

Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Report

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	21 January 2026
Subject:	Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2026-2031
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Jeff Evans

1. Who will be the portfolio holder presenting / leading the report?

Portfolio Holder	Role
Councillor Ieuan Williams	Portfolio Holder - Highways, Waste and Climate Change
Service Officer (Supporting)	Role
Rhys Alun Williams	Climate Change Manager

2. Why the Scrutiny Committee is being asked to consider the matter

The new Towards Net Zero Plan 2026-2031 sets out how the Council will continue working towards becoming a net zero carbon organisation, which is a key commitment within the Council Plan.

As the previous Towards Net Zero Plan expired in 2025, it is essential to adopt a new strategic plan to maintain progress. The Scrutiny Committee is therefore asked to review and provide input on the proposed priority areas and actions within the Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

3. Role of the Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

- For assurance
- For recommendation to the Executive
- For information

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is asked to recommend Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2026-2031 to the Executive for approval.

4. How does the recommendation(s) contribute to the objectives of the Council's Plan?

The recommendation directly supports the Council Plan's vision:

"To create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive."

It aligns with the Climate Change Strategic Objective:

"Responding to the crisis, tackling change, and working towards being a net zero organisation by 2030."

The Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2026–2031 sets out how the Council will continue its journey towards becoming a net zero carbon organisation by:

- Reducing carbon emissions,
- Increasing carbon absorption, and
- Strengthening organisational resilience to a changing climate.

This new Strategic Plan builds on progress and lessons learned from the previous Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2022–2025, as detailed in the End-Point Report (see background paper).

It should be noted, that the Strategic Plan recognises that the Council's target to become a net zero organisation by 2030 is not achievable with our current resources, time remaining and the scale of decarbonisation needed.

Therefore, the Strategic Plan proposes the Council aligns to the 'net zero carbon Wales by 2050' target as set by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. It has also identified specific targets and actions for each key priority area within the Strategic Plan.

5. Key scrutiny themes

Within the Strategic Plan's priority areas, the committee should give particular consideration to the following aspects:

1. Council assets and transport.
2. Council processes and staff development
3. Key risks and challenges

6. Key points / summary

There are six key priority areas to the Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2026–31, i.e.:

1. Assets and Housing Emissions

- Reduce carbon emissions from council buildings by investing in low-carbon measures, improving energy efficiency, cutting waste and increasing recycling.
- Ensure all existing and new properties are climate-resilient.
- Decarbonise the council's social housing stock.

2. Council Transport Emissions
 - Transition the council fleet to electric vehicles, develop fleet charging facilities.
 - Promote sustainable transport behaviours across the organisation
3. Supply Chain Emissions
 - Improve understanding of supply chain emissions through procurement, require suppliers to demonstrate carbon reduction commitments.
4. Land Use, Nature Recovery and Biodiversity
 - Adopt a whole-Council approach to land carbon sequestration, monitor carbon capture over time, and manage land to support nature recovery and biodiversity while locking up carbon where possible.
5. Organisational Development
 - Embed net zero and climate adaptation into council business processes, use emissions data for informed decisions.
 - Build climate change awareness, skills, and knowledge across the organisation
6. Strategic Projects and Climate Resilience
 - Embed climate, net zero, and biodiversity considerations into our strategic projects, assess long-term climate risks, and ensure council services are resilient to a changing climate.

7. Impact assessments

7.1. Potential impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

No potential impacts anticipated

7.2. Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

No potential impacts anticipated

7.3. Potential effects on opportunities to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English

No effects on the Welsh language anticipated

7.4. Potential impact on the Council's Net Zero Carbon target

Positive impact on the Council's net zero target by reducing carbon emissions.

8. Financial implications

The Council cannot fully fund this alone, external support from Welsh and UK governments and other bodies will be essential.

Match funding may be needed and all available funding streams must be fully leveraged where possible.

9. Appendices

10. Report author and background papers

[Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025](#)

Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 22-25 - End-Point Report

Authors – Rhys A Williams (Climate Change Manager)



Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2026-2031 draft

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg /
This document is also available in Welsh.



www.anglesey.gov.wales

Foreword



Councillor Ieuan Williams
Portfolio Holder – Highways,
Waste and Climate Change.



Rhys Howard Hughes
Deputy Chief Executive

Climate change affects us all and the actions we take now will define the lives of future generations. Isle of Anglesey County Council has declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming a net zero carbon organisation.

The Council Plan 2023 – 2028 identifies Climate Change as a strategic objective – “responding to the crisis, tackling change and working towards bring a net zero organisation by 2030”

Working to achieve this commitment is a challenge the Council has taken head on with the previous Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan. The Council has implemented projects to reduce its emissions, developed its knowledge, expertise and capacity to lower carbon emissions and measuring progress towards net zero.

By delivering Ysgol y Graig as our first net zero carbon building and constructing new solar car ports at our headquarters, we've shown practical leadership in lowering emissions by leveraging external funding to maximise impact.

Although we are now in a much stronger position and despite our efforts, we understand that the ambition to become net zero by 2030 is not achievable within the resources available and the time remaining.

This will not deter the Council from continuing to take action to reduce its carbon emissions. Building on the previous Strategic Plan, this Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2026 – 2031 identifies the Council's key priority areas and the actions to make further progress to become a net zero carbon organisation. We will continue to work collaboratively with Welsh Government and other partners across the sector to deliver this plan.

Why do we need a Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan

Climate change is the global challenge of our time, with far-reaching consequences for future generations. Its impacts are already being felt locally across Anglesey, affecting our residents, communities, and visitors. This shared challenge demands both decisive actions to reduce emissions and adaptation to a changing climate.

The Council Plan identifies climate change as a Strategic Objective, with commitments to reduce our carbon emissions and respond to the wider climate crisis.

As a local authority, we recognise our responsibility to lead by example and through this Strategic Plan, we will build a more sustainable Council which supports our communities to be healthy and prosperous where people can thrive.

This Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2026-2031, outlines the Council's approach to reducing its overall carbon emissions and how it will become a net zero organisation.

To reach net zero, the Council must cut its emissions across its services. This will be achieved by investing in its buildings, decarbonising transport and work with partners to reduce supply chain emissions. Remaining emissions will be balanced through carbon offsetting through land management.

We must take advantage of opportunities wherever possible to work with external partners such as :

- Welsh Government, WLGA and public sector partners on climate and net zero projects;
- Private Sector organisations on specific projects e.g. Anglesey Freeport;
- Schools and community groups to further action on climate change.

Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan Highlights

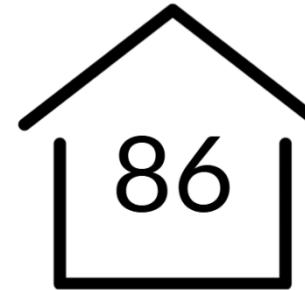


£18.5M

investment to decarbonise
Council assets



20%
reduction in
building
emissions since
2019/20



new low
carbon
Council
houses



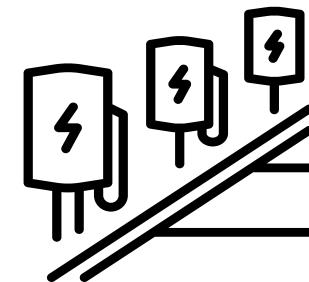
Council
houses
upgraded



Ysgol y Graig extension – our first net zero carbon
school



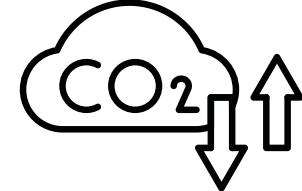
New solar
car ports
constructed
at Llangefni
HQ



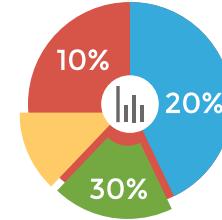
7
new car
charging
stations



16%
of our Fleet
are electric
vehicles



Improvements
in carbon
emissions
monitoring



Approximately 14,000
trees planted

Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan Progress to date

The Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan 2022-2025 End-Point report draws a range of conclusions and priorities considered in the new Strategic Plan :-

- The Council will not reach its net zero by 2030 ambition. This is due to insufficient resources, capacity and the scale of the decarbonisation and offsetting needed; it's understood that this finding is consistent with expectations of most, if not all, Local Authorities in Wales;
- Further investment is needed to develop emissions data collection systems, enabling accurate reporting and informed decision-making;
- Decarbonisation efforts need to be targeted where they will have the greatest impact e.g. assets, transport and procurement;
- Working towards net zero carbon requires a whole Council response;
- Net zero and climate change need to continue to be embedded in governance and business processes.
- It appears that the Council's total carbon emissions have not decreased as expected in recent years (see Attachment 1). This is largely due to increased spend within the supply chain, improvements in the quality and changes in scope of data collected. As a result, annual figures are not directly comparable on a like-for-like basis.

Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The Council Plan 2023 – 2028 is the key document serving as a focal point for decision-making at all levels; providing a framework to plan and drive forward priorities; shape annual spending; monitor performance and progress.

At its core is our desire to work with Anglesey residents, communities and partners to ensure the best possible services, improve the quality of life for all and create opportunities for future generations.

Its six main objectives reflect the key areas the Council should be focusing its efforts on.

‘Create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive.’



The Welsh Language

Increase the opportunities to learn and use the language.



Social Care and Wellbeing

Providing the right support at the right time.



Education

Ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations.



Housing

Ensuring that everyone has the right to call somewhere home.



Economy

Promoting opportunities to develop the Island’s economy.



Climate Change

Responding to the crisis, tackling change and working towards becoming net zero organization by 2030.



[Council Plan 2023 to 2028 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Council Plan – Values

The Council Plan is underpinned by the organisation's core values, which are used to develop and guide the vision, strategic plans and services.



Respect

We are respectful and considerate towards others regardless of our differences .



Collaborate

We work as a team, with our communities and partners to deliver the best outcomes for the people of Anglesey.



Honesty

We are committed to high standards of conduct and integrity.



Champion the Council and the island

We create a sense of pride in working for the Council and present a positive image for the Council and the Island.



Strategic circle

The strategic circle identifies the plans in place to ensure we are able to achieve our priorities and objectives.

This plan is a key strategic plan that aligns with the Council's Plan and contributes to the achievement of the strategic objectives and vision.



Key priority areas

- Assets and Housing Emissions
- Council Transport Emissions
- Supply Chain Emissions
- Land Use, Nature Recovery and Biodiversity
- Organisational Development
- Strategic Projects and Climate Resilience

Financial constraints can have an impact on the Councils' ability to fully deliver these key priority areas



Assets and Housing Emissions

Why is this important?

Emissions from Council assets, including offices, schools, leisure centres, and care homes, accounted for 5,504 tonnes of carbon emissions (tCO₂e) in 2024/25—around 11% of our total footprint.

Reducing emissions from heating, lighting, and energy use in the buildings we own and operate is essential to achieving net zero.

As a landlord of business units, social housing, and agricultural holdings, improving energy efficiency will not only cut carbon but also lower costs, tackle fuel poverty, and enhance the quality and resilience of our assets.

What are we going to do?

Reduce carbon emissions from the buildings we use.

Invest in energy efficiency measures to reduce operational costs

Ensure our current and new buildings and homes are resilient to a changing climate.

Reduce waste by increasing recycling from our buildings.

Decarbonise the use of the Council's social housing stock.

How are we going to do this?

Invest in our assets through capital maintenance and grant-funded upgrades to reduce carbon emissions

Apply energy efficiency and climate resilience standards to all new acquisitions and renovations.

Identify and implement measures to reach 70% recycling rate across all Council buildings.

Ensure all Council homes reach an EPC of C (Rating of 75) by 31 March 2031 wherever practical.

45 new council homes each year to minimum EPC A for new builds and low emissions standards for former Council homes purchased.

Council Transportation Emissions

Why is this important?

Emissions from the use of our transport was 6239 tCO₂e in 2024/25 around 12% of our total emissions.

Transportation emissions include use of fleet vehicles, business travel, commuting and homeworking.

Use of transport is key to deliver services across Anglesey and part of the Council's direct operational emissions.

Similarly, the Council's indirect emissions include staff business travel in personal vehicles and commuting to work.

What are we going to do?

Continue to transition the Council fleet to electric vehicles.

Develop the council's fleet EV charging infrastructure.

Develop and implement initiatives to encourage sustainable transport behaviours across the Council.

How are we going to do this?

Expand the number of electric vehicles in the council's fleet.

Develop and upgrade EV charging infrastructure to support fleet transition.

Aim to reduce fleet carbon emissions to 360 tCO₂e per year by 2031.

Increase use of EV fleet to reduce business travel emissions.

Increase awareness of the environmental impact of working from home and commuting to work.

Support the workforce to reduce their commuting emissions

Supply Chain Emissions

Why is this important?

Procurement of goods and services from our supply chain accounted for 77% of our reported emissions in 2024/25.

Emissions from the Councils supply chain is currently calculated based on expenditure – as we spend more, the emissions increase.

Every purchasing decision has a carbon cost, making it essential to embed carbon reduction criteria into all procurement.

What are we going to do?

Use procurement processes to improve the Councils understanding of its supply chain emissions data.

Ensure suppliers show their commitment to carbon reduction via tendering, monitoring and reporting processes.

Use supply chain emissions data to make informed low carbon decisions.

How are we going to do this?

Integrate social value, carbon emissions, and biodiversity aims in all procurement.

Prioritise high value and high carbon contracts to reduce supply chain emissions e.g. waste collection, school meals, highways contractor and large capital projects.

Provide training for staff and suppliers to mainstream social value and environmental requirements.

Use robust emissions data to monitor and make informed decisions.

Land Use, Nature Recovery and Biodiversity

Why is this important?

The Council manages a diverse portfolio of land, including agricultural holdings, refuse sites, school fields and grazing areas.

Improving land use and nature recovery is critical to achieving net zero as it enables us to offset emissions that cannot be fully eliminated.

Through better land management, we not only reduce our emissions footprint but also deliver wider benefits such as biodiversity enhancement, climate resilience, flood prevention, and soil health.

These actions align with the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and demonstrate leadership in tackling climate change while supporting community well-being and long-term sustainability.

What are we going to do?

Develop a whole Council approach to land carbon sequestration across all Council assets and land including monitoring carbon captured over time.

Support key actions identified within the Council Plan to manage our land effectively to support nature and biodiversity recovery thus locking up carbon where possible.

How are we going to do this?

Detailed baseline of all assets, land & types and establish a monitoring process to monitor carbon captured within 2 years.

Measure carbon captured through the Councils activities.

Pursue opportunities to improve carbon capture through biodiversity, nature recovery and land management projects e.g. tree planting

Support schools to prioritise achieving a recognised sustainability award by 2031

Organisational Development

Why is this important?

Organisational development is key to reaching net zero by enabling a systematic shift in culture across the Council.

By investing in skills, training, and leadership, we can build capacity for behaviour change.

Strong governance and accountability frameworks will help track progress of this Strategic Plan

What are we going to do?

Integrate net zero carbon and climate adaptation into the Council's business processes.

Use emissions data to enable informed decision making.

Develop climate awareness, skills and knowledge across the Council.

How are we going to do this?

Integrate net zero and climate adaptation into business processes and ensure they are treated as priorities in decision-making.

Improve emissions data collection and analysis.

Establish carbon emissions baseline for the Council housing stock and improve supply chain data.

Embed sustainability into training, professional development, and leadership programmes.

Include climate change commitments in job descriptions for new and advertised roles.

Target communications to embed climate action across council Services including behaviour change campaign to reduce energy use on Council premises.

Strategic Projects and Climate Resilience

Why is this important?

The Council has a range of strategic and capital projects which include developing new school buildings, care facilities, economic development and regeneration.

It is essential that all projects actively consider climate change, support our net zero target and enhance biodiversity.

The Council must also improve its understanding of the anticipated impacts of climate change to ensure its services remain resilient, effectively manage emerging risks and adapt to a changing climate

What are we going to do?

Ensure strategic projects include climate, net zero carbon and biodiversity considerations from the outset.

Gain a greater understanding of the long-term climate risks facing the Council.
Identify how it must adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and ensuring Council Services are resilient.

How are we going to do this?

Integrate carbon and biodiversity considerations into all strategic projects.

Implement measures to reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity within the Councils projects.

Evaluate long-term climate risks facing the Council.

Evaluate the Councils preparedness to respond to climate-related emergencies.

Implement adaptation actions to ensure Councils Servies are resilient

Financial Implications

The Council has invested significantly across its asset portfolio to reduce direct carbon emissions. This capital investment will be ongoing and will need to work parallel to the Council's continued revenue investments across the key priority areas identified within this Strategic Plan.

The Council cannot fully fund this alone, external support from Welsh and UK governments and other bodies will be essential.

Match funding may be needed and all available funding streams must be fully leveraged where possible.

The Council will also consider the use of its own reserves, contributions from revenue budgets and the use of prudential borrowing, if it meets the requirements of the Code of Practice, to maximise grant funding or as primary funding where necessary and where the funding is available.

Governance: Monitoring and Evaluation

We will build on governance arrangements from the previous Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan. Arrangements will ensure clarity, accountability, coordination and the opportunity to monitor progress effectively.

An annual implementation plan will be established, and progress will be reviewed each quarter via the Net Zero Steering Group. The Steering Group will report to the Leadership Team where necessary.

An annual progress report will be produced including a review of the strategic plan and we regularly assess our progress, targets, emerging risks and opportunities to ensure our actions reflect the Strategic Plans key priority areas.

Key actions identified within the Council Plans' Climate Change strategic objective will be reported to the Improvement and Modernisation Programme Board.

The Council will continue to monitor carbon emissions while fulfilling its annual reporting to Welsh Government; ensuring transparency, accountability, and data informed decisions that support our climate targets.

Appendix 1 – The Councils Net Zero Targets

Lessons learned from the Towards Net Zero Plan 2022-2025 concludes that net zero by 2030 is not a feasible target. As a result, the Council must ensure the target to achieve net zero carbon is more realistic and achievable.

The Council will maintain the overall target of becoming net zero carbon to be reached by 2050, aligning with Wales' primary target set by Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Key Priority Area targets to be achieved by 2031 are :-

Assets and Housing

- 22% reduction in emissions from the use of our buildings by 2031.
- Housing emissions baseline established with 10% reduction in overall emissions (from housing refit and solar installations).
- 70% recycling rate across Council operated buildings.

Supply Chain Emissions

- Achieve 50% of overall supply chain expenditure where suppliers have provided carbon reduction plans based on cumulative annual targets.

Council Transportation Emissions

- Aim to reduce fleet emissions to 360 tCO₂e per year.
- 30% reduction in overall emissions from business travel by 2031

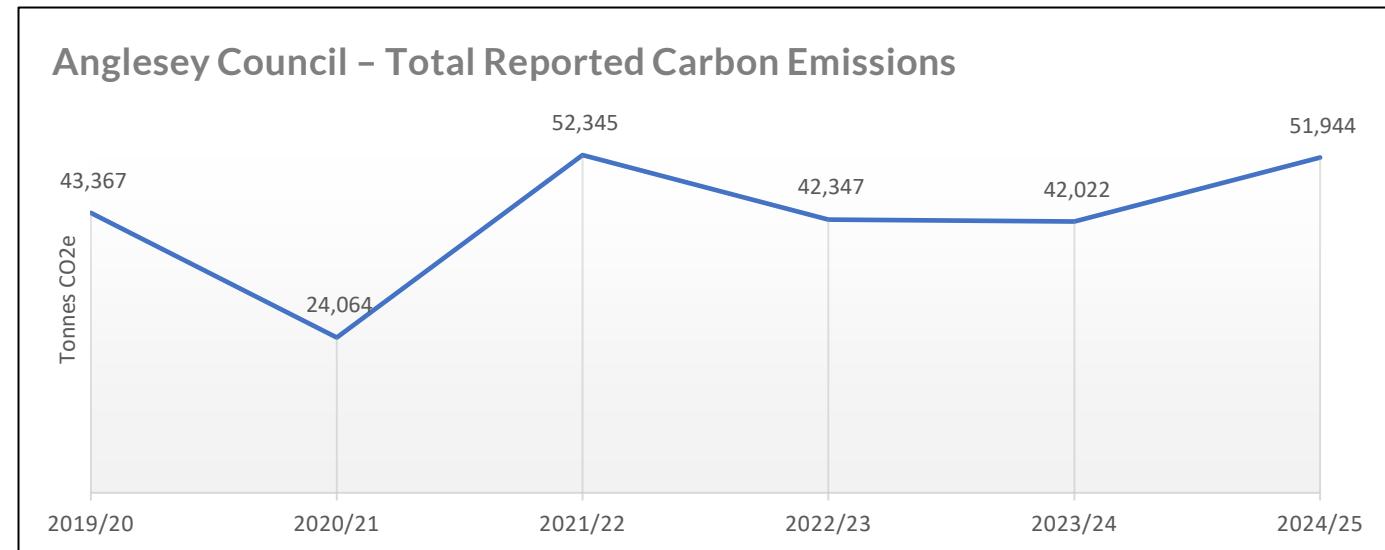
Appendix 2 – The Councils Carbon Footprint

The Council reports on its carbon emissions to Welsh Government within the annual 'net zero reporting' framework.

Using the data submitted, the Council can monitor its carbon emissions, identify priorities and track progress as it implements the Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan.

Based on the data submitted to WG:

- The Councils total carbon emissions were 51,944 tonnes CO₂e in 2024/25
- This is based on emissions calculated under categories of buildings, transport, waste and supply chain.
- Many factors have impacted emissions within these categories such as changes in data requirements, calculation methodology and change of activities within reporting categories.



Appendix 2 – The Councils Carbon Footprint

The 2024/25 data and emissions categories show :-

Buildings have seen reduction in emissions from electricity, heating and water use across council assets year on year.

Transport emissions have increased due to improvements in reporting methodology and have become more accurate for the 2024/25 data.

Waste emissions have reduced due to changes reporting boundaries and removal of duplicated reporting.

Supply Chain emissions is calculated based on how much the Council spends during the financial year and on the type of goods and services it procured. As the Council has spent more in 2024/25, the corresponding emissions have also increased.

