
AMBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN 2026–2035

Ambridge District Council — Municipal Year 2026

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Foreword from the Leader of the Council

In June 2019, Ambridge District Council declared a climate emergency and committed to working towards becoming a carbon-neutral district by 2030. Since that declaration, we have made meaningful progress — reducing the carbon footprint of our own operations by 28% and introducing a range of measures to support residents and businesses in cutting their own emissions.

This Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026–2035 builds on that foundation and sets out a clear pathway to achieve net zero carbon in our own operations by 2035, and to support the district as a whole to achieve net zero by 2050 at the latest, in line with national targets. The actions set out in this Plan are ambitious but achievable. We are committed to transparency and will report publicly on progress every year. — Councillor James Whitmore, Leader

1. Our Vision and Commitment

Ambridge District Council’s vision for climate action is: “A thriving, sustainable Ambridge — a place where people, nature, and the economy flourish within the limits of our planet.”

Our key commitments are:

Council operations net zero carbon by 2035

District-wide net zero by 2050

Dedicated annual climate action budget of £500,000

Annual reporting to Full Council and publication of progress data

Community engagement and partnership with residents, businesses, and public sector partners

2. Baseline and Progress to Date

2.1 Council Operations

The baseline assessment of the Council’s own operational carbon footprint (Scope 1 and 2 emissions) for 2018/19 was 4,820 tonnes CO₂e. By 2025/26 this had been reduced to 3,470 tonnes CO₂e — a reduction of 28%.

Emission Source	2018/19 (tCO ₂ e)	2025/26 (tCO ₂ e)	Change
Buildings (gas and oil)	2,840	1,980	-30%
Fleet vehicles	1,240	890	-28%
Electricity (Scope 2)	510	360	-29%
Other sources	230	240	+4%
TOTAL	4,820	3,470	-28%

3. Action Plan 2026–2035

3.1 Buildings and Energy

The Council’s estate accounts for 57% of operational emissions. Actions include:

Civic Centre deep retrofit: Installation of heat pumps, improved insulation, and LED lighting by 2028 — estimated saving of 420 tCO₂e per year.

Solar PV expansion: Installation across Council-owned buildings achieving target generation of 1.2 GWh per year by 2030.

Decarbonisation of leisure centres: Transition from gas heating to heat pumps at the Ambridge Leisure Centre and Northgate Pool by 2029.

Planning and building standards: Update supplementary planning documents to require all new development to achieve net zero ready standard from 2027.

3.2 Transport and Fleet

Fleet electrification: 100% of the Council's light vehicle fleet to be electric by 2028. All HGVs (waste and grounds maintenance) to transition to electric or hydrogen by 2032.

Active travel: Invest £300,000 per year in cycling and walking infrastructure, including delivery of the Ambridge Cycling Network Plan by 2030.

Staff travel: Introduce a revised staff travel plan with enhanced cycling allowance, car sharing scheme, and electric vehicle charging at all major Council sites.

3.3 Waste and Circular Economy

Achieve a recycling rate of 65% by 2030 through the new waste contract, enhanced food waste collections, and expanded reuse initiatives.

Develop a district-wide Circular Economy Action Plan in partnership with Ambridge Business Improvement District by 2027.

3.4 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

Plant 50,000 trees across the district by 2030 through the Ambridge Tree Partnership.

Develop biodiversity net gain planning policies to ensure all major developments deliver measurable improvements to biodiversity.

Designate at least 15 new Local Nature Reserves by 2030.

3.5 Community and Business Engagement

Establish an Ambridge Climate Action Fund providing grants of up to £5,000 to community groups for local climate projects.

Deliver a home energy advice service to all Ambridge households by 2028.

Launch the Ambridge Business Climate Charter, supporting local businesses to measure and reduce their emissions.

4. Governance and Reporting

Delivery of this Action Plan will be overseen by a Cross-Party Climate Emergency Steering Group, chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change. Progress will be reported to Cabinet quarterly and to Full Council annually. An independent annual review will be conducted by the Council's sustainability advisors. All data will be published on the Council website.

5. Funding

The Council has committed a dedicated climate action budget of £500,000 per year for the period 2026–2030, funded from the General Fund and climate-specific external grants. Capital investment requirements for buildings and fleet decarbonisation will be incorporated into the annual Capital Programme. The Council will actively pursue government grant funding and partnership financing opportunities.

Adopted by Cabinet: 3 June 2026. Endorsed by Full Council: 17 June 2026.

For further information: climate@ambridge.gov.uk | www.ambridge.gov.uk/climate