



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Driving Climate Action in Woking





Tonight's presentation...

- 1. Who are Woking Environment Action (WEAct)?
- 1. Why it matters a global crisis under a local lens.
- 🖔. What can Woking Borough Council do?
- 4. The role of community climate action.
- 5. Recommendations for discussion.



Who are Woking Environment Action?

 Formed in 1994, a group of volunteers to tackle global environmental concerns on a local scale.

Page 3

Encourage sustainable living and working in Woking through spreading awareness and carrying out projects.



 Growing supporter base with over 60 attendees at our recent AGM. Our numbers and impact is growing...



Our **Projects**

- Climate Action Group
- Woking Biodiversity
- Page 4 Group
- **WEAct Hub**
- Woking Hedgehogs
- **Operation Owl**
- Plastic Free Woking
- Young People
- Incredible Edible



Climate Action Group

Our Purpose

To drive climate action in Woking by:

Working with Woking Borough Council, scrutinising the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) and acting as a critical friend to support its delivery.

 Engaging with the local community, building climate awareness and encouraging action to support the delivery of the CEAP.



Page 5

Why it matters – a global crisis under a local lens







- Business loss of productivity due to overheating; impacts on business continuity due to flooding events.
- Health and Wellbeing disruption to schools, health and social care systems due to flooding, heatwaves and storms. Excess deaths from overheating.
- Buildings and Infrastructure increased disruption given that even minor incidents test the capacity of our infrastructure today.
- Agriculture and forestry woodlands under stress, due to lack of water, pests and diseases.







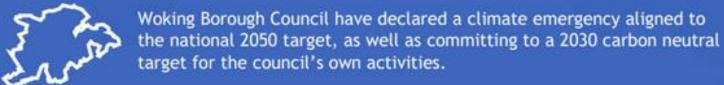




The impact of climate change can already be felt in Woking



What can Woking Borough Council do?



- Action needs to match the ambition.
- We welcome the commissioning and publication of the Carbon Footprint Assessment (Anthesis) report looking at emissions directly under council control (scope 1 and 2).
- We support the recommendation that Woking Borough Council should:
 - Focus on demand reduction and decarbonisation of the largest sites that will have the biggest carbon reduction impact; sustainable procurement policy improvements; and organisation-wide staff training.
 - What role can the Overview and Scrutiny Committee play in ensuring these recommendations are acted upon?



What can Woking Borough Council do?

 We recognise the financial pressure the council is under and that not all policy areas under WBC control.

However, investment in climate action brings significant co-benefits. And the cost of inaction is greater.

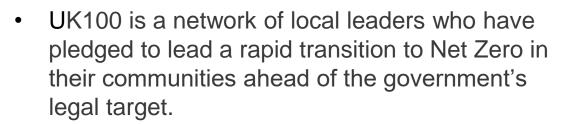
"net zero is the economic opportunity of the 21st century" Skidmore Review, Jan 2023

- WEAct recommends that more focus is put on reducing emissions across the Borough -Commercial, Domestic and Transport
- Work with partners to ensure clear plan and targets in place to show how this will be achieved



What can Woking Borough Council do?

 WEAct recommends that WBC should join UK 100 – to pool knowledge, resources and ideas with other ambitious councils.









The role of Community Climate Action

 Anthesis report looks at only Scope 1 and 2 emissions (the emissions directly under council control)

However, these account for only a small (3%) proportion of emissions in the Woking area.

WEAct believe that **WBC** has a critical leadership role to engage and encourage the wider community (residents and businesses) to take action to achieve the 2050 net zero targets (and ideally UK100 target of 2045).

How can WBC unlock the power of community climate action?

















Community Climate Action Case Study: WEAct Hub

- Opened in June 2022.
- Over 1600 visitors.
- Over 270 new members.
- Inspired by 'Take the Jump'
- Project currently on pause but looking to come back bigger and better.....
- Key message: most people have a strong desire to do 'something' but want support & to feel part of wir movement

Unlocking the power of community climate action...









Climate Action Redhill & Reigate





Recommendations for consideration

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee plays a key role in driving climate action in Woking.
- For example by:
- Ensuring that WBC remains a high ambition council on climate action.
- Ensuring that the recommendations of the Anthesis report are actioned through a strengthened Climate Action Plan.
 - Endorsing our recommendation that WBC joins UK100.
 - Scrutinising whether WBC's net-zero ambition is understood and embedded across the organisation.
 - Encouraging the council to play a stronger leadership role in encouraging community climate action.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee this evening.

