

Designing a Net Zero Reading Survey 1

Survey 1 closes: 12 noon Thursday 5th
September

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Designing a Net Zero Reading

1st of 2 surveys

The Reading Climate Change Partnership (RCCP) are creating a draft Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025-30. We are keen to get input to the strategy at this early stage from everybody who lives, learns, works or plays in Reading. The aim is to do this in a way which involves people with different interests. It is therefore vital that local communities and stakeholders share ideas and suggestions.

This process started with an event for young people to share their perspectives and ideas about Net Zero Reading. This was followed by a workshop in June where 38 people came together from a wide range of interests. They shared information, views, suggested and discussed important areas to focus on.

This initial work has been analysed and collated into a draft vision for a Net Zero Reading and 6 focus areas. A further focus area around education and behaviour change was also put forward and will be discussed at an upcoming workshop.

This is the first of two opportunities to have your say on what has initially emerged from the workshops - whether you have been involved so far or not.

You can respond to all or some of these focus areas. We realise some people are interested in the whole picture and others in a particular aspect, and we welcome all responses.

The survey will take less than 10 minutes. You can indicate your support for each focus area and the ideas suggested within it. A few minutes more will allow time to leave short additional suggestions. What you say will be analysed and summarised to inform future workshops.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to do this.

Please note: the focus areas in this survey come from all those who took part in the workshop and youth engagement in June, including RCCP partners and many others. At this stage they are not final plans, but suggestions of what could be included in the strategy. Final content for the strategy depends on: responses to this survey, the discussions at upcoming workshops in the Autumn, the second public survey, and being able to find resources to help deliver.

If you have any technical issues with the survey, please get in touch with Dialogue Matters at enquiries@dialoguematters.co.uk

1 Imagining the future

Below is a draft vision for a Net Zero Reading. It was created using participants' responses to the question: "Imagine it is 2030 and you are at an event celebrating what has been achieved for a Net Zero Reading since 2024. The two things that please you most are?"

A Net Zero Reading is a beacon for other towns and cities, inspiring them to be ambitious, look beyond net zero, and achieve real change without offsetting emissions. Communities, organisations, businesses, and people of all ages are involved in reaching the goals. The impacts go beyond our town's footprint, positively effecting neighbouring areas as well.

Life for all residents is better, especially for children and more vulnerable people. Cleaner air and more green shared spaces have a positive impact on people's health and well-being. Waterways are cleaner and people make more use of them for leisure.

Walking, cycling, and electric bus routes around Reading are interconnected and easier and safer to use. Cars are cleaner and quieter, and there are fewer cars on the roads

A network of green space around Reading is diverse in life and nature, benefitting both wildlife and people. More space is available for local food growing in allotments and community gardens, and the food produce of these spaces can be found in cafes and restaurants around the town.

Targets for low carbon heating in existing houses have been met, and new housing development creates low carbon homes. Community energy supplies more of Reading's local energy needs, with more of the benefits shared locally.

Everyone shares in celebrating and benefiting from what has been achieved. Young people around the town continue to be asked their views and are actively part of creating a better environment and place to live. Climate literacy is part of education and training throughout Reading. This helps create widespread understanding and support for ongoing climate work.

1. To what extent do you support this draft vision for a Net Zero Reading?

I have strong concerns	I have concerns	I can live with it	support	Strongly support
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2. What ideas or suggestions would increase your support? (please keep your answers short and to the point, up to 150 words)

2 Focus Areas:

Look at the following **6 focus areas** and decide how much you support the initial ideas suggested under each focus area. If you want, please tell us what would increase your support.

You may wish to read through all the focus areas first so that you know what is coming up and can share suggestions under the most relevant area.

When you are responding, feel free to answer all, one, or some of these questions. We realise some people are interested in the whole picture and others in a particular aspect. We welcome all responses.

2.1 Heat and Energy

- 1 Decarbonising local electricity, including through wind, solar, and hydro
- 2 Retrofitting existing housing and buildings:
 - Lowering the barriers to retrofit insulation, draught proofing, and ventilation
 - Making retrofit advice more widely available to help with solutions for different households and buildings
 - Promoting heat pumps to those most able to adopt them and making heat pumps the natural choice
- 3 Creating and delivering a Local Area Energy Plan (local plan to reduce carbon across the whole energy system)
- 4 Using ground or water source heating systems for larger developments where technically possible

▪ **To what extent do you support this focus area?**

I have strong concerns	I have concerns	I can live with it	I support it	I strongly support it
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▪ **What ideas or suggestions would increase your support?** (please keep your answers short and to the point, up to 100 words)

2.2 Transport

- 5 Reducing traffic, including:
 - Delivering and sustaining bus improvements and increased use
 - Car sharing and/or car clubs are available for people
 - Council creating a dedicated Active Travel (walking and cycling) budget
 - Better journey planning app for non-car travel
 - Improving and expanding the cycle network, including routes to low carbon leisure activities outside of the town centre
 - Council implementing demand management measures to reduce traffic congestion
- 6 The council and others electrifying their vehicle fleets
- 7 Improving road surfaces for all modes of transport

▪ **To what extent do you support this focus area?**

I have strong concerns	I have concerns	I can live with it	I support it	I strongly support it
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▪ **What ideas or suggestions would increase your support?** (please keep your answers short and to the point, up to 100 words)

2.3 Green and Blue spaces

- 8 Making spaces near roads greener, including the Inner Distribution Road, to encourage walking and cycling
- 9 Incentives and funding to help increase number of green space and biodiversity in Reading, especially in the centre to help regulate heat effects
- 10 Reclaiming spaces and making them greener and safer for local community use
- 11 Rainwater harvesting for flood prevention and watering local plants
- 12 Partners and stakeholders supporting, measuring their impact, and accountable to the Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

▪ **To what extent do you support this focus area?**

I have strong concerns	I have concerns	I can live with it	I support it	I strongly support it
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- **What ideas or suggestions would increase your support?** (please keep your answers short and to the point, up to 100 words)

2.4 Planning and Development

13 Planning policies and approvals are ambitious, including:

- Applying Local Plan policies around net zero development and biodiversity improvements
- Increasing innovative building technologies which support net zero

14 Large retrofit programme, including insulation and heat pumps, for existing housing and buildings

15 Aligning planning and development with the Local Area Energy Plan (local plan to reduce carbon across the whole energy system)

16 Incorporating renewable energy into buildings

▪ **To what extent do you support this focus area?**

I have strong concerns	I have concerns	I can live with it	I support it	I strongly support it
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▪ **What ideas or suggestions would increase your support?** (please keep your answers short and to the point, up to 100 words)

2.5 Food

- 17** Supporting and rewarding actions for sustainable food – actions by producers, consumers, advertisers, and retailers
- 18** Creating and supporting spaces for food to be grown locally and then sold locally
- 19** Sustainable food becoming a central part of the curriculum, both growing and preparing, and becoming a reference point in other subjects

- **To what extent do you support this focus area?**

I have strong concerns	I have concerns	I can live with it	I support it	I strongly support it
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- **What ideas or suggestions would increase your support?** (please keep your answers short and to the point, up to 100 words)

2.6 Waste

20 Consumption and waste are cut by all - individuals, businesses, organisations, etc. – and include:

- Focusing on consuming less, redistributing more, and recycling what is left
- Sharing resources more, such as land, tools, skills – limiting the need for consumption
- More opportunities to refill rather than send to landfill
- Providing education and skills for a fulfilling low carbon life

21 Reducing food waste

22 Reducing clothing waste

23 Reducing wastage at festivals and big events

▪ **To what extent do you support this focus area?**

I have strong concerns	I have concerns	I can live with it	I support it	I strongly support it
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▪ **What ideas or suggestions would increase your support?** (please keep your answers short and to the point, up to 100 words)

3 Are there any focus areas missing?

We're still at an early stage in this process. Please tell us about any other important areas we should consider.

Add your thoughts here:

Thank you for taking part.

If you wish to be kept informed about progress, please leave your email here.

Note: By leaving your email, you give us consent to pass this on to the Reading Climate Change Partnership. You may opt out of receiving RCCP emails at any point.

Email address: