

Milton Keynes

Sustainability Action Plan

2026-2050



Milton Keynes Sustainability Action Plan - City

Milton Keynes adopted its first Sustainability Action plan in 2019.

Since then, significant progress has been made on the climate agenda in the city, both on the City Council's own activity and the wide work the authority does within the city.

This is the second iteration of a Milton Keynes Sustainability Action Plan. This document updates and condenses our previous action plan, outlining the major city focussed projects that will be undertaken on each theme.

It should be read in conjunction with the Milton Keynes Sustainability Action Plan (Council) which details the Council's work and actions on its own emissions.

Quarterly monitoring of this Action Plan will take place, and an annual report to Cabinet on progress will be provided each January. The Sustainability Strategy and both Action Plans will be reviewed in 2028.

City of Milton Keynes Sustainability Action Plan

Economy			
Action ref	Action	Responsible service	Timeline
C1.1	Enable circular economy initiatives working with the third sector (voluntary or not-for-profit sector, comprises organisations that are neither public nor private) and MKCC direct delivery (reuse centres, library of things, repair cafes).	Environment and waste / Sustainability	Apr 2027
C1.2	Continue engagement and action with businesses on the green agenda and circular economy, working in partnership with business networks across this city. Encourage and support business participation in any City Climate Contract that will be developed.	Sustainability	Dec 2026
C1.3	Ensure the Council's Smart City and Innovation programme contributes towards the City Council's net zero ambitions. Promote the City as a Testbed approach to innovative companies with solutions to contribute towards the City's net zero ambitions.	Economic Development	Dec 2026

Energy

Action ref	Action	Responsible service	Timeline
C2.1	Explore the creation of a Local Area Energy Plan for Milton Keynes. Consider use of mini LAEPs for growth zones in CMK and MK East.	Environment and Waste	Dec 2028
C2.2	For new build Council Housing, make use of lower carbon and renewable technologies.	Housing	Apr 2026
C2.3	Review and deliver potential battery storage across Milton Keynes	Environment and Waste	Dec 2027
C2.4	Support the creation and delivery of a District Heating Network. To include encouragement of businesses and organisations to participate.	Environment and Waste	Dec 2028
C2.5	Support the creation and delivery of a Renewable Energy Hub. Review links to potential Mass Rapid Transport (MRT), Community Transport, Fleet and Buses. Work to support electrical capacity for future MKCC bids for AI Growth Zone and wider Growth requirements for the City.	Environment and Waste	Dec 2028
C2.6	Review options for expansion of private wire capabilities into 'mini grid' network to support decarbonisation of public transport and business.	Environment and Waste	Dec 2030

Emissions

Action ref	Action	Responsible service	Timeline
C3.1	Explore how freight transport can reduce its carbon footprint, such as alternative fuels, freight consolidation, cargo bike.	Transport and Highways	Apr 2027
C3.2	To develop a new high quality public transport network for the city to deliver a step change on current public transport provision.	Transport and Highways	Mar 2031
C3.3	Develop and deliver school travel planning and sustainable pupil travel including the Schools streets programme.	Transport and Highways	2026 onwards
C3.4	Develop and monitor travel plans for new areas of development against targets.	Transport and Highways	Mar 2027
C3.5	Explore decarbonisation of transport including transport assets and infrastructure owned by MKCC at every opportunity (including solar canopies / PVs.)	Transport and Highways / Sustainability	2026 onwards
C3.6	Develop new Milton Keynes Electric vehicle strategy.	Transport and Highways	Apr 2026

C3.7	Enabling and encouraging active travel initiatives (from providing skills and confidence through training to physical improvements to the infrastructure) throughout the City.	Transport and Highways	2026 onwards
C3.8	Explore all opportunities to secure funding for and to promote suitable retrofit and renewables programmes for council housing in Milton Keynes.	Property	Apr 2026
C3.9	Secure funding from developments in Milton Keynes to be put towards carbon offsetting in public sector, third sector, and not for profit organisations.	Sustainability / Planning	Dec 2026
C3.10	Establish Key Performance Indicators, linked to emissions reduction, for the City Sustainability work by May 2026. These will be published on the City Council's net zero page for transparency.	Sustainability	May 2026
C3.11	Submit funding bids, or where more appropriate signpost community groups and partners to funding opportunities, to secure external funding for city-wide emissions reduction, engagement, education and low-carbon growth.	Sustainability	2026 onwards

Environment

Action ref	Action	Responsible service	Timeline
C4.1	Produce and deliver a Biosecurity Action Plan for Milton Keynes over summer 2025. Drive creation of Marshland, Bogs and Peatland with the Parks Trust.	Environment and Waste	Dec 2026
C4.2	Engage external partners throughout the City in the delivery of the Environment Action Plan and the Urban Tree Action plan to increase biomass, urban cooling and Biodiversity.	Environment and Waste	Dec 2030
C4.3	Deliver on the Nature Recovery Strategy for Milton Keynes.	Environment and Waste	2026 onwards

Engagement

Action ref	Action	Responsible service	Timeline
C5.1	Engagement and signposting for Milton Keynes' Council tenants, on energy efficiency and use of new technologies to help them make cost effective and sustainable decisions.	Housing / Sustainability	Apr 2026
C5.2	In line with the sustainability leadership required of all schools, we will engage with and support all schools, Milton Keynes College, and other educational establishments across Milton Keynes to deliver their Climate Action Plans and net zero targets and where possible align them with MKCC initiatives.	Sustainability	Jan 2027
C5.3	Establish a City Climate Partnership / charter for Milton Keynes to bring together cross-sector organisations to accelerate emissions reductions, climate adaptation, public participation and increase the level of commitment for climate actions across the public, private, academic and third sectors. This work will allow organisations to make credible emissions reduction commitments, showcase their work, work together to achieve MK's climate goals, scale up delivery and investment, and connect with likeminded organisations.	Sustainability	Sep 2026
C5.4	Work with the residents of Milton Keynes to raise awareness of and signpost to schemes that help them to deliver on the city's green aims and improve citizen's lives. This will include initiatives to support fuel poor households, and that reduce emissions, energy use, and resource consumption. We will produce resources such as toolkits, advice packs and a website to enable effective action on improving climate impact.	Sustainability	Dec 2026
C5.5	Work with partners across the city through our Milton Keynes Heat Network Partner Forum	Environment and Waste	2026 onwards
C5.6	Engage with all Town, parish and community councils on the delivery of the City Action Plan in 2026. Following from that, at least 3 Town, parish and community councils to have an actionable plan to deliver carbon reductions and nature recovery.	Sustainability	Apr 2027

C5.7	Develop a website that brings together information, resources and tools for meaningful engagement and climate action for everyone, including residents, businesses, community groups and parish councils.	Sustainability	Sep 2026
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