



2030: Re-Envisioning Bristol

Introduction

Bristol Green Capital Partnership (BGCP) is a network of over 1,000 businesses and organisations in the Bristol region committed to working together to make Bristol a more sustainable city with a high quality of life for all.

Supported by a small staff team this network hosts a number of expert stakeholder groups, and contributes to other independent groups.

In 2018, working with members and stakeholders, the Partnership produced [Our Future: A Vision for an Environmentally Sustainable Bristol](#), to feed into the first iteration of the [One City Plan](#), which is iterative and refreshed every year.

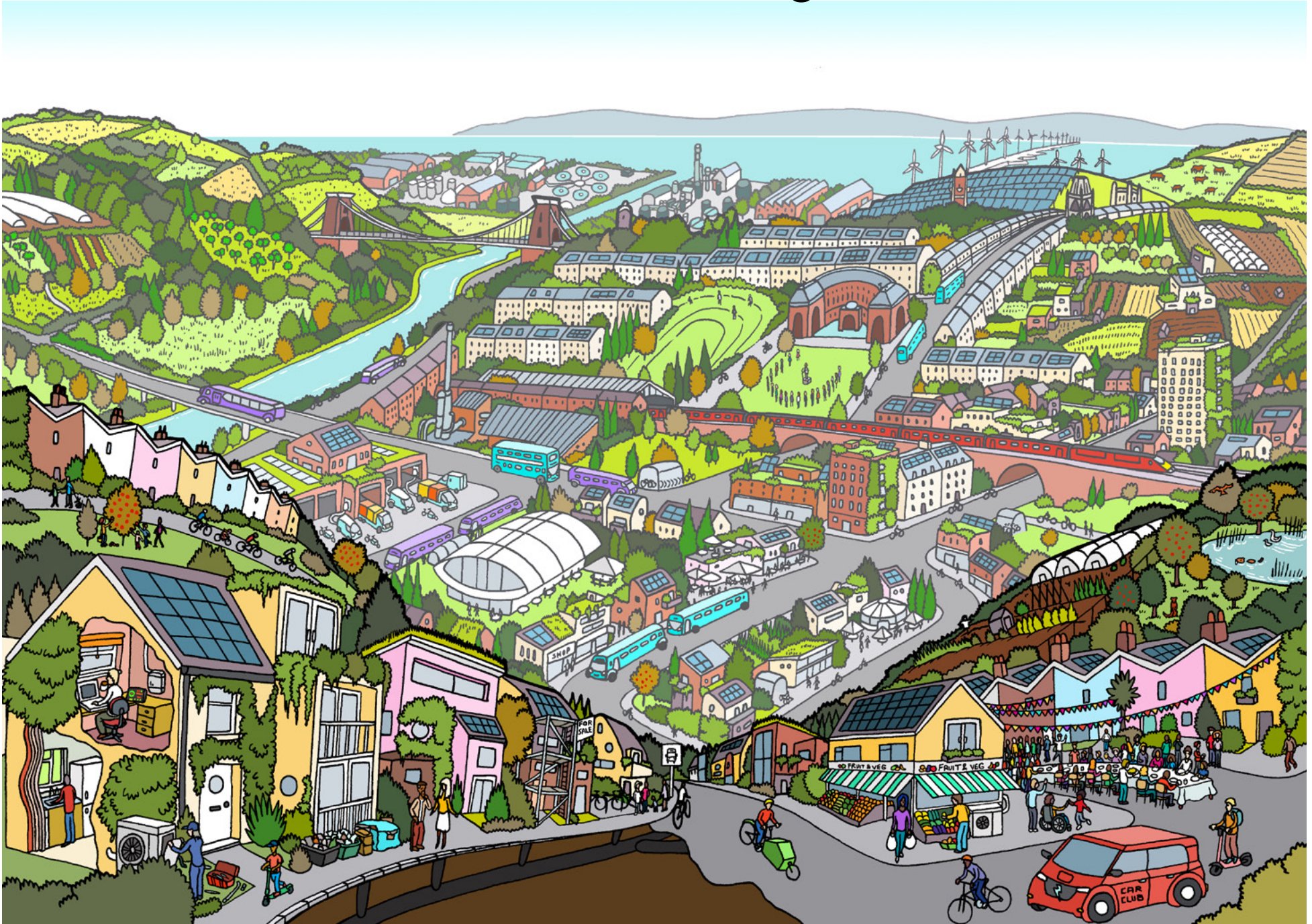
In 2020, a year which brought so many challenges, the Partnership's collaboration with UWE Bristol's SUNEX project (see Appendix for more detail) enabled BGCP members plus other stakeholders and experts in environmental issues, to participate in updating the One

City Plan. This led to the [third iteration](#) of the plan that reflects the latest knowledge of the scale, nature and pace of change required to achieve Bristol's climate and ecological goals by 2030, and the current challenges and opportunities for the city to make a green and fair recovery.

The interactive vision of what Bristol could look like in 2030 on the next page captures the many themes brought forward by stakeholder groups to underpin a green and fair recovery.

Our hope is that this re-envisioning will help to accelerate the work of those already involved in shaping Bristol's future, engage more people, and enable us all to visualise the future we want to create.

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Energy



Major upscaling of skills, training and generation of local jobs to develop infrastructure that has supported Bristol's low carbon transition.



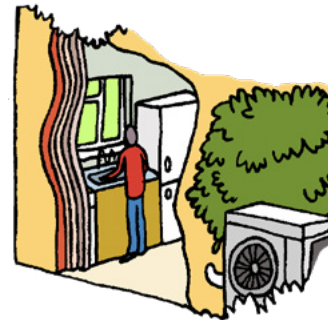
Sites of renewable infrastructure such as wind turbines and solar panels were identified by the Local Plans which helped provide the mandate for locally generated energy.



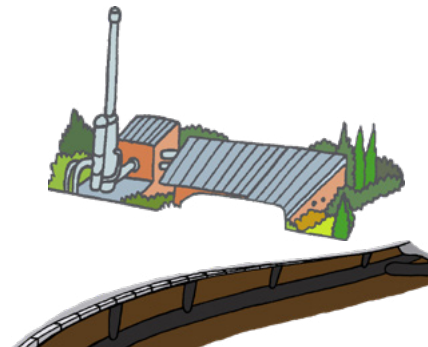
Local renewable energy generation is community or council owned which enables community engagement, agency and inclusion in the energy transition.



Smart energy management and battery storage infrastructure enables maximum benefit from sustainability measures including renewable energy generation, low carbon retrofits, heat pumps and district heat network.



Air source heat pumps and solid wall insulations have been installed in 95,000 buildings, eliminating the use of gas boilers in these buildings.



An extensive heat network connects and provides 68,000 buildings with district heating from zero carbon energy centres, eliminating the use of gas boilers in these buildings.

Food



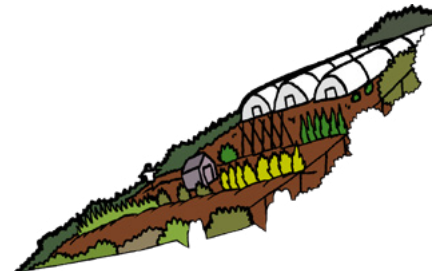
Communities are supported in their role and capacity to support a better, greener and more resilient food system.



Local, good quality food is sustainable, accessible and affordable to all. Vegetarian, vegan and locally sourced meals are a popular choice.



Diversity of food cultures and choices is reflected in Bristol's good food reputation and mainstream environmental conversations.



There are **wildlife-friendly food growing areas** in every ward in the city. Their regenerative approaches replenish the soil and help manage water.

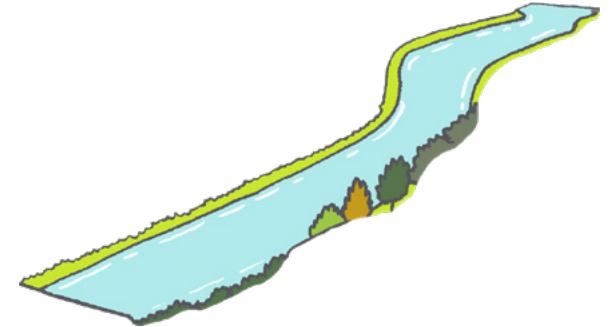
Nature



30% of land in Bristol is managed for the benefit of wildlife as set out in the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy and subsequently in Bristol's green infrastructure strategy.



Indicator species are part of a wider set of nature-related indicators that have been clearly developed and monitored to understand the scale of change needed and efficacy of nature-based solutions.



The **water quality** of all water ways in Bristol supports healthy wildlife.

Air quality in Bristol is of World Health Organisation standard.

Resources



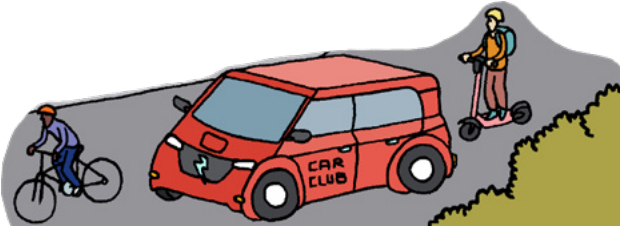
Zero Waste Zones and circular economy practices are commonly used by a wide range of businesses.



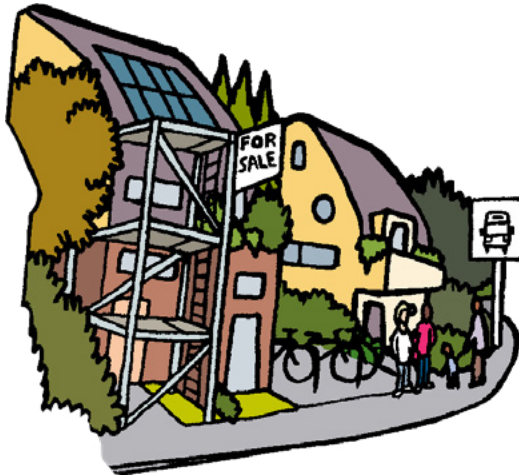
More targeted and scientific approaches to measuring litter has helped Bristol meet its Ecological Emergency targets and protect sensitive wildlife habitats from litter pollution.

Better data insight has allowed for targeted initiatives across domestic and commercial waste streams.

Transport



Active travel and other sustainable solutions - including e-scooters, e-bikes and car sharing – are convenient, affordable and accessible options which have helped reduce car miles travelled in Bristol by 50%.

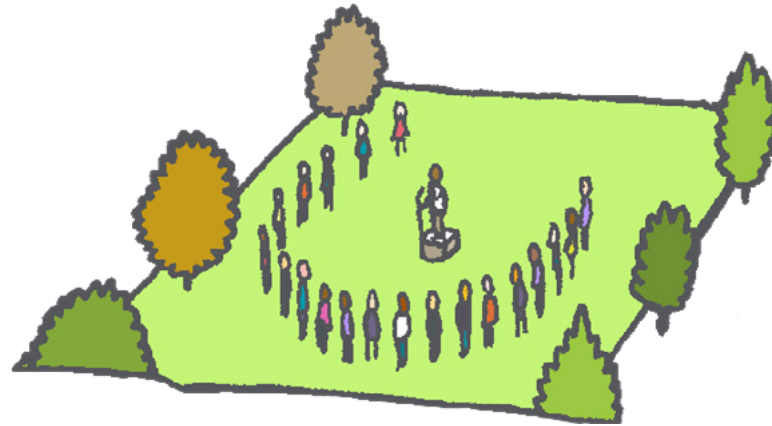


New developments encourage low car ownership levels which has helped to reduce private vehicle use.



Deliveries in Bristol are made by low carbon freight consolidation and distribution with consolidation centres situated at all key access routes.

People



Activities that support human rights, biodiversity and tackling climate change are financed by funds that have been divested from ecologically harmful activities.

Citizens of Bristol are democratically involved to help make the city fair, healthy and sustainable.

Bristol and its communities are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

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Project Overview

Bristol Green Capital Partnership (BGCP) is a network of over 1,000 businesses and organisations in the Bristol region committed to working together to make Bristol a more sustainable city with a high quality of life for all. Supported by a small staff team this network hosts a number of expert stakeholder groups, and contributes to other independent groups.

Through active collaboration and sharing expertise and experience, members of these stakeholder groups generate collective insight and a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities for different sustainability themes – such as food, energy, transport, resources and nature – at any given time. They are an invaluable source of knowledge and insight as the city – and wider world – experiences rapid and unexpected changes such as those precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In July 2020, BGCP partnered with [UWE's SUNEX project](#), which is exploring an integrated systems approach to formulate inclusive urban food, energy and water strategies. The nexus of these issues has been explored

over several years with stakeholders across the city, and the formal partnership between BGCP and SUNEX this year allowed an in-depth engagement process to take place within and between theme-focused expert stakeholder groups.

This engagement was focussed on the Bristol [One City Plan](#)'s environment theme timeline of objectives. The One City Approach brings together a wide range of public, private and third sector partners within Bristol to develop a shared aim to make Bristol a fair, healthy and sustainable city by 2050. The One City Plan, which describes how this shared aim will be achieved, is refreshed annually providing an opportunity to reflect on emerging challenges and opportunities within each of its seven themes: economy & skills, health & wellbeing, homes & communities, environment, children, transport and culture.

Achieving this overall vision means tackling numerous, shared and interconnected challenges, that often benefit from specialised perspectives to understand and develop actions to address them. The partnership between BGCP

Objectives

and SUNEX this year provided an opportunity to draw together expertise from the environment sector and to break down silos through engagement and communication, allowing priorities to emerge in a timely manner, which felt especially crucial during a year of such rapid and turbulent change.

The SUNEX project team is oriented to seek synergies that enable planning and prioritisation at a larger scale and Bristol Green Capital Partnership enabled access to collective expertise of its stakeholder groups (Sustainable Transport Network, Waste & Resources Action Group, Sustainable Planning Group) and other independent stakeholder groups (Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change, Bristol Energy Network and Bristol Food Network stakeholders, Black & Green Ambassadors and the Ecological Emergency Working group), to identify emerging priorities during the refresh of the environment theme timeline for the 2021 edition of the One City Plan.

The objectives of the partnership were:

- To broaden participation in the One City Plan refresh process, enabling access for a wider group of stakeholders.
- To access a wide range of specialised expertise from various community organisations, interest groups, academics and practitioners to ensure that the timeline accurately reflects current challenges faced by the city, and emerging priorities to address these.
- To capture and record this insight, including that of many members of Bristol Green Capital Partnership, to support strategy and enable future planning of BGCP CIC and members' work in the region.

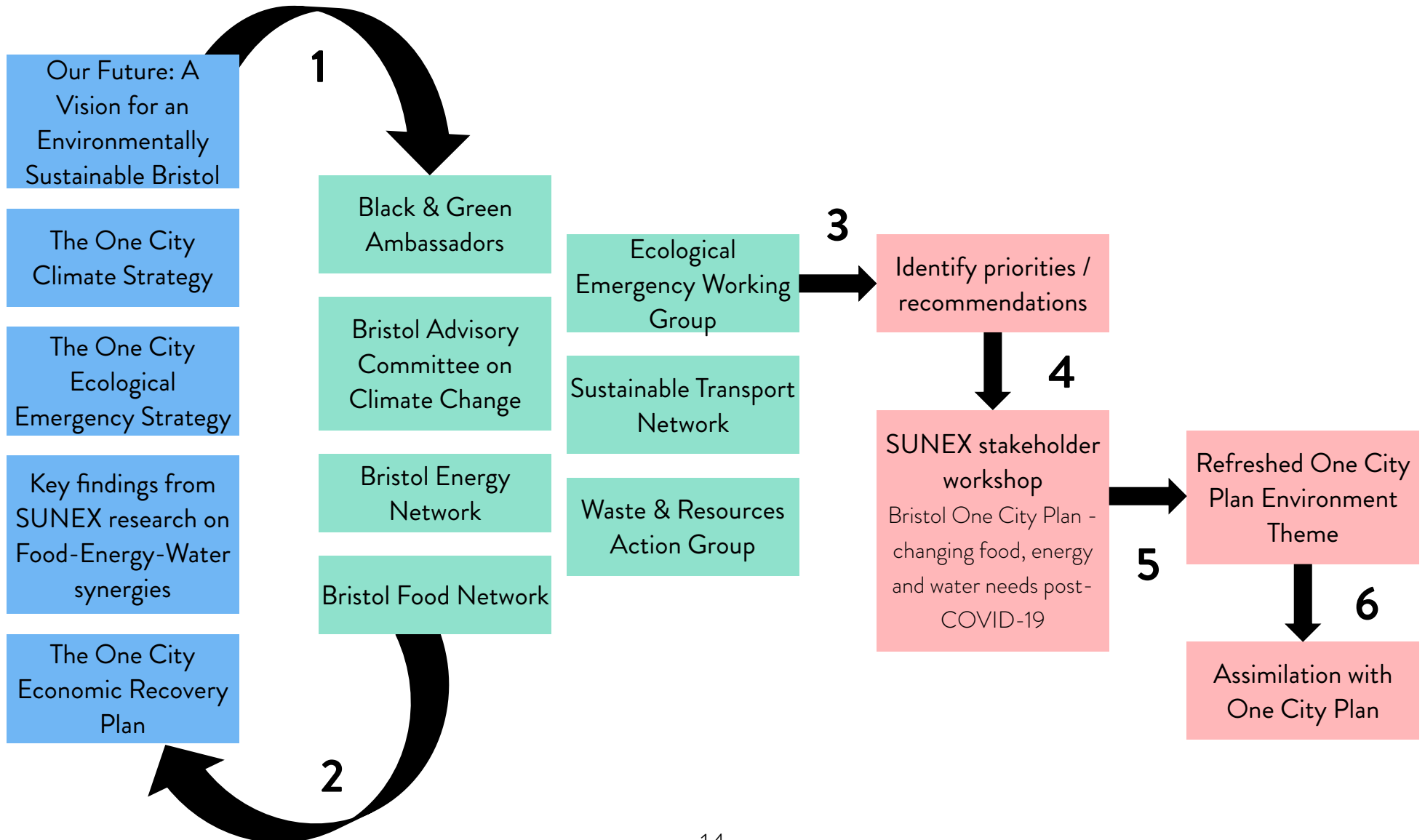
Process of Engagement

The process of this engagement was as follows:

- 1. Inputs summarised** - BGCP identified and consolidated summaries of key inputs and shared these with expert stakeholder groups, drawing out items of particular relevance to their theme or issue. The inputs included: [Our Future: A Vision for An Environmentally Sustainable Bristol](#), the [One City Climate Strategy](#) published in February 2020, the [One City Ecological Emergency Strategy](#) published in September 2020, Key findings from SUNEX research about food-energy-water synergies and the [One City Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy](#).
- 2. Stakeholder workshops** - During stakeholder workshops held with each expert group, these inputs were summarised and presented before detailed feedback on the One City Plan were gathered during workshop sessions. Findings from these workshops were captured and summarised, and feedback forms were shared with participants to evaluate the workshop and monitor equalities and diversity.
- 3. Feedback consolidated** - Findings from stakeholder workshops were consolidated and presented to the One City Environment Board working group, responsible for editing the environment timeline and refreshing the One City Plan.
- 4. One City Plan Environment Theme refreshed** – A working group of One City Environment Board members produced a draft of the timeline and presented it back to representatives from the stakeholder groups as part of the 18 November SUNEX stakeholder workshop, “Bristol One City Plan: changing food energy and water needs post-COVID-19”. This workshop also explored the emerging concept of the ‘15-minute neighbourhood’ to describe, capture and retain positive changes precipitated by COVID-19 restrictions and resulting changes to urban lifestyles.
- 5. Findings inform refresh** - Findings from stakeholder workshops and the SUNEX workshop were used to inform the refresh of the One City Plan’s environment timeline, which were presented in a final draft to the

One City Environment Board on 2 December.

- 6. Environment timeline incorporated** - The draft was then assimilated along with other theme timelines to produce the 2021 version of the One City Plan.



Participation, Diversity & Inclusion

Overall, 108 participants from 60 different organisations took part in the project, with 82 participants from 50 organisations attending the stakeholder workshops and 36 participants (including speakers) from 30 organisations subsequently attended the 18 November workshop.

To support our aim “To broaden participation in the One City Plan refresh process, enabling access for a wider group of stakeholders”, when inviting participants we aimed to achieve a broad range of participation from stakeholders with diverse focus and roles within the environmental sector. We are pleased with the range of themes and organisations (including type, size and sector) represented but, unsurprisingly, participation was not fully demographically representative of Bristol’s community; less than 6% of respondents to the request for diversity data identified as from a Minority Ethnic group. This is partly due to [existing underrepresentation](#) in the sector more widely, an issue that Bristol Green Capital Partnership and many of its members are committed to taking action upon.

To support participation during this period of increased

financial pressures and other priorities, BGCP offered remuneration to any participants not attending as part of their job in a paid capacity and encouraged invitees reached through stakeholder groups to suggest others that may add valuable perspectives on their topic areas.

Coinciding with this project was the launch of the [Black & Green Ambassadors Programme](#), delivered in partnership by Ujima Radio and BGCP, which exists to connect, empower and celebrate diverse leadership and community action on environmental issues in Bristol and beyond; challenging perceptions, creating new opportunities and working towards ensuring the environmental movement is inclusive and representative of all communities. Ambassadors for 2020-2021 – Asia Yousif, Olivia Sweeney and Roy Kareem – attended the food, energy and ecological emergency focussed stakeholder workshops as some of their earliest engagements in post, offering valuable perspectives to the refresh process and making new connections with stakeholders from the environmental sector.

General Conclusions from Stakeholder Workshops

- Support for communities is key to achieving the significant shifts required in food, transport, resources, energy and nature. Throughout COVID-19, community has proved its ability to act, pull together and find solutions – all valuable assets to tackling environmental challenges that need to be valued and invested in.
- Planning and policy in development should ‘lock in’ positive environmental opportunities at the earliest possible stage, to avoid need to retrofit solutions in the future.
- There are numerous opportunities to ensure that Bristol’s transition is just, including access to jobs and skills in low carbon sectors and green infrastructure; and ensuring that environmental policy is developed with everyone involved, and benefits and celebrates the contribution of all Bristol’s communities.

Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change (BACCC)

[BACCC](#) is an independent, technical committee of members with a wide range of expertise on climate change, providing technical advice to Bristol’s One City Boards. Identified key priorities as:

- Improving resilience to the impacts of climate change should be an increased focus of citywide environmental priorities. There are no current actions to pave the way to achieving this by 2030, despite it being a goal, yet this is what people across the city will meaningfully feel in their day to day lives.
- Addressing the disconnect between the vision for achieving carbon neutrality and how citizens must be democratically involved in order to achieve the goals.
- Supporting a just transition – carbon neutrality may mean job losses within certain sectors but simultaneously, there is a need to re-skill to achieve this goal. Several new economic opportunities would also arise from improving and maintaining green infrastructure.

Bristol Energy Network

(BEN)

[BEN](#) is an umbrella organisation for individuals and community groups with an interest in energy in Bristol and the surrounding area. Identified priorities as:

- Major upscaling of skills and training to build new skills and opportunities within the city that will support the infrastructure developments required for a low carbon transition, at the same time as creating local jobs.
- Ensuring the upcoming Local Plans identify sites of renewable infrastructure to enable local generation, without which they will not receive permission.
- Enabling community engagement, agency and inclusion in the energy transition – via community or council ownership of local renewable energy generation schemes.

Bristol Food Network

(BFN)

[BFN](#) supports, informs and connects individuals, community projects, organisations and businesses who share a vision to transform Bristol into a sustainable food city. Identified key priorities as:

- Acknowledging and recognising the importance of community, as demonstrated in response to the pandemic, and supporting its role and capacity to support a better, greener and more resilient food system.
- Reflect diversity of food cultures and choices in Bristol's good food reputation and mainstream environmental conversations.
- To become sustainable, food systems need to enable better access to local, good quality food ensuring these options are affordable to all. Ensure that the plans and policies are non-judgemental, recognising that individuals do not actively 'choose' non-environmental diets but instead barriers to access and information are present, preventing more sustainable choices.

One City Environment Board Ecological Emergency Working Group

Made up of ecological system and nature advocacy specialists, this group was set up to produce Bristol's [One City Ecological Emergency Strategy](#). Identified key priorities as:

- The need to accelerate ecological ambitions and solidify commitments, to align with the newly published One City Ecological Emergency strategy.
- Developing clear indicators that enable a clear understanding of the scale of challenge and efficacy of solutions. Developing suitable monitoring and evaluation frameworks to better understand the ecological emergency is essential.
- Amplifying the need to divest finance from ecologically harmful activities towards activities that support human rights, biodiversity and tackling climate change.

Sustainable Transport Network (STN)

STN is a group of Partnership members who have expertise or interest in issues around sustainable transport in Bristol and the West of England, aiming to work together to create change. Identified key priorities as:

- Enabling active travel and other innovations (including e-scooters, e-bikes and car sharing) to reduce private vehicle use by 2030.
- Ensuring new developments are planned to encourage and 'lock in' low car ownership levels as they are built.
- Ensuring that outcomes for legal clean air levels and World Health Organisations (WHO) standards remain the goal – ensuring policies to achieve these are proportionate and targeted towards the highest polluters.

Waste & Resources Action Group

(WRAG)

WRAG is a group of Partnership members who have expertise or interest in issues around waste and resources in Bristol, connecting people and organisations with different experience, knowledge and perspectives in order to accelerate progress towards a circular economy in the city. Identified key priorities as:

- Capture better data insight and progress across domestic and commercial waste streams to allow for targeted initiatives, by working with VCSE organisations.
- Clearly define 'zero waste zones' and initiatives whilst also engaging a wider range of businesses on practices of circular economy.
- Ensure more targeted and scientific approach to measuring waste to help meet targets in the Ecological Emergency strategy and protect sensitive wildlife habitats from litter pollution.

Learnings & Recommendations

During this project, BGCP gathered input from stakeholder groups to ultimately inform the refresh of the One City Plan taking place in March 2021.

As a starting point, the One City Plan provided a valuable source of information to prompt conversation and reconfigure priorities, however, this approach also led to very targeted questions around contents and issues described in the 2020 iteration of this plan being asked which risked limiting the conversation.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time, all stakeholder meetings were convened via Zoom. This potentially enabled easier access for some stakeholders by removing the need to travel to physical meetings, but may have created other barriers including digital exclusion and virtual meeting conventions making it more difficult to share views openly.

Proactive measures to increase diversity of stakeholders undoubtedly resulted in more inclusive participation but there is further to go in order to achieve a process that fully reflects Bristol's demographic makeup.

Feedback from Participants

Over a fifth of participants responded to a request for feedback on the stakeholder workshops and provided equalities monitoring information. More than half of respondents rated the workshop a 4 out of 5 in usefulness, with a third scoring 5 out of 5.

Generally, respondents felt that the workshops were well organised and ran smoothly. Most found it useful in facilitating productive and insightful discussions with other expert stakeholders, helping them to gain a better collective picture of the changes and impacts seen last year in their area of expertise, as well as understanding where other stakeholders in their field are at and what the One City Plan can (and cannot) do in this current context. They also found it useful having theme-relevant city developments extracted from key strategic and research references and consolidated into one document.

Comments included:

“I thought the session was well chaired and managed. It allowed for meaningful discussion to take place”

“It’s refreshing to discuss and debate the One City Plan

and clarify what it is, and what it’s not doing, so the items in it (or in previous versions) can be understood better, and the fact it’s not an action plan or a way of managing actual initiatives”

“It was interesting to hear everyone’s perspectives and feels as though we are all on similar pages.”

“[...] very helpful that you have gathered all the relevant strategic references to food in one place”

Respondents were invited to suggest ways to improve the workshop. Key learnings include:

- Providing focused questions and presentation slides to participants in advance of the session.
- Consider alternative formats of presenting the One City Plan and capturing feedback.
- Invite more topical experts to provide more detailed feedback.

BGCP have reflected on the feedback provided and will take forward as learnings for future stakeholder engagement processes.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank the following organisations for their participation in the stakeholder workshops and/or 18 November workshop:

91 Ways, Arthur David, Arup, Avon Wildlife Trust, Biffa, Black & Green Ambassadors, BRERC, Bristol & Bath Parks Forum, Bristol City Council, Bristol Cycling Campaign, Bristol Energy Network, Bristol Food Network, Bristol Food Union, Bristol Walking Alliance, Bristol Water, Bristol Waste, Bristol Zoological Society, Business West, Centre for Sustainable Energy, City LEAP, City to Sea, Ecosurety, Environment Agency, F3 local food consultants, Feeding Bristol, Fishponds Energy Group, Friends of the Earth, GENeco, Green Future Associates, Incredible Edible Bristol, IPT World, Let Us Grow, Make Your Home Eco, Mott MacDonald, Nash Partnership, National Food Service, North Bristol SusCom, One City Environment Board, Permanently Brilliant, Renewable exchange, Resource Futures, Schumacher Institute, SevernNet, SPS Play, Sustrans, UK Centre for Climate Change & Social Transformations (CAST), University

Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, University of Bath, University of Bristol, UWE Bristol, Veolia, Water2Business, We The Curious, West of England Nature Partnership, Wessex Water, Western Power Distribution, Windmill Hill City Farm, WPD.

We would also like to thank Andy Council for his work on creating the 2030: Re-Envisioning Bristol illustration. It was based on his previous work for [Future Bristol](#), a project exploring future 2050 scenarios of a low carbon city.