrality in isolation, it is nevertheless logical and imperative that it is the primary measure that the programme is measured against. Community Climate Action Plans will be the primary catalyst for change, providing a structure, a case for resources and a clear sense of direction for communities looking to pull together and take action.



Climate Justice

Climate change impacts also exacerbate existing inequalities, so those communities most at risk are typically those already experiencing substantial marginalisation, disadvantage and exclusion. These communities may be more vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather events such as flooding or heatwaves as a consequence of where they live and the loss/disruption of critical services, which they rely upon. Such communities will also tend to have a lower resilience to the impacts due to the interplay of socioeconomic factors which affect their sensitivity and adaptive capacity to the threat/physical hazard. Examples include: fewer social or economic choices, levels of disposable capital or other safety nets in times of crisis, poorer access to public services and community facilities, and less of a voice in policy decisions about potential decisions or responses.

Underpinning the need for this project is the unjust and disproportionate impact of Climate Change on the most vulnerable communities, compounded with the risk of solutions being imposed upon communities rather than developed in partnership with them, in the event of a climate crisis or emergency response. Such an approach risks creating poorly designed responses that would be unpopular and ineffective, and would serve to further exacerbate existing inequalities.

When this cartoon was created by Joel Pett in December 2009, it spread like wildfire as a response to deniers and 'business as usual' refusers. However, has the spirit of this cartoon caused some of the problems we now face? It has become an accepted tenet that climate solutions - from cycling infrastructure to renewables to electric vehicles, to widespread recycling - will ipso facto make the world a better place for all and deliver a range of co-benefits.

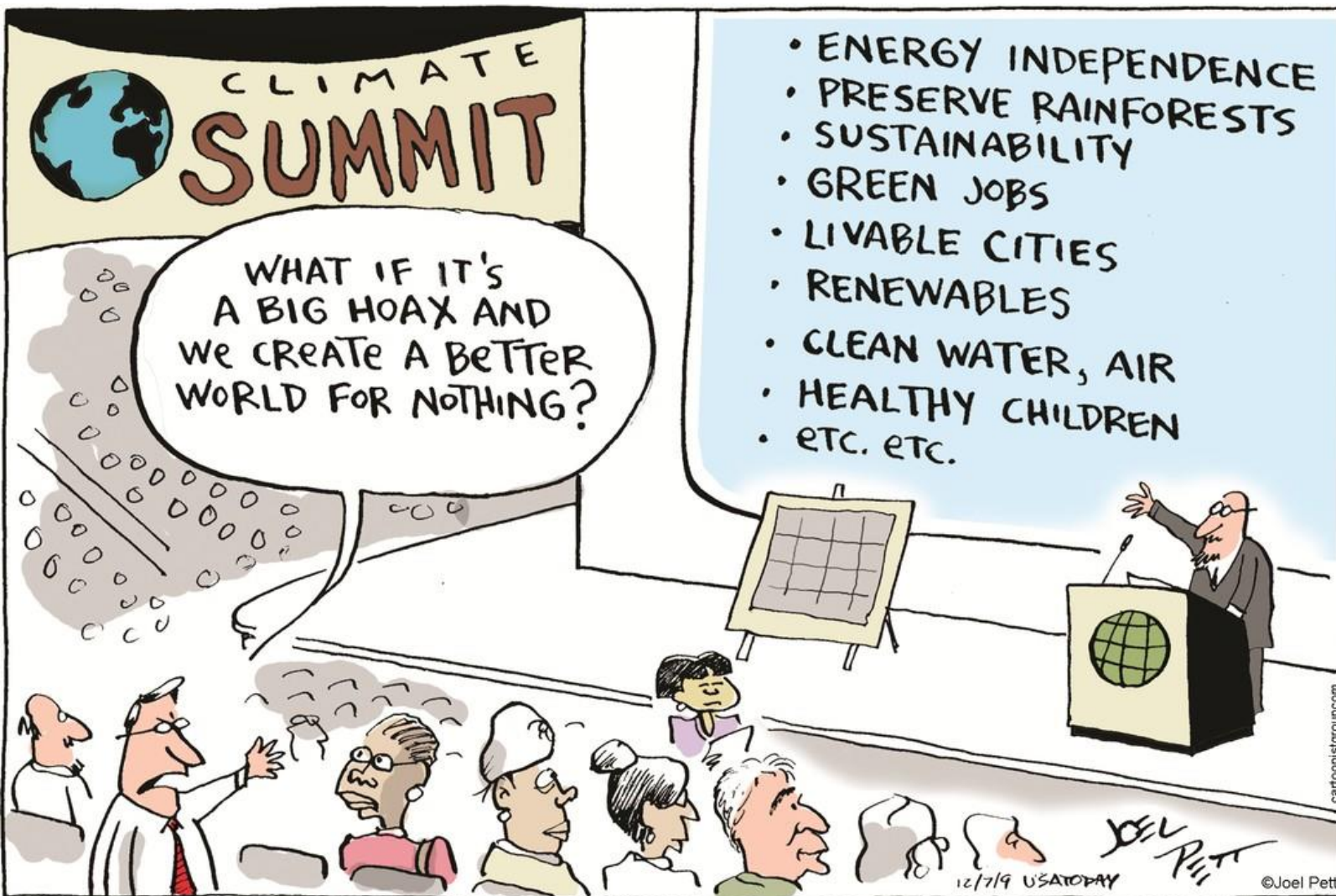


Image credit: Joel Pett Editorial Cartoon used with the permission of Joel Pett and the Cartoonist Group. All rights reserved

However, Bristol's community of Disabled people and the other five communities participating in the Community Climate Action Project have experienced first-hand how this is not the case, with Disabled people being disadvantaged by badly designed walking/cycling infrastructure, green jobs being delivered to white collar jobs market, not blue collar jobs, and market-led change like the explosion in independent local retail being limited to well-heeled neighbourhoods while many edge-of-city areas of social housing remain bereft of even the most basic retail facilities.

Instead, we need to move to solutions which are responsive to the needs of all our communities, and this requires delivery through collaborative action with partners within and beyond the community, rather than change imposed from outside. The Community Climate Action Project partners represent communities traditionally excluded from the discussion on climate change. Through local leadership, a co-production process, deep community engagement, learning from past experience, and reframing of the issue into a language and approach that is accessible and engaging, the aspiration is for them to become engaged and empowered leaders in the city's climate action, leading to a transition to a low carbon economy which is fairer, more inclusive and better meets the needs of society's most vulnerable.

Climate Change and sustainability are cross-cutting themes which impact all parts of our society and economy, it is to be expected that the positive impact of reducing carbon emissions, a more just and inclusive transition, and change generated from starting with where people are at, would then deliver those much needed wider 'co-benefits' such as improved health, economic opportunities, increased equity and social cohesion, increased resilience, and ecological health and biodiversity.

Why community led climate action?

Climate action requires collective action. By working together we can take powerful Community Climate Action which reduces carbon and improves lives.

The climate action we take as individuals and households is critically important. And the actions of businesses and organisations too. But we can't solve the climate crisis without community.

In Bristol, community has been key to so much the city has achieved. It's people working together that makes real change happen. With community we can achieve great things.

During the Covid pandemic, community organisations in Bristol such as Bristol Disability Equality Forum demonstrated significant leadership – in many cases stepping up to fill the gap in the local, civic Covid response (at times when councils and government couldn't). We believe this strengthens the case for the importance of leadership roles for community organisations such as ours, can and should play a key role in the city's response to the climate emergency.

Community organisations are also experts in their place and the lived experience of their community, and so are well equipped to develop pragmatic and targeted solutions which work for their specific communities. Alongside governmental, business and individual action, community-level climate action is a critical piece of the jigsaw if we are to meet the city's ambitious 2030 zero carbon ambitions.



“I only live a few metres from the park and I’ve not been able to go there this year.”

Nature sharing session participant

Our ambition



You only need to look at Greta Thunberg to understand that Disabled people have the potential to be great climate change leaders. In Greta's words, our impairments allow us to 'think outside the box'. As Bristol prepares to lower carbon emissions for our 2030 commitment, the city will have to not only think outside the box but reimagine it.

Such times can bring in much needed and positive changes and our Disabled people's community has a lot to gain as the city adapts. Transport changes can make travel more accessible. Energy changes can help tackle our community's fuel poverty. Changes to food can improve our community's food insecurity. Meanwhile, by improving nature and access to it, our community can reap important benefits to physical and mental health.

However, Bristol's Disabled people also face increased risks in the face of climate change. Poverty, inaccessible resources and, prejudice and discrimination mean that many Disabled people will struggle to understand and prepare for climate change. The changes that society makes to slow climate change can also create new barriers if carried out without thought.

Our plan is created with the aim of reducing the emissions of our community in a way that both avoids new barriers and actively improves our quality of life. Changes made for Disabled people are shown again and again to be good for everyone. So our plan should bring benefits for everyone in Bristol.



Context: our organisation



The Bristol Disability Equality Forum is an organisation of Deaf and Disabled people, for Deaf and Disabled people.

Our vision is for a society where Disabled people are respected and valued, where they have Independence, Choice and Control of their own lives, and where they are fully included in their communities and the country as a whole.

We have been ensuring Disabled people's voice and influence in the city since 1994. In that time we have had numerous successes but we will focus on those we have achieved since 2016. These include:

- Persuading Bristol City Council to drop plans for over £1million of cuts that would disproportionately impact Disabled people (including elders with age-related impairments) – including the (accessible) community transport budget - in 2012.
- Organising the national Hardest Hit demonstration and campaign in the SW, with two other charities.
- Co-producing a Disabled people's manifesto for the city, covering the issues and solutions Bristol's Disabled people told us were their priorities.
- Undertaking research, in partnership with the Norah Fry (disability studies) unit and School of Law at the University of Bristol into the implementation (and lack thereof) of Article 4[3] of UNCRPD.

- Persuaded the council not to cut its discretionary funding of bus passes that enabled travel before 9.30am, use of Disabled person's bus pass on community transport and the provision of an additional card for those unable to travel alone (budget = £660,000p.a. x 5 years of continued funding so far).
- Worked with other organisations to draft a new Engagement policy for our local CCG that inverted the usual 'triangle of engagement'. This led to the CCG adopting a policy which makes co-production the default, engagement when they can't do co-production and consultation when they cannot do co-production or engagement.
- With others, persuaded DoT to stop the creation of any more shared, pedestrian and cyclist, pathways.
- Persuading the Council to change its decision to make prepayment cards the only way to receive a Direct Payment, to give them a choice between the older and newer systems of payment, even though running two systems would be slightly more expensive.
- Persuading the Council to set up a Disability Equality Commission of Disabled people (as workers of organisations of Disabled people, as individuals and as workers for organisations for Disabled people).

“Listen to Disabled people when planning changes. Don't assume accessibility is too expensive - often it isn't AND accessibility benefits everyone.”

Anonymous respondent

Community climate hero: Zac Jones

Zac Jones is a 30 year old Disabled person and lives in Seamills.

He was inspired to keep the city clean after seeing mess in the streets and knowing that we can make a difference. Now he carries out regular litter picks and runs environmental sessions explaining how to recycle.

He's also gone straight to the source and persuaded beer companies to remove plastic from their products.

He was recognised for his work by being asked to lead the march with Greta Thunberg when she visited Bristol in 2020.



“

“Litter picking means that people can be out in their local environment enjoying it and being safe.” - Zac Jones. ”

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Context: our community



Community portraits

The Disabled community has a complicated relationship with environmental issues. Many Disabled people are engaged and concerned environmentally. However, ableist and disablist treatment from the environmental movement has led to justifiable anger and mistrust of climate action among some elements of the Disabled community.



The ableism and prejudice of the environmental movement often stems from misunderstanding the needs of Disabled people as niche and of lesser importance than the rush to tackle the climate crisis. Even if this unethical stance could be justified, it is a mistake to think of the Disabled community as a minority. If they live long enough, everyone becomes a Disabled person.

The climate action plans that are put in place to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 will shape the city for many decades to come and their accessibility will affect the large majority of those living in Bristol, whether now or when they are 80. Climate action by and for Bristol's community of Disabled people is not a niche interest, but important action for the future well-being of everyone in the city.

The Disabled community in Bristol is a large and important one. 16.75% of the population (71,700 people) is estimated to be Disabled. This is almost certainly an underestimate due to a significant minority of Disabled people not being willing to self-identify as such – especially over 70 yr olds.

There are more women than men with a “limiting long-term illness or disability” living in Bristol – 15.6% of men and 17.8% of women. The proportion increases with age. 4.1% of all children are Disabled people, but this proportion increases to 84.9% for the over 85s. 11% of Disabled people belong to a Black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) group, compared to 16% BAME in the population as a whole. This difference likely stems from a reluctance of people of from these communities to publicly identify as a Disabled person – for a variety of reasons.

Also, the incidence of physical and mental/emotional trauma is very common among refugees: "Refugees, asylum-seekers and other forcibly displaced populations typically report exposure to a high number of potentially traumatic events in their countries of origin and during displacement. These experiences are often prolonged, repeated, and interpersonal in nature and have a pervasive negative impact on mental health (2, 3). Accordingly, refugees have consistently been observed to present with high prevalence rates of trauma." 1.

The community faces many inequalities beyond those that are directly related to health. Many Disabled people live in the most deprived wards of the city and employment levels are far lower than in the non-Disabled population. Over three-quarters (75.4%) of the Disabled population aged 16 and over are economically inactive compared to almost a quarter (24.9%) of those not Disabled, and Disabled people are almost twice less likely to be employed in managerial or professional occupations (19.8%) than those not Disabled (34.7%).

With the government reporting that 50% of households in poverty include one or more Disabled people, these inequalities have a heavy toll on life satisfaction. Almost half (46.7%) of Disabled in Bristol report having an "adequate" or "worse" quality of life. This alarming figure highlights how much our community has to gain from climate plans if they are used an opportunity to bring in co-benefits.

84.9%

of Bristol residents aged over 85 are Disabled

75.4%

of the Disabled population aged 16 and over are economically inactive compared to 24.9% of those not Disabled

50%

of households in poverty nationally include one or more Disabled people

16.8%

of Bristol's population is currently Disabled

11%

of Disabled people in Bristol belong to a Black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) group

4.1%

of children in Bristol are Disabled

Context: climate



We are facing twin emergencies: a climate emergency and an ecological emergency. Human activities are estimated to have caused 1°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels. We are already seeing devastating impacts of 1°C warming; this is expected to get worse. The science on the climate emergency is clear: we need urgent action to reduce our carbon emissions if we are to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5°C, and so prevent disastrous impacts. Recently science has shown the severity of our impact on the world's flora and fauna too. We also need to prepare for a changing climate, and adapt our societies, cultures and economies to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Global warming has already impacted natural and human systems through increased flooding, devastating wildfires, storms, loss of biodiversity and extreme drought. Climate-related risks to the environment, health, livelihoods, homes, food security, raw materials, water supply and economic growth will rise, even if we manage to limit change to 1.5°C, and the impacts will be felt differently in different regions. Populations most at risk are marginalised, disadvantaged and vulnerable. In Bristol, some of our most deprived wards will be the most vulnerable to the physical impacts of climate change.

“This is an emergency. People are already suffering and dying from the consequences of the climate and environmental emergency but it will get worse. So what did we do during this crucial time? What will we do right now? Well I will not stand aside and watch, I will not be silenced while the world is on fire - will you?”

Greta Thunberg, February 28th 2020 Bristol College Green.

“An area that needs more attention is fast fashion. It is destroying the planet and consuming an unbelievable amount of water. We need to address ways to make sustainable fashion more accessible to the masses.”

Lacey Trebilcock, steering group member

Context: Bristol

It is clear that in order to halt catastrophic climate change, we need to cut our emissions to zero; reducing them just isn't sufficient enough. Recognising and stepping up to this challenge, Bristol has committed to reducing its carbon emissions to 'net zero', and becoming climate resilient by 2030.

Bristol's One City Climate Strategy outlines the key changes across the city, and the UK, that will be needed to reach this goal.

Our natural environment is critical to our well-being and the climate resilience of our city – cleaning the air we breathe, improving our mental and physical health, reducing the risk of flooding and extreme temperatures (the two major climate change risks facing Bristol in the coming years), and acting as a carbon 'sink' (absorbing carbon from the atmosphere).

In February 2020, Bristol declared an ecological emergency in response to the decline in wildlife in the city. In September 2020, the Ecological Emergency Strategy for Bristol was launched as the city's first coordinated effort to confront the decline in nature.

The strategy sets out the key ecological actions we need to take to achieve a carbon neutral and climate resilient city by 2030 and consists of four goals:

- Space for nature - for 30 per cent of land in Bristol to be managed for the benefit of wildlife.
- Pesticides to reduce the use of pesticides in Bristol by at least 50 per cent.
- Pollution - for all waterways to have excellent water quality which supports healthy wildlife.
- Our wider footprint - to reduce consumption of products that undermine the health of wildlife and ecosystems around the world.

In addition, the One City Climate Change Strategy set out two goals for the natural environment:

- The natural environment in Bristol will be restored, protected and enhanced to deliver climate change benefits.
- As the climate changes, we will adapt to limit damage to wildlife, whilst supporting opportunities for recovery and protection of species.

We have given consideration to the ambitions of the Ecological Emergency Strategy when developing the priorities of our Community Climate Action Plan.

[You can read a full summary of the recommendations from the Bristol's Ecological Emergency Strategy for the city here.](#)

Bristol Citizen's Assembly

In 2021 Bristol held its first Citizens' Assembly. Sixty representative Bristolians were asked to make recommendations in response to the question: "How do we recover from COVID-19 and create a better future for all in Bristol?"

The climate specific recommendations made by the Citizens' Assembly are:

1. Climate change: How do we rapidly reduce the impact of our homes on climate change?
 - a. Training and upskilling the workforce within five years.
 - b. Programme of implementation to meeting housing emissions targets.
 - c. Financing options to support home owners and landlords.
 - d. Independent One Stop Shop.
 - e. Bristol standards for energy consumption and efficiency.
 - f. Pilot programme for a street or neighbourhood.
2. What changes should we make to our neighbourhoods to make how we travel easier, healthier and better for the environment?
 - a. Engage and communicate our climate commitments
 - b. Reduce air pollution urgently.
 - c. Prioritise sustainable, safe, healthy, accessible alternatives to the car for all.
 - d. (Re)create people-centred liveable neighbourhoods.
 - e. Involve people in the planning and implementation of transport initiatives.

Following the Citizen's Assembly, Bristol City Council developed a series of specific actions for each of these recommendations, which we have considered when drafting the priorities for our Community Climate Action Plan. However, it is worth noting that the community of Disabled people is a very diverse one, with quite specific needs and so cannot be represented within a group of just 60 people.

[You can read a full summary of the recommendations from the Bristol's Citizen's Assembly here.](#)

Impacts of climate change in Bristol

The potential impacts of climate change on our city and its residents are significant and wide ranging.

In the Bristol One City Climate Strategy (Preliminary Climate Resilience Assessment) evidence was gathered on physical climate risk to the city. Bristol's coastline is projected to increase by up to 72cm, Winter rainfall is projected to increase by up to 48%, Summer maximum temperature is projected to increase by over +9°C, and Summer rainfall is projected to decrease by up to 68%.

The future climate is not certain. However, under a high (4.3°C) emissions scenario, by 2080, Bristol could expect to see radically changing environment, including increased winter rainfall, higher sea levels, and very significant increases in summer heat. This milestone is the age today's primary school children will retire. These climate hazards present serious risks to Bristol's homes, businesses, schools, community assets, and critical infrastructure

causing negative impacts to livelihoods, disruptions to our daily lives and a risk to life. These impacts will get progressively worse up to 2080.

Climate change is a complex challenge. We recognise the interconnected and global nature of the world, which exposes Bristol to potentially catastrophic climate risks arising well beyond the city's boundary. We also acknowledge our local, national and global responsibility to take bold and immediate climate action as a city, and to share our successes and challenges openly and generously.



Our baseline community carbon footprint - what did it tell us?



Our community's carbon footprint report

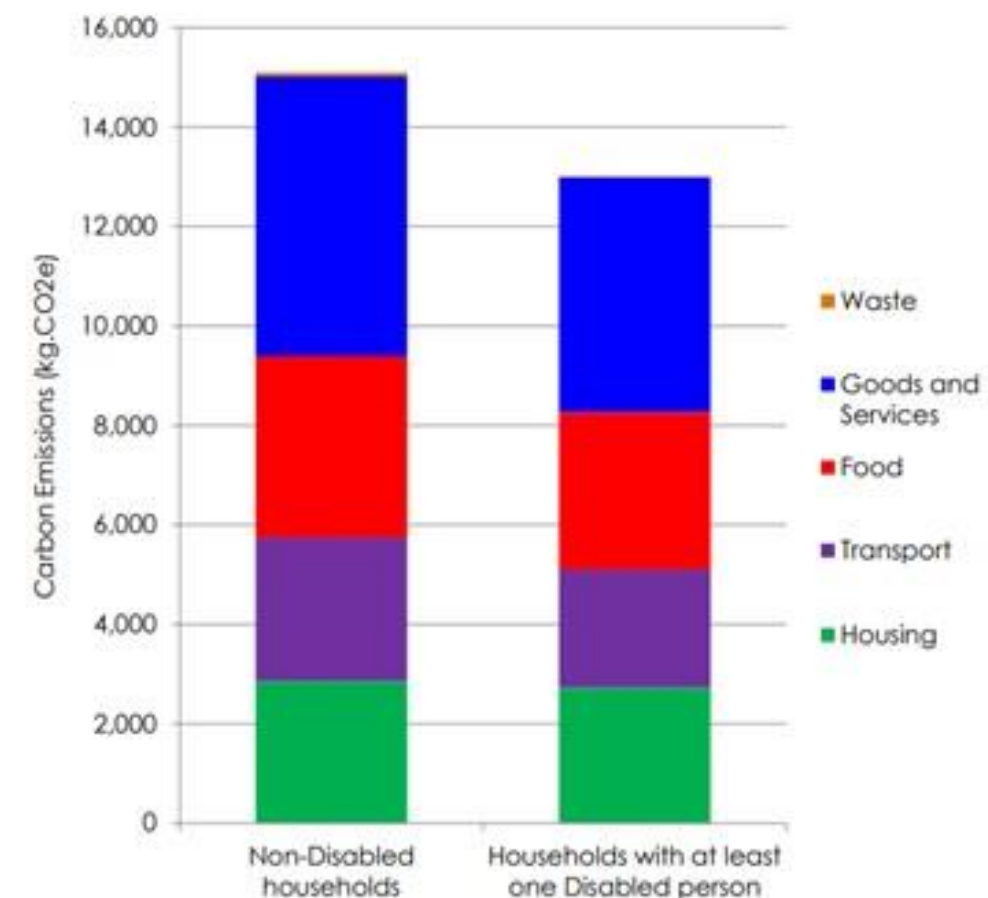
While Bristol's community of Disabled people is likely to be one of those most impacted by climate change and climate adaptation, it is one of the least responsible for emissions. The carbon footprint of Bristol Disabled people's community is considerably lower than the Bristol average.

While our emissions are lower, their sources are largely similar to those of the non-Disabled community. As with non-Disabled households, our largest emissions come from goods and services, followed by food.

The carbon footprint report dispels assumptions around the energy use of the Disabled community. Despite the extra energy needs presented by mobility aids, the need for private vehicles, and heating homes, our energy usage is still lower than non-Disabled households. For instance, though public transport is often inaccessible, a larger proportion of our emissions arise from use of public transport than non-Disabled households. This is likely because:

1. Car ownership levels are lower than for the general public.
2. Only a small percentage of Disabled people are wheelchair users.
3. Bristol provides free 'companion bus passes' for those unable to use public transport alone.
4. Other factors limit many Disabled people's movement outside of the home.'

This is a good example of how the difference in emissions between the Disabled and non-Disabled community lies with the fact that many of the most polluting activities in society are those that Disabled people are less likely to carry out due to lack of access or income. Everyone, including the Disabled people's community in Bristol, must reduce their emissions to face the scale of the climate change crisis that threatens the whole world. Yet our carbon footprint highlights that a key priority for climate action should be to tackle inequalities and make Bristol better for Disabled people. As Bristol takes on the challenge of reimagining itself this is an important moment to make sure that the changes are those that make our city fairer, more accessible and healthy for all.



Our methodology

Impacts of Covid pandemic

The development of this plan happened during the Covid 19 pandemic, including: lockdowns, school closures, societal distancing measures and furloughing of staff.

Covid compounded many of the existing inequalities experienced by many in our community. Loss of employment/income, school closures, social isolation, food and fuel poverty and declining mental health all had a significant impact on our community. The backdrop of the pandemic and its impacts made engaging people with climate change/action more challenging,

The analogy of the pandemic being a great leveller was commonplace, but as author Damian Barr put it, 'We are not all in the same boat. We are all in the same storm. Some are on super-yachts. Some have just the one oar.'

A pre covid quality of life survey for Bristol highlighted that 88% of the city's residents were concerned about climate change and a post covid survey of public opinion by Climate Outreach recently found that people's concern about climate change remains high. But just as the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) report has been described as a 'code red for humanity', we also need to acknowledge and respond to the fact that many in our communities are also experiencing a 'code red' for their mental, physical and economic wellbeing following the pandemic.

An important starting point for developing this plan has been taking time to listen and really understand where local people 'are at' in their lives following the pandemic. The climate won't necessarily be a priority for many as they emerge from the impacts of Covid, not

because they don't care, but because they have so many other immediate pressures in their lives - cuts to Universal Credit and the fear of having to choose between keeping warm and feeding themselves due to the rise in gas bills this winter. One resident involved in the CCA project shared, 'it's not that I don't care about climate change, I really do, but if you're in pain right now (emotionally, financially), it's hard to think about dealing with pain that might come tomorrow (in terms of climate change) when you're consumed with dealing with the immediate pain of today (rent, fuel bills, childcare, unemployment, mental health).'

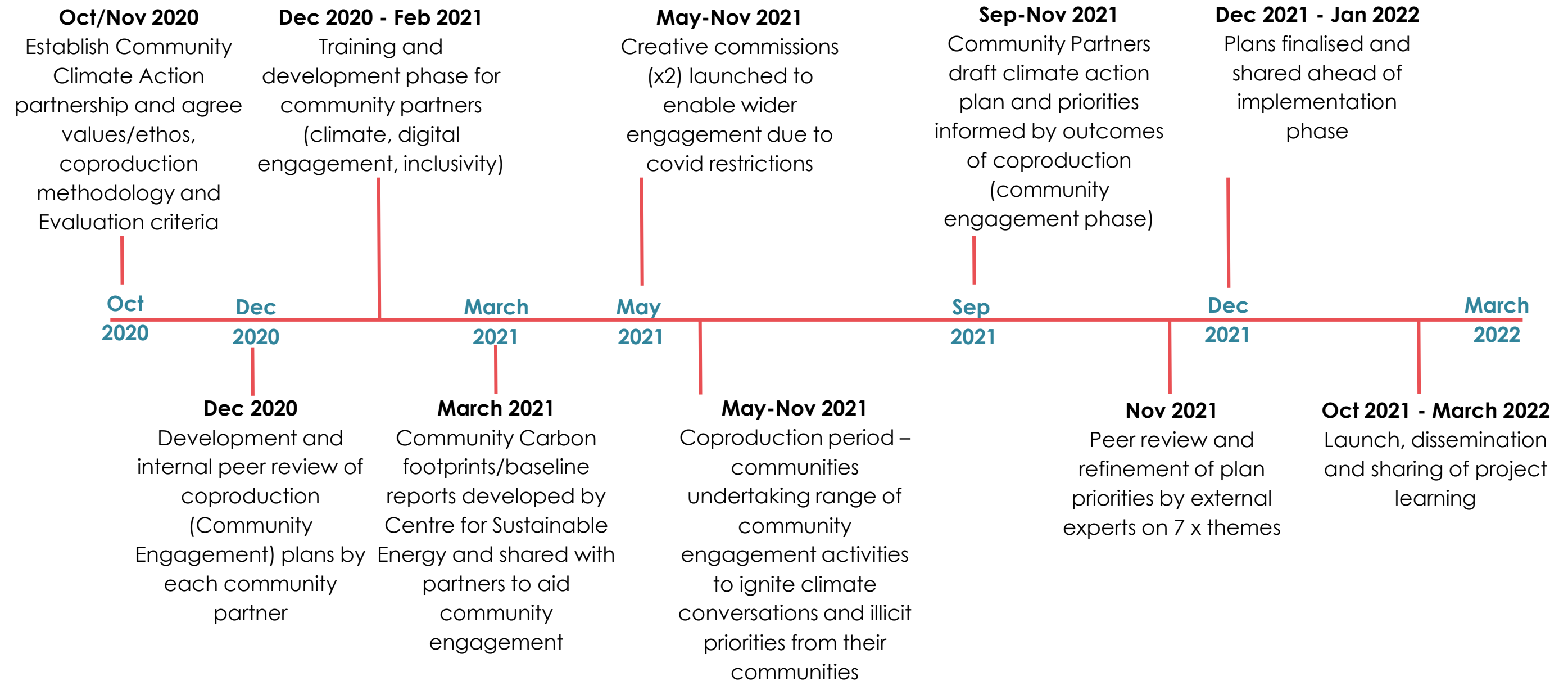
This is where our plan's focus on co-benefits for local people alongside carbon savings impact is essential. As our community recovers from the pandemic our ambitions for a net carbon Bristol must also have improved quality of life and for residents and social justice at its heart. The most significant practical implication of Covid on the coproduction of this plan was on the ability to deliver face-to-face community engagement early on in the project. This meant we had to adapt our planned community engagement methodology, using digital engagement, working with smaller groups and programming community events later in the process. As a consequence we did not directly engage as many Disabled people as we hoped - particularly because of the high rates of digital exclusion and the high levels of anxiety about catching Covid 19 among many Disabled people, which has resulted in many having been (effectively) self-isolating for the past 21 months.

Overall covid has impacted the breadth and number of people we have been able to engage with, but we have worked creatively around the restrictions to try and involve a broad range of citizens from our community in both climate conversations and the development of our climate action priorities.



How we developed this plan

This plan was developed as part of the Bristol Community Climate Action Project. The Project Group (6 x community partners, Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Bristol City Council and Centre for Sustainable Energy) met regularly (on average twice a month) throughout the development phase. The flowchart below captures the main elements of the methodology to create Bristol's first Community Climate Action Plans:



Throughout

Connecting city partners – through speed dating sessions and regular 'meet the city partner' slots at meetings to build knowledge and networks, updates to advisory board/BACCC/Environment Board
Project communications throughout – by community partners and BGCP via press, website news articles, social media, podcasts, radio shows, films, creative commissions

The data and ideas for this plan were gathered over the summer and early autumn of 2021.

It was developed by:

1. Disabled people who live or work in Bristol: Disabled people and their organisations were invited to contribute ideas and feedback.
2. The project steering group: This group was made up of volunteers who were recruited from BDEF members, project outreach, and through print and digital media. These volunteers have a range of impairments and are of diverse ages and backgrounds. This group met once or twice a month, most months, to shape the plan.
3. BDEF staff: Paid Disabled people employed by the Bristol Disability Equality Forum carried out the public engagement, organisation, governance and report writing for the project.

The ideas, thoughts and concerns that went into this plan were gathered through a variety of means:

1. Project survey: The project survey was created through a collaboration between BDEF staff, the project steering group and survey analysts. Online and physical copies were created and were shared by disability groups, care homes, and environmental and justice organisations across the city. Targeted adverts for the survey ran in local news platforms and on Facebook. A video was created to inspire people to fill in the survey. A CD version of the video was sent to BDEF members without internet access and the digital version was shared widely by groups across the city. A flyer was created to direct people to the survey and was shared in community centres and posted through doors.

2. Sofa stalls: BDEF staff ran regular stalls in shopping centres and at community events across the city. These stalls invited Disabled people to sit and talk about the issue over a cup of tea and a biscuit. The ideas and concerns that arose were fed into the survey.





3. Sharing sessions: The project is the first of its type with Disabled people and many survey respondents reported that it was hard to think of ideas. So several sharing sessions were run. These brought together any Disabled people with subject experts and council representatives. Disabled people shared the expertise of their lived experience of a particular theme and subject experts suggested potential solutions. Both parties then developed these ideas through discussion. These sessions were on the themes of nature, transport, energy and food. Some were run online, some in person and some through blended sessions.

4. Presentations: BDEF ran two Open Forums on the plan and, where Covid restrictions allowed, presentations were made to other disability groups, and as part of festival line-ups.

The ideas and data gathered through the above means were written up into a report by BDEF staff. This report was developed into a plan and priorities by the project's steering group.

This plan was presented at a BDEF Open Forum and disability events for feedback. A form was also hosted online for feedback. The steering group used this feedback to create further drafts of the plan.

Community climate hero: Beth Richards

Beth Richards is a 37 year old Disabled person and lives in Cotham.

She wants to be part of helping people to change their behaviour so that nature can survive. In her personal life she works hard to reduce her personal waste by buying zero waste products and reducing plastic use. She also works to educate people around her and has made an animation about plastic use, a window display for Window Wonderland, and is an activist for Extinction Rebellion.

She needs easy read information, so some climate change information is too difficult for her. This can be a challenge.

If she could encourage people in Bristol to do one thing it would be to use their cars less so that the air is cleaner and it would be less scary for her to ride her trike.



“

"If people use their cars less, the air would be cleaner and it would be less scary for me to ride my trike."

”

Bristol Disability Equality Forum community climate action plan priorities and actions



The following priorities and actions were developed with the local community through our community engagement process and refined with support from by Bristol Green Capital Partnership and various Community Climate Action partners from across the city.

The priorities of the Comm Climate Action Plan developed by the Bristol Disability Equality Forum (Disabled comm) connect with those of Ashley Community Housing (Refugee community) and our project partners in geographic neighbourhoods in the city: Eastside Community Trust - Easton and Lawrence Hill, Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust – Lockleaze, Heart of B13 – Hartcliffe & Withywood.

We have scored the priorities in the accompanying table according to the monetary cost (Resource: Cost), staffing and effort required to achieve it (Resource: People), potential reductions in carbon emissions (Impact: Carbon) and positive impact on the community through other co-benefits (Impact: co-benefits). While not exhaustive, we have also listed key stakeholders and potential collaborators, many of whom are already doing work related to the priority and whose support will be critical to success. Rough timescales have also been noted to highlight quick wins alongside systemic changes that will take sustained, long-term action.

Scoring of priorities

We have scored our priorities through several criteria using a simple 1-5 scoring system:

Criteria scored

- Resource: cost.
- Resource: people/time.
- Impact: carbon benefits.
- Impact: people/community cobenefits.

Scoring definition

- 1 - Very Low.
- 2 – Low.
- 3 – Moderate.
- 4 – High.
- 5 - very high /significant.

Timescale

- 1-2 years (quick win).
- 3-5 years (medium term larger scale).
- 6-8 years (significant or complex).

The big changes coming to Bristol for 2030 could have huge benefits for Disabled people or create new barriers for us. So many of our aims focus on:

1. Preventing these barriers before they occur and,
2. Tackling barriers that already exist.

This is a big job that will require a lot of money and work. It is not up to Disabled people to make all of these changes and we don't have the power to make many of them. We cannot improve the quality of pavements, pay grants to get Disabled people cheaper energy, buy a new fleet of buses, or remove barriers from park entrances.

However, that does not mean that we can't make important changes. We can run campaigns to make sure that these priorities aren't forgotten, develop some initiatives ourselves, and can we can make projects to enable Disabled people to make changes in their own lives.

So we have written our priorities as 'City Owned Aims' and 'Community Owned Aims'.

The 'City Owned Aims' are the changes that we are asking from politicians, businesses, communities and other people with power in Bristol and, in some cases, across the UK. They include actions that the community has told us are the best ways to achieve our aims. We will lobby for and support these changes, but they are not up to us to make.

'Community Owned Aims' are the projects that we aim to run as Bristol's community of Disabled people. One of the most important of these is raising our voices to make the 'City Owned Aims' happen. Much of this work can be inspired by community climate champions. These paid roles would do important work building networks across the city and enabling Disabled people to make change.

Other projects could bring money into the community through creating Disabled people-run businesses, such as a repair café for mobility equipment and non-digital aids.

Other projects could supply Disabled people with the skills, knowledge and funding to take action in their own lives. Disabled people can take the lead in making a better and greener future for our community, but we need all sections of the city to work with us if we are to do this. Please read on to find out how we can create a Bristol that is better for everyone.

“Regardless of how good and accessible transport is, some disabled people will not be able to use it. They need to use a car.”
Anonymous respondent





Priorities: Transport – City Owned

Scoring definition

1 - Very Low 4 - High
 2 - Low 5 - very high /significant
 3 - Moderate

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
1. Enable Disabled people who have to drive to do so. And enable them to this in a sustainable way	WECA BCC Motability Department for Work and Pensions BDEF Various community groups focused on transport	4	2 Reduction in petrol and diesel cars on the road	5 Equality – preventing new barriers Society – reduced inequalities Health & wellbeing- reduced air pollution	3	6-8 years
2. Make public transport more accessible	BCC WECA First Bus Metrobus GWR Local stations Various community groups focused on transport BDEF	3	5 Reduced private car travel and a comparable increase in active and public transport	5 Society – reduced inequalities Health & wellbeing- reduced airpollution	3	6-8 years
3. Enable Disabled people to travel more by walking and wheelchair by improving pavements	WECA BCC BDEF Various community groups focused on transport	4	4 Reduction in petrol and diesel cars on road	5 Health & wellbeing– opportunities for physical activity Society – reduced inequalities Health & wellbeing- reduced air pollution	3	6-8 years



Priorities: Transport – City Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>4. Enable Disabled people to drive less by ensuring mobility equipment is available for those who need to use it (e.g. Bristol Shopmobility)</p>	<p>BCC Bristol Shopmobility Local shopping centres and venues BDEF</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>2 Reduced private car travel and a comparable increase in active and public transport</p>	<p>3 Equality – Equal access Health & wellbeing– opportunities for physical activity Health & wellbeing– reduced air pollution</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>
<p>5. Enable Disabled people to rely less on private vehicles by reopening public toilets</p>	<p>BCC BDEF Various other community groups campaigning for more public toilets.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3 Reduced private car travel and a comparable increase in active and public transport</p>	<p>3 Health & wellbeing– opportunities for physical activity Society – reduced inequalities</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>



Priorities: Transport – Community Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>Hire a Disabled transport champion</p>	<p>BDEF First Bus Metrobus GWR Sustrans Various community groups focused on transport</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>5 Reduced private car travel and a comparable increase in active and public transport</p>	<p>5 Equality – prevention of new barriers Society – reduced inequalities Health & wellbeing- reduced air pollution</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>
<p>Map local pedestrian and cycle routes that are wheelchair and electric scooter-friendly</p>	<p>BDEF Sustrans BCC WECA</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Reduced private car travel and a comparable increase in active and public transport</p>	<p>5 Equality – Equal access Health & wellbeing- opportunities for physical activity</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>
<p>Print leaflets that can be left on cars parked illegally</p>	<p>BDEF Various community groups focused on transport</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>3 Reduced private car travel and a comparable increase in active and public transport</p>	<p>3 Health & wellbeing- opportunities for physical activity Society – reduced inequalities</p>		<p>1-3 years</p>

Accompanying Actions



City Owned

Aim: Enable Disabled people who have to drive to do so. And enable them to this in a sustainable way.

1. Grants for Disabled people to buy vehicles that use sustainable power.
2. All vehicles offered on mobility allowances to be ones that use sustainable power.
3. Create more Disabled parking bays in the city centre and make sure that non-Disabled people don't use them.
4. Allow Disabled people to use restricted roads, such as those for taxis. (i.e. Disabled registered/Blue badged people can use the same lanes as taxis and buses).
5. Make sure that closing off roads to cars doesn't limit the access of Disabled people. No other vehicles – other than mobility equipment - to use these roads. Have parking nearby for those who need it, i.e. within 50m.

Aim: Make public transport more accessible.

1. At least two wheelchair spaces on all buses and priority seating for other Disabled, older and pregnant people.
2. Ensure wheelchair spaces on public transport have some type of 'docking station'/wheelchair securing system, so that wheelchairs are safe on buses and don't move around.
3. Disabled bus pass to be 24/7.
4. Tangibly improve accessibility training for public transport staff.
5. Easier ways for reporting ableist and disablist behaviour by public transport staff.
6. More bus routes and buses and trains that run more often.
7. More accessible bus stops and railway stations, e.g. some stations with particularly low platforms should have a longer ramp securely stored on the platform (rather than the train) for train operatives to access.

Aim: Enable Disabled people to travel more by walking and wheelchair by improving pavements.

1. Make the worst of the city's pavements less uncomfortable to traverse in/with a mobility aid and more level.
2. Make sure there are enough dropped kerbs.
3. Make sure that tree planting in streets doesn't make pavements bumpy.
4. Make sure that rules about keeping scooters, cyclists and cars off pavements and dropped kerbs are kept to, and that fines are given to people who don't do this.
5. Ensure all scooter and bicycle parking is 'on road', so they no longer create a health and safety risk for Disabled pedestrians e.g. vision impaired people.
6. Stop businesses from putting goods, tables and chairs on pavements where there is not enough room for wheelchairs to pass, i.e. minimum of 1m' unused by the businesses customers. Separate the seating area from the parts of the pavement used by other people. Ensure any platform used for seating is clearly delineated and wheelchair accessible.
7. Get rid of shared pathways and make cycle paths better so that cyclists don't use pavements.

Transport – Continued



City Owned

Aim: Enable Disabled people to drive less by ensuring mobility equipment is available for those who need to use it (e.g. Bristol Shopmobility) by ensuring adequate funding for such a service.

Aim: Enable Disabled people to drive less by reopening public toilets.

1. Council to reopen public toilets and make sure there are enough Disabled toilets. Accessible toilets for electric (as well as manual) wheelchair users.

Aim: Enable Disabled people to access accessible cycling.

1. Make sure bike hire places have accessible bikes for different impairments. at affordable rates e.g. via grants to buy the bikes in return for a hire charge that is no more than for non-Disabled people's bikes.
2. Bike lanes to be wide and smooth enough for trikes and less confident riders to use them.
3. Bike grants for Disabled people who need buy or adapt an accessible bike.

Community Owned

Aim: Hire a Disabled transport champion. They will:

1. Inform and engage the general public so that they don't do things that make transport inaccessible for Disabled people.
2. Persuade the people who own public transport, businesses, and councils to achieve our priorities.
3. Run accessibility training for public transport staff.
4. Work with councils and researchers to work out how people who have to drive can do so in ways that are good for the planet.
5. Listen to cases of ableist and disabiliist activity by public transport staff so that these can be used to push for change.

Aim Map paths and roads used by cyclists and people to work out what is wheelchair and electric scooter friendly. This map can be used by people with power to make changes, and to ensure Disabled people can be confident about which routes are accessible to them.

Aim: Print leaflets that can be left on parked cars that are blocking pavements.



Priorities: Housing/buildings – City Owned

Scoring definition

1 - Very Low 4 - High
 2 - Low 5 - very high /significant
 3 - Moderate

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Save on resources by ensuring all new homes are built to be accessible, accessible and/or easily and cheaply adaptable so that that avoidable waste isn't required to adapt them</p>	<p>BCC Homes England Housing Associations Community housing advice provider[s] Building businesses BDEF</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4 Reduce items going to landfill Reduce use of unsustainable materials</p>	<p>4 Equality – Equal access Environment – reduced waste going to landfill</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>
<p>2. Retrofit the homes of Disabled people</p>	<p>BCC BDEF Bristol Energy Network Centre for Sustainable Energy One Stop Shops Bristol Energy Cooperative The CHEESEProject</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Improving all homes to EPC standard C Affordable heating Smarter and more flexible management of energy demand, including storage</p>	<p>Equality - Equal access Society – reduced inequalities Health - Reduced falls, exacerbation of impairments etc</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>



Priorities: Housing/buildings – Community Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
Actively engage and persuade for our priorities	BDEF	3t	3 Reduce items going to landfill	Equality – Equal access Society – reduced inequalities	2	1-3 years

Accompanying Actions



Housing

City Owned

Aim: Save on resources by ensuring all new homes are built to be accessible, and/or easily and cheaply adaptable so that that avoidable waste isn't required to adapt them

Aim: Retrofit the homes of Disabled people.

1. Grants for this work to be given first to Disabled people.
2. Make sure news of these grants is given out in accessible information to help Disabled people learn about them. (Also see Disabled Energy champion.)
3. Create an example home that is fully accessible, relatively future-proofed and has energy that is good for the planet. Use it to inspire other people to do the same.

Community Owned

Aim: Actively engage and persuade for our priorities and provide advice on the creation of the new carbon neutral 'show home'



Priorities: Energy – City Owned

Scoring definition

1 - Very Low 4 - High
 2 - Low 5 - very high /significant
 3 - Moderate

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
1. Disabled people to be enabled to use energy as required by their medical and access needs	BCC UK Government Local universities BDEF Bristol Energy Network Centre for Sustainable Energy One Stop Shops Bristol Green Doors Bristol Energy Cooperative The CHEESE Project	3	4 Energy use is from renewable sources Improving all homes to EPC standard C Affordable heating	5 Equality – prevention of new barriers Society – reduced inequalities Environment – reduced waste going to landfill	2	6-8 years

Priorities: Energy – Community Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
Hire a Disabled Energy champion	BDEF BCC Bristol Energy Network Centre for Sustainable Energy One Stop Shops Bristol Green Doors Bristol Energy Cooperative The CHEESE Project	2	5 Energy use is from renewable sources IMore environmentally friendly disability aids' Affordable heating	5 Equality – Equal access Health & wellbeing- Reduced fuel poverty Society - reduced inequalities	2	1-3 years

Accompanying Actions



Energy

City Owned

Aim: Disabled people to be enabled to use energy as required by their medical and access needs.

1. Grants given to Disabled people to help them access sustainable energy in their home.
2. One Stop Shops (places where people can get energy advice) to be trained in accessibility needs.
3. Decarbonise the grid.

Community Owned

Hire an Energy Champion. They will:

1. Actively engage and persuade.
2. Engage and inform Disabled people information about how to access sustainable energy.
3. Research the energy needs of Disabled people.
4. Support Disabled people to access grants for things like solar panels and retrofitting (.e.g. help with paperwork if needed).
5. Support Disabled people to switch to an energy provider that is good for the planet (.e.g. help with paperwork if needed).
6. Run events and workshops educating Disabled people on energy.



Priorities: Food – City Owned

Scoring definition

1 - Very Low 4 - High
 2 - Low 5 - very high /significant
 3 - Moderate

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Enable Disabled people to grow their own food</p>	<p>BCC Bristol allotment sites BDEF</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3 Altered dietary patterns & reduced food waste Less demand on shop bought edibles</p>	<p>5 Equalities – Equal access Health & wellbeing– opportunities for physical activity Health & wellbeing– improved dietary health</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>
<p>2. Allow Disabled people to access sustainable food options and packaging that will not impact on medical or mobility issues</p>	<p>BCC Shops across the city Zero-waste shops BDEF</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4 Equalities – Equal access Equalities – Prevent creation of barriers Resilience - food security (security in local food supply)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Short to medium term</p>



Priorities: Food – City Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>3. Tackle food insecurity by supporting Disabled people to access cheap, sustainable food</p>	<p>BCC BDEF Supermarkets Allotment groups Bristol Food Network</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3 Altered dietary patterns & reduced food waste Less demand on shop bought edibles Less packaging and waste</p>	<p>4 Equalities – Equal Access Society - reduced inequalities Environment - reduced waste going to landfill</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>



Priorities: Food – Community Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>Actively engage and persuade for our priorities.</p>	<p>BDEF</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Altered dietary patterns & reduced food waste Less demand on shop bought edibles Less packaging and waste</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>
<p>Run cookery lessons with sustainable food for Disabled people</p>	<p>BDEF Food Share Bristol Food Network Feeding Bristol Community Centres</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Altered dietary patterns & reduced food waste Less demand on shop bought edibles Less packaging and waste</p>	<p>3 Equalities – Equal Access Economy - opportunities for skills and training Health & wellbeing-improved dietary health</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1-2 years</p>
<p>Create a community owned accessible showcase allotment as example of best practice.</p>	<p>BDEF BCC Avon Wildlife Trust Friends of the Earth Bristol allotment sites Supermarkets in target areas GP practices and health centres Bristol Food Network</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>3 More biodiversity Less demand on shop bought edibles Less packaging and waste</p>	<p>3 Equalities – Equal Access Health & wellbeing-opportunities for physical activity Society - community brought together</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>

Accompanying Actions



Food

City Owned

Aim: Enable Disabled people to grow their own food.

1. All allotments sites to make at least 10% of their allotment sites accessible, i.e. entrance and routes to/from allotments, as well as the allotments themselves.
2. Provide window boxes/pots and easy-to-grow seeds/plants' to Disabled people who don't have a garden.

Aim: Allow Disabled people to access food and packaging that will not make difficulties for their medical or mobility needs. Take action so these options are zero waste where possible.

1. Engage people with power in the city to make sure that food options remain open.
2. Raise public awareness around access needs and talk to people with power in the city so that Disabled people aren't punished for using options some people might think of as wasteful, such as plastic straws and ready-peeled food items.
3. Work with local businesses to provide low or no cost home delivery for zero waste and local food.

Aim: Tackle food insecurity by supporting Disabled people to access cheap, sustainable food.

1. Pay-it forward schemes (where people with can choose to pay money to help Disabled people without much money access food that is good for the planet).
2. Share food that would go to waste.
3. Community fridges.
4. Support networks and groups in the city that work on food poverty.

Community Owned

Aim: Actively engage and persuade for our priorities.

Aim: Run cookery lessons with sustainable food for Disabled people and raise awareness of appropriate, low cost preparation and cooking aids

Aim: Create a community owned showcase accessible allotment as example of best practice. Base it in a space Disabled people can easily access, such as a health centre or super market. This will inspire other people to see what an accessible allotment looks like and make their own.



Priorities: Waste and consumption – City Owned

Scoring definition

1 - Very Low 4 - High
 2 - Low 5 - very high /
 3 - Moderate significant

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Make it cheaper to fix disability aids and increase the availability of lower cost aids e.g. through refurbishment and re-sale, supplying lower priced aids, by supporting the new BDEF community enterprise.</p>	<p>Mobility equipment companies UK Government BDEF Public UK and local press</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3 Reduce items going to landfill Hugely altered consumption patterns, buying less and re-using/repairing more</p>	<p>4 Environment - reduced waste going to landfill Society - reduced inequalities Society - high level decision makers (i.e. national gov) influenced to make positive changes</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>6-8 years</p>



Priorities: Waste and consumption – Community Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>Actively engage and persuade for our priorities.</p>	<p>BDEF</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Reduce items going to landfill</p> <p>Hugely altered consumption patterns, buying less and re-using/repairing more</p>	<p>3 Society - reduced inequalities</p> <p>Equalities – prevent the creation of new barriers</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>
<p>Raise awareness so that Disabled people aren't punished for necessary consumption</p>	<p>BDEF BCC UK Government Public UK and local press</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>4 Society - reduced inequalities</p> <p>Society - high level decision makers influenced</p> <p>Equalities – prevent the creation of new barriers</p>	<p>3 Hours for a campaigning role for this and other project</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>
<p>Create a Disabled people-run repair/reuse/recycle hub and library of thing</p>	<p>BDEF Bristol Repair Cafes</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Reduce items going to landfill</p> <p>Hugely altered consumption patterns</p> <p>People trained within Green Economy</p>	<p>4 Economy - skills and training</p> <p>Society - reduced inequalities</p>	<p>2 Staff time to: - engage Disabled people in the project - Runthe repair café</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>

Accompanying Actions



Waste

City Owned

Aim: Make it cheaper to fix disability aids and increase the availability of lower cost aids e.g. through refurbishment and re-sale, supplying lower priced aids, by supporting the new BDEF community enterprise.

Community Owned

Aim: Actively engage and persuade for our priorities.

Aim: Raise awareness so that Disabled people aren't punished for necessary consumption.

Aim: Create a Disabled people-run repair/reuse/recycle hub and library of things.

1. Create a Disabled person run community social enterprise that fixes and sells affordable mobility equipment.
2. Create a Library of Things with equipment Disabled people need. (This will allow Disabled people to borrow mobility equipment like a library lends out books.)



Priorities: Nature – City Owned

Scoring definition

1 - Very Low 4 - High
 2 - Low 5 - very high /significant
 3 - Moderate

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Enable Disabled people to access green spaces, for well-being and climate impact resilience</p>	<p>BCC BDEF Avon Wildlife Trust Friends of the Earth</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>5 Society - reduced inequalities Health & wellbeing– opportunities for physical activity Environment - reduced overheating risk</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>
<p>2. Enable Disabled people to access nature in spaces that they own and already visit</p>	<p>BCC BDEF Avon Wildlife Trust Friends of the Earth</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2 Protecting biodiversity Sustaining wildlife populations Improving Air quality</p>	<p>4 Society - reduced inequalities Health & wellbeing– opportunities for physical activity</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>



Priorities: Nature – City Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
3. Clean Bristol's air to meet WHO regulations	BCC WECA Community Groups	3	4 Protecting the biodiversity Reduced greenhouse gas emissions Improving air quality	5 Society - reduced inequalities Health & wellbeing- opportunities for physical activity Environment -	3	3-5 years

Priorities: Nature – Community Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
Actively engage and persuade for our priorities.	BDEF BCC Avon Wildlife Trust Friends of the Earth	2	3	5 Society - reduced inequalities	2	1-3 years
Create a nature accessibility audit team	BDEF BCC Avon Wildlife Trust Friends of the Earth	4	3	5 Society - reduced inequalities	3	3 - 6 years

Accompanying Actions



Nature

City Owned

Aim: Enable Disabled people to access green spaces, for well-being and climate impact resilience.

1. Get rid of barriers to parks or let people access them with a key card. Key cards to be held by groups run by Disabled people.
2. When the city says it aims to make parks within a '10 minute walk of everyone in the city', make sure they think about what this means for those with mobility issues.

Aim: Enable Disabled people to access nature in spaces that they own and already visit.

Aim: Clean Bristol's air to meet World Health Organization regulations to help the health of those with breathing impairments and stop more people becoming Disabled.

1. Ban wood burning stoves.
2. Bring in the clean air zone but make sure Disabled people don't have to pay.
3. Join groups getting the Government to make better rules on air pollution and to give more money to fix the issue.

Community Owned

Aim: Actively engage and persuade for our priorities.

Aim: Create an green spaces accessibility audit group to identify areas for action by councils and owners of green spaces. We will work with others, such as Sustrans, to amend their walk leader training as per needs of/benefits to Disabled people.



Priorities: Economy/business/jobs/education – City Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>Create a Disabled people's Climate Action Plan Reference Group plugged into the broader city's plans</p>	<p>BCC WECA BDEF (creating, even if not running a CAPG)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>5 Ensures all carbon reduction plans can be taken up by Disabled people</p>	<p>5 Equalities – prevent the creation of new barriers Society - reduced inequalities</p>	<p>3 Team with representation from different impairments needs to be built</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>
<p>Ensure that Disabled people can benefit from the creation of new green jobs</p>	<p>BCC WECA Job Centres BGCP BDEF</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2 More residents trained within the Green Economy Supporting the local economy (or circular economy)</p>	<p>5 Equalities – Equal access Society - reduced inequalities Economy - opportunities for skills and training</p>	<p>2 Staff to: - Engage community with new roles - Provide guidance and training to job creators</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>



Priorities: Economy/business/jobs/education – City Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
Provide accessible resources, information and training to enable Disabled people to understand, be involved in, and not be negatively impacted by climate action in the city	BCC WECA BDEF	2	2	4 Equalities – Equal access Equalities – prevent the creation of new barriers Economy - opportunities for skills and training	2	1-3 years

Priorities: Economy – Community Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
Actively engage and persuade for our priorities.	BDEF	3	2	4	2	1-3 years

Accompanying Actions

Economy/Business/Jobs/Education

City Owned

Aim: Create a Disabled people's Climate Action Plan Reference Group plugged into the broader city's plans.

Aim: Ensure that Disabled people can benefit from the creation of new green jobs.

1. Work with job creators and communities to enable Disabled people to access jobs that are created around climate change. Make these jobs accessible.
2. Stop discrimination in jobs and workplaces.
3. Make resources with examples of best practice of job creation and hiring.
4. Offer help for Disabled people to run businesses that are good for the planet.

Community Owned

Aim: Actively engage and persuade for our priorities.





Priorities: Other – City Owned

Scoring definition

1 - Very Low 4 - High
 2 - Low 5 - very high /significant
 3 - Moderate

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Emergency services prepare to accommodate the needs of Disabled people in disaster relief.</p>	<p>Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum Local Emergency Services BCC WECA BDEF</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>5 Society - reduced inequalities</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>
<p>Provide accessible resources, information and training to enable Disabled people to understand, be involved in, and not be negatively impacted by climate action in the city</p>	<p>BCC WECA BDEF</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4 Equalities – Equal access Equalities – prevent the creation of new barriers Economy - opportunities for skills and training</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>



Priorities: Other – Community Owned

PRIORITY ACTION (WITH ASSOCIATED CARBON IMPACT)	COLLABORATIONS stakeholders, supporters, partners, experts	RESOURCE (COST) what we need to make this a reality	IMPACT: carbon	IMPACT: people/ community cobenefits)	RESOURCE (PEOPLE) effort / capacity	TIMESCALE
Inspire others outside the city to create similar changes	BDEF	3	2	4	2	1-3 years

Accompanying Actions



Other

City Owned

Aim: Emergency services prepare to accommodate the needs of Disabled people in disaster relief. Make sure that Disabled people are one of the communities first helped when rescuing people.

Aim: Provide accessible resources, information and training to enable Disabled people to understand, be involved in, and not be negatively impacted by climate action in the city.

1. Any English text needs a video attached to it explaining things in BSL (and subtitled) by a deaf presenter.

Community Owned

Aim: Inspire others outside the city to create similar changes.

1. Ensure this plan and the needs of Disabled people are effectively promoted in news across the UK.
2. Work with other Disabled People Organisations (DPOs) and climate change groups outside of Bristol to make sure that the Disabled community is being engaged throughout the UK.

How our plan makes strategic connections



Cross-over with Partner Community Priorities

There are lots of cross-over with the priorities in the plans of our partner communities.

Firstly, we have provided advice to and requested that our geographic community partners embed accessibility into their plans and have made specific requests to pay extra attention to their physical infrastructure, including transport and green space. All climate action plans need to be accessible and this need is emphasized by the fact that many of our geographic community partners have some of the highest populations of Disabled people in Bristol.

Secondly, there are many areas of shared interest, and it is our hope that we can both work together and apply pressure together. These shared interests include green job creation, affordable transport, affordable energy/retrofitting, access to green space and affordable food. We also hope that specific schemes that we are creating for our community can work alongside the counterparts being created to serve other communities. Combining the voices of all the partner communities will make it far more likely we achieve the aims of all our plans.

Cross-over with Citizen's Assembly and Ecological Strategy

Our plan has many areas of cross-over with already published strategy documents on climate and ecological action in Bristol, most importantly the recommendations of Bristol's 2021 Citizens' Assembly and Ecological Strategy. We therefore anticipate and hope that our plan will work in collaboration with these.

The clearest cross-overs with the Citizens' Assembly are as follows:

1. The recommendation of 'training and upskilling the workforce within five years' includes the action to 'encourage new people to come into the industry'. Our priority to help Disabled people access the new green jobs would help work towards this aim.
2. The recommendation of 'Financing options to support homeowners and landlords' with the specific action to 'Provide grants for lower income households' echoes our call for retrofitting and green energy grants for Disabled people.
3. The recommendation to 'Reduce air pollution urgently' is in line with our call to act on air pollution.
4. The recommendation to 'Involve people in the planning and implementation of transport initiatives' matches our call for Disabled people to be involved in the development of all plans and for a Disabled people's Climate Action Plan Reference Group.

There are also many areas of cross-over between the council's Ecological Emergency Strategy and our plan.

1. The ecological strategy for 'People and businesses to reduce consumption of products that undermine the health of wildlife and ecosystems around the world' is in-line with our waste priorities.
2. The aim to 'Reduce food waste by working with businesses and individuals to improve purchasing decisions and food use' is supported by many of our food priorities.
3. The aim for 'At least 30% of land in Bristol to be managed for the benefit of wildlife by 2030' is complemented by both our food priorities around allotments and our nature priority to 'Support Disabled people to access nature in spaces that they own and already visit.'
4. The aim to 'Work together as a city to tackle single-use plastics' would be supported by our action to provide low or no cost home delivery and local zero-waste options to Disabled people.

Concluding Remarks

Working on this project has shown how important it is to listen to Disabled people in climate action. We have a lot to gain and a lot to lose. Whether the changes coming to Bristol are good or bad will be decided by how they are carried out. We ask everyone taking action on climate change in Bristol to use this plan to make sure that the changes are good and accessible.

We want to finish by saying that many Disabled people we talked to for this project have very little trust in those with power. One of the comments we were told most often was “you’re dreamers”.

We have sympathy for this view. But is being a dreamer bad? To dream is to look at ‘what is’ and see ‘what could be’. The current ‘what is’ is bad both for Disabled people and the planet. If we want a future that Disabled people can be safe and happy in then we must dream, and furiously.

Our plan then is two asks:

To people with power in Bristol, please prove these doubts wrong. Show us that our aims are yours. We will need allies with time, resources and influence. We warmly welcome these collaborators.

To Disabled people, a better Bristol is possible if lots of us come together to push for it. We need your help to make it real. Be part of the change.



Let's make change with the Bristol Disability Equality Forum

Acknowledgements



The Bristol Disability Equality Forum would like to thank the following people and organisations for their contribution to the development of this Community Climate Action Plan:

1. The members of the community of Disabled people who took the time to engage in our consultation and community engagement process.
2. The project steering group, (including: Maud Brown, George Hooton, Beth Richards, Hilary Smart, Amanda Somers, Valerie Stanfield, Lacey Trebilcock.)
3. All the local community groups and organisations that have supported or contributed (including: Paul's Place, We The Curious, Friends of the Earth, Avon Wildlife Trust, Bristol Energy Network, Centre for Sustainable Energy, Feeding Bristol, Going For Gold, The Galleries, Clifton Down Shopping Centre, Cabot Circus, Lawrence Hill Health Centre).
4. The Community Climate Action Project partners: Bristol Green Capital Partnership (Amy Harrison), Bristol City Council (Mark Leach) CSE (Harriet Sansom), Eastside Community Trust (Emily Fifield), Ambition Lawrence Weston (Donna Sealey), ACH (Katya Thickpenny Ryan), Lockleaze Neighborhood Trust (Karen Edkins), Heart of BS13 (Kirsty Hammond) for their support and collaboration through the Community Climate Action Project.
5. Our Community Climate Action heroes (Zac Jones and Beth Richards).
6. All the Community Climate Action City partners who contributed to the Peer Review Roundtable event (Nov 2021).
7. Community Artists Dee Moxon, Morgan Tipping and Tommy Chavennes for their creative contribution to our community engagement process.
8. The National Lottery Community Fund: Climate Action Fund for supporting the development of this plan.
9. Redweather Productions (Frank Spencer from Redweather Productions, Forum member and media professional Beth Richards, and our own Emma Geen) for creating the project's engagement video.



Appendices

Evaluation and wider objectives



This plan was developed as part of the Bristol Community Climate Action Project (co-ordinated by Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Bristol City Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy).

The current evaluation objectives/outcomes of the Bristol Community Climate Action Project are:

1. Communities will be enabled to better understand and plan for Bristol-wide carbon emissions reduction.
2. Supporting a transition to a carbon neutral city that also creates a more just and inclusive society.
3. Community Climate Action Plans support identified wider community needs and priorities (cobenefits).
4. Learnings from the project are shared locally and nationally.

The development phase of the Bristol Community Climate Action project (October 2020 – April 2022) focused on the development of six coproduced Community Climate Action plans by six Bristol community organisations (ACH, Ambition Lawrence Weston, Eastside Community Trust, Bristol Disability Equality Forum, Heart of BS13 and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust) and extensive evaluation data was collected during the project through a suite of 10 surveys using the online Makerble platform. A full evaluation report will be produced at the end of the development phase (April 2022).

The Bristol Community Climate Action project has been supported by the National Lottery Community Fund's Climate Action Fund. The overall objectives/outcomes of the fund are:

1. More – and more diverse – people engage with climate issues and understand what climate change means for them.
2. More – and more diverse – people have hope that things can change and take action on climate change.
3. Community-led climate action initiatives grow and develop.
4. Carbon emissions are reduced through action at local level.
5. Community-led climate action is fair and generates co-benefits for people's quality of life.
6. Learning on good practice is captured and shared.
7. The National Lottery Community Fund and others across the sector (including funders) integrate support for community-led climate action into their wider activities.
8. Evidence of increased support for climate action.
9. Local communities develop increased resilience to immediate climate impacts.

List of community co-benefits



Health & wellbeing

- Reduced fuel poverty
- Opportunities for physical activity
- Reduced noise pollution
- Reduced air pollution
- Opportunities to access healthier food
- Improved dietary health
- Improved mental and physical wellbeing

Economy

- Job creation
- Improved business efficiency
- Improved household finances
- Opportunities for skills and training
- Money retained in local economy
- Opportunities for local investment
- Lower energy costs
- Lower energy tariffs
- Reduced travel costs
- Reduced bills
- Reduced cost of buying compost/vegetables/fruit by producing their own

Environment

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Improved green spaces
- Reduced overheating risk
- Reduced flood risk
- Increased biodiversity
- Reduced waste going to landfill
- Creation of more attractive public spaces
- Less litter in public spaces

- Increased interest in the natural environment and food, and the link between these.
- Increased connection to the community and the environment

Resilience

- Security in energy supply (less power cuts)
- Security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)
- Security in energy supply (opportunities to access renewable energy sources)
- Food security (security in local food supply)
- Food security (less food waste)
- Skill creation through volunteering and training sessions

Society

- Reduced inequalities
- High level decision makers (ie national gov) influenced to make positive changes.
- Community brought together
- Improved public sector finances
- Residents feeling safer and more confident in their community
- Increased community ownership and pride
- Reduced social isolation
- Building a stronger, more connected community through sharing resources and skills
- Empowerment of young people

- Equalities
- Equal access
- Preventing the creation of new barrier
- Removing a barrier
- Making roads safer and more accessible for active travel

List of carbon impacts



Energy

- Hugely reduced energy demand from buildings, including heritage assets
- Smarter & more flexible management of energy demand, including storage
- Decarbonised power generation
- Decarbonised heat delivery
- Widespread, actively managed and planned carbon storage strategies
- Reduced energy demand
- Affordable heating
- Energy use is from renewable sources
- Improving all homes to EPC standard C
- Displacement of fossil fuel energy by using locally generated electricity from renewable sources

Buildings/Housing

- Hugely reduced energy demand from buildings, including heritage assets
- New buildings and developments that achieve net zero emissions, including associated transport
- Improving all homes to EPC standard C
- Increased/improved insulation on all housing stock

Food

- Altered dietary patterns & reduced food waste.
- Widely adopted agricultural practices that reduce emissions & increase soil carbon and protect & promote biodiversity
- Food education to reflect the needs of diverse communities
- Reduced meat (and dairy) consumption

Waste and Consumption

- Hugely altered consumption patterns, buying less and re-using/repairing more
- Greatly increased recycling rates to achieve a circular economy model, taking plastics out of the waste stream
- Altered dietary patterns & reduced food waste.
- Less demand on shop bought edibles
- Less packaging and waste
- Safe disposal of older appliances which contain Freon Gas which depletes the ozone layer
- Increased opportunity / accessibility to fixing of older/broken appliances
- More food waste going to biomass production

Transport

- Reduced private car travel and a comparable increase in active and public transport
- A complete shift to electric vehicles (& an end to petrol & diesel cars & vans)
- Massively reduced air travel, particularly among frequent flyers
- Reduction in petrol and diesel cars on the road
- Improved air quality
- Reduction in the cost/accessibility of public transport
- Availability of regular public transport links to employment hubs (e.g., Avonmouth)

List of carbon impacts – continued



Jobs/Economy/Education

- More residents trained within the Green Economy
- Supporting the local economy (or circular economy)
- Diversity in green jobs recruitment
- Climate change on school curriculum

Nature

- Widely adopted agricultural practices that reduce emissions & increase soil carbon and protect & promote biodiversity
- More biodiversity
- Better habitat for local wildlife
- More trees planted Protecting the
- biodiversity Sustaining wildlife
- populations Creating wildlife
- corridors Equitable access to
- green spaces

Full list of community co-production activities



Presentations and Discussion

BDEF Open Forum: 27th March - 7 people
International Women's Day event: 14th March - 7 people
Paul's Place Discussion Morning - 22 people

Sharing sessions

Nature: 26th July - 9 people
Transport: 28th July - 15 people
Energy: 30th July - 5 people
Picnic and food: 4th August - 9 people

Stalls

(Approximately 100 people)
St Paul's Learning Centre: 14th July
The Galleries: 4th August, 6th August, 10th August
Ridingleaze: 18th August
Clifton Down Shopping Centre: 27th August
Cabot Circus: 17th September
Lawrence Hill Health Centre: 28th August
COP March: 6th November

Feedback Sessions

BDEF Open Forum: 19th September
UWE Disability Breakfast: 29th September - 10 people
WECIL Know Your Rights Group: 30th September - 7 people
Paul's Place: 22nd October - 8 people
Bristol Equality Network Meeting - 15 people

Survey

88 responses



Glossary of terms used



- **Biodiversity:** All the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world.
- **Biomass:** Plant or animal material used as fuel to produce electricity or heat (eg. energy crops, waste from forests, yards, or farms. Since biomass can also be used as a fuel directly (e.g. wood logs), some people use the terms biomass and biofuel interchangeably.
- **Carbon emissions:** The carbon dioxide gas that planes, cars, factories, etc. produce which contribute to climate change.
- **Carbon footprint:** A tool to help us understand what changes we need to make to cut our emissions. They show us which actions result in emissions, and how much.
- **Circular economy:** An economic system of production. /consumption based on using renewable resources, eliminating waste and reusing and recycling goods for as long as possible.
- **Climate change:** Whilst greenhouse gases occur naturally, human activity (especially the use of 'fossil fuels' - oil, gas, coal) has led to hugely increased levels of these gases. This has led to the earth getting hotter, and our climate changing all over the world. Our climate affects everything on earth – the landscapes, seas, animals, plants, and of course people – and small changes in climate can impact where humans and animals can live, what and how much we can grow, our health, our sea levels, and much more.
- **Green jobs:** Green jobs are those which are in some way contribute to reducing the consumption of energy and raw materials, limit greenhouse gas emissions, minimise waste and pollution and protect and restore ecosystems.
- **Greenhouse gases:** Carbon dioxide, and other 'greenhouse gases', trap heat in the atmosphere and keep the earth warm (which is why they're called greenhouse gases). These gases, which occur naturally, make the earth a habitable place – without them it would be too cold to live here.
- **Just Transition:** Ensuring the transition to a low carbon society/economy is equitable, that any benefits are shared widely, whilst supporting those who stand to lose out economically.
- **Natural habitat:** The natural environment in which a species of plant/animal/fungi etc lives.
- **Net zero and carbon neutral:** This means that any carbon dioxide that is emitted by the activities taking place is balanced by the same amount of carbon dioxide being absorbed from the atmosphere (sometimes achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions is referred to as 'carbon neutrality').
- **Renewable energy:** Energy that is generated from natural processes that cannot be exhausted and is constantly renewed (including solar/sunlight, geothermal heat, wind, tides, water).
- **Retrofit:** The introduction of new materials, products and technologies into an existing building to reduce the energy needed to occupy/use that building.
- **Wildlife corridors:** A strip of natural habitat connecting populations of wildlife otherwise separated by cultivated land, roads, housing etc.

**Community
Climate Action**

