

Appendix – LAEP Actions BGCBC Lead

The Blaenau Gwent LAEP identifies actions under six energy propositions for a wide range of actors. This document compiles all the actions for which Blaenau Gwent Council is identified as the lead organisation. The first list, which includes the majority of these actions, are those we are able to commit now to taking lead on delivery of these actions, and in many cases we are already working on these actions.

The second list, includes the other Blaenau Gwent Council led actions, which we support in principle, but are not able to commit to fully delivering at the current time. These are actions which will require significant additional resources and often also require specialist skills and knowledge that the council does not currently possess. As these actions cannot be delivered within existing resources, we will seek to utilise external funding where available, explore regional collaboration and lobby national government for further support.

Commit to lead Actions

1 Getting our Buildings Future Ready

1.3 Work to identify skills and training priorities and opportunities, including Aspire apprenticeship scheme and partnering with bodies such as Learning Action Zone and local businesses.

1.4 Work with Welsh Government and other key local partners for rollout of energy efficiency programmes

1.6 Agree energy and carbon targets for public sector new builds. (BGCBC will lead on own estate and share best practice and collaborate with public sector partners)

1.8 Engage with development industry to assess opportunities for higher sustainable building standards, including zero carbon, taking account of local development viability.

2 Low Carbon Travel

2.1 Develop EV charging strategy, including explore on street charging trials and destination charging location options

2.5 Continue to improve the existing Active Travel Network and create new active travel routes where needed. Including:

- Prepare a Schools Network Development Plan to identify active travel needs on routes where schools are located.
- Ensure all new Active Travel infrastructure is designed and implemented to Active Travel Guidance and Highway Authority standards.
- Continue to monitor route usage and engage with local communities to see where levels of active travel has increased and ascertain what improvements need to be made to improve the ATN

2.7 Continue to contribute to improvement of local bus services including flecsi.

2.8 Prepare for potential extension of Metro to Abertillery and Ebbw Fawr Valley Prepare for potential metro extension to Abertillery and Ebbw Fawr Valley, understand the infrastructure requirements for sustainable last mile transit options.

3 Green Energy

3.1 Maximise the retention of the benefits of renewable energy development in Blaenau Gwent. Explore which of a range of options best suit the Blaenau Gwent context:

- Range of options for local and/or community ownership, from community benefit through local investment and shared ownership to full local ownership.
- Range of scales from small-scale projects by individuals and community groups through to major schemes by businesses and public sector organisations.

3.3 Local public sector bodies understand the potential for renewable energy generation on their estates.

- Understand potential to maximise renewable generation for all public sector bodies on their estates, this should include an understanding of solar carport capacity, alongside rooftop solar PV and other technologies.

(BGCBC will lead on own estate and share best practice and collaborate with public sector partners)

3.4 Promoting onsite renewables for businesses.

- Highlight the benefits for businesses and commercial landlords to install renewables, such as reducing energy costs.
- Encourage businesses to discuss the potential of grouping together to install renewables within business/commercial areas to spread the cost and risk of installation.

4 Green Economy

4.4 Continue to engage with business enquiries to understand energy needs and green aspirations of business considering locating in Blaenau Gwent.

5 Research and Innovation

5.1 Understand potential future options for heat demand in industry.

- Emissions from industry within Blaenau Gwent are forecast to grow, most notably from the construction of the CiNER glass factory.
- Engaging with industry early on to understand their decarbonisation commitments, targets and plans will be key to achieving a low cost net zero transition.

5.3 Continue to participate in research and pilot projects around future energy technologies.

5.5 Support further local investigation of potential use of mine water for heating.

- Build on recent work exploring potential demand for mine heat water from ordnance survey and the Coal Authority.
- Begin to understand potential of supply, locations, barriers, challenges and opportunities.

6 Energy Networks

6.2 Hold regular engagement meetings between BGCBC, National Grid and Wales and West Utilities.

6.5 Respond to consultations in support of required investment.

6.9 Support RIIO-GD3 Planning for future of electricity and gas grids.

Support Actions in Principle – Will seek additional resources

2 Low Carbon Travel

2.10 Transition Public Sector fleets to ULEV. Public sector bodies should develop their own low carbon fleet strategy and plan, highlighting timelines, costs, purchasing mechanisms for converting to ULEVs.

(BGCBC will lead on own fleet and share best practice and collaborate with public sector partners).

3 Green Energy

3.5 Understand local potential and need for energy storage.

- Understand the potential for mid-scale energy storage within the local authority.
- Undertake an exercise to locate energy storage where there is potential for renewable generation and demand such as at business parks or industrial hubs.

3.6 Understand potential heat provision from future industry.

- Understand the magnitude, quality, location and timescale of potential provision of heat from industries.
- Feed this information to understanding the potential for new or expanded heat networks within Blaenau Gwent.

4 Green Economy

4.6 Understand heat and cooling as potential sources for future heat networks from local businesses.

- Understand the heat potential within town centres, business parks and commercial centres.
- Note the largest heat producers and potential offtakes to create anchor points for heat networks.
- Ensure all future developments feed into this and review the potential for heat delivery/offtake.