

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Application for Silver Accreditation Carbon Literacy Case Study

BACKGROUND:

In June 2019, Winchester City Council (WCC) declared a Climate Emergency; and committed to the aim of making activities of WCC carbon neutral by 2024, and the district of Winchester carbon neutral by 2030. The council's Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP) sets out the actions that will help address nearly all of the council's carbon emissions by 2024 and contribute to reducing emissions district wide by 2030. One of the aims of within the CNAP is to 'introduce a corporate staff training module on sustainability and reducing energy usage' so that all staff understand their role in helping the council meet its net zero targets.

CARBON LITERACY TRAINING:

Within the council, we use Carbon Literacy training as the primary means of educating officers and members about sustainability, climate change, and carbon neutrality and engaging them in the shared goal. In early September 2020, WCC received formal approval from the Carbon Literacy Project to run its own Carbon Literacy training program. Following approval, WCC was one of the first local authorities to pilot the Local Authorities Generic Staff Course later that month. Since the initial pilot session in September 2020, we have hosted a further 20 training sessions with officers. The training is currently delivered in-house by members of the council's Sustainability Team and is supported by a growing team of Carbon Literate staff volunteers from various teams across the council. Each training sessions is led by at least 2 facilitators and delivered to a group size of 10-20 participants over two half-days. Informal Carbon Conscious Coffee sessions follow training to support all participants in developing their Action Plans.

In February 2021, WCC was certified as a BRONZE Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO), at the time only one of 11 councils in the UK to achieve the status. And later that year, WCC's Carbon Literacy trainers

contributed to a virtual COP26 Focus Day event, led by the Carbon Literacy Project to discuss climate change and what action local authorities can take.

Two of the council's Directors trained and become certified in 2021 with the Chief Executive and Director of Place recently also successfully become certified. This led to Carbon Literacy training becoming mandatory for new staff in 2022 as part of their induction training and is embedded in the Council's probation policy demonstrating WCC's commitment to promoting Carbon Literacy within the workplace, and then mandatory for all staff from summer 2023.

Two training sessions for elected members have taken place training both the Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency and Council Leader. Officers from neighbouring authorities, such as Gosport Borough Council, have attended our training sessions and have subsequently certified as Carbon Literate. Many of these officers have gone on to develop and lead Carbon Literacy training within their own authorities. The council has also organising a Carbon Literacy taster session for parish councillors in September 2023 which we hope will lead onto training for Parish Councillors being rolled out over 2024.

As a local authority, we strongly believe we have a major role in helping our officer, residents, and partner organisations to become more carbon neutral. WCC has ambitious targets to become carbon neutral by 2024, and this is only achievable if we raise awareness and educate officers and elected members of the council's commitment. A Carbon Literate workforce is more likely to succeed in introducing low carbon measures to address the climate emergency, climate mitigation and effecting adaptation measures.

FACTS AND FIGURES



215

people have attended Carbon Literacy Training

INCLUDING...



188

Officers



15

Elected Members



12

external personnel

Winchester City Council was certified as a



BRONZE
Carbon Literate Organisation

IN FEBRUARY 2021

Winchester City Council co-presented at a virtual



FOCUS DAY EVENT
led by the Carbon Literacy Project.

IN NOVEMBER 2021

103

of people have gone on to become

CERTIFIED

as **Carbon Literate** by the Carbon Literacy Trust.

65

Officers

2

Elected Members

remain certified and work at Winchester City Council

