



# **Bristol City Council Ecological Emergency Action Plan**

2021 - 2025





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# Foreword

In Bristol we are fortunate to have many green open spaces and wildlife areas that we enjoy and make us healthier and happier. Many people are already helping to encourage nature in their gardens or by volunteering with others in their local communities.

However, globally, nationally and locally, nature is collapsing at an alarming and unprecedented rate. Globally we have lost 60 per cent of wild invertebrates and up to 76 per cent of insects since 1970. Once common songbirds like swifts and starlings have dropped by more than 96 per cent.

In response to this, Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol, declared an ecological emergency in February 2020, and worked with partners from across Bristol to develop the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy.

The One City Ecological Emergency Strategy vision is that 30 per cent of Bristol's land is managed for nature. In meeting this challenge we are also mindful of the need to address other issues including inequalities in access to nature. Whilst some sites may be managed solely for nature, every opportunity to address other issues such as access to green space, urban heat or flood risk will be considered.

As an organisation, Bristol City Council is committed to addressing the ecological emergency, with a wide range of work going on within the council, with partners and with residents, to help meet the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy goals by 2030.

Our Ecological Emergency Action Plan sets out action being taken by the council in the four years up to 2025 to embed nature into all decisions. Some of these actions can be implemented quickly, others will take years to come into realisation.

We will also be supporting other partner led city wide actions to meet the goals of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy. To understand the state of nature in Bristol, we need strong evidence - building on what we already know - from which to prioritise action, inform policy and practice, as well as monitor and report progress to meet targets by 2030. Supported by the council, One City partners are undertaking work to map and identify opportunities to enhance Bristol's ecological network and establish the Bristol Wildlife Index – a list of species that can be monitored to know if the actions we take are making a difference.

We can all do something; creating space for nature in the land and buildings we own or use, reducing pollution in our everyday activities and reducing our environmental footprint through the things that we buy.

This is our plan that we will deliver in partnership with communities, organisation and businesses. We hope it inspires others to produce their own action plans to create a healthy, wildlife-rich city!

**Councillor Nicola Beech, Cabinet Member for  
climate, ecology, waste and energy**



# 1. Introduction

**Bristol has been at the forefront of wildlife management and academia for many years, while also being the home of the globally renowned BBC Wildlife programming. This was recognised when Bristol was awarded 2015 European Green Capital and for work it has undertaken since.**

In February 2020, Marvin Rees, the Mayor of Bristol, came together with One City partners to declare an ecological emergency in response to the decline in wildlife. Our city's wildlife, ecosystems and habitats are vitally important to us all, as the loss of biodiversity affects our lives in many ways, from the insects that pollinate our food to the green spaces that enhance our resident's health and wellbeing.

In September 2020 the Mayor and One City partners agreed the One City Ecological Strategy as a co-ordinated effort to confront the ecological decline we face and put forward solutions that match the urgency and scale of the issue. In February 2020, the city also adopted the One City Climate Strategy, which identifies specific objectives for the natural environment.

Bristol City Council has an important role to play in contributing to the goals of the One City Ecological Strategy and the One City Climate Strategy. This Ecological Emergency Action Plan

seeks to put nature at the heart of decision-making in the council, to deliver a healthier city for people and wildlife that will be carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2030.

This Action Plan is a council-wide programme of activities to deliver on the ambitions of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy and relevant aspects of the One City Climate Strategy. It sets out what we are aiming to do and the means by which we intend to do it.

## **Its purpose is to:**

1. Integrate best ecological practice into each area of the council's activity, allowing us to lead the city by example
2. Demonstrate the council's commitment to the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy alongside the One City Climate Strategy and its objectives
3. Support and influence action by partners and through partnerships
4. Support and enable action by citizens
5. Develop existing evidence and knowledge to support decision making and innovation in addressing nature-related issues

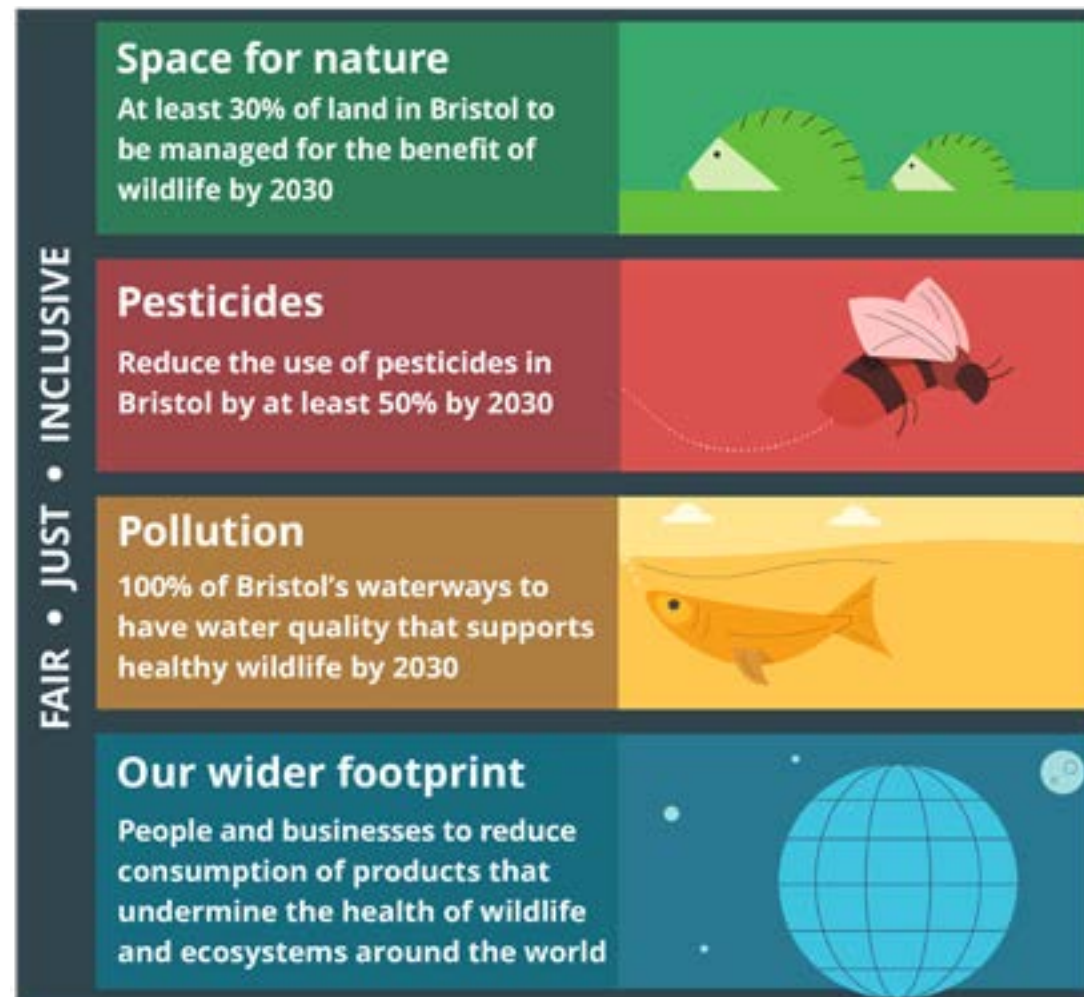
The actions set out in the appendix will be reviewed annually. The timescale shows the period over which work will take place but may not conclude until the final year indicated. It is expected that these actions will change over time to respond to new research, learning, guidance, policy and legislation, shared priorities and funding opportunities.

We will progress activities where funding has been secured. For some activities listed we have yet to secure or confirm funding availability but we are committed to exploring options.

The council recognises the need to continue working with partners at every stage, challenging others to take similar steps to make a difference.

We have, and are, taking action to benefit wildlife, but we recognise more needs to be done at every level. This is our Action Plan to do that.

## Key One City Ecological Emergency goals:



## 2. Bristol's commitment to address the Ecological Emergency

In declaring the Ecological Emergency in February 2020 and at the launch of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy in September 2020, Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol, stated it is 'our city's opportunity to come together and take positive action for nature whilst tackling some of our biggest challenges'. Those challenges include addressing; housing need, food poverty, physical and mental health issues, climate change, connectivity and inequalities including access to green space.

The One City Climate Strategy also identified a need to take action to tackle the Ecological Emergency. This plan is part of the Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Programme.

To support Bristol's new ecological commitments, the council created both a new Cabinet role with responsibility for Climate and Ecology, along with an Ecological Emergency Project Manager post.

**One Tree Per Child (OTPC)** plants trees in school grounds, parks and open spaces across the city. All the trees we plant are sponsored by our partners. Together with volunteers and children we have planted over 60,000 trees since 2014 and we continue to plant over 6,000 trees per year. OTPC aims to teach children about the value of trees through assemblies and practical sessions, and to give every child the chance to plant a tree and see it grow.

**2021 onwards:** The council is committed to working with partners to increase tree canopy through existing and new initiatives. Tree planting enhances our green spaces as well as helping reduce urban heat, providing shade for people in extreme temperatures and making places more attractive.







**Meadow Bristol** creates a variety of visually stunning meadows across the city that are a haven for wildlife, including bees and other pollinators. In 2020 just over a hectare of floral meadows were created, using native and non-native seed mixes, including 68 grass verges of varying sizes.

2021 onwards: Recognising that 97 per cent of the UK's meadows have been lost since the 1930s the council will review its operations and management to increase space for nature. It will learn from other cities and work with partners and communities to identify locations to enhance and create meadow habitat.

### **Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA)**

A joint £80 million project by Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and the Environment Agency is being designed to protect the ASEA, which includes 2,500 homes, against flooding. The Severn Estuary is an important ecological area. The scheme will create at least 80 hectares of new wetland habitats around Hallen Marsh and Northwick for internationally important birdlife.

2021 onwards: The council will continue to work with environment partners and partnerships including Avon Wildlife Trust and West of England Nature Partnership to identify and develop landscape scale nature recovery projects as part of the Nature Recovery Network.



**Pesticide reduction** In 2017 the council undertook a trial and comparison for glyphosate-free weed treatment in Bristol parks and highway surfaces and produced the report, 'Weeds, treatment of unwanted vegetation'. The council policy is to reduce Glyphosate use where it can and to use the minimum amount possible.

2021 onwards: The council will review and reduce its current use of pesticides in response to the latest research and best practice in other cities. It will work closely with One City Partners in raising awareness of the impact of pesticides and importance of insects as part of a whole city approach that delivers at least a 50 per cent reduction in the use of pesticides by 2030.

### 3. The One City Ecological Emergency Strategy goals

The One City Ecological Emergency Strategy sets four strategic goals to drive and coordinate action in the city:

- **Space for nature** – at least 30 per cent of land in Bristol to be managed for the benefit of wildlife by 2030
- **Pesticides** – reduce the use of pesticides in Bristol by at least 50 per cent by 2030
- **Pollution** – 100 per cent of Bristol's waterways to have excellent water quality which supports healthy wildlife by 2030
- **Our wider footprint** – people and businesses to reduce consumption of products that undermine the health of wildlife and ecosystems around the world.

In addition, the One City Climate Change Strategy set out two goals for the natural environment:

- The natural environment in Bristol will be restored, protected and enhanced to deliver climate change benefits
- As the climate changes, we will adapt to limit damage to wildlife, whilst supporting opportunities for recovery and protection of species





## 4. Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan

**Bristol City Council has a key role to play in the delivery of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy, as it owns or manages over a third of land (including developed land) across the city, and has statutory environmental duties and obligations. These relate to the protection of habitat and wildlife that are set out in European conventions, national legislation and national, sub-regional and local policy.**

The council is committed to building partnerships through the One City approach to inform, share knowledge and undertake projects in what is an evolving area of work.

This work will benefit from the well-established and effective natural environment partnerships that the council is part of. These include the Natural History Consortium, West of England Nature Partnership, West of England Green Infrastructure Working Group, Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, and River Frome Reconnected Partnership.

Further collaborative work with other major local authorities will take place through the council's Core Cities and Eurocities membership.

The Green City Accord is a movement of European mayors, including Bristol's, committed to making cities cleaner and healthier. Its vision aligns with the One City Ecological Emergency and Climate Change strategies;

**“By 2030, cities will be attractive places to live, work and invest in, and will support Europeans’ health and well-being. All Europeans will breathe clean air, enjoy clean water, have access to parks and green spaces, and experience less environmental noise. The circular economy will become a reality and waste will be minimised thanks to greater reuse, repair and recycling”.**

Legislation and strategies informing the Action Plan and key delivery partnerships are shown on page 10.





## International, national and regional drivers and partnerships

	International	National	West of England
<b>Key drivers - Legislation and strategies informing the Ecological Emergency Action Plan</b>	Sustainable Development Goals	National Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2016	West of England (WoE) Nature Recovery Network
	European Green Deal	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	WoE Green Infrastructure Strategy
	European Union Biodiversity Strategy 2030	25 Year Environment Plan	WoE BNG Guidance and Implementation Plan
	EUROCITIES Green City Accord (Oct 2020)	Environment Bill; Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG); Local Nature Recovery Strategies; revised Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC)	WoE Natural Capital Account Environment Agency (EA) WoE Tree and Woodland Strategy West of England Spatial Development Strategy
<b>Key partnerships - supporting delivery of the Ecological Emergency Action Plan</b>	EUROCITIES: Green Areas and Biodiversity Working Group	Natural England Green Infrastructure Standards Framework Pilot Task Group	WoE Nature Partnership; Nature Recovery Network (NRN) Implementation Working Group; Tree and Woodland working group
		Natural History Consortium	WoE Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Task Group
		Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (D&SIFCA)	WoE Environment Officer Steering Group
			WoE Green Infrastructure Working Group; GI Standards Task Group Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership; River Frome Reconnected

## a) Key activities

The appendix lists key activities that are planned or being explored as part of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy goals and our own service delivery plans. There are many ongoing operations and services we consider business as usual that are not shown but that contribute to protecting and enhancing nature.

The activities are grouped under the following themes:

- Leadership
- Training
- Evidence
- Space for Nature
- Pesticides
- Water Quality
- Communication & Engagement
- Wider Footprint

## b) Delivery and reporting

As a One City partner, the council will feed into the work of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy being reported to the One City Environment Board.

Through this plan we will share evidence, good practice and support joint activities with partners that promote and encourage others to get involved.

Plan progress will be reported, including progress towards quantifiable targets. The plan includes actions to gather evidence to set baselines. How we measure progress and what is being counted will be clearly communicated. This will include addressing inequalities in access to nature and tree cover (tree canopy and street trees) across the city.





## c) Communication and partnership working

The council has a responsibility to engage clearly and share updates with the wider public about the progress of the plan. There is a high level of public interest in how we manage our sites for the benefit of local wildlife. We might be required to remove trees if diseased, or to improve grassland habitat, and this could lead to local concern about the impact on wildlife. Managing changes like this and explaining decisions requires clear and timely communication.

To facilitate this, the council's ecological emergency web page will include updates on progress and links to information about a range of popular topics including trees, mowing and pesticide reduction.

In addition to the council using its governance and own communication channels, joint communication and engagement work with One City Ecological Emergency Strategy partners will play a crucial role in engaging citizens and reporting progress.

We will work with Avon Wildlife Trust, the Natural History Consortium and Bristol Green Capital Partnership, who between them undertake research, promote campaigns and organise natural environment events such as Festival of Nature, Citizen Science projects and are key to initiatives such as Black and Green Ambassadors and the Community Climate Action project.

One City Ecological Emergency Strategy action is being reported on [www.ecologicalemergency.co.uk](http://www.ecologicalemergency.co.uk). Current projects are highlighted and useful resources and events are being posted.



# Additional information

## The Environment Bill

**The council has existing statutory duties and requirements to protect and enhance wildlife that are enacted through strategic plans, policies and practice.**

The Environment Bill, once it receives Royal Assent, will bring into UK law a number of measures which together are designed to deliver long-lasting action for the protection and recovery of nature. These actions are set out in the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)'. The Environment Bill measures of particular relevance to our ecological work are:

**Local Nature Recovery Strategies** are a new system of mapping and prioritising nature recovery. Covering the whole of England, each strategy, for the area that it covers will:

- map the most valuable existing habitat for nature
- map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environment goals
- agree priorities for nature's recovery

These strategies will guide smooth and effective delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain and other nature recovery measures.

Locally led by an appropriate 'responsible authority' (yet to be confirmed if local authority or regional level), these will identify the

opportunities and priorities for enhancing biodiversity and supporting wider objectives such as mitigating or adapting to climate change in an area.



**A strengthened biodiversity duty** - The current Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 currently includes a duty on public authorities to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity. The Environment Act will amend this duty so that there is an expectation on public authorities to look strategically at their policies and operations. Authorities will need to assess what action they can take 'to further' the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including regard to the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Local authorities will be required to produce a biodiversity report every five years.

**Biodiversity Net Gain** of 10 per cent net gain will become mandatory for housing and development, meaning habitats for wildlife must be left in a measurably better state than before the development. Developers must submit a 'biodiversity gain plan' alongside usual planning application documents. The local authority will assess whether the 10 per cent net gain requirement is met. If net gain is not achievable on-site, off-site habitat creation/enhancements will have to be agreed.





## Appendix

### **Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025**



## Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025

Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Leadership	To address ecological issues alongside social, economic and environmental issues requires joined up and ambitious policy, guidance and funding. Working in partnership to promote high standards and leading by example on our asset programmes and development projects	A.1	National Government	Lobby government for support through strategy, cooperative action, guidance, regulation & funding	✓	✓	✓
Leadership		A.2	International partnerships	Engage with Eurocities & international cities/partnerships to understand and share knowledge/practice that is beneficial to Bristol's nature and demonstrates the council's leadership	✓	✓	✓
Leading by Example		A.3	Biodiversity Net Gain	Endorsement of 'Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Biodiversity Net Gain Good Principles for Development' for council projects	✓	—	—
Leading by Example		A.4	Biodiversity Net Gain duty	Endorsement of an organisational framework and action plan approach to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) implementation	✓	✓	—
Training	To ensure council staff and members have sufficient knowledge and skills is key to embedding nature-based evidence in decision making across the council	C.1	Ecological Emergency literacy	Develop an in-house training programme on biodiversity legislation and ecological emergency for officers across all departments and levels, and councillors including training module	✓	✓	—
Training		C.2	Ecological Emergency literacy	Coordinate and facilitate in house workshop sessions on new Environment Act BNG requirements, delivery (including habitat banking, monitoring, assessment) and opportunities for the council to deliver nature recovery through BNG	✓	✓	—

## Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025

Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Evidence	To make sure the council has appropriate evidence and data to embed consideration of ecological issues and inform decision making across the organisation. This is essential and needs to be developed in partnership with those who have expertise and who will apply it	D.1	Baseline	Coordinate analysis of Bristols Ecological network in partnership with One City EE Strategy partners (One City EES Action)	✓	✓	–
Evidence		D.2	Baseline	Coordinate establishment of the Bristol Wildlife Index in partnership with One City Partners, to provide baseline and track change towards 2030 (One City EES Action)	✓	✓	–
Evidence		D.3	Data management/monitoring	Work with partners to establish a West of England shared and managed data platform for sharing West of England data. This is to be kept updated, reviewed and used for monitoring progress. To obtain mapping/data necessary to respond to new regulations and requirements	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature	Action needs to be taken across the council and with partners, to create additional space, and better management of existing space to benefit nature, at local, landscape and regional scale	E.1	Funding	Identify funds that might be used to deliver wildlife and habitat enhancement through neighbourhood/community activity	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.2	Funding	Support action by citizens – via Community Grants Scheme (2021 launch)	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature		E.3	Funding	Use Bristol Future Parks to invite support and investment to progress nature recovery projects	✓	–	–
Space for Nature		E.4	Funding/landscape scale/partnership delivery	Review River Frome Reconnected Landscape Enterprise Network pilot recommendations	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.5	Landscape scale/partnership delivery	Ensure representation and integration with WECA/WoE initiatives that have /could have potential to benefit wildlife including strategic GI projects, Biodiversity Net Gain, Tree and Woodland Strategy delivery, Green Recovery Challenge Fund bids	✓	–	–

## Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025

Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Space for Nature	As above	E.6	Landscape scale/ partnership delivery	Work in partnership with the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to identify and develop measures within the wider catchment	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature		E.7	Landscape scale/ partnership delivery	Commit to Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA) ecology mitigation and flood defence project. This exemplar scheme has potential to assist shaping other schemes delivery of nature recovery	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature		E.8	Landscape scale/ partnership delivery	Identify and establish future landscape scale projects and partnerships within the region	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature		E.9	Landscape scale/ partnership delivery	Promote Nature Based Solutions beyond tree-planting & flood prevention through for example Living Roofs initiatives	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature	Increase in local food growing that is managed for wildlife, as part of effective green infrastructure, maintains soil quality and provides habitat for a wider range of species including pollinators that are essential to human life	E.10	Food growing	Commission study into upscaling of nature friendly food growing linking with allotments, small holdings, parks and green spaces	✓	–	–
Space for Nature		E.11	Food growing	Review Allotment Strategy to recognise their importance for wildlife (good habitats for reptiles and pollinators) and promote opportunities for addressing ecological emergency	–	–	✓
Space for Nature		E.12	Food growing	Investigate evidence need and options to establish nature friendly Local Plan policies for food systems and supporting practice guidance	✓	✓	–



## Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025

Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Space for Nature	Connectivity and quality of green and blue space is key to creating networks where nature can thrive and supports the creation of development and urban regeneration that delivers benefits for wildlife and people. The Bristol Green Infrastructure Strategy together with other strategies and plans, new and revised policies including the Liveable Neighbourhoods policy, will enable planning and management of green infrastructure that is crucial to sustainable healthy living	E.13	Blue & Green Infrastructure - Strategy	Develop a 'Blue Green Bristol' Green Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan for the city stemming from the WoE Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy	✓	✓	—
Space for Nature		E.14	Blue & Green Infrastructure - Existing Planning Policy	Review and strengthen BCC practice guidance for green infrastructure and biodiversity (including approach to living roofs and walls)	✓	✓	—
Space for Nature		E.15	Blue & Green Infrastructure - Local Plan Review	Ensure Green Infrastructure principles are reflected within wider local plan policies including transport and housing	✓	✓	—
Space for Nature		E.16	Blue & Green Infrastructure - Standards	Contribute officer time to NE National GI Standards Framework WoE Pilot Nov 2020 - Feb 2021 and beyond to further test and pilot WoE JGIS, National GI Standards, Biodiversity Net Gain metric, Building with Nature	✓	—	—
Space for Nature		E.17	Blue & Green Infrastructure - Local Plan Review	Establish benchmarking policy/ principles using e.g. new national GI Standards and Building with Nature	—	✓	—
Space for Nature		E.18	Blue & Green Infrastructure - council projects	Apply Building with Nature standards into construction briefs for new developments at Knowle West and New Fosseway sites	✓	—	—
Space for Nature		E.19	Blue & Green Infrastructure -Development Management	Implementation of planning policies and practice guidance for green infrastructure/biodiversity through the planning application process, supported by new practice guidance	—	✓	✓

## Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025

Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Space for Nature	As above	E.20	Blue & Green Infrastructure -Highways/ Strategic City Transport	Embed Natural Streets/ Green Grid, Grey to Green and blue/ green corridor approaches within highways, transport, flood risk plans, policies and strategies. Specifically the forthcoming revision to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature		E.21	Blue & Green Infrastructure -Highways/ Strategic City Transport	Progress Bedminster Green River Restoration project -River restoration to improve the Malago riverscape for amenity and biodiversity gain, as well as flood risk management associated with the Bedminster Green regeneration	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature	Biodiversity Net Gain is to become Environment Act requirement. This will require the council to update planning policies and practice guidance to ensure delivery of at least 10 per cent net gain for biodiversity	E.22	Biodiversity Net Gain - Existing Planning Policy	Existing Local Plan - prepare Biodiversity Net Gain practice guidance to support local plan and national planning policy requirements in response to Environment Act	–	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.23	Biodiversity Net Gain -Local Plan Review	Update Local Plan to include new policy approach to Biodiversity Net Gain and update green infrastructure policy accordingly	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.24	Biodiversity Net Gain - Evidence	Commission survey of council Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) to inform evidence for ecological network and Biodiversity Net Gain work	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.25	Biodiversity Net Gain - Implementation	Establish policy and procedure for Biodiversity Net Gain offsetting on council land holding (parks and green space, highway land, property land, housing delivery, and potential acquisition of sites on urban fringe to deliver at scale (See also E26)	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature		E.26	Biodiversity Net Gain - Implementation	Commission a report to identify suitable reptile receptor sites on council owned sites and non council owned sites (see also E25). Report to be undertaken with other landowners including Network Railway and National Highways	–	✓	–

## Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025

Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Space for Nature	As above	E.27	Biodiversity Net Gain - Local Plan Review	Check/update DM17 Bristol Tree Replacement Standard ensuring clarity alongside any new Biodiversity Net Gain policy/legislation	✓	✓	—
Space for Nature		E.28	Biodiversity Net Gain - Development Management	Establish requirements and reporting processes for Biodiversity Reporting Framework in readiness for Environment Act	✓	✓	—
Space for Nature		E.29	Biodiversity Net Gain - Regeneration/ Strategic Transport	Embed Biodiversity Net Gain approaches within capital programme and within corporate projects at inception and through all phases. Benchmark key projects using eg Building with Nature	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature	Recognising the contribution individual sites and locations (blue and green) make to the existing ecological network will support the delivery of the Nature Recovery Network and enhance the delivery of wider benefits for wildlife, people and place	E.30	Nature Recovery Network	New council freehold property leases to protect/ manage council natural environment interests	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature		E31	Nature Recovery Network	Ecological enhancements will be a key part of the capital programme development process. Identify and implement ecological enhancements in new capital projects	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature		E.32	Nature Recovery Network	Identify opportunities for ecological enhancements on council buildings/ facilities as part of Climate Resilience Estate project	✓	✓	—
Space for Nature		E.33	Nature Recovery Network	Identify locations for habitat creation and enhancement as part of Bristol Local Nature Recovery Network that contributes to the West of England Nature Recovery Network and green infrastructure functions, and Biodiversity Net Gain off setting	✓	—	—



## Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025

Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Space for Nature	As above	E.34	Nature Recovery Network	Undertake ecological surveys of Highway land, to inform changes in management to increase biodiversity	–	–	✓
Space for Nature		E.35	Nature Recovery Network	Renew the Parks and Green Space Strategy, setting out policies, principles and actions for nature-rich parks and green spaces. Include principles that support nature projects in parks and reference to Biodiversity Net Gain off-setting principles and opportunities	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.36	Nature Recovery Network - operational	Change operational management of parks, green spaces and amenity areas to benefit nature, where appropriate, and contribute to the Nature Recovery Network	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.37	Nature Recovery Network - operational	Verge management as part of Grounds Maintenance Review -nature conservation management, will consider baseline, priority areas, logistics and costs	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.38	Nature Recovery Network - Wild meadows	Scale up / relaunch Meadow Bristol; Sponsor a Meadow initiative for parks green spaces, highway verges, central reservations, roundabouts	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.39	Nature Recovery Network - Harbour	Harbour Waterspace (part of WaterSpace West -WoE strategic GI project) – framework for coordination of various work including the Harbour Operations Review and the Harbour Strategy. These will include environmental opportunities including ecological safeguarding and improvements to environmental quality	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.40	Nature Recovery Network - lighting	Consider Bat friendly lighting in Lighting Strategy	✓	–	–

## Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025

Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Space for Nature	Trees and Woodland deliver significant benefit to nature, people and place. They are a key element of the ecological network and green infrastructure. Managing existing trees and woodlands and also delivering on the significant targets set by government and the West of England (WoE) Nature Recovery Strategy requires strategy, partnership work and investment	E.41	Trees and Woodlands	Input and endorse a renewed 'Forest of Avon Plan': a tree and woodland strategy for the West of England	✓	–	–
Space for Nature		E.42	Trees and Woodlands	Develop a council tree and woodland strategy integral to the Bristol Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy	✓	✓	–
Space for Nature		E.43	Trees and Woodlands	Establish city approach to Ash Dieback and other plant diseases	✓	–	–
Space for Nature		E.44	Trees and Woodlands	Coordinate work with Replant Bristol/ One Tree schemes	✓	✓	✓
Space for Nature		E.45	Trees	Establish processes for new Highway Authority street tree duties within the forthcoming Environment Act	–	–	✓
Pesticides	To reduce the use of pesticides by at least 50 per cent. This is a One City Ecological Emergency Strategy goal that requires the council to review their own usage	F.1	Pesticides	Review the council's use of pesticides and progress the search for alternatives, identifying the benefits and costs of each'	✓	✓	–

## Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025

Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Water quality	To improve water quality and the habitat of the water environment is key aspect of the ecological network and nature recovery. This can be achieved by using mechanisms such as Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the design of flood defence schemes. By working together with established water-focused partnerships, we can maximise the significant benefits for wildlife	G.1	Blue & Green infrastructure/ Partnership delivery	Support the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority to sustainably manage fisheries and protect estuarine habitats	✓	✓	✓
Water quality		G.2	Blue & Green infrastructure/ Flood Risk	Embed biodiversity planning and Nature Based Solutions within Local Flood Risk Management Strategy work	✓	✓	—
Water quality		G.3	Blue & Green infrastructure/ Flood Risk	Embed nature based SuDS approaches within highway drainage schemes	✓	✓	—
Water quality		G.4	Blue & Green infrastructure/ Flood Risk	Embed multi-benefit SuDS approach in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	✓	✓	—
Water quality		G.5	Blue & Green infrastructure/ Flood Risk	Establish better maintenance regime for BCC-owned SuDS	✓	✓	—



## Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025

Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Communication & engagement	To collect, share and interpret data to ensure it is accessible to a wide audience is crucial to engaging others in nature recovery management and reporting change	H.1	Share data	Work closely with other organisations and agencies to i)share and interpret data, ii) engage the public in wildlife monitoring schemes through digital and practical initiatives including citizen science projects, and iii) help monitor changes in attitudes to wildlife locally, or perception of how wildlife-rich places are including use of Quality of Life Survey	✓	✓	✓
Communication & engagement		H.2	Share data	Work closely with Bristol Museums to share taxonomic, data management expertise, to deposit or access voucher specimens and to establish a stronger historical base on which to assess change	✓	✓	✓
Communication & engagement		H.3	Share data	Release rich historic biodiversity data locked in ~0.75 million local and global biological specimens to open platform research databases (BRERC, NBN, GBIF)	–	–	✓
Communication & engagement		H.4	Engagement	Embed engagement, learning and participation programme helping connect all citizens with Bristol's natural heritage, through the city's collections, archives & cultural spaces	✓	✓	✓
Communication & engagement	To support diverse access to our city's natural heritage through museum engagement spaces and programme. This will encourage learning and awareness of local and global ecological importance and facilitate research	H.5	Engagement	Develop focus on engagement with global ecological crisis through the prism of Bristol's colonial past, to empower across-city actions rooted in knowledge of history, diverse perspectives and environmental justice	✓	✓	✓
Communication & engagement		H.6	Engagement	Re-establish links between the museum's natural history collections and BRERC, to extend the historic evidence base and stories of our city's wildlife (1770s-present day)	✓	✓	✓
Communication & engagement		H.7	Engagement	Establish Bristol Culture as a UK museum sector lead in ecological crisis	✓	✓	✓

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Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Communication & engagement	To communicate the value of nature by working in partnership, sharing information and best practice. This will encourage others to engage in similar work. Whilst the EEAP is a Bristol City Council document, to deliver on the council's ambition to make a difference for nature, it will only succeed by working with others at every stage and challenging others to take similar steps	H.8	Communication & Engagement	Develop guidance and toolkits to production companies contracted by Bristol Film Office to work on location in Bristol that will enable more environmentally friendly working practices	✓	✓	—
Communication & engagement		H.9	Communication & Engagement	Identify appropriate channels for communicating the value of nature, exploring opportunities, listening to concerns and developing plans appropriately, working in partnership to achieve this. Key element of this will be working with Natural History Consortium as coordinator for delivery of the OCEES	✓	✓	✓
Communication & engagement		H.10	Communication & Engagement	Develop the council's Ecological Emergency webpage to include updates on plan progress including targets, and links to information to assist ward councillors identify action and opportunities in their communities	✓	✓	✓
Wider Footprint	To understand and seek ways to reduce our impact, use and consumption of products is crucial so that we do not undermine the health of wildlife and ecosystems beyond the city	I.1	Events management	Review guidance and policy regarding events and engage wider arts and culture sector response	✓	✓	—
Wider Footprint		I.2	Film &TV production	Use The Bottle Yard Studios & Bristol Film Office Sustainability Strategy & Action Plan to monitor the impact of the studios and local film/TV production on natural eco-systems and implement changes to support ecological sustainability	✓	✓	✓
Wider Footprint		I.3	Film &TV production	Influence production teams working at The Bottle Yard Studios and on location in Bristol to complete recommended industry training to address wider sector impact on wildlife and the environment	✓	✓	✓

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Theme	High Level Narrative	Ref	Work Area	Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2025
Wider Footprint	As above	I.4	Procurement	Development of Sustainable Procurement Policy (which includes Identifying opportunities to reduce biodiversity impacts through supply chain management and controls)	✓	✓	—
Wider Footprint		I.5	Procurement	Establish organisational ecological footprint and measurement tool around actions to support the Sustainable Procurement Policy	✓	✓	—
Wider Footprint		I.6	Procurement	Produce guidance for suppliers around Sustainable Procurement	✓	✓	—

**Completed Actions 2020-2021**

Theme	High Level Narrative for BCC Action Plan	Ref	Work Area	BCC Activity
Governance	Developed and coordinated an organisational Ecological Emergency Action Plan and frameworks for coordination and reporting delivery	B.1	Project Management	Recruitment of an Ecological Emergency Project Manager
		B.2	Project Management	Coordinated development of a BCC EE Action Plan in response to Ecological Emergency Declaration and One City EE Strategy identifying links with Climate Change Strategy



