

URGENT ACTION ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

GREEN VISION: What are we aiming for overall?

Urgent action is needed to avoid large-scale human suffering and the loss of many more species. We can only avoid catastrophic climate and ecological breakdown by leaving fossil fuels in the ground and rapidly moving towards net-zero carbon emissions. Worcester residents know that climate change is real because we see the River Severn flood our city more often and more seriously, bringing disruption and suffering. We need to adapt the city not only to more floods but also to increasingly hot summers and more frequent and intense storms. We need action from politicians to help bring the changes that are needed to achieve climate goals- how we travel, heat our buildings, produce food, generate electricity, keep warm, and reduce waste.

GREEN PRIORITIES What we will try to do in the next four years

- Continue to reduce the energy use of council buildings, generate renewable energy and support staff and councillors to walk and cycle.
- Ensure that the city is prepared to adapt to the local and global impacts of climate breakdown such as extreme weather, flooding, displacement of people and disruption to supply chains and provide support for residents and businesses.
- Get council caterers to offer more plant-based food and push for other local institutions and event organisers to do the same.
- Encourage residents to produce less waste, improve recycling rates, bring in food waste and the collection of a wider range of materials.
- Continue to oppose national environmental deregulation.
- Lobby the government to provide funding for flood defences and recovery for the city .



Councillors and campaigners highlight the impact of flooding on the city

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GREEN ACTION What have we already done

Through working collaboratively across the city council, we have:

- Prioritised the climate emergency to be carbon neutral by 2030 (city) and 2050 (county).
- Introduced free licenses for electric taxis.
- Adopted better local planning policies for sustainable development, including high standards of energy efficiency for all new housing.
- Supported the roll-out of electric vehicle charging points in public places in the city and ensured that new council-owned vehicles are or are programmed to be electric.
- Improved our community response and resilience to flooding and other emergencies.
- Led a successful motion to support the Climate and Ecology Bill.

As community campaigners we have:

- Taken part in many bike rides to highlight the need to travel sustainably. Organised bike security marking and free bike maintenance.
- Supported student climate strikes.
- Cllr Katie Collier set up the school bike buses which are expanding across the city and runs women's confidence cycling sessions.
- Candidate Leisa Taylor leads group discussions on the reality of climate breakdown.
- Used councillor funding to install swift boxes.



The installation of swift boxes



A free social and repair bike event organised by Greens