

Leicester carbon neutral roadmap

The context for the report

Overview Select Committee –
8th September 2022



Climate change is happening and represents a critical threat across the globe

- Up to 3.6 billion people already living in a position of vulnerability to climate change
- 50-75% of global population exposed to 'life-threatening' heat or humidity by 2100 if we don't act
- 10% of species at risk of extinction under a 2°C temperature rise
- Climate change impacting on food production and contributing to global tensions over land and resources
- Wildfires, floods and other impacts affecting much of the world – including the UK

Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.

(IPCC, 2021)

.... with risks and consequences for every one of us in Leicester

- Heatwaves
- Drought
- Flooding
- Storm damage
- Pressure on wildlife and risk of invasive species
- Threats to green spaces, trees and waterways
- Rising cost of food
- Increasing global insecurity

Health impacts and premature deaths

More pressure on NHS

Rising costs of damage to property

Rising costs of insurance

More families unable to afford the basics

Loss of biodiversity

Rising costs to keep buildings cool

.... and more

Climate change impacts in Leicester



**2012 & 2019
Flooding**



**2022
Heatwave**



The global response so far is not enough

- Global carbon dioxide emissions have rebounded after the pandemic
- UK greenhouse gas emissions have nearly halved since 1990, but also showed a rebound of nearly 5% in 2021
- So, we can't rely on lifestyle changes post-pandemic – more needs to be done
- Current action and commitments by national governments are not yet enough

Cities must act

- Cities are estimated to be responsible for about 70% of CO₂ emissions from human activity
- No single organisation can solve the problem, but...
- Councils have control or influence over about a third of emissions in their areas and, as community leaders, are well placed to support and inspire action across society
- Our climate emergency declaration and our 2030 net zero ambition provides a rallying call, but what will it mean in practice?
- The roadmap starts to give us the detail