

The following table summarises research by [Ashden](#) into the relative climate change benefits of a number of actions in Friends of the Earth’s [Climate Action Plan](#) for councils and a small number of additional actions¹. All the actions reduce some reductions in greenhouse gases, and to deliver the scale of emissions reductions required will require all of them to be undertaken, but this analysis is intended to help prioritise which to focus on first.

The research also identifies which of these actions will bring co-benefits (e.g. for health or equity), as well information on affordability for hard-pressed councils.

Much more detailed information and methodology of this research is available on the [Ashden website](#). Please note that in places the wording differs slightly in this analysis from the wording in the Climate Action Plan; this was necessary to constrain the scope of the research.

Action (number in Friends of the Earth’s Climate Action Plan for councils)	Climate change	Co-benefits	Affordability
29. Identify areas suitable for renewable energy in the local plan	***	Economy	*
33. Invest in the development of renewable energy and energy storage	***	Economy	
5. Through procurement, ensure the local authority supply chain is minimising carbon emissions	***		*
20. Enable the rapid shift to electric vehicles through putting in place EV charging	***		
14. Encourage/enable retrofit all existing owner-occupied housing stock to EPC level C or above	**	Economy, resilience	
21. Introduce measures to encourage cycling and walking	**	Health	
22. Ban or discourage private cars from the city centre	**	Health	*

¹ Note that not all of the 50 actions in Friends of the Earth’s Council Action Plan for councils are easily measurable, for example, some are procedural, and some are primarily focused on nature recovery.

Action (number in Friends of the Earth's Climate Action Plan for councils)	Climate change	Co-benefits	Affordability
26. Establish urban consolidation centres	★★	Health	★
24. Replace existing buses with EV buses	★★	Health	
24. Require all taxis to be electric through licensing	★★	Health	★
13. Upgrade the insulation and heating systems of council buildings, taking advantage of interest free finance available	★★	Economy, Resilience	★★
30. Switch street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights	★★	Economy	★★
37. Use food waste according to the food waste hierarchy of prevent, reuse, recycle, and use remaining biodegradable waste to generate biogas	★★		★
23. Encourage car sharing	★★		
32. Require the integration of renewable energy such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps in local authority owned buildings	★★		
13. Retrofit council-owned homes to EPC C	★	Health, economy, equity, resilience	
16. Require higher than current national energy efficiency standards for privately built new homes	★	Resilience	★
44. Engage with schools to ensure meals are delivered in accordance with the official Eatwell Guide on healthy eating and the majority of options on menus are healthy and plant-based, with less and better meat	★	Health, Equity	★
9. Set up a Carbon Offset Fund through Section 106 agreements	★		★★
25. Deliver a rapid transition of the council's own fleet to electric	★		

Action (number in Friends of the Earth's Climate Action Plan for councils)	Climate change	Co-benefits	Affordability
Encourage and support schools to cut carbon e.g. through participating in the LESS CO2 programme and through accessing Salix finance	★		★
7. Introduce a workplace car parking levy and/or similar initiative to fund sustainable transport		Health, Equity	★★
10. Enforce minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rental sector		Health, equity, resilience	★
Encourage 100 Energiesprong (or similar) retrofits a year - initially in social housing and then rolling out to the private sector		Health, equity, resilience	
45. Increase tree cover on council owned land and on streets; update local planning strategies to encourage nature-based solutions such as increasing tree cover across the council area		Health, Resilience	
18. Require homes built on council land to be Passivhaus standard or similar (and, if developing new council facilities, ensure they are built to the highest standards e.g. BREEAM excellent)		Resilience	★
43. Support particularly SME businesses to access funds and expertise for reducing carbon pollution		Economy	★
28. Reduce the need to own and use a car through managing developments in the local plan			★
31. Encourage and enable energy saving behaviour by all council staff			★
31. Ensure council's procurement strategy specifies that low carbon lights and appliances are procured			★
Cut the council's paper waste by offering papers electronically			★★