

Sustainable Shaftesbury Action Plan 2023–31



Climate Change

Cutting our greenhouse gas emissions

STC will adopt a **climate change** action plan which supports the national/global target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

TARGETS

- To reduce consumption and waste
- To reduce energy demand and produce smarter energy
- To promote 'green' transport solutions
- To promote sustainable diets and sustainable local food production

TRANSPORT ≈ FOOD ≈ ENERGY ≈ ENVIRONMENT



Biodiversity

Helping nature recover by protecting and enhancing our land, rivers and seas

STC will adopt a **biodiversity** action plan that will seek to help nature to recover by in keeping with the *Nature Positive Dorset 2030* declaration and the joint People's Plan for Nature report of March 2023, through the promotion of re-wilding for open spaces and green areas.

TARGETS

- To protect and enhance all nature
- To promote re-wilding of open spaces
- To replant depleted areas with trees, hedgerows and flowering plants

TRANSPORT ≈ FOOD ≈ ENERGY ≈ ENVIRONMENT



Environmental Resilience

Adapting for the impacts of unavoidable environmental change

STC will adopt an **environmental resilience** action plan to mitigate the impact of unavoidable environmental change or damage.

TARGETS

- To create 'green corridors' for wildlife
- To eliminate plastics and fossil fuels
- To promote and support local food production and distribution.

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IMPORTANT

The symbols below which feature in the left-hand column of the following tables indicate the stage various actions have currently reached. The plan is deliberately ambitious and aspirational to take account of what is a fast-moving situation both internationally and locally and therefore subject to change.

Stage of Development Key



Doing

Projects that are already underway, or that are ready to begin immediately.

**Action being taken
2023–24**



Research

Projects that are defined well enough to begin running as a pilot, or which may require a more detailed feasibility assessment.

**Action pending
(Aim for 2024–26)**



Ideas

Projects that need more thought and planning before getting started. May also require engagement with partner organisations and stakeholders.

**Action NOT taken yet
(Aim for 2024–31)**

Ideas have been generated by the Sustainable Shaftesbury Working Group. Shaftesbury Town Council reserves the right not to go forward with any project in the *Ideas* category until its feasibility has been assessed. All are subject to a worked-up proposal being considered by STC and formally resolved upon by the Council.

Adopted:	February 2024
Updated:	March 2026
Review date:	March 2028

Stage	Who?	Energy	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
Sustainable energy will be supported by promoting the use of renewable energy – and alternative technologies as they develop – throughout the town and encouraging energy storage and conservation. The ‘Energy Hierarchy’ that prioritises reducing energy demand (e.g. by insulating buildings and making better use of energy) will be followed and promoted (see diagram <i>Annex 1</i>).					
		IMPROVING the energy performance of all Town Council buildings.			
		RETROFITTING its buildings with energy-saving measures.			
		EDUCATING staff to be more aware of and commit to sustainable actions.			
		GENERATING its own electricity using solar panels and prioritising the use of air or ground-source heat pumps where feasible.			
		Phased REPLACEMENT of LED bulbs and electrical equipment on council premises with products of maximum energy efficiency rating.			
		SWITCHING to 100% renewable energy tariffs for electricity on council premises and annually reviewing the energy supplier.			
		UPDATING its website with links to Retrofitting Bruton TC , Green Register , Centre for Sustainable Energy , etc. Set up micro-site within STC website for all things Sustainable Shaftesbury.			
		INVESTING in electric vehicle (EV) charging points (see also <i>Transport</i> below).			

Stage	Who?	Energy	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
	To be defined	SUPPORT the creation of a community interest company (CIC) to produce community energy (e.g. from wind turbines, solar panels, biomass or other such renewables) such as Dorset Community Energy (www.dorsetcommunityenergy.org.uk) and Nadder Community Energy (www.nadderce.org.uk) where profits can be used, for example, for insulation retrofitting and domestic PV installations.			
	SuSAC →	Aim to REDUCE energy demand in Shaftesbury by improving energy efficiency in all buildings by engaging with local residents and businesses with help and advice from established partners such as the DCE to reduce energy use (e.g. through retrofitting) such as by:			
	SuSAC →	- reviewing all street lighting and ensuring LED lighting is in use and lighting times reduced - promoting information events with demonstrations (interlining curtains, making draught excluders, showing secondary glazing methods) in community settings such as schools, churches and community groups with support and advice from the Sustainable Fashion group			
	Others to be defined	- setting up an energy information hub in the town centre (e.g. the library or an empty shop) offering free retrofit assessment advice on ground and air-source heat pumps and keeping up-to-date lists of the various grants available for improvements. See also Dorset Greener Homes, DCE and Ridgeway Energy for more info. - setting up a Shaftesbury equivalent of Bristol's Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts (CHEESE) Project that aims to reduce domestic energy losses at low cost using thermal-imaging (ref: www.cheeseproject.co.uk and 'Insulate Britain' www.insulatebritain.com.) - setting up Centre for Sustainable Energy's Future Energy Landscapes Project: www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1383. - promoting careers in the green energy sector through engagement with local schools, colleges and Dorset Careers. Yeovil and Salisbury Colleges be requested to offer the new T31 Renewable Energy Pathway Apprenticeship scheme. - the creation of an 'energy champion' on each street or in each local community and taking a street-by-street approach to installing PV panels and tiles and storage batteries on all suitable buildings, including listed buildings and those in conservation areas, and the generation of power from wind turbines including smaller turbines for individual properties. (Advice available from groups such as Dorset Community Energy and Nadder Community Energy, see below). See also Power for People (www.powerforpeople.org.uk).			

ENERGY Progress to date 2026: Public meetings to gauge the level of local interest in energy-saving measures were held in 2024 and 2025. Further events in 2026 to re-engage the wider public included a showing of the film Power Station at the town hall and a follow-up public interest meeting in the autumn. SuSAC is also in contact with People Owned Power founder Howard Johns who specialises in connecting with local electricians and installers to enable street-by-street solar installation. The hoped-for aim is for Shaftesbury to set up its own community energy company as other towns have done.

Stage	Who?	Travel and Transport	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
Sustainable travel and transport will be supported by promoting the use of cycling, electric/hydrogen vehicles, public transport and public footpaths and by supporting improvements to cycling, walking, car-sharing and telecommuting facilities in and around Shaftesbury.					
		REDUCING the social and environmental impacts of road vehicles by ensuring members and officers car-share, wherever possible when conducting council business and encouraging the use of more sustainable methods of transport for all journeys.			
		PROVIDING contact information for the local footpath officer to help manage and maintain public footpaths in and around Shaftesbury, and to deal with any access problems.			
		INVESTIGATE the use of council-owned electric-powered vehicles (EVs) where this is a workable alternative.			
	To be defined	Consult with Dorset Council to DEVELOP a strategic plan for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and Hydrogen power. Consult on the provision of EV charging points with residents.			
	To be defined	RECOMMEND to Dorset Council : - suitable locations for EV charging points by adapting existing street furniture such as lampposts and bollards to incorporate charging devices. - discounts for electric vehicles in public parking areas.			
	To be defined	REQUEST Dorset Council implements a 20mph speed limit throughout the town centre and within the parish boundary including St James, Enmore Green and all the new housing estates.			
	To be defined	ENCOURAGE and support public transport provision and use by promoting information about bus links to surrounding towns and railway networks.			

Stage	Who?	Travel and Transport <i>continued</i>	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
	To be defined	COLLABORATE with Dorset Council to implement bike and scooter hire stations such as BCP's 'Beryl's Bikes' and PROVIDE more cycle stands in the town centre.			
	To be defined	SUPPORT alternative solutions for local public transport needs such as cycle taxis (tuk-tuks).			
	To be defined	SUPPORT the planned pedestrian priority of the High Street by influencing a greener environment for the town centre and its users and restricting bus travel through the high street.			
	To be defined	SUPPORT Dorset Council to provide information and advice to residents on bus pass and car-share schemes, community away days and health/wellbeing events (as antidotes to isolation).			
	To be defined	SUPPORT the development of an off-road CYCLEWAY between Shaftesbury and Gillingham via Motcombe to enable cyclists to travel safely to the adjacent locations. A CYCLEWAY will also allow safe access for residents of Shaftesbury and Motcombe to the RAILWAY NETWORK passing through Gillingham.			

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT Progress to date 2026: The Dorset Council Active Travel and Public Transport Implementation Plans approved by Dorset Council in January 2026 have been reviewed to see where they may support the aspirations outlined in the SUSAC Action Plan for travel and transport.

The new Dorset Council Active Travel Delivery Plan (approved by Dorset council (29/01/2026) includes the development of plans during 2026-27:

- To implement 20mph zones in all areas of Shaftesbury where appropriate and it is locally supported
- For the timed restriction of motor traffic on streets adjacent to schools to support Active Travel
- To improve town centre traffic management to improve the public realm.

Active Travel (Walking and cycling) is a major public health initiative so that residents can walk or cycle on short journeys where they feel safe to do so. The new Dorset Council Public Transport Implementation Plan includes plans to improve Public Transport Links by enhance the frequency and reliability of bus services on strategic inter-urban routes such as Blandford-Shaftesbury-Gillingham. Saturday bus services will be extended to enable consistent services throughout the week.

There is also a proposal to develop rural mobility hubs and a pilot for demand-responsive transport (DRT). The pilot will serve the rural areas surrounding Gillingham and Shaftesbury offering flexible transport options to connect residents with key services.

Stage	Who?	Biodiversity improvement/amelioration	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
Biodiversity in Shaftesbury will be improved by increasing opportunities for nature to thrive in and around the town. Particularly at all public assets owned or managed by Shaftesbury Town Council, including those it works in partnership with Dorset Council and the education authorities, and by the implementation of its 2023 Biodiversity Checklist (see Appendix B). See also Land Management (below).					
		INCREASING tree cover-on STC-owned land.			
		COLLABORATING with Shaftesbury Tree Group on the commitment to a five-year Shaftesbury Tree Plan (2024–29) and actively supporting the annual planting plan (see Appendix C).			
		PURCHASING plants from organic nurseries and organically made compost only, but preferably making its own; using homemade compost/mulching instead of bought-in fertilizers promoting seed and plant swapping, and exchange of cuttings.			
		PROMOTING community initiatives to increase biodiversity net gain, such as Sustainable Shaftesbury’s Let’s Go Wild project.			
		ENHANCING the STC Wildflower Policy adopted in 2021.			
		SUPPORT for Butterfly Conservation's request to declare Shaftesbury a Butterfly and Moth Friendly Town.			

Stage	Who?	Biodiversity improvement/amelioration <i>continued</i>	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
		ENSURE biodiversity is improved by protecting and enhancing the quality and extent of the natural environment in Shaftesbury by: - managing council assets (including public rights of way and verges) to protect and increase biodiversity - supporting the conservation of trees, hedgerows, springs, ponds, and streams habitats - protecting existing hedgerows and creating new hedgerows including ensuring that hedging takes precedence over fencing where feasible as more wildlife friendly wherever possible (<i>see Open Spaces Master Plan, Appendix E</i>) - ensuring plants in beds, borders and planters are pollinator friendly and have been sourced locally and grown organically (without artificial fertiliser). - MANAGE all green/open spaces to increase biodiversity and mitigate any adverse public impact on wildlife, especially in Bury Litton, Brionne Gardens, St James Park, Queen Mother's Garden, Grosvenor Road bank, Castle Hill Green, Wincombe recreation ground, Cockram's, and Trinity churchyard. (Note that scheduled monuments are not included in this due to the complexity of management).			
		DEVELOPING <i>Open Spaces Management Plans</i> for all STC-owned land.			
		ENSURING the support and maintenance of healthy soils by causing as little soil disturbance as possible.			
BIODIVERSITY Progress to date 2026: Management plans for open spaces have stalled but the Dorset Rangers Service operates a plan for Castle Hill under contract to STC. Dorset Wildlife Trust's 'Nature Connection North Dorset' project 2026–31 is expected to revive the situation through Shaftesbury's Nature Friendly Town, Orchard Town and Green Wheel initiatives. SuSAC is also pressing for developers' Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) minimum improvement target of 10% be increased to 20%.					

Stage	Who?	Land Management including allotments, parks and open spaces	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
Sustainable land management will be achieved by adopting an evolving policy to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on land in the town through a variety of measures selected for maximum ecological and environmental efficacy based on a comprehensive land mapping exercise for all areas within the town’s settlement boundary. See also <i>Biodiversity</i> (above) and <i>Housing & Commercial Development</i> (below).					
		All of the below involves principal town council action in collaboration with Dorset Council .			
		BAN the use of herbicides and pesticides, and specifically glyphosate, on any STC-controlled land subject to exceptional circumstances demanding it as a ‘last resort’. <i>See Annex 2</i> .			
		PUBLISH an Allotments Policy to assist allotment holders to optimise biodiversity on their land with advice on best practice in composting, growing organically, minimising chemical use, planting schemes that benefit pollinators, use of water, and good soil management (<i>see Appendix D</i>).			
		ENSURE each park and open space has its own management plan with zones marking out cultivated lawn/play areas and those dedicated as more natural. INCLUDE at least a 1–2m uncut ‘wilding’ strip around the perimeters of parks where appropriate, recreation areas, sports fields, cemeteries and churchyards for wildflowers to establish and encourage pollinators.			
		PROMOTE and create ‘green corridors’ linking all public open spaces, parks, footpaths, play areas, sports and recreation grounds, allotments, cemeteries, churchyards (such as Trinity churchyard) to facilitate the free and easy movement of wildlife throughout the parish and into the surrounding countryside.			
		PROMOTE and encourage the use and maintenance of footpaths and rights of way such as the White Hart Link, Hardy Way, Ox Drove Trail etc.			
		ACHIEVE Green Flag status for the towns parks and gardens.			

Stage	Who?	Land Management <i>continued</i>	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environment
	To be defined	SEEK to IDENTIFY and EVALUATE any land that appears degraded for its health, but particularly land the Town Council is responsible for, as well as seeking to influence the restoration of land for which it isn't responsible, including farmland. - ensuring plants in beds, borders and planters are pollinator friendly. - supporting the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds, and streams habitats. - increasing tree cover (such as collaborating with Shaftesbury Tree Group in its commitment to a 5-year Tree Plan 2020–25 for shelter, shade and habitat protection as well as climate change mitigation. <i>See Appendix C</i>). - collecting rainwater in rain butts to lessen flooding and for watering plants and trees.			
	To be defined	IMPLEMENT a land mapping exercise for Shaftesbury and the surrounding area to detail land use, area, ownership and other key information with the potential to identify opportunities and trade-offs for energy, nature, food, connectivity and other uses.			
	To be defined	MAXIMISE fire safety standards by banning all barbecues, fireworks, litter and the release of balloons/sky lanterns from council land and events unless officially authorised or permitted on special occasions. Private garden and allotments bonfires to be limited by regulations for frequency and the right weather and wind conditions.			
	To be defined	REVISE plans for natural area maintenance and planting programmes as part of a parish-wide Environmental Improvement Project to include: - brambles and fallen trees left in dedicated zones to promote the natural environment and for invertebrates - public paths cleared to maximum of 1m either side - zones designated to allow wildflowers to flourish with meadow areas mown with paths to lessen impact from dogs.			
	To be defined	STC and Dorset Highways collaborate to ensure that mowing of roadside verges in Shaftesbury does not exceed 1m from the roadside edge <i>unless and only</i> for reasons of road safety and/or to improve visibility.			

LAND MANAGEMENT Progress to date 2026: An **Allotments Policy** was updated in 2024 and circulated to Shaftesbury allotment holders and communicated via a joint STC and SuSAC workshop in April 2025. Comprehensive pro-biodiversity managements plans for all open spaces including St James Park and Castle Hill but especially the public spaces and recreation areas on the new developments to the north of Shaftesbury (BarrattsRedrow) and east (Persimmon) are chronically overdue and urgently needed.

Shaftesbury's **Green Wheel** project was initiated in 2024 to surround the town with a thriving and connected nature-rich 'green wheel' around the parish with wildlife corridors or 'spokes' into the centre of the parish with a comprehensive 'zoning map' to indicate clearly what is possible where. The intention is to inspire and mobilise residents to do the same within their own gardens and plots as well as to help deter detrimental and unneeded development.

Stage	Who?	Food Consumption and Production	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
Sustainable food consumption and production will be promoted by supporting all locally grown food, agro-ecology and sustainable initiatives together with a policy of zero waste for food. STC will particularly support all local producers of sustainable food.					
		AVOIDING food waste at council events and meetings and promoting practical ways to address food waste.			
		PROMOTING the allotment giving scheme in collaboration with Open House.			
		PROMOTING support for community growing initiatives such as Shaftesbury Home Grown , The Donkey Field Community Orchard and The Orchard in the Park , including volunteering opportunities by working with Planet Shaftesbury to publish an online register of outlets, including websites, locations, partners and available supply. See also www.sustainablefoodplaces.org .			
		SUPPORTING Shaftesbury Community Fridge , Community Larder and other food bank initiatives wherever and whenever the need arises.			

Stage	Who?	Food Consumption and Production <i>continued</i>	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
		SUPPORTING our local schools in their activities around the development of sustainable lifestyles.			
	SuSAC & Planet Shaftesbury	SUPPORT and PARTICIPATE in the emerging Dorset-wide Food Partnership to influence and support its development in taking a whole food systems approach.			
	To be defined	DEVELOP a 'Good Food Growing Guide' for local growers, horticulturalists and regenerative farmers following advice from such as the Nature Friendly Farming Network (NFFN), The Soil Association and Sustain .			
	Planet Shaftesbury	SUPPORT local food producers to encourage shopping locally thereby reducing food miles, and sustainable and healthy food consumption such as plant-based diets to shift demand from carbon-intensive foods to low-carbon, nature-positive produce.			
	To be defined	SUPPORT the promotion of advice on sustainable diets, including guidance on food preparation and cooking, alongside broader health initiatives such as the Shaftesbury Wellness Programme in partnership with groups such as the Blackmore Vale Partnership and Planet Shaftesbury . See also Sustainable Dorset's Green Living Project and free guide: greenliving.sustainabledorset.org .			

FOOD CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION Progress to date 2026:

Action 1: Members of SuSAC and Planet Shaftesbury have run and contributed to a series of workshops and events during 2024 and 2025 aimed at furthering the development of a Dorset Local Food Partnership. This culminated in the creation of the [Feeding Dorset Partnership](#) at the end of 2025.

Action 3: Planet Shaftesbury researched and produced 'Eat Well', a guide to Shaftesbury retail and hospitality sectors' sourcing of local produce for residents and visitors to the town in 2024/5. This included advice on healthy, sustainable diets. The guide was updated and digitised in spring 2026.

Stage	Who?	Housing and Commercial Development	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
		Sustainability in housing and commercial development will be achieved by working closely with developers, builders and Dorset Council as the local planning authority (LPA). Ensure that everyone meets the very latest and highest standards of sustainability and energy conservation in construction as well as protection for the local ecology and environment, including strict adherence to the net biodiversity gain ruling.			
		PROMOTING events, such as Open Homes, that allow people to view sustainable properties and get information about what adaptations can be made to homes to improve energy efficiency.			
	To be defined	COLLABORATE with Dorset Council in support of the Environment Act 2021 and the Levelling Up & Regeneration Act 2023 to FAVOUR planning applications where the applicant can positively demonstrate not only good design, effective insulation and energy conservation as integral components of the application but also the minimum 10% biodiversity net gain (i.e. biodiverse land use that takes account of below ground conditions as well as those above ground), the quality of indoor as well as outdoor space, and acceptable development density in keeping with the '12 living systems framework' for sustainable community planning and design (see Annex 3) that requires the identification and retaining of a 'baseline ecology' (i.e. land mapping) for Shaftesbury including the relationship between this ecology and the wider ecosystem of water, air, soil and energy co-dependency. These conditions apply as much to commercial premises applications as residential housing. Support for planning applications will always be subject to other planning considerations.			
	To be defined	COLLABORATE with Dorset Council to ADVOCATE the retention and refurbishment of existing buildings together with the recycling of building demolition materials in building works, particularly of heritage materials such as greenstone, brick and wood, in the furtherance of a circular economy (see also <i>Circular Economy</i> , below).			
	To be defined	WORK with Dorset Council's Conservation Team to enable a quicker pathway for listed buildings and/or conservation area properties to install PV panels/tiles and other energy conservation methods.			
	To be defined	ENCOURAGE full public participation and consultation in all planned development and in the provision of information on the methods and costs involved in retrofitting and decarbonising all buildings (see 'Insulate Britain' at www.insulatebritain.com and Dorset Greener Homes).			

HOUSING & COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT Progress to date 2026: Little made but in 2025 Dorset Council commissioned the production of the first **Dorset Design Code** (DDC) to enhance the sympathetic design and construction of new builds in Dorset and the first draft is due to be published in March-April 2026. Attempts have been made to get volume housing developers such as those building to the north and east of Shaftesbury to meet their BNG planning obligations but with minimal apparent progress to date and this clearly requires constant monitoring and scrutinising.

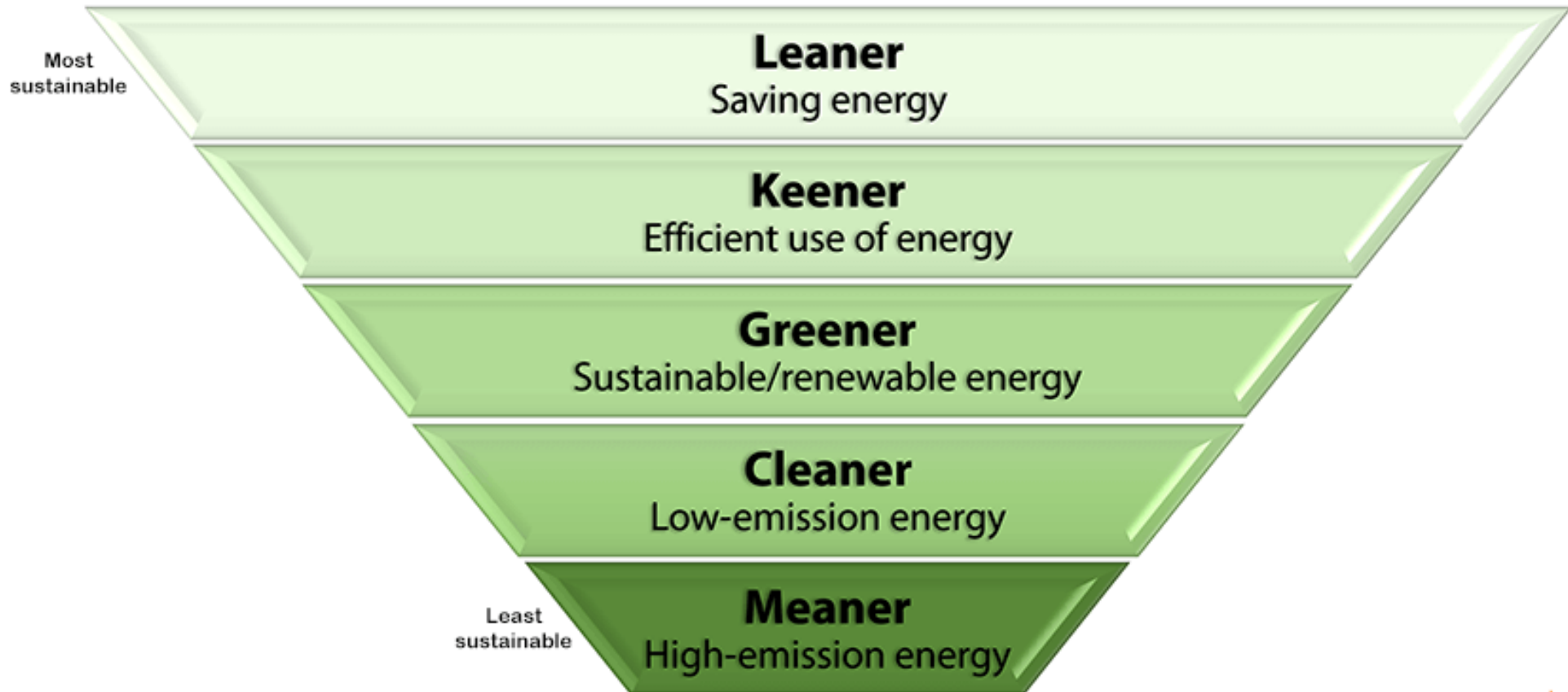
Stage	Who?	Waste Reduction and Management	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
Sustainable waste management will be achieved by keeping waste in Shaftesbury to a minimum, by preventing, reusing, recycling and/or recovering waste. See also <i>Circular Economy</i> , below.					
		Ensure food waste, recycling and other waste is segregated in line with any emerging Dorset Council policy.			
		REDUCING printing and increasing digital communications.			
		OBSERVING its duty of care in relation to waste contracts.			
		REQUIRING councillors to ‘opt-in’ to receive paper documents.			
		USING recycled or compostable products on council premises and at events.			
		ENSURING all waste is sorted, stored and disposed of properly by working in partnership with Dorset Council Waste Services and Hilltop Litter Pickers in a regular ‘litter-free Shaftesbury’ campaign.			
		ENSURE composting facilities are available at relevant amenities including allotments and cemeteries.			
WASTE REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT Progress to date 2026: No progress.					

Stage	Who?	Circular Economy	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
A sustainable ‘circular economy’ – an economy which is self-supporting by reusing and recycling as much as possible within a community – will be achieved by supporting and promoting whatever enterprises, projects or plans best support the principles of regenerative economics and also to allow nature and the local ecology to thrive.					
		UNDERTAKING an audit of the materials and services used by the Council.			
		ENSURING that procurement of goods and services are weighted appropriately to encourage local suppliers.			
		ENSURING that timber, or similar products, used by the council will be from certified sustainable (i.e. Forest Stewardship Council or FSC) sources where possible.			
		ENSURING that consumables used on Council premises are eco-friendly.			
		OPERATING a ban on single-use plastic (SUP) across STC activities wherever possible.			
		PROMOTING and SUPPORTING modern work practices.			
		ENCOURAGE all councillors and staff undertake carbon literacy training and track the Council’s carbon footprint over time.			
	To be defined	SET UP a community climate resource space with other organisations in the town centre (High Street/ Bell St, e.g. 8 Bell St) with energy resources, advice sessions, repair café, clothes swap, library of things, ‘mindful’ mending workshops, etc (see Weymouth Climate Hub www.weymouthclimatehub.com).			
CIRCULAR ECONOMY Progress to date 2026: No progress.					

Stage	Who?	Water Management	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
Sustainable water management in Shaftesbury will be achieved by promoting responsible water and drought management and conservation through natural solutions to reduce/re-use surface water-run in the town and monitoring the state of local ponds, springs, rivers and streams.					
		ENSURING water efficiency on its premises, such as using water butts on allotments as a non-drinking water source.			
		PROVIDING a free refill water point outside the town hall.			
	To be defined	Work with Dorset Council to ADVOCATE the capture and use of rainwater and the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS) within all new developments including retrofitting SUDS in existing developments where feasible.			
	To be defined	PROMOTE the introduction of water butts in gardens and public places to collect rainwater and provide drinking/bathing water for wildlife.			
	To be defined	SUPPORT for volunteers monitoring the state of all ponds, springs, rivers and streams in the town and surrounding area, including Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS) in the new development areas to the north and east of Shaftesbury.			
	To be defined	ADVOCATE on-site drainage methods and local aquifer recharge for all public areas (e.g. Park Walk) and private settings.			
WATER MANAGEMENT Progress to date 2026: No progress.					

Stage	Who?	Air Quality	Relevant Pillar		
			Climate	Bio-diversity	Environ-ment
Air quality in Shaftesbury is relatively good but this will be maintained by regular monitoring to ensure it meets the highest standards of cleanliness and safety imposed by the UK's Environment Agency.					
		GIVING consideration to closing the High Street to non-essential vehicles to reduce pollution for pedestrians.			
	To be defined	REGULARLY MONITOR the air pollution levels for quality and to minimise, and where possible, eliminate the release of pollutants that cause damage to health and the environment.			
	To be defined	SUPPORT groups which identify, adopt and promote technologies to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases within our properties and the wider community.			
	To be defined	ENCOURAGE drivers, especially of diesel-driven coaches, buses, vans and HGVs, not to leave engines running on idle while waiting anywhere within the town.			
AIR QUALITY Progress to date 2026: No progress.					

The 'Energy Hierarchy'



Pesticide/Herbicide Use in Shaftesbury

HERBICIDES and pesticides, and specifically including glyphosate, are not to be used on any STC-controlled land, unless exceptional circumstances demand it as a 'last resort'.

The exceptional circumstances are solely and only:

- Where no viable alternatives exist for the control of non-native invasive plant species specifically listed in S9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, notably Japanese Knotweed.
- Where no viable alternatives exist for the control of invasive plant species on historic structures and scheduled monuments, such as Valerian.

'No viable alternatives' will be defined and assessed by STC and advice sought in consultation with our approved ecologist on a case-by-case basis, adhering to strict criteria relating to efficacy, safety and cost. STC will have the final decision on management of invasive species.

STC will establish a **register of invasive species** with their precise location and extent and **draw up a method statement and permissive protocol** for each of these species and locations. These will be followed without variation by all contractors and/or sub-contractors. STC will provide for all contractors a **pre-start toolbox talk, an identification guide for the specific species to be targeted and methods permitted** (including to prevent drift to non-target species). STC will ensure this protocol/method statement is strictly monitored and firmly enforced.

Until such a time that these procedures/ protocols are in place, no glyphosate will be used on any council-controlled land.

'The 'Living Systems' concept of planning and development on land, air and water*

The *Living Systems* concept recognises the interdependence of human activities and ecosystem (natural) functions acting on the land, air and water, and comprises 12 major systems:

1. Landscape ecology & biodiversity
2. Culture, educational & community values
3. Land-use planning, site planning, built form & open space design
4. Transport & circulation
5. Sustainable food
6. Water supply, use & conservation
7. Wastewater treatment
8. Stormwater management
9. Energy supply, use & conservation
10. Processed materials flow & recycling
11. Regenerative industry & economy
12. Recreation

Ref: 'Gray World, Green Heart: Technology, Nature, and the Sustainable Landscape' by Robert L Thayer, John Wiley & Sons, USA, 1994.

**From 'Housing and Commercial Development' p11–12*

ANNEX 4

Key Dates

Below are some local and national targets set by local organisations and government.

Dorset Council's NECES 2023–25

DC's NECES strategy aims to 'set a clear direction with realistic and achievable ambitions...to become a carbon neutral council by 2040 and a carbon neutral county by 2050...' It sets the following interim targets:

- by 2025 a 36% cut in Dorset's emissions and a 40% cut in Council emissions
- by 2030 a 59% cut in Dorset's emissions and a 71% cut in Council emissions
- by 2035 a 90% cut in Council emissions
- by 2040 a 88% cut in Dorset's emissions
- by 2050 we plan to be a carbon neutral Dorset

Nature Positive Dorset, Dorset Council

Dorset having 30% of land in positive management by 2030.

Biodiversity net gain in Dorset

The Environment Act 2021 stipulates that all building development 'must avoid, mitigate, and compensate impacts on biodiversity, and requires development to provide biodiversity net gain' by Jan 2024. The Act came into force this month (Nov). It means that many planning applications are *already* required to deliver a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG). The deadline for 'small development sites' is April 2024.

Dorset Wildlife Trust

A Wilder Dorset by 2030: A minimum 30% of land and sea is managed for nature by 2030.

Zero Carbon Dorset

Dorset 2030; A Plan for Net Zero carbon by 2030.

Dorset Climate Action Network/Sustainable Dorset

Support Zero Carbon Dorset's target of 2030.

Wessex Water

Net zero carbon emissions by 2030.