

Appendix 2 – Oxfordshire Environmental Principles¹

Objective 1. Work towards a target of net zero carbon ahead of 2050 and as early as possible in the 2040s

Objective 1. Environment Principle ‘Headlines’

- Partner to deliver the outcomes in the Pathways to zero Carbon Oxfordshire report to more than halve emissions by 2030 on route to net zero
- Promote Oxfordshire as a leader in the net zero transition.
- Develop a Local Area Energy Planning approach to identify the investment and programmes needed in our communities
- Support planning policy that delivers net zero outcomes
- Deliver our transport and connectivity strategies for a net zero carbon transport system
- Reduce embodied carbon in our infrastructure schemes
- Increase engagement and capacity building so our communities can themselves take action on climate change
- Take accelerated action in our areas of direct influence – deliver net zero carbon by 2030 for our corporate estate, support maintained-schools to reduce carbon and partner with suppliers setting science-based targets for our major contracts.

Objective 1. Indicative Key Stakeholders

- OCC – All Services and Teams
- District and City Councils
- University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University & colleges
- Community Action Groups
- OxLEP
- Local Developers, Businesses

¹ Developed from the Environment Working Group, Oxford – Cambridge Arc Leadership Group. *Shared regional principles for protecting, restoring and enhancing the environment in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.* March 2021.

Objective 2. Adapt to the challenges of climate change and develop climate resilient communities

Objective 2. Environment Principle 'Headlines'

- Work with local and national experts to better understand the nature and scale of future climate impacts and make this information available publicly
- Develop local partnerships to identify the key steps to adapt to future climate change and develop resilient local communities particularly exploring nature-based solutions which deliver multiple benefits for communities
- Review the impact of climate change on our services and infrastructure, develop and implement plans to improve our own and our communities' resilience

Objective 2. Indicative Key Stakeholders

- OCC – All Services and Teams
- District and City Councils
- OxLEP, Oxfordshire Businesses
- Oxfordshire universities & colleges,
- University of Exeter
- Environment Agency, Thames Water
- Oxfordshire Communities

Objective 3. Protect, restore, enhance and create new nature areas and natural capital assets

Objective 3. Environment Principle 'Headlines'

- Support doubling the area of land managed for nature in Oxfordshire
- Support the Oxon Local Nature Partnership and take a leading role in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Achieve and where possible exceed government and local biodiversity net gain targets with an ambition of achieving 20% net gain
- Establish human and nature 'green' mobility corridors, enhance and sustain the Rights of Way Network
- Work with partners to protect, improve, expand and sustain tree and woodland cover in Oxfordshire
- Protect, enhance and sustain Oxfordshire's landscape and heritage assets and protected landscapes

Objective 3. Indicative Key Stakeholders

- OCC Property, Estates, Infrastructure, Highway Assets, Rights of Way services/teams
- OCC Env and Circular Economy, Strategic Planning and Development Control, TVERC
- District and City Councils
- Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership
- Oxfordshire Community Action Groups
- Oxfordshire universities & colleges, environmental NGOs, land owners and farmers, partnerships, AONBs / Conservation Boards

Objective 4. Use natural resources sustainably

Objective 4. Environment Principle 'Headlines'

- Address existing and future water resource, water quality and flood risk issues
- Make more efficient use of and manage our waste and limited resources and develop a circular economy approach
- Support action to improve local air quality
- Support measures to reduce the impact of agriculture on the environment, helping land managers to collaborate at a catchment and landscape scale
- Ensure that mineral resources are extracted, used in an environmentally sensitive manner and that sites are restored to uses that benefit people, nature and provide enhanced environmental benefits

Objective 4. Indicative Key Stakeholders

- OCC Property, Estates, Infrastructure, Highway Assets, Rights of Way services/teams
- OCC Env and Circular Economy, Strategic Planning and Development Control, TVERC
- Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership
- Oxfordshire Community Action Groups
- Oxfordshire universities & colleges, environmental NGOs, land owners and farmers, partnerships, AONBs / Conservation Boards

Objective 5. Be an exemplar for environmental sustainable development

Objective 5. Environment Principle 'Headlines'

- All new infrastructure and developments to contribute to net biodiversity gain, net environmental gain and net zero carbon, to be adapted to and resilient to climate change
- Develop our understanding of the impact of human activities on Oxfordshire's natural environment and work to promote growth and development within environmental limits
- Enable improvements to the design and development of sustainable communities that protect and enhance the natural environment

Objective 5. Indicative Key Stakeholders

- OCC Property, Estates, Infrastructure, Highway Assets services and teams, Strategic Planning, Minerals and Waste and Development Control
- District and City Councils
- Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership
- Oxfordshire universities and environmental NGOs, land-owners and farmers, partnerships

Objective 6. Ensure that existing and new communities see real benefits from our approach

Objective 6. Environment Principle 'Headlines'

- Maximise the health and wellbeing benefits of nature
- Promote and increase the equality of access to the sustainable benefits of nature

Objective 6. Indicative Key Stakeholders

- OCC Public Health, Infrastructure, Highway Assets, Rights of Way, Strategic Planning and Development Management
- Universities and Oxon environmental NGOs, land-owners and farmers, partnerships, AONB / Conservation Boards
- District and City Councils

Objective 7. Resource our ambitions, monitor and review regularly**Objective 7. Environment Principle 'Headlines'**

- Support the provision of environmental data in an accessible and informative format
- Use evidence on health, deprivation and ecosystem services demand to inform planning for greenspace, habitats and natural capital assets
- Work with stakeholders to secure new investment in the natural environment and infrastructure needed to meet net zero. Use this strategically to invest in projects that deliver positive natural capital and environmental outcomes
- Monitor progress on delivery of environmental outcomes
- Support and promote a five yearly environmental census

Objective 7. Indicative Key Stakeholders

- OCC Data and GIS Teams, Public Health
- District and City Councils
- Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre
- Local Nature Partnership and Oxfordshire environmental NGOs
- Oxfordshire Community Action Groups
- Universities
- Bioregional