



Making BS13 Brilliant

Hartcliffe & Withywood's Community Climate Action Plan 2022

Updated in 2024

Let's make change with Heart of BS13



Introduction

The climate and nature crises are not just about the environment – they are a social crisis too, and it is vital to tackle them together. There is a huge opportunity for bold, transformative climate and nature action to reduce, rather than exacerbate inequalities, and to improve the quality of life for people locally and globally. This requires ensuring that diverse communities and those most affected by climate and nature breakdown are able to shape our response.

Bristol has a goal of reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. The One City Environment 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.

Bristol's mammoth goal of being carbon neutral and climate resilient, whilst improving the lives of its residents, especially those most disadvantaged, will require the collective skills, knowledge and energy of the whole city. This community climate action plan for Hartcliffe & Withywood responds directly to this need. It centres the role of communities and community anchor organisations in this.

This plan has been developed as part of the Bristol Community Climate Action Project which aims to enable communities in Bristol to reduce their carbon footprints, support nature recovery and bring social benefits to local people.



The project aims to contribute to three significant impacts:

- A reduced risk of catastrophic climate change.
- A just and inclusive transition to net zero.
- Improved quality of life for local people (e.g. improved health and well-being, economic opportunity, resilience, social cohesion and improved biodiversity).

Who



The Community Climate Action Project is a partnership of community organisations across the city: Ambition Lawrence Weston, Ashley Community Housing, Eastside Community Trust, Heart of BS13, and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust, coordinated by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, supported by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and Bristol City Council (Sustainable City & Climate Change Service). 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 five core organisations involved in the project represent communities experiencing multiple disadvantages who have traditionally been excluded from the climate change debate and responses to it. Across the city, it is also disadvantaged communities like these that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – extreme weather events, disruption to critical services which they rely on, instability in living costs, and so on. Any city simply looking to reduce its 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 a city.

However, if our strategic response to climate change and nature breakdown is not informed by the critical insights and lived experiences of the diverse communities which make up our city, we risk designing solutions which further compound disadvantage; fail to respond to important social needs; entrench social and political division; and which aren't fit for purpose.



The project's learning and mentoring programme was launched in 2023, with the aim of supporting more, and more diverse, community organisations in Bristol with their climate action journeys.

Since then a further six community groups – Southmead Development Trust, Knowle West Media Centre, Windmill Hill City Farm, Hillfields Community Garden, Vassall Centre, BRICKS - have joined the programme and have been working with their local communities to co-produce climate action plans.

What



During 2021, the core community partners, along with Bristol Disability Equality Forum, coproduced community climate action plans with the communities they represent, having done significant engagement with residents. They are now leading on local demonstrator projects, which respond to key priorities identified in their plans, and contributing to the city's new Community Leadership Panel on Climate and Just Transition. The project includes a climate and disability strand, which centres Bristol's community of Disabled people in climate and nature action.

Now five more community groups are launching their climate action plans, having participated in the learning and mentoring programme, with a further seven community groups due to develop their plans in 2024/25. These organisations have had less financial resource from the project than the first round of partners, and the learning and mentoring programme cohorts are helping to identify the basic level of resource needed to develop a community climate action plan process which can be replicated beyond Bristol.

This community climate action plan, and the approach to developing it, has been guided by the principle of a just transition to net zero which improves the quality of life and life chances of citizens, especially those experiencing disadvantage and inequality. Climate projects are often well intentioned, but frequently exploit excluded groups by demanding time for free to help them become "more inclusive"; and whilst some climate actions and solutions provide social and economic benefits, others make life worse for communities who are already excluded and experiencing disadvantage.

The Community Climate Action Project seeks to do things differently and believes the transition to net zero can and should be a once in a generation opportunity to challenge systemic inequality. The project aims to build the knowledge and capacity of local community organisations, harness their knowledge and insights, and enable them to become leaders in the city's climate action.

The launch in 2023 of Bristol's Just Transition Declaration has created a strategic framework which further supports and guides the just transition ambitions of the community climate action plans and wider project activities. The Declaration sets out 10 principles that everyone working on climate change and nature loss in the city can use to make their plans as fair as possible.



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 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 crisis, community organisations in Bristol showed significant leadership, demonstrating the critical role communities can play in responding to a crisis. The climate and nature crises are no exception.

Community organisations are also experts of their place and the lived experience of their community. They are trusted by residents, and so are well equipped to develop pragmatic and targeted solutions which work for their specific communities, rather than imposed from outside. 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.



Statement from Programme Manager



As Heart of BS13's Climate Action Programme Manager, I'm incredibly proud of the journey we've been on together. Over the past few years, we've grown from a small community initiative into a driving force for change, focused on ensuring that our community plays an active role in the fight against the climate crisis. Our commitment to a just transition has been at the heart of this work—making sure that as we move toward a low-carbon future, no one in our community is left behind.

We've prioritised not only the environmental aspects of our mission but also the social and economic dimensions, understanding that true sustainability means creating opportunities for everyone.

Our work has been about empowering our community to take meaningful action, whether it's through personal choices, advocating for structural changes, or exploring new green economy opportunities.

This journey has been about more than just responding to the climate crisis; it's been about envisioning and building a future where our community thrives. I'm excited to continue this work, knowing that we're not just adapting to change but leading it, ensuring that BS13 is a place where everyone can benefit from a sustainable, just transition.

Kirsty Tait, Heart of BS13 Climate Action Programme Manager



Our ambition

BS13 is in the most 10% of deprived communities UK, our involvement in the Climate Action work has given us a clear understanding about how the climate emergency will disproportionately affect communities like ours. Thirty years ago, residents from the BS13 area founded Heart of BS13 to tackle the challenges and barriers to improved mental and physical health, using the environment as a vehicle for change.

Although we knew far less about the impact of climate change then, our community realised the importance of protecting and stewarding the environment and so this decade of critical climate action begins, our ability to increase knowledge and activity builds on what has gone before. Having a plan that has been devised by the community gives us a clear and locally designed pathway to follow, one that for the first time in BS13 puts children and young people at the front and centre of what people who live here aspires to do.

The pandemic give us the opportunity to reevaluate how we can fully utilise our community spaces with a focus on increased climate education and green economy jobs.

COVID made us recognise that we were under utilising a significant community green space we steward, this led to us transforming the space into our Climate Action Hub a sustainable venue. The space is the perfect venue for outdoor theatrical, artistic and musical productions, green educational activities, community events, groups, workshops and forest school.



Set on the Dundry Slopes with incredible views across the city, our Climate Action Hub is an accessible beautiful hidden gem.

Now we have a space which is accessible for all, reconnecting community groups, local schools and residents with nature and becoming BS13's first Climate Action Hub.

In May 2021 we were successful in our bid for the asset transfer of Hartcliffe Farm in partnership with Windmill Hill City Farm, our ambition is to build Hartcliffe City Farm into a thriving hub of community activity leading the way in BS13 for 'green economy' adding sustainable growth to the neighbourhood.

We now have a thriving flower farm our social enterprise based at Hartcliffe City Farm in BS13. We grow stunning flowers that we sell to Bristol businesses and residents, as well as running workshops, offering volunteer and trainee placements, and creating education opportunities for the BS13 community. Inequality here is systemic and transgenerational. Children grow up in a vicious cycle of poverty that in turn incubates Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) that go on to affect educational outcomes.

Fewer than 2% of young people from this area go into higher education with most working a lifetime in low skill, low pay jobs. Limited work opportunities place an immense burden on physical and emotional health, which then feeds into the same cycle for future generations. If the only jobs that children and young people see are the low pay, low skill jobs of their family members, then aspiration, self-belief, hope, and opportunity are simply words. Put simply, if you can't see it, you can't be it.

Our mission at Heart of BS13 is to disrupt this systemic, transgenerational inequality, by bringing together our knowledge of and passion for this community with the innovations that must happen because of the climate emergency. We want to ensure that BS13 benefits from climate action opportunities rather than afterthoughts.



Let's make change with Heart of BS13

Context



Heart of BS13

Heart of BS13 was established in 1990 to address the challenges and barriers faced by the BS13 community to improving their physical and mental health.

Our focus is on the intersection between employment, health and environmental justice and we have recently launched two new low-carbon social enterprises that support our work.

Our community

The 10 most deprived neighbourhoods in Bristol are all in the South Bristol areas of Hartcliffe, Whitchurch Park and Knowle West. At ward level, the greatest levels of deprivation in Bristol are in the wards of Hartcliffe & Withywood.

Each area has its own decile score. This is where each LSOA in England is ranked according to the level of deprivation and split into 10 equal groups. A decile score of 1 means the area is in the top 10% Hartcliffe and Withywood sit in the top 10% for the UK.

'Hareclive' in Hartcliffe and Withywood ward is in the most deprived 100 neighbourhoods in England. 'Hareclive' is ranked 91st most deprived neighbourhood nationally.

Inequality in BS13 is systemic and transgenerational. Children grow up in a vicious cycle of poverty that in turn incubates Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) that go on to affect educational outcomes.

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The areas of inequality experience to generate this level of deprivation are:

Community Response and Resilience in BS13 During and After the Pandemic:

The COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity for people to reflect on the global systems driving our consumer needs and desires. In BS13, plastic waste and unwanted rubbish have been significant issues. During the pandemic, many local residents organized litter-picking groups, encouraging their neighbours to stay active while caring for their community. These efforts also fostered connections with other community groups across Bristol.

The Quality of Life survey for 2023/2024, available [here](#), provides updated insights into the environmental and sustainability indicators for the wards in BS13. The key findings below all our show significantly worse than the Bristol average.



INDICATORS SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE THAN THE BRISTOL AVERAGE					
Title	Theme	Ward (%)	Bristol average (%)	Gap (%)	Polarity
% concerned about climate change	Sustainability & Environment	69.5	83.3	13.8	↑ Higher value is better
% satisfied public land is kept clear of litter and refuse	Sustainability & Environment	18.6	36.4	17.8	↑ Higher value is better
% satisfied with the quality of parks and green spaces	Sustainability & Environment	32.8	71.1	38.3	↑ Higher value is better
% very concerned about climate change	Sustainability & Environment	23.8	52.1	28.3	↑ Higher value is better
% who have changed the way they travel around Bristol due to climate change concerns	Sustainability & Environment	12.5	31.1	18.6	↑ Higher value is better
% who have changed what they buy due to climate change concerns	Sustainability & Environment	15.0	43.0	28.0	↑ Higher value is better
% who have eaten less meat and dairy produce due to climate change concerns	Sustainability & Environment	16.8	40.3	23.5	↑ Higher value is better
% who have reduced energy use at home due to climate change concerns	Sustainability & Environment	27.6	45.2	17.6	↑ Higher value is better
% who have reduced flying for holidays due to climate change concerns	Sustainability & Environment	7.5	26.3	18.8	↑ Higher value is better
% who have reduced their household waste due to climate change concerns	Sustainability & Environment	36.0	53.5	17.5	↑ Higher value is better
% who think fly-tipping is a problem locally	Sustainability & Environment	88.4	68.6	19.8	↓ Lower value is better
% who visit Bristol's parks and green spaces at least once a month	Sustainability & Environment	30.4	56.5	26.1	↑ Higher value is better

The long-awaited Hartcliffe Way refuse and recycling center, which opened in early 2024, is now operational. As the largest household recycling center in the region, it provides a crucial service to residents in the south of Bristol, significantly reducing the need for travel across the city. Heart of BS13 is proud to honor the late Heather Jarrett, a local resident and activist whose dedication was instrumental in bringing this development to fruition.

With high levels of deprivation in BS13, the impact of climate change and the cost of living crisis has been particularly severe. Many in the community feel "overwhelmed and unsure about how to make an impact," but local residents, community groups, and organizations are providing support and empowering individuals to find their voices and take action.

The BS13 community's spirit, resilience, and willingness to "get stuck in" have always been recognized as key strengths. These attributes have never been more crucial as we navigate the climate crisis together. The ongoing cost of living crisis has further intensified challenges, making our food services more vital than ever. We continue to support residents by addressing immediate needs while also empowering the community to tackle broader environmental and social issues.

Community climate hero

Merchants Academy Katy Ford (Raising Standards Leader - Art and Photography)

In the middle of a global pandemic with school closures, classroom bubbles, home schooling and everchanging restrictions the logistic of offering meaningful face to face engagement with students felt like an impossible task. With lots of schools unable to engage due to the global pandemic, Katy ford was instrumental in organising and breaking down the barriers to enable the workshops with her students. As a YR8 tutor Katy Ford is a passionate leader one who believes that climate education is a vital element in young people's progression. Katy engaged with her students and became in house photographer sending high resolution images which we have used in our plan. We now have a direct link into Merchants Academy School due to her efforts.

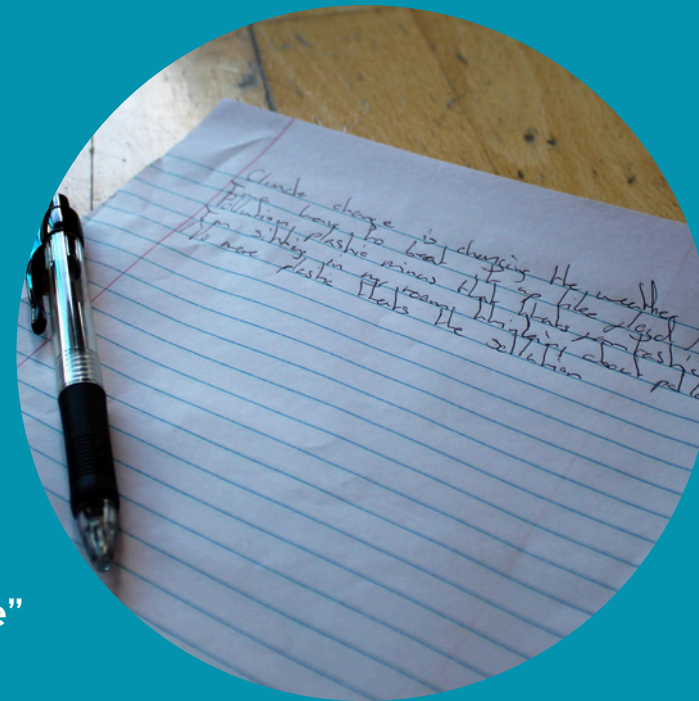


"When it was easier to say no, Katy said yes let's make this work"

Poems and raps from students

"save the ocean before it's too late
hurry up this is our fate
the time is ticking, the animals are waiting for you,
the ocean is a flooding zoo,
all the turtles are stuck in plastic
join the journey to make the world fantastic
help the fishes in the reef
otherwise our lives are gonna be brief"

"fossil fuels are non-renewable but making changes is still do-able"



**"Just to say A BIG THANK YOU
to you and your team of
workshop crew. You were all
amazing and the students had
the best time!"**

**Katy Ford, Raising Standards Leader -
Art and Photography, Merchants'
Academy Secondary**

"I want to see the ocean
but all I see is commotion,
with plastic on the rise
government feeding us lies,
we need to change this now
gather round we'll show you how,
plastic in the sea
aint no good for me,
we need to stop
before we all drop,
you need to understand
they sell plastic on demand,
everywhere I go
I see litter on the floor
there's so much CO₂ in the air...but the polluters they don't care"



"pollution and plastic take that away and the world would be fantastic"

"We need to protect our ocean we love our wildlife and what it brings"

"Deforestation is destructive chopping down trees where the animal live, if we recycle we clean up this mess and finally let the animals rest"

"stop littering NOW"

"save the world by recycling, stop throwing it into the sea, a tonne of litter that doesn't sound good to me"

"stop abusing our planet"

"I have enjoyed learning more about climate change because it's our future"

Community climate hero

A2A Student

Torrie-Leigh Bedford (18)

Torrie attends A2A a small, friendly and relaxed training provider for student aged 16-18 based in BS13 with the aim of working towards qualification that put you under less pressure but that are still valued by colleges and employers. All the learners have a Youth Support Advisor the curriculum is aimed at completing GCSE English, Maths or Functional skills and the step-up progression certificate.

The step-up programme's objective is to try new things and build confidence gaining employability and life skills. Torrie attended our Creative Climate Education workshop and we were blown away by her engagement, willingness to take on new challenges and passion for climate action.

Torrie gained confidence over the workshops presenting her ideas and inventions to the group as well as being filmed and interviewed for the creative commission CCA piece.



Torrie-Leigh Bedford's invention
"A magnet/vacuum that can
remove litter from football stadiums
and sort turn into ECO bricks to build
homes for the homeless"

Our baseline community carbon footprint



Our community's carbon footprint summary

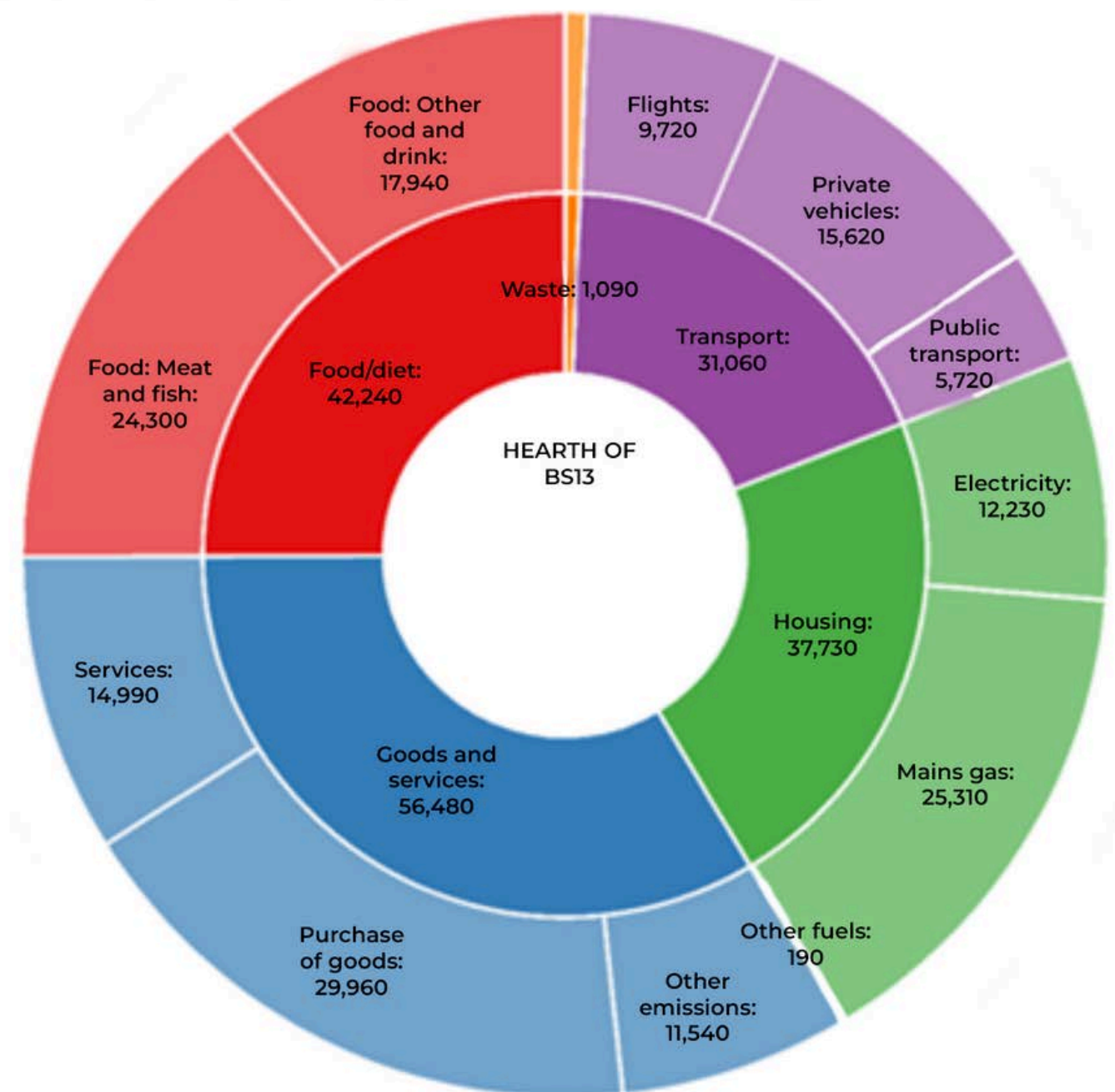
Our carbon footprint report, produced by Bristol charity the Centre for Sustainable Energy, showed us the scale of our community's carbon emissions and the main 'consumption activities' responsible for these emissions (that's why it's called a 'consumption-based' carbon footprint).

Having a picture of what our community carbon footprint looks like helps us understand the activities which result in carbon emissions, and from here we can begin to think about the breadth of activities needed to reduce emissions, where to focus our attention, and to explore which activities are possible at the community-level, and which require Bristol-wide, national, or even global commitment and action.

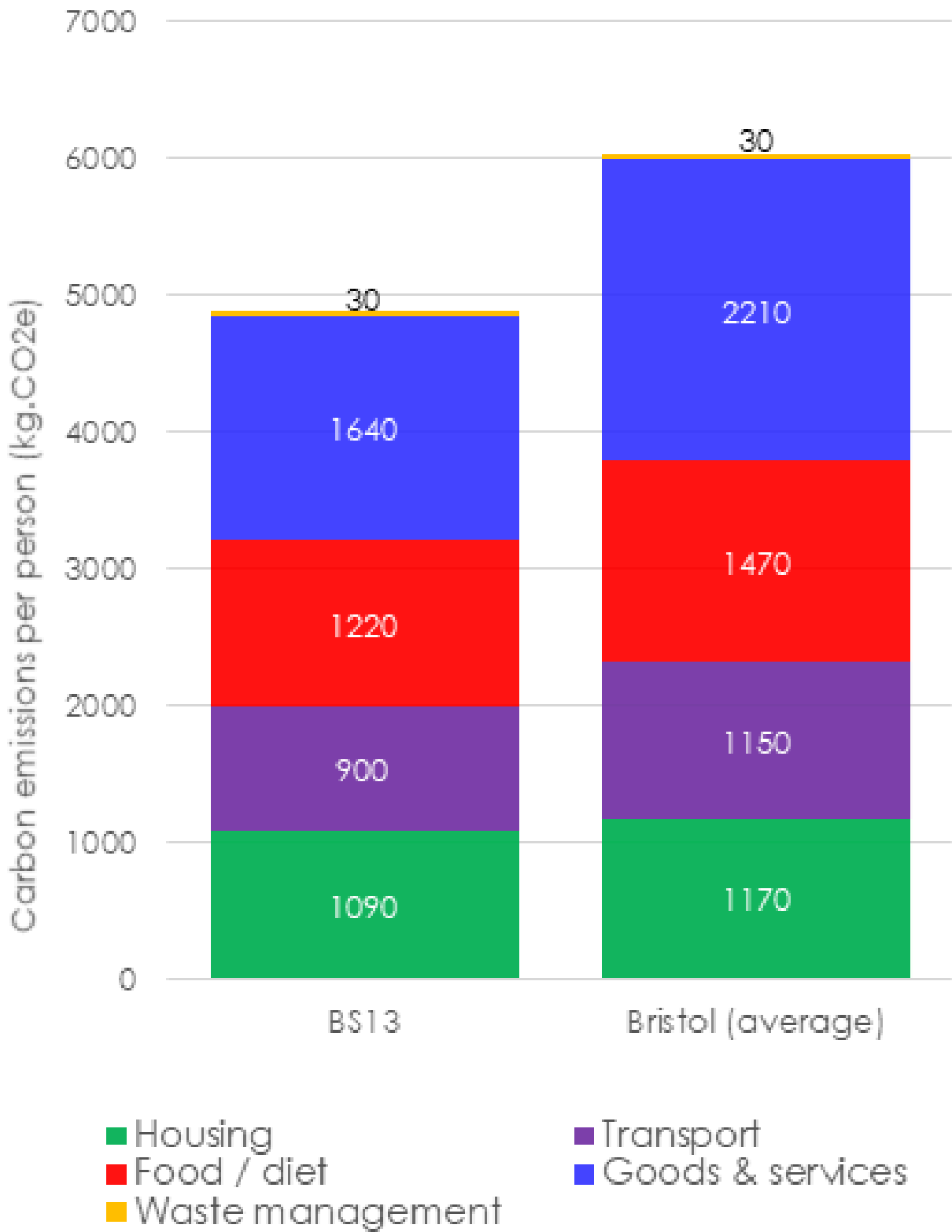


What did we learn?

Here is our community's total carbon footprint –



And this is the average carbon footprint per household, and in comparison, to the Bristol average –



Summary of carbon footprint report

The carbon footprint analyses will play a key part in our plans to regenerate Hartcliffe City Farm as we centre around our commitment to increasing green job opportunities and reducing our impact on the environment. The report will also help shape our educational programme as we redevelop The Roundhouse into BS13 first Climate Action Hub.

When looking at BS13 emissions, it is important to note that our carbon emissions are lower than the city average, but this isn't necessarily due to choice.

For example, rather than households having lower-than average housing emissions because they can't afford to keep their heating on in winter, we can look at ways of reducing emissions by providing residents with support and resources they need to make their homes more energy efficient and easier to keep warm. This will tackle fuel poverty benefiting the residents and the planet.





Bristol climate context

The science on the climate emergency is clear: we need urgent action to reduce our carbon emissions to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5°C, and to prevent disastrous impacts. Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, homes, food security, the environment, our flora and fauna, raw materials, water supply and economic growth will continue to increase in severity. Even if we manage to limit change to 1.5°C, 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 exposed 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 we will 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

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 a 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, to increase the city's resilience in the face of these risks, and to share our successes and challenges openly and generously.

Taking action in Bristol – One City Climate Strategy

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. Whilst Lawrence Weston's households have a lower than Bristol-average carbon footprint, the community climate action plan has been an opportunity to engage our community's residents in tackling climate change. It explores how they can take the lead on changes in our community, and how we can ensure we maximise the social benefits that can come from these changes – warmer and more affordable-to-heat homes, quieter and safer streets, cleaner air.

Our natural environment is critical to our well-being and the climate resilience of our city. Preserving and supporting the green spaces of Lawrence Weston will decarbonise the air we breathe, improve our mental and physical health. It will also reduce the risk of flooding and extreme temperatures (the two major climate change risks facing Bristol in the coming years), and act as a carbon 'sink' (absorbing carbon from the atmosphere).

Taking action in Bristol – Ecological Emergency Strategy

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% 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%.
- 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.

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

We have given consideration to the ambitions of both these key strategies when developing the priorities of our community climate action plan.



Bristol City Leap

Another development significant to the communities working on community climate action is the Bristol City Leap programme. This is a 20-year joint venture partnership between Bristol City Council, Ameresco and Vattenfall Heat UK. It is designed to enable the delivery of over £1 billion of investment into Bristol's energy system at a time when the UK is struggling to match resources to the scale of change needed to address climate change and the energy/cost of living crisis.

What will City Leap do?

- Significant expansion of Bristol's Heat Network to provide the city with reliable affordable low carbon heat from sustainable sources.
- Solar panels and low carbon heating systems for local schools.
- The council's social housing will be made more energy efficient to tackle the cost-of-living crisis.
- Substantial investment will go into community-owned renewable energy projects.

City governance

Following a public referendum in May 2022, a significant change in Bristol's governance arrangements has been in place since May 2024, which could change how decisions are made in relation to climate and nature priorities. Bristol has shifted from a Mayor and Cabinet model to a committee system, led by 70 councillors, representing 34 wards. One councillor has been appointed by Full Council as the Leader of the Council.



Beyond Bristol

The West of England Combined Authority

The city of Bristol is located within the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) area and some significant climate and nature central Government funding and policy comes through WECA and impacts Bristol communities. This includes some aspects of strategic transport, skills and development of major developments along with some aspects of land use planning and the planning of housing. The WECA covers the council areas of South Gloucestershire and Bath & North East Somerset, as well as Bristol. It does not have elected councillors, only the Mayor is elected. Similar two-tier arrangements are in place in most of the larger cities/conurbations across England.

In 2022, the [Climate and Ecological Action Plan for the West of England](#) region was launched.

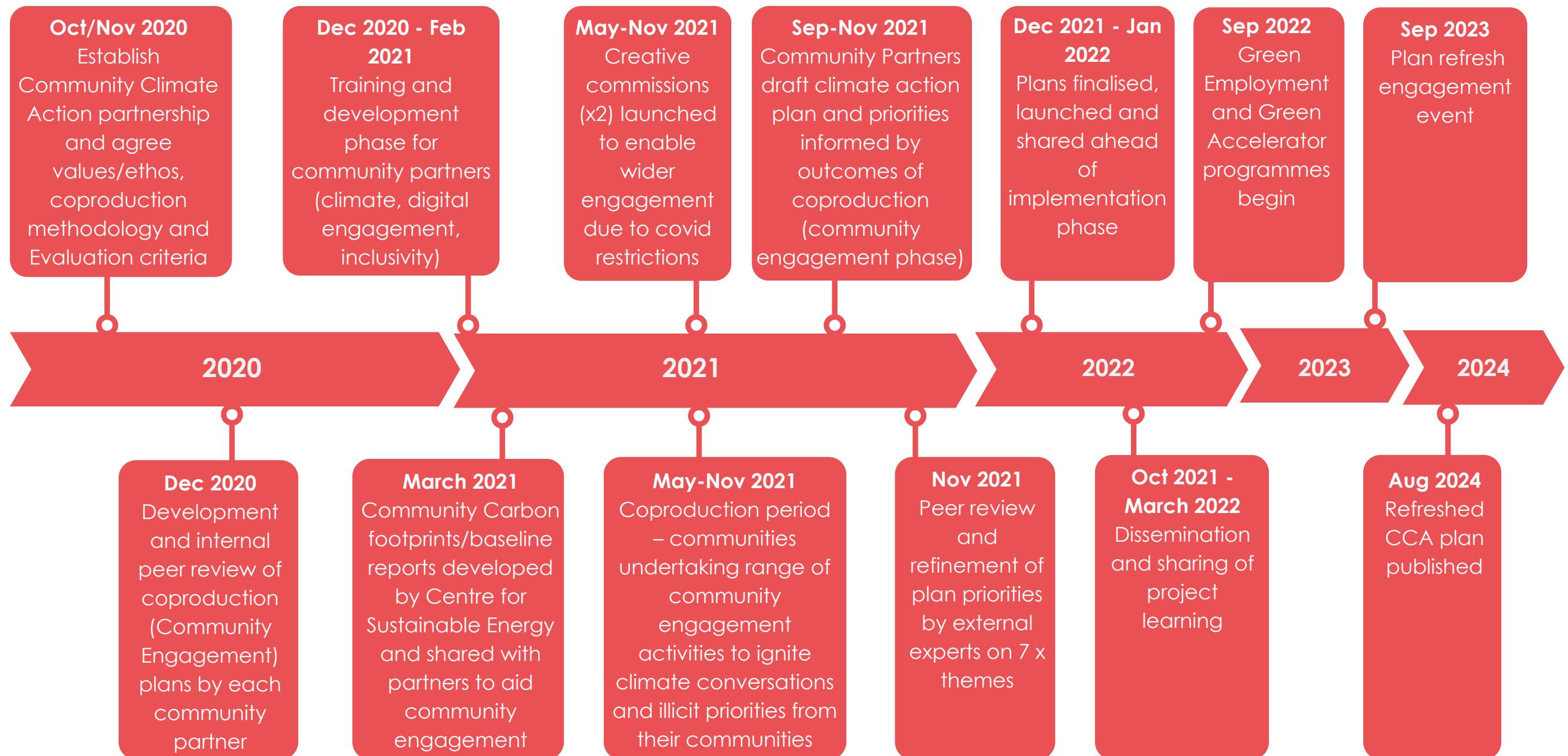
National context

Many of the actions communities want to see are not under the remit of local councils or Combined Authorities. We feel it is important to include these nonetheless - often local authorities can play a role allying with local communities to lobby central government for legislation, funding or policy change.



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

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.



Let's make change with Heart of BS13



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 emergency 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 a net carbon Bristol must also have improved quality of life for residents and social justice at it's 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.

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.

Youth Leadership in Environmental and Climate Action in BS13:

Young people in BS13 are essential to fostering an intergenerational approach to addressing the climate emergency. Recognised their critical role, we have made them central to the co-production process that will shape how the broader community understands current environmental and climate challenges, and how it develops practical and economic responses for future generations.

Children's perceptions of climate change are often less influenced by worldview or political context, and we understand their potential to inspire adults to care about climate issues, leading to collective action. Child-to-parent intergenerational learning—where knowledge, attitudes, or behaviors are transferred from children to parents—was identified by Heart of BS13 as a promising strategy to break through socio-ideological barriers to climate concern and motivate behavioral change.

To deliver our free creative climate education workshops, we partnered with local schools across BS13, including primary, secondary, SEND, and further education institutions, as well as local youth clubs. This was a significant effort, especially during the pandemic. Unsure of the existing climate and biodiversity knowledge among BS13's youth, we took an innovative approach by commissioning seven artists to lead interactive workshops using a variety of multimedia techniques. Our goal was to challenge perceptions, amplify local voices, and connect young people with their environment and future opportunities through creative thinking.

We used a mixed-method approach in our consultations, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques. A baseline survey was conducted with each group to capture initial thoughts on Hartcliffe City Farm and the climate and biodiversity actions needed to support it and the community in the future.

The creative climate education workshops engaged a total of 1,070 participants in meaningful ways, culminating in a celebratory lantern and tree planting parade. This event provided an opportunity to share our findings and priorities with the community.

For the Plan Refresh, in 2023/24 we continued to use creative thematic arts engagement methods, organising workshops and attending pop-up events where participants crafted mini trash monsters from scrap materials. We engaged with a further 400 community members, confirming that the priorities identified earlier had not changed, with transport and waste management remaining top priorities for all.



Using Creativity to Engage Diverse Communities in Climate Conversations:

Creativity has been at the heart of Heart of BS13 approach to climate engagement, allowing us to reach more diverse audiences and make climate action feel accessible, relevant, and empowering. Collaborating with artists and creatives has not only enhanced the way we communicate climate issues but has also made it possible for more people—especially those who may not typically engage in these conversations—to participate meaningfully.

One of the most impactful ways we have done this is through **craftivism**—using art and creative expression as a form of activism. Our community has responded incredibly well to this approach, showing that creative, hands-on engagement is often more effective than traditional awareness campaigns. This was evident in how we developed our **Climate Action Plan**, working with **seven artists** to shape and visualise the ideas, concerns, and aspirations of our community. By incorporating creative processes, we were able to bring more voices into the conversation and ensure that the plan was both **community-led and deeply rooted in local identity**.



This creative methodology is now woven into everything we do. From lantern-making workshops that symbolically light the way for climate action to welding pollinator sculptures that highlight the importance of biodiversity, we have found that art is a powerful tool for engagement and change. These activities not only educate but also create a sense of ownership and pride within our community, reinforcing that climate action is something everyone can take part in—no matter their background, skills, or experience.

This work is particularly important in **Hartcliffe and Withywood**, an area that **sits in the top 10% of deprivation in the UK and the top 1% in Bristol**. Our community faces **significant barriers**, including **poor transport links and limited access to cultural and creative opportunities**, which can lead to isolation and fewer pathways into green careers or climate activism.

It is crucial that the climate crisis is **not seen as just another overwhelming challenge** for our community but instead as **an opportunity for empowerment, creativity, and action**.

By using **creativity to spark joy**, we have also helped **mitigate climate anxiety**—a growing concern for young people and marginalised communities. When designing workshops with artists, participants develop essential skills such as **problem-solving, teamwork, and creative thinking**. These are all **transferable skills that are crucial for tackling the climate crisis**. In a world that is constantly changing due to environmental challenges, we will need to be **resilient, adaptable, and innovative** in our approach to sustainability.

Looking forward, we see creativity as a **key strategy for deeper engagement**. By continuing to collaborate with artists, storytellers, and makers, we hope to **build resilience, empower more people, and ensure that diverse voices shape the future of climate action**. **This is more than a method—it's a movement, a way of working, and a powerful tool for change.**



Priorities and actions



Residents' priorities and actions to achieve them have been grouped into seven key climate themes – Transport, Homes and Buildings, Energy, Food, Waste and Resources, Nature and Business, Economy and Education.

The following priorities and actions were developed with the local community through our community engagement process and refined with support from Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership and various community climate action partners from across the city. There is also crossover and connection with the priorities developed by partners in other geographic neighbourhoods in the city: Southmead, Knowle West, Bedminster, Brislington, Hillfields, Lockleaze, Easton & Lawrence Hill, Hartcliffe & Withywood, Lawrence Weston and with the citywide priorities in the community climate action plan of Bristol's Community of Disabled People and Bristol's community of refugees and asylum seekers.

We have scored the priorities 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 social benefits (Impact: Community benefits). While not exhaustive, we have also listed some key stakeholders and potential collaborators, many of whom are already doing work related to the priority and whose support and leadership will be critical to success. Some of these stakeholders have not yet been involved in developing the plan. Rough timescales for implementation of priorities have also been noted to highlight quick wins alongside significant strategic changes that will take sustained, long-term and citywide action.

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)

5-10 years (significant or complex)



Criteria scored

Resource: cost

Impact: carbon benefits

Resource: people/time

Impact: community benefits

We have identified the community climate action plan priorities for BS13 from our carbon footprint analysis, the data collated from the workshops along with the BS13 baseline survey. (See appendix)

The main priorities identified for BS13 community climate action plan and key points raised are as follows;

- Education and training opportunities “green curriculum”
- Green economy investment and local jobs “green jobs”
- Clean, affordable renewable energy “green energy”
- Clean, affordable, accessible and efficient transport “green transport”
- Closed loop food system “greens and composting”
- Reduction of single use plastics and fly tipping in BS13

Education and training

A green curriculum that starts in early years, extends through all key stages and into adult education.

Properly taught, climate change education should be a thread through all subjects as 65% of future jobs don't exist yet, we need to adapt and help enable our communities to be resilient to the changes ahead.

Inspiring career pathways in green careers from solar panel engineers to climatologist.

Green investment and local jobs

Businesses need to invest in communities like BS13, offering green economy jobs local residents will be given an equal opportunity to upskill and improve their quality of life whilst building a thriving community and resilient economy.

Clean affordable renewable energy

Fuel poverty is very real in BS13, with a high proportion of social housing and a lower than Bristol average household income of £26,520, making it extremely difficult to get on the property ladder.

Residents in private or social housing are often on a key meter and do not have the means or permission to retrofit. Many home owners are also unable to make these improvements due to financial constraints.



"I feel so privileged to have grown up in Withywood & Hartcliffe despite all of our troubled times and bad reputation it's actually a great place to live. Today we planted trees at the roundhouse, such a lovely welcoming place. Cody, although very tired and incredibly grumpy to begin with managed to make some friends, and what lovely friends they were! They accepted him, his differences and encouraged him to join in. Thanks to the amazing team at Heart of BS13 for organising such a great day. "

Kerry J Bailes, Resident



"We would like to thank Heart of BS13 for giving our learners the opportunity to engage in the climate education workshops. Learning about the importance of climate change, what that means for their future and exploring the possibilities of green jobs and training as well as social action."

Ebony Gingell A2A Tutor

Clean, affordable, accessible and efficient transport

Transport links in BS13 are limited, costly, and inconvenient for cross-city travel. This creates barriers to accessing employment, education, and training opportunities beyond the area, as well as essential services like supermarkets and healthier food options.

Closed loop food system

In BS13, food insecurity is a pressing issue, with 1 in 8 households experiencing food poverty and limited access to affordable, quality food. Some areas are even classified as "food deserts."

A closed-loop food system can help address these challenges while also reducing BS13's carbon footprint. By growing, cooking, and recycling food waste locally, this approach promotes sustainability and resilience while actively tackling food insecurity in the community.

Reduction of single use plastics and fly tipping in BS13

Key issues regarding plastic consumption and waste were identified as a main priority.

With the following point being raised along with Carbon Footprint Data

- Limited recycling facilities available if you live in a tower block or three storey flat
- Low numbers of local businesses and schools practicing recycling due to costs for collections
- Lack of refillable drinking water points in BS13 public places and some schools
- Limited recycling bins in public spaces around BS13
- High consumption of fizzy soda drinks in plastic bottles used in BS13
- High level of single use plastic packaging and plastic bags in local supermarkets and shops
- Bulky discarded plastic toys
- Fly tipping issues and high number of abandoned supermarket trolleys filled with household rubbish



Priorities: Transport

Scoring of priorities

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

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS	TIMESCALE
1.Improved integrated mass transport systems Clean, affordable, accessible and efficient transport "green/low carbon transport"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heart of BS13 Bristol City Council WECA Disability Equality Forum Moving Bristol Forward Campaign First Bus Stagecoach Great Western Railway City Leap Local MPs Local Councillors Uber / Taxi services SouthWest Energy Hub TravelWest SevernNet 	5 Investment Green mass transit public transport (trams, bio-fuel buses).	5 Lobbying We have decades of ambivalent City planning and infrastructure commitment to cut through for BS13.	5 Reduction in petrol and diesel cars on road	5 Better air quality No need to purchase/run own car Better air quality Change in vehicle use culture. Economy beneficial Can create local green jobs, skills and training	Long term
2.Develop a community owned electric car club, e-scooter, electric bike and e-cargo bike rental scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Car Company Enterprise Local Business Bristol City Council Western Power Distribution WECA Bristol Energy Network South West Energy Hub City Leap Travel Bristol Private companies (Bristol e bikes / eco move Bristol yolo) 	3 Electric car charging points Rapid charging points Electric cars E scooters E bikes	4 Sustainable business model Maintenance Operations and management contract to manage all vehicles and charge points Membership manager Booking/ hire systems Governance structure Website Marketing promotion	3 Reduction in petrol and diesel cars on road Encouraging local business to go green and use cargo bikes	4 Better air quality No need to purchase/run own car Access to a vehicle Access to an active lifecycle vehicle Reduced noise pollution Can create local green jobs, skills and training Enhances social mobility, equal access for all	Long term



Priorities: Transport

Scoring of priorities

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

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS	TIMESCALE
3.Improved walking and cycling routes, bike storage sheds, cycling proficiency training and bike maintenance workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Heart of Bs13WECAFixx BikesDisability equality formBristol bike ProjectBristol City CouncilLife CycleHartcliffe BMX trackLocal schoolsLocal walking groups	3 Capital infrastructure costs	4 Staff time Project co-ordinator Partnership work	3 Reduction in petrol and diesel cars on road Improved health benefits from active transport options	4 Improved Physical health Improve wellbeing Reduced noise pollution Improve air quality Improved green spaces Reduce social isolation	Short to medium term

Priorities and actions: Transport



PRIORITY 1. Improved, integrated public transport

A more affordable, accessible, and low-carbon public transport system is needed in BS13 to reduce reliance on cars and improve connectivity across the city.

ACTIONS:

- a. A 'one ticket, all access' system (similar to the Oyster card) to provide seamless and cost-effective travel across buses, trams, trains, and park & ride services.
- b. Redesigning transit routes to prioritise direct connections rather than hub-and-spoke models, improving journey efficiency.
- c. Free travel for under-18s and extended fare concessions to increase accessibility.
- d. Improved wheelchair and pram access on public transport for greater inclusivity.

PRIORITY 2. Sustainable community transport options

Greater access to low-carbon transport alternatives is needed, ensuring affordable and sustainable travel for BS13 residents.

ACTIONS:

- a. A not-for-profit electric vehicle rental scheme providing access to e-cars, e-scooters, and e-bikes.
- b. Integration with citywide green vehicle schemes to increase access to sustainable travel options.
- c. Installation of rapid chargers for business and community electric vehicles to encourage greener transport choices.



PRIORITY 3. Safer walking & cycling routes

Better cycling infrastructure and pedestrian-friendly streets are needed to promote active travel and reduce transport-related emissions.

ACTIONS:

- a. More cycle racks, safe bike storage, and improved cycle routes to encourage sustainable travel.
- b. Maintained pavements with good lighting to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility.
- c. Community-led cycling initiatives, including bike clubs and learn-to-cycle courses, to build confidence and reduce isolation.

*All priorities and actions updated in 2024



Priorities: Food

Scoring of priorities

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

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS	TIMESCALE
1.Real meal store and real meals on wheels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heart of Bs13 Windmill Hill City Farm Hartcliffe City Farm Fareshare Allotment Association Gardening Groups Local schools and post 16 Adult education including childcare providers Incredible Edibles Friends of the Earth Bristol Food Network 	3 Ingredients Materials Capital costs Accreditation	3 Management of projects Staff time	3 Less packaging and waste reduced food miles Increased biodiversity	4 Better access to healthier food More cost effective Reduce social isolation Improved green spaces Improved mental health and wellbeing	Quick win
2.Community growing and cooking courses and apprenticeships Climate Cafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heart of BS13 Local Food Club Schools Food bank Bristol Food Network Local schools and post 16 Community learning Fareshare 	2 Venues Ingredients Recipe books Equipment Accreditation	2 Facilitators Project management	3 Reduction in food waste Batch cooking Reduction in energy Reduction in plastic packaging Reduction in meat consumption	4 Healthier Diet Tackling food insecurity and obesity.	Quick win
3.Food waste collection for schools and commercial businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol Waste GENeco Heart of bs13 Schools Local Businesses 	2 Bins Collection of bins Recycling facilities RAD	2 Staff Project management	3 Food waste into organic compost closed loop system	2 Good quality Compost	Short to medium term



Priorities and Actions: Food

PRIORITY 1. Heart of BS13 Kitchen and Real meals on wheels

ACTIONS:

- a. Producing quality, pre-prepared homestyle ready meals using ingredients grown by Heart of BS13 garden and food from Fareshare.
- b. Supporting residence experience food insecurity
- c. Promoting meat free meals
- d. Using e-cargo bikes to transport our meals and produce

PRIORITY 2. Community growing, cooking courses and apprenticeships Climate Cafe

ACTIONS:

- a. Focus on learning to grow you own and to cook with fresh ingredients
- b. Meat free options
- c. Batch cooking and using leftovers
- d. Work with schools and post 16 on the closed loop food system
- e. Promote seasonal eating and locally sourced produce
- f. Apprentishps courses where student will help run a Climate Café at the Roundhouse which tackles food waste
- g. My child healthy weight projects slow cooker projects

PRIORITY 3. Commercial food waste collection

ACTIONS:

- a. Reducing food waste in schools and local commercial businesses
- b. Producing organic compost learning about the closed loop food system





Priorities: Nature

Scoring of priorities

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

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS	TIMESCALE
1.Promoting BS13 Green spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Heart of BS13Local volunteersSocial enterpriseBS3 Wildlife Group	2 Project funding cost Materials Tools	2 Volunteers Staff	3 Sustaining and protecting local wildlife Improved greenspaces	5 More biodiversity within the community better habitat for local wildlife More trees planted Improve soil health More appealing neighbourhood Reconnect with nature Improve health and wellbeing Educating residents on the importance of our ecosystem raise awareness of deforestation, over farming and the	Quick to medium
2.Promote No Dig Reduce the use of pesticides Protect our ecosystems by reducing the use of harmful pesticides Find an alternative to harmful pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bristol Food NetworkHeart of BS13Soil AssociationOne City Environment Board	1 Campaign cost	1 Staff Lobbying	3 Sustaining and protecting local wildlife	3 Pesticides not being consumed on food	Quick win



Priorities: Nature

Scoring of priorities
1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high/significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS	TIMESCALE
3.The Roundhouse "Climate Education Hub"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Heart of BS13Local schools and childcare providersYouth clubs	1 Project funding Materials Tools	2 Staff Project management	2 Improved greenspaces	2 Improved mental health Improved green spaces Educating residents on the importance of our ecosystem raise awareness of deforestation, over farming and the need to increase biodiversity "rewild"	Quick win



Priorities and Actions: Nature

PRIORITY 1. Expanding green spaces & community involvement

Access to well-maintained green spaces and community-led projects is essential for a greener, more connected BS13. More support is needed for residents to maintain gardens, improve public spaces, and access training and volunteering opportunities in horticulture.

ACTIONS:

- a. CommDeveloping community garden projects to support residents in maintaining green spaces.
- b. Encouraging street greening initiatives to improve public areas.
- c. Expanding City & Guilds Level 1 Horticulture Training for hands-on learning and career development.
- d. Increasing volunteering opportunities at sites like The Roundhouse and Hartcliffe City Farm.

PRIORITY 2. Boosting biodiversity & sustainable growing

BS13 needs more pollinator-friendly habitats, better soil health, and sustainable growing initiatives. Expanding local flower and food production will reduce reliance on imports and support biodiversity.

ACTIONS:

- a. Creating pollinator habitats with wildflower meadows and bee-friendly plants.
- b. Developing local composting schemes to improve soil quality and reduce waste.
- c. Expanding the Flower Farm to grow sustainable, locally produced flowers.
- d. Promoting organic alternatives to pesticides to protect biodiversity.

PRIORITY 3. Climate education & youth engagement

More opportunities are needed for young people to learn about climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable living through hands-on experiences.

- a. Developing The Roundhouse as a climate education hub for nature-based learning.
- b. Offering hands-on activities like wildlife conservation and sustainable food growing.
- c. Expanding environmental education in schools and youth programmes.
- d. Providing training and volunteering opportunities in conservation and horticulture.
- e. Building a greener, more sustainable BS13- By addressing these priorities, BS13 can become a more resilient, environmentally friendly, and community-driven area, ensuring greater access to green spaces, sustainable food, and environmental education.



*All priorities and actions updated in 2024



Scoring of priorities

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

Priorities: Waste and Resources

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS	TIMESCALE
1. Reduce single use plastic – aim for zero tolerance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heart of BS13 social enterprises Local (small shop) traders Supermarkets Litter picking groups MP's & Local councillors (lobbying corporates to cease single use plastics) Bristol Waste Schools (primary and secondary) 	<p>2</p> <p>This is an 'everyone' action – the personal can be political</p> <p>Campaigning and awareness (local to national) on impact of SUP</p> <p>Provision/acceptance/norm alisation of alternatives to SUP</p> <p>Availability of locally produced goods that don't require intensive packaging.</p> <p>Challenging consumer acceptance</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Lobbying for corporate change and responsibility</p> <p>Awareness at a personal and community level</p> <p>Education (children's pester power)</p> <p>Citizen action – removing plastic and leaving in the shop</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Personal agency in reducing carbon emissions</p> <p>Less plastic litter, improved green Spaces/Cleaner neighbourhood</p> <p>Behaviour change for future generations</p> <p>Institutional (schools and workplaces setting examples – water fountains, no plastic packaging on foods)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Reduction of microplastics in the environment</p> <p>Reduction of global transportation of plastic waste</p> <p>Improvement of environmental spaces</p> <p>Personal, community, consumer empowerment</p>	Quick to medium win
2.Support existing, and set up new projects that reduce waste and consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol Waste – champion new recycling centre and recycling bins over generic bins Bristol Fast Fashion – collaboration to promote upcycling Re-work Knowle – upcycling household items Heart of BS13 – closed loop food system Fixx Bikes – bike repair Schools – learning and fun activities that engage children from early years to reduce, reuse, recycle and repurpose. Library of things – sharing economy 	<p>2</p> <p>Staffing costs</p> <p>Venues</p> <p>Tools</p> <p>Skilled people</p> <p>Development of a self-sustaining business model.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Community Volunteers with skills</p> <p>Project management</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Clear correlation between waste and carbon impact</p> <p>Reduction in landfill</p> <p>Increased awareness of consumerism</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Training and jobs</p> <p>Empower residents and young people to take action</p> <p>Increase circular economy</p> <p>Improve household finances</p> <p>Address climate anxiety through practical action.</p>	Quick win



Priorities and Actions: Waste and Resources

To create a cleaner, more sustainable community, BS13 must reduce waste, embrace circular economy principles, and embed long-term solutions that prioritise reuse, recycling, and resource conservation.

PRIORITY 1. Reducing Waste & Phasing Out Single-Use Plastics

Reducing reliance on single-use plastics and promoting sustainable alternatives is key to cutting waste at its source.

ACTIONS:

- a. Reduce single-use plastics in businesses, schools, and homes through education and access to plastic-free alternatives.
- b. Expand waste reduction initiatives such as refill stations, repair cafés, and reusable packaging schemes.
- c. Promote bulk-buying cooperatives to reduce excess packaging and encourage sustainable shopping habits.

PRIORITY 2. Expanding Closed-Loop Composting & Resource Recovery

Transforming food and organic waste into compost is crucial for reducing landfill waste and enriching local soil health.

ACTIONS:

- a. Grow the closed-loop composting programme to turn food waste into nutrient-rich compost.
- b. Deliver composting education through school workshops, community compost tours, and business engagement.
- c. Utilise compost on the Flower Farm to support local food and flower-growing initiatives.
- d. Improve food waste collection in schools and businesses while encouraging on-site composting.
- e. Increase access to community composting sites and train residents in effective composting techniques.

PRIORITY 3. Sustainable Waste Management in Businesses & Schools

Businesses, schools, and institutions must lead by example in reducing waste, increasing recycling, and adopting sustainable procurement policies.

- a. Improve waste management systems to cut landfill waste and maximise recycling.
- b. Partner with food redistribution networks to tackle food waste and support community initiatives.
- c. Encourage sustainable purchasing by prioritising reusable and recycled materials.



Priorities and Actions: Waste and Resources

PRIORITY 4. Tackling fly-tipping & environmental protection

Illegal dumping and abandoned waste damage public spaces and impact community well-being.

Stronger waste solutions and enforcement measures are needed.

- a. Reduce fly-tipping and abandoned trolleys through stricter enforcement and improved reporting systems.
- b. Provide accessible waste disposal solutions to prevent illegal dumping.
- c. Organise regular community clean-up events to maintain and enhance public spaces.

PRIORITY 5. Supermarket trolley park scheme

To combat trolley abandonment and improve urban cleanliness, BS13 aims to establish a community-led trolley return system.

- a. Create designated trolley return points to reduce abandoned trolleys in public spaces.
- b. Collaborate with local supermarkets to develop an efficient collection and return system.
- c. Encourage community participation through incentives for responsible trolley returns.

PRIORITY 6. Workshops & skills for a sustainable future

Providing practical skills in repair, reuse, and upcycling empowers the community to reduce waste while building self-sufficiency.

- a. Offer sustainable fashion workshops on upcycling clothing, sewing, and mindful consumption.
- b. Support repair cafés where residents can fix household items instead of discarding them.
- c. Deliver hands-on workshops in welding, DIY, and furniture restoration to promote repair culture.
- d. Encourage creative reuse through bike repair, sustainable crafting, and resourceful repurposing.
- e. A waste-free, sustainable future for BS13 - By embedding waste reduction, composting, responsible business practices, and skills-based sustainability, BS13 can cut landfill waste, support local growing initiatives, and create a cleaner, more circular community.



*All priorities and actions updated in 2024

Let's make change with Heart of BS13



Priorities: Energy

Scoring of priorities

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

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS	TIMESCALE
1. Energy Money Advice Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol Credit Union South Bristol Advice Service Energy companies Bristol University Bristol Energy Network Bristol City Council WECA Ambition Lawrence Weston City Leap Ambition Community Energy CIC Energy Rev Centre for Sustainable Energy 	2 Funding needed to train and employ energy champions	3 Volunteers Project Management Staffing Partnership work	4 Providing residents to access the services that will reduce household carbon impact	4 Tackling fuel poverty Affordable housing "running cost" Improved living conditions Improved mental and physical health.	Quick win
2. Identify potential sites for Green Energy infrastructure Clean, affordable renewable energy "green energy"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambition Community Energy Heart of BS13 CIC Western Power Distribution Bristol City Council Bright Green Futures Bristol Energy Network City Leap Centre for Sustainable Energy Ambition Community Energy Land owners Bristol energy Co-operative Lockleaze loves Solar Bristol Energy Network WHAM BCC & local housing association Bristol One City Local MP's & councillors 	5 Legal fees Project management Underground energy heat pumps Solar and wind renewable energy Retrofitting Thermal insulation EPC rating C or above on all new and existing properties Community owed energy	5 Project manager Co-ordination Governance policy change Investment in BS13 from green economy business sector.	5 Potential new infrastructure Lower carbon household emissions	5 Improved resilience to fluctuating energy prices Tackling fuel poverty Affordable housing "running cost" Improved living conditions Improved mental and physical health Improved air quality Improved access to education	Medium to long term

Priorities and Actions: Energy



Ensuring affordable, sustainable energy is vital for reducing costs, lowering carbon emissions, and supporting residents in energy crises. The energy & money advice service will provide practical guidance and financial support to help households and businesses manage energy use, cut costs, and access grants.

ACTIONS:

- a. Establish a drop-in advice service offering expert guidance on energy-saving strategies, smart meters, and switching providers.
- b. Support key meter and direct debit budgeting to help residents prepare for winter energy costs.
- c. Assist in identifying eligibility and applying for the Warm Home Discount, grants, and retrofit funding to improve home energy efficiency.
- d. Provide carbon-saving tips to help residents lower emissions and reduce energy bills.
- e. Offer emergency support for those experiencing an energy crisis.
- f. Developing a community-led smart energy system
- g. A smarter, more sustainable energy system requires collaboration between local stakeholders, landlords, tenants, and community organisations. Inspired by Ambition Lawrence Weston, BS13 aims to develop a community-driven approach to energy generation and management.
- h. Engage with community partners to explore potential sites for local renewable energy projects.
- i. Promote energy efficiency in homes and businesses through education, infrastructure improvements, and funding support.
- j. Encourage investment in smart energy solutions that empower residents and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- k. Support landlords and tenants in implementing energy-saving measures that benefit the community.
- l. By creating accessible energy advice services and developing community-led solutions, BS13 will help residents save money, reduce emissions, and build a more resilient energy future.



*All priorities and actions updated in 2024

Let's make change with Heart of BS13



Priorities: Business and Education

Scoring of priorities

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

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS	TIMESCALE
1.Renewable Energy Training and Construction courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Bristol college• Colleges/FE• WECA• Construction industry• Energy Rev• Business West• Business in the Community• Bristol Housing Festival• Heart of BS13	3 Training and accreditation Training spaces Skills Tutor costs Funding Equipment	3 Project management	3 More residents trained and upskilled who will have an understanding and knowledge of carbon impact	4 Trained and skilled residents More job opportunities Improved mental health Reduce deprivation	Medium
2.The Roundhouse Climate Education Hub, Hartcliffe City Farm and school climate education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Bristol college• Colleges/FE• WECA• Construction industry• Energy Rev• Business in the Community• Bristol Housing Festival• Heart of BS13	3 Training and accreditation Training spaces Skills Tutor costs Funding Equipment	3 Project management Volunteer co-Ordinator	3 More residents trained and upskilled who will have an understanding and knowledge of carbon impact	3 Trained and skilled residents More job opportunities Improved mental health Reduce deprivation	Quick to medium



Priorities and Actions: Business and Education

PRIORITY 1. Renewable Energy Training and Construction courses

ACTION:

- a. Businesses need to invest in communities like BS13, offering green economy jobs local residents will be given an equal opportunity to upskill and improve their quality of life whilst building a thriving community and resilient economy.
- b. Training and accreditation in green economy job sector

PRIORITY 2. The Roundhouse, Hartcliffe City Farm and school Climate Education and training

ACTIONS:

- a. A green curriculum that starts in early years, extends through all key stages and into adult education.
- b. Properly taught, climate change education should be a thread through all subjects as 65% of future jobs don't exist yet, we need to adapt and help enable our communities to be resilient to the changes ahead.
- c. Inspiring career pathways in green careers from solar panel engineers to climatologist.
- d. Green economy jobs careers day
- e. Neurodiversity training courses and internships





Priorities: Homes and Buildings

Scoring of priorities

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

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS	TIMESCALE
1. Develop housing improvement projects Clean, affordable renewable energy "green energy"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHEESE Colleges Government schemes Bristol Energy Network Heart of BS13 Disability equality forum Ambition Lawrence Weston City Leap Centre for Sustainable Energy Social Housing Landlords Jobcentre 	4 Training and Accreditation Partnerships Materials CHEESE surveys Retrofitting	3 Green jobs Volunteers Project management	4 Reduced energy demand and reliance on fossil fuel Affordable heating and energy use from renewable sources Improving all homes to EPC standard C Low carbon standards in-built to new housing stock	4 Improved overall health and wellbeing Improved employment training opportunities Reducing fuel poverty Investment in bs13 tackling deprivation	Medium term
2. All local community buildings to become carbon neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol City Council Bristol Energy Network (Sonnet) Community building owners and tenants City Leap Energy Rev Centre for Sustainable Energy 	3 Capital costs New Cycle Racks New lighting Solar energy Heat Pumps Green rooftops/ external building walls	3 Project management Lobbying	3 Reduced energy demand Affordable heating and energy use from renewable sources	3 Improved community facilities Reduction in building running cost	Medium term
3. BCC and social housing renewable energy generation that benefits the tenant including car charging point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol Energy Network Bristol University Bristol City Council Social landlords City Leap Heart of BS13 WHAM CIC Ambition Lawrence Weston Local MP's and councillors 	2 Co-ordination costs Project costs Installation costs grants	3 Governance policy change for all new builds and current housing stock Lobbying	4 Displacement of fossil fuel energy by using locally generated electricity from renewable sources Lower carbon emissions	4 More social homes being ran on renewable energy Reduced fuel poverty Improved quality of life	Medium to long term



Priorities and Actions: Homes and Buildings

PRIORITY 1.Improving housing for a net zero future

ACTIONS:

- a.Equip residents with the knowledge and skills to improve their homes in line with the UK's net zero targets.
- b.Provide accredited training courses on home energy efficiency and support for retrofitting.
- c.Incorporate thermal imaging assessments into whole-house retrofit plans to identify areas for improvement.
- d.Use local tradespeople and apprenticeships to deliver retrofit services, creating green jobs within the community.
- e.Ensure residents can access grants and funding schemes, such as the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Home Upgrade Grant (HUG), to finance energy efficiency improvements.
- f.Tackle fuel poverty by making homes warmer, more efficient, and cheaper to heat.

PRIORITY 2.Making community buildings carbon neutral

ACTIONS:

- a.Introduce a "Time of Use" electricity tariff, allowing residents to benefit from low-cost renewable energy generated by local solar panels.
- b.Ensure financial benefits for tenants and landlords, supporting investment in community-wide sustainability projects.
- c.Upgrade community buildings with solar panels, battery storage, heat pumps, and insulation to reduce carbon emissions.
- d.Work with local authorities to make all publicly owned buildings energy-efficient and net zero ready.

PRIORITY 3.Expanding renewable energy in social housing

ACTIONS:

- a.Engage with local councils, housing associations, and social landlords to ensure social housing tenants benefit from renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.
- b.Ensure all new social housing developments meet the Future Homes Standard, prioritising solar panels, battery storage, and low-carbon heating systems.
- c.Retrofitting existing housing stock with insulation, double glazing, and heat pumps to improve energy efficiency and reduce bills.
- d.Install electric vehicle (EV) charging points in new and existing housing developments to future-proof homes.
- e.Advocate for policy changes to ensure social housing providers prioritise low-carbon, energy-efficient homes.

*All priorities and actions updated in 2024

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The members of the BS13 community who took the time to engage in our consultation and community engagement process

Our featured climate action heroes: Katy Ford and Torrie-Leigh Bedford
(and all others taking climate action in our community!)

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- Merchant Academy Primary
- Merchant Academy Secondary
- Merchant Ventures
- New Fossesway School
- A2A Gatehouse Centre
- Hareclive Primary
- Hareclive E-Act
- Hartcliffe Club for Young People
- Fair Furlong Primary
- SFW Give Wear Love
- 4dDesign
- Elm Tree Construction
- Arts Enlarge
- Circus Antics

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Appendices

- Cobenefits List
- Carbon Impacts list
- Full List of engagement activity that took place to inform the development of the plan / priorities
- Makerble evaluation data
- Glossary of Terms: insert glossary document from teams
- CCA evaluation framework?





Evaluation and wider objectives

This plan was developed as part of the Bristol Community Climate Action Project (coordinated by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, and supported by Bristol City Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy).

The evaluation objectives of the project are:

1. Communities will better contribute to Bristol's 2030 carbon neutral and nature recovery ambitions.
2. There is wider and deeper climate change engagement and leadership in diverse communities.
3. Climate Community Action will support transitions towards a more just and inclusive society.
4. Community Climate Action will support increased community resilience to immediate climate and social challenges.
5. Climate Community Action is recognised as an essential strategic approach towards achieving net zero goals in Bristol, the West of England sub-region (WECA area) and nationally.
6. Communities in Bristol and beyond are inspired and supported to take community-led climate action.

The development phase of the 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.

An insights report was produced at the end of the development phase of the project (April 2022), and a full evaluation report will be produced at the end of the programme (July 2025).

The 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 the 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

Environment

- Increased interest in the natural environment and food, and the link between
- 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

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

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)

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



Programme of community communications:

- Regular CCA posts on socials including Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, shared through community pages.
- Email communication to all local schools and youth providers
- Heart of BS13 E-Newsletter
- Leaflet drop to targeted streets in BS13
- Posters displayed around targeted areas within BS13
- Heart of BS13 website updates

Engagement activities:

- Tree Planting and Craftivism event @ The Roundhouse
- Lantern Parade from Hartcliffe City Farm to The Roundhouse
- 2 x After school lantern parade craftivism workshops
- Wild meadow planting community volunteer day @ The Roundhouse
- CCA and Hartcliffe City Farm community consultation @ KGE
- Roundhouse volunteer day with A2A Students @The Roundhouse
- Roundhouse Planting day with A2A Students @The Roundhouse
- Trash monster making @ The Roundhouse with artist Steph Reeves
- Community Perennial Lawn Planting workshops @ The Roundhouse x 2
- Green spaces and access to food consultation with residents @ Molesworth Allotments
- Half Term Trash Monster Making Holiday hunger hub @ Roundhouse
- Sea Creature puppet making online workshops with Steph Reeves delivered by school teacher x 2
- YouTube Originals Filming "Dear Earth" @ Hartcliffe club for young people
- Beatboxing Summer Holiday hunger hub @ Molesworth Allotments
- Soft Robotics workshop with Hartcliffe club for young people
- Drama workshops with Hartcliffe club for young people
- Beatboxing workshop with Hartcliffe club for young people
- Costume design fast fashion week workshop @ E-act Hareclive School
- Creative Climate Drama Workshop with YR8 students @ Merchants Academy Secondary School
- Beatboxing Workshop with YR8 students @ Merchants Academy Secondary School
- Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose workshop with New Fosseway SEN School x 2 workshops
- Beatboxing Workshop with A2A students
- Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose workshop with A2A Students x 2 workshops
- United Nations Assembly of products workshop and digital meme creative with Tommy and Morgan working with A2A students
- Creative Climate Sea Creature Workshops @ Hareclive School with Yr5 & Yr6 x 2 workshops
- Soft Robotics Workshops @ Hareclive School with Yr5 & Yr6 x 2 workshops
- BS13 Community Fun Day event
- Trash Monster making and sharing Roundhouse redevelopment plans @ The Roundhouse
- Trash Monster Making @ Merchants Academy Primary with Yr5 & Yr6 x 2 workshops
- Fast Fashion "Where's your Wild" @ Merchants Academy Primary with Yr4 x 2 workshops
- Drama Workshop @ Merchants Academy Primary with Yr4 x 2 workshops

Glossary of key words



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.

