



# Embedding Net Zero Decision Making

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# Innovate UK – Net Zero Living Programme



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FAIRER  
GREENER



Innovate UK's £60 million, three-year Net Zero Living programme aims to help regional authorities and businesses accelerate the transition to net zero, across the UK and internationally.



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UK

# Fast Followers funding



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Fast Followers funding to help to further develop Local Authority net zero delivery plans, improve delivery pathways and enable adoption at scale of innovative products and services.



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UK

# Project Challenge



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Innovate UK funding for Cardiff Council to progress and respond to a sector wide challenge:

**How do we build carbon reduction into decision making and build net zero thinking across the Council?**

# Commitment to Net Zero



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“If we are to meet our One Planet commitments, significant changes will be needed over the decade ahead to the way the city grows, how public services are delivered in our communities and to our transport, energy, waste and water systems”

*Stronger, Fairer, Greener*

“Take bold leadership on climate change across the organisation by **driving down emissions per directorate and ensuring carbon is fully accounted for in decision-making**”

*Cardiff Council Corporate Plan 2024-27*

# Why take climate action?



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... reducing emissions can help the City function better, it can deliver many benefits and opportunities for residents, businesses and visitors, and there can be efficiencies and cost savings, particularly in the long term.

# What we did



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1. Review of practice form across UK and Europe



2. Engaged with Innovate UK and cohort of 'Future Ready' participants for ideas and support



3. Assessment of Options



4. Senior Team endorsement



5. Pilot in 2025

# Agreed Approach



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## 1. Adaptation – Responding to Climate Risk

*How? By updating the City and the Council's climate emergency risk assessment and responding to the findings.*

## 2. Mitigation – Reducing Carbon Footprint

*How? Through a regular assessment of Carbon Emissions by Directorate to develop options for carbon reduction.*



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# Adaptation: What are we proposing to do?

- **Identify the Impact of Climate Change:** The Council is working with PSB partners to develop Cardiff's Climate Risk Assessment.
- **Review Risk to Service Delivery:** Directorates will consider the risk posed to service delivery by Climate Emergency.
- **Mitigate Risk:** Directorates will identify mitigations for inclusion in their departmental risk register.
- **Prepare for Climate Events:** Directorates will update contingency plans to account for scenarios associated with the climate emergency.
- **Oversight:** One Planet Board to have oversight of directorate risks and response plans.

# Adaptation: Work to Date & Next Steps



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- PSB commissioned a Climate Emergency Risk Assessment for Cardiff, updating the city's risk assessment against 61 CCRA risks (statutory responsibility).
- Development workshops with Council staff and PSB partners undertaken.
- Presentation with Council staff and PSB partners to set out and discuss findings.
- Assessment of Climate Risk to be used to update Directorate Risk Registers & Business Continuity Plans by December 2025.

# Mitigation: Reducing our Carbon Footprint



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- **Reducing Carbon requires a good understanding of what is driving Carbon:** We will develop our understanding of the Council's Carbon Footprint through better use of data and an enhanced programme of training.
- **Identifying opportunities for Carbon Reduction through Self-Assessment:** Directorates will be supported to undertake a rolling self-assessment of their carbon footprint to identify opportunities for carbon reduction.
- **Supporting the Response:** The self-assessment represents a learning exercise where Directorates can rehearse issues with the One Planet Board.

# Mitigation:

## Work to date and Next Steps

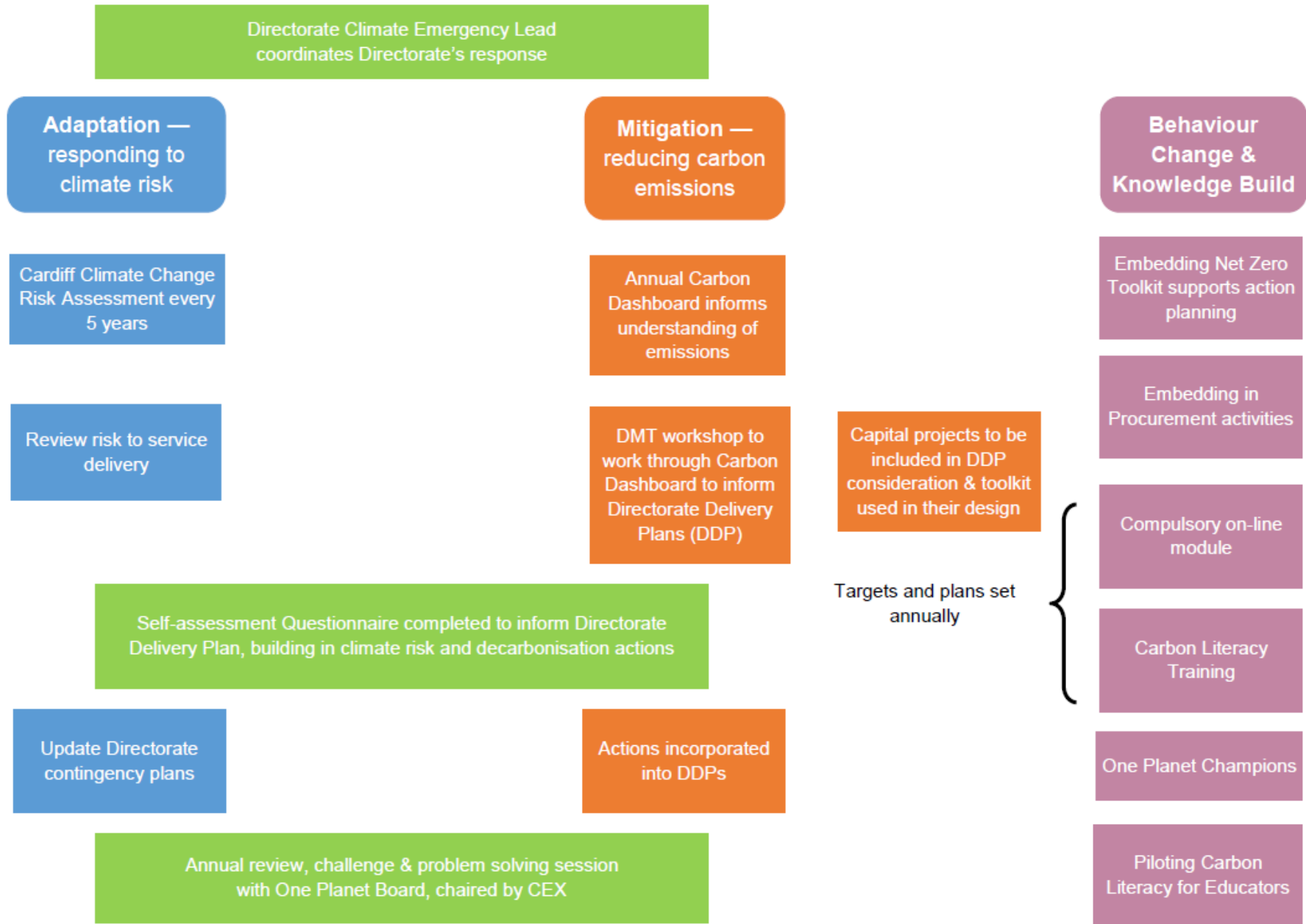


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- **Launch the Council's Carbon Dashboard**
- **Directorate Climate Emergency Leads** to support the process, who will
  - Receive Carbon Literacy Training
  - Become confident and informed users of the Carbon Dashboard
  - Support Directorates to understand their Carbon footprint and risks
- **Support being developed for Directorate Management Teams**
  - Helps understand causes of carbon emissions
  - Improves awareness of how carbon can be mitigated
  - Develop understanding of lifetime costs vs immediate cost
- **Resources to support the process:** Embedding Net Zero Toolkit and carbon evaluation tool
- **Pilot** the approach in Q2 2025/26 with two Directorates and a focus on learning in 2025/26

# Embedding Climate Change Decision Making





One Planet Cardiff

# Embedding Net Zero Toolkit



A resource to support Cardiff Council staff and Directorates respond to the climate emergency



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This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

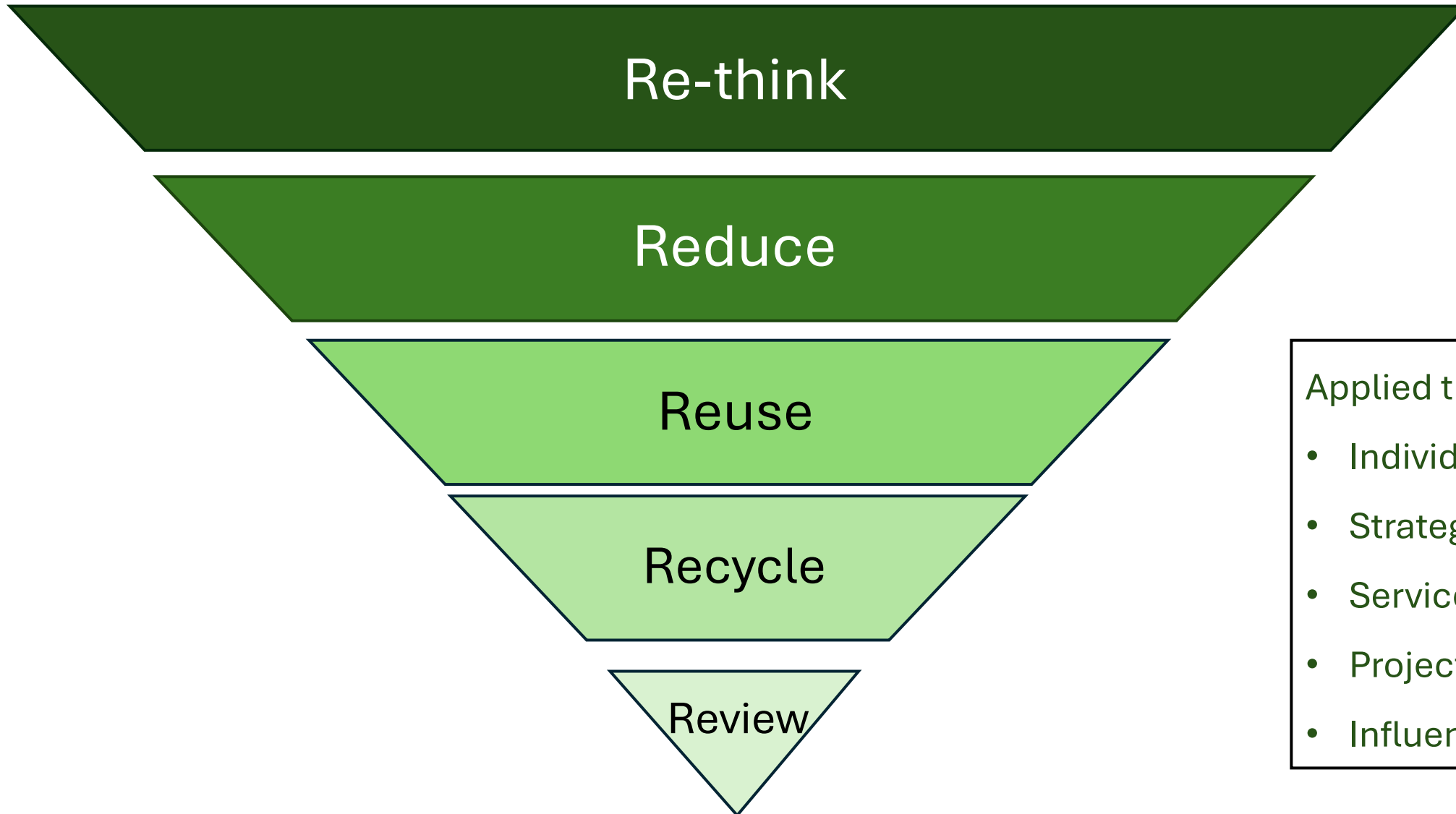


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A non-technical guide aimed at all Council officers.

# Net-Zero Lens Principles



Re-think

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Review

Applied through:

- Individual actions
- Strategy
- Service delivery
- Projects
- Influencing others

# Lessons



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- Essential to have senior buy-in
- Frame narrative in context of co-benefits
- Build into existing governance arrangements
- Streamline as much as possible into existing processes / procedures
- Provide data to help guide decisions and actions
- Include a programme of awareness raising and knowledge building to all staff
- Learn from how others are taking forward issues and learn from their experiences
- Provide support
- Build in time to roll out and embed