

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
WDA/14/22

Recommendation

That Members:

1. Note the progress made in relation to measures included in the Climate Action Plan; and
2. Approve the proposals to take the Authority's revised public facing Climate Action Plan forward.

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CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

WDA/14/22

Report of the Chief Executive

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Following the Authority's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019, an initial Climate Action Plan was approved by the Members on 7th February 2020. This report provides Members with an update on the progress made by the Authority since the Climate Action Plan was approved. It also sets out proposals to amend the way the Authority works to deliver the objectives of the Climate Action Plan going forwards.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Initial Climate Action Plan set out the climate challenge and scope of the climate emergency for the Authority with links to circular economy, the role of land and asset management and behavioural change.
- 2.2 The Initial Climate Action Plan made proposals about the Authority's immediate commitments in the short to medium term (1-3 years).
- 2.3 In its first year the Plan identified three key objectives, which were reported on in April 2021. These included:

Energy conservation, consumption and production

The key issue here was to gain assurance that the Authority was accessing the greenest forms of energy across the estate. Following a review of energy use and consumption it is clear that the main contractors are already using green energy and so additional financial investments in solar panel, for example, are not required. The key for the remaining parts of the estate is to transition to greener energy suppliers wherever that becomes practical.

Closed landfill management - gas control

This project involved a review of the Bidston Moss Closed Landfill site, where previously a flare had been used to burn excess methane gas.

Following extensive testing it was possible to conclude that a more natural approach, biological methane oxidation, was taking place and reliably removed such gas as continued to be produced without the need for a flare. The success of this testing has also enabled the Authority to conclude, with our partner Infinis, that the Joint Venture Company, Bidston Methane Ltd was no longer required to enable the management of methane from the landfill site.

Waste stream and waste treatment impacts

The initial plan for the review of waste stream and treatment impacts was that a Waste Composition Analysis be carried out to inform future decisions. The analysis was delayed by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and was only restarted during 2021-22. This is reported on below, as the project was due for completion during 2021-22.

- 2.4 At the same time there were detailed discussions around collaboration among collection Authorities on the question of Food Waste collections. This was reported to the Authority on 7th February 2020, but no progress has been reported by District Councils since then.

3. Wider City Region issues

- 3.1 During 2021-22 the Authority has engaged with the Collection Authorities of the City Region to develop a new Strategic Waste Partnership. The Partnership has brought together Waste Collection Authorities with the Waste Disposal Authority under the LCRCA leadership of the Liverpool City Council Mayor, Joanne Anderson. Alongside this the two lead Officers for reporting are the Chief Executive of Wirral Council and the Chief Executive of the Waste Disposal Authority.
- 3.2 The leadership of the City Council Mayor and the joint Officer leads is expected to provide direction to the City Region as it continues to respond to the Climate Emergency that all constituent Authorities have declared, with a focus on waste and waste related issues.
- 3.3 The LCRCA Waste and Resources plan identifies a number of key goals and there are clear links with the Authority's own objectives for Climate Change; including:
- Developing a Zero Waste 2040 strategy for all wastes in the city region, including action plans to reach 55% re-use and recycling by 2025;

- Moving towards a circular economy through improving the effective material resources management by all organisations, and the promotion of positive behaviours from manufacturers and consumers;
- Conducting a Circular City Region Scan to understand how barriers can be overcome and opportunities taken, as well as guidance on how to embed the circular economy in the region;
- Conducting a waste composition analysis (what's in our waste?) to help inform future decisions around waste reduction, reuse and recycling;
- Developing and supporting the creation of an LCR Reuse Network consisting of reuse, repair, upcycling and sharing hubs to support waste reduction; and
- Implementing the National Waste and Resources Strategy at the City Region level.

3.4 The Authority will continue to work alongside the LCRCA, as part of the Strategic Waste Partnership to help them develop and implement the City Region Climate Action Plan.

4. Update on progress for 2021-22

4.1 The Climate Action Plan identified a number of workstreams that could contribute to the Authority's work on climate change in the medium term. A climate change action plan group of officers from across the Authority has been meeting during the year to ensure that action on these workstreams is monitored and collated. A summary of the projects and progress to date is provided in the table below:

Climate change workstream	Progress to date
Review relevant internal policies and strategies to ensure that circular economy and net zero carbon principles are embedded and consistent.	Review progressing to schedule
Complete a mid-term (10 year) WMRC contract review for future-	The mid-contract review of the WMRC has been more closely linked with the changes announced

<p>proofing as we transition to a circular economy</p>	<p>by Government in the Resources and Waste strategy, and in their proposals for changes to collections (Consistent collections and food waste) and considerations arising from consultations on the deposit return scheme for example. The response of District Councils to these initiatives will shape what the Authority needs to do in the medium and longer term (including the procurement strategy for the replacement of the WMRC). The Authority is now a part of the new Strategic Waste Partnership for the City Region and this will shape plans to amend any services that we are required to deliver.</p>
<p>Develop a business case for a reuse cooperative and scope opportunities to promote community sharing and reuse initiatives such as swap shops, repair cafes, refill networks and community fridges.</p>	<p>An initial business case has been developed for the re-use proposals. This will be used as a part of any future projects, including the potential development of a re-use hub. We have also built information about community initiatives such as swap shops, repair cafes and refill into our new Zero Waste LCR website, including resources case studies and information.</p>
<p>Adopt full green procurement to minimise environmental impacts considering the whole supply chain and including end of life</p>	<p>Review progressing to schedule</p>
<p>Ensure circular economy and net zero carbon are embedded in our education and campaigns programmes</p>	<p>Education programmes have been really successful through the year, despite the Covid pandemic conditions we have still been able to deliver some face to face sessions and our partners</p>

Reduce amount of residual waste and increase recycling rates, largely through the Behavioural Change Campaign and targeted education programmes.

continued to deliver virtual sessions.

Once the Education programmes re-opened, face to face sessions have proven hugely popular. We have delivered three major behavioural change campaigns across the year 'Recycling isn't Rubbish' 'Know your Recycle Rights' and 'Check your Tech'. We have trialled free and paid for social media as a communications method for these campaigns which has had really positive impact. These campaigns were focussed on reducing contamination and educating residents on the correct materials to put in their kerbside recycling bin. We also launched our Zero Waste LCR brand which includes a website and social media, this gives us a great mechanism for communicating our behavioural change campaigns focussing on enabling residents to move towards zero waste.

Education:

- Southport Eco Centre: Engaged with 15,359 residents; 12,442 of this came from direct engagement, either visits or web resource users; and 2,917 were reached through digital messaging.
- The RDC engaged with 3,829 residents via virtual or face to face sessions and engaged with 740 residents

through their digital resources.

Campaigns:

- Know your Recycle Rights:
- 548,000 radio/instream ad listeners
- Digital Streethubs: 512,000 Impacts
- Bus Rears: 1,175,940 Reach
- Bus Interiors: 889,000 Users
- Kiosks (Phonebooths): 2.3 million impacts
- Metro Newspaper: An advert and advertorial in the free newspaper that would be seen/read by 39,000 per issue
- Paid for social: 58,188 ad views
- Check your Tech
- 450,000 Bauer/Global ad plays
- Recycling isn't Rubbish
- Digital Roadside Adverts / Train Station Digital Adverts / Asda Digital Screens: 1,770,000 Impacts (no. of times advert seen)
- Paid for social: 129,266 ad views

<p>Continue to promote community reuse activities through the Community Fund</p>	<p>For 2021-22 the Community Fund has been actively supporting re-use and recycling projects across the City Region. Some £84k was allocated to Regional projects and another £81k was allocated to more local District Council based projects. In all some 17 projects received funding and have delivered their proposed outcomes successfully. Whilst three projects asked for extensions or budget change all the projects have been successful in their delivery, during a period when the Covid 19 pandemic made community based working more difficult to deliver. Towards the end of the year the Fund was opened once again for applications into 2022-23, the applications were received and awards have been made in line with the guidance approved by Members.</p> <p>A separate report on the Community Fund will be presented to Members at a later date.</p>
<p>Work with partners to influence wider LCR climate and circular economy initiatives including leading the LCR Circular Economy Club and participating in the Good Business Festival</p>	<p>MRWA continuing to contribute examples of LCR circular economy best practice with the CEC, plus continued engagement via CEC e-newsletter and attendance at a range of stakeholder meetings across LCR</p>
<p>Landfill avoidance - Negotiate the removal of landfill as the EfW contingency default for planned and emergency downtime.</p>	<p>There is ongoing liaison with Merseyside Energy Recovery Ltd (MERL) for a shift to non-landfill routes which includes a financial incentive to support shift. The terms of the contract will need to be</p>

	<p>reviewed to ensure this condition can be met to the satisfaction of all sides.</p>
<p>Closed landfill management – carbon sequestration</p> <p>- Deliver a pilot carbon sequestration project as a woodland and sink meadow at Foul Lane former landfill, Southport.</p>	<p>Sefton Council, the Mersey Forest and the National Wildflower centre were engaged and initially interested in delivering the outcomes of this proposal.</p> <p>Planning consents and the proposed conditions from Mersey Forest, including the likely management arrangements for the site mean that this has not been taken forward.</p> <p>Revised proposals will be considered for 2022-23 with close links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p>
<p>Transport emissions</p> <p>- Feasibility of implementing e-mobility by replacing MRWA diesel vans with electric vehicles</p>	<p>This project is complete for the time being.</p> <p>The key finding from the report is that the automotive industry’s view is that the time to launch a procurement of electric vehicles to replace the two vans currently powered by diesel is 18 months off, when the technology is likely to take a significant leap forward in terms of the mileage capacity of the vehicles. At that point the review will be refreshed and options for moving towards electric vehicles may be proposed.</p>

4.2 The Authority has also agreed a number of other commitments within its Climate Action Plan:

- To update the Climate Action Plan every two years; the proposals that follow support this objective;
- MRWA has been involved in collaborative action with partners to contribute towards delivering a zero carbon LCR, and in particular via the Zero Waste website;
- Will prioritise helping LCR adopt circular economy principles as a means of reducing carbon emissions,
- The development of a Carbon Metric, in partnership with an external contractor will enable us to develop our understanding and gain a comprehensive picture of carbon across the entire waste system including collections. Once we have measured our CO₂e baseline, consistent with EMS integration, we will identify further priorities and actions; and
- Authority Officers will work with the LCR CA as a part of the new Strategic Waste Partnership to align the MRWA and LCRCA Climate Action Plans.

5. Climate Action Plan update 2022-23

5.1 The proposed approach for the initial Climate Action Plan was that it should be reviewed and updated every two years. We have therefore developed a revised 'public facing' high level Climate Action Plan with accompanying detailed action plan. The high level document is a way to outline our commitment to tackling climate change, our vision for the future and how we propose to get there. The high level plan will be supported by a detailed action plan which will be reviewed annually and contains comprehensive tasks for the Authority to undertake.

5.2 The proposed public facing Climate Action Plan is set out at Appendix 1 to this report. Members can access the Plan via the following website address: www.zerowastelcr.com

5.3 The key components of the Climate Action Plan for 2022-23 include the following:

- Deliver one zero waste campaign across LCR with internal and external engagement
- Develop awareness resources to support residents and community groups in moving towards zero waste.
- Establish a three year food waste prevention and reduction plan
- Identify opportunities to work with community organisations, SME's and other stakeholders to develop reuse networks.
- Explore opportunities to develop at least one reuse hub in the LCR.
- Establish business support programmes to expand circular activity in the LCR.
- Increase biodiversity and support local nature recovery.
- Investigate options for carbon sequestration across the estate.
- Review priority materials for climate action following 2021 waste composition analysis
- Engage with MRWA staff to raise awareness about circular economy, zero waste and net zero carbon.

5.4 The proposed actions will reduce waste and carbon emissions and push our performance forward towards net zero carbon and zero waste by 2040. In doing so we will contribute to improved LCR resources and partnership working to deliver faster, stronger, and more coordinated climate action across the city region.

5.5 The outcomes of these proposals will be reported to Members annually.

5.6 Members are asked to consider and approve the action plan set out in Appendix 1.

6. Risk Implications

6.1 There are no new risks arising from the auditor's review

7. HR Implications

7.1 There are no new HR implications

8. Environmental Implications

8.1 There are no new environmental implications

9. Financial Implications

9.1 There are no new financial implications associated with this report

10. Legal Implications

10.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

11. Conclusion

11.1 The Authority approved an initial Climate Action Plan in February 2020. The action plan included a number of core actions with a 2020-21 to 2021/22 delivery commitment and other actions with a later implementation.

11.2 This report draws Members' attention to the progress made in the delivery of the Core and other actions over the last year; despite the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic; good progress has been made.

11.3 Members are asked to note the outcomes of the initial Climate Action Plan.

11.4 Members are asked to approve the revised public facing Climate Action Plan at Appendix 1.

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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil.