

Tackling the climate emergency in Leicester

Glossary of terms used in the questionnaires

Adaptation to climate change	Taking action to adjust to the current and expected effects of climate change, to prevent or reduce negative impacts on people and biodiversity. Can include making changes in the way services are run, the design of buildings, management of land and infrastructure, and planning of emergency responses.
Biodiversity	The variety of life in a given area. Includes animals, plants, fungi and bacteria.
Carbon emissions	Carbon dioxide and/or other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere which contribute to climate change by trapping heat in the atmosphere. Significant greenhouse gases emitted by human activity include: carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O) and F-gases (a family of chemicals containing carbon, hydrogen and fluorine, commonly used as refrigerants).
Carbon footprint	The total amount of carbon emissions released as a result of the activities of a person, group of people (such as a household), organisation or geographical area in a given period of time – usually a year. The term can also apply to a product, where it means the total amount of carbon emissions released in producing a given quantity of the product.
Decarbonisation	Reducing the carbon emissions caused by a particular activity or process – by changing the activity or process in some way. For example, decarbonising the heating of houses by replacing gas boilers with alternative heating systems which generate fewer carbon emissions.
Greenhouse gas	A gas which, in the atmosphere, contributes to climate change by trapping heat. Significant greenhouse gases emitted by human activity include: carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O) and F-gases (a family of chemicals containing carbon, hydrogen and fluorine, commonly used as refrigerants).

Heat pump	<p>An electric system for extracting heat from one place and moving it to another. Originally used in refrigeration and air conditioning to remove heat, but now also used in reverse to heat buildings using warmth from outside.</p> <p>The most commonly used type of heat pump extracts heat from the air (known as an air source heat pump), but heat pumps can also take heat from the ground (a ground source heat pump) or a body of water, such as a river or lake (a water source heat pump).</p>
Infrastructure	<p>In the context of this questionnaire, infrastructure includes roads, bridges, drainage systems and energy distribution systems including the electricity grid.</p>
Net zero carbon	<p>The point at which carbon emissions have been reduced to such a low level that they are balanced out (also known as being offset) by an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases being removed from the atmosphere for the long-term e.g. by using 'carbon capture and storage' technology if/when it becomes widely available.</p>
Plug-in hybrid	<p>Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) use batteries to power an electric motor and another fuel, such as petrol, to power an internal combustion engine (ICE). PHEV batteries can be charged using a wall outlet or charging equipment, by the ICE, or through regenerative braking.</p>
Resilient to climate change	<p>Something which is able to withstand, or is protected from, the negative effects of climate change. Can refer to an organisation, a community of people, a wildlife population, a building, infrastructure or a service.</p>
Secondary glazing	<p>A second layer of glazing fitted inside the original windows, to reduce heat loss. Usually fitted when the original windows can't be replaced with double-glazing.</p>
Smart meter	<p>An electronic device which records information about energy use and communicates it to the consumer and the energy supplier.</p>
Supply chain	<p>A term used to describe the 'chain' of organisations involved in supplying goods and services to a customer organisation, from the suppliers of the original raw materials and other inputs, through to the manufacturers and end suppliers.</p>

Thermostatic radiator valve	A device which can be fitted to a radiator to control the heat it provides – allowing different rooms in the building to be heated to different temperatures.
Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO ₂ e)	A way of expressing the quantity of any greenhouse gas emitted as the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide which would have the same impact on increasing global heating. Allows emissions of different greenhouse gases to be compared in the same units in terms of their climate impact.
Wall insulation – cavity, external or internal	<p>Cavity wall insulation is fitted in the gap between the outer and inner walls of a cavity-walled building.</p> <p>Where a building has solid walls with no cavity, external wall insulation involves cladding the walls with insulation on the outside, while internal insulation involves fitting a layer of insulation on the inside of the walls.</p>