



**Information Governance Team**

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18 September 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)**

**Request ID: FOI540128462**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Environmental Initiatives.

You have requested the following information:

**Environmental and Tree-Planting Initiatives:**

**1. Over the past year, how many events related to environmental awareness or tree planting has the council organised?**

Tree planting events have been organised annually for the last 3 years with approximately 39,500 whips being planted. A further 1,615 semi mature sized trees have been planted in parks, openspaces and the Streetscene.

**2. Does the council have specific tree-planting targets set for the upcoming years?**

We aim to plant 360,000 trees over the 10 year period of 2022 – 2032.

**3. How many trees has the council planted in the last year?**

See answer above.

**4. What budget has been allocated for promotional materials associated with these events?**

£0

**5. What were the funds allocated for tree-planting in the past financial year, and what is projected for the next?**

£64,400 is allocated to planting and watering. Further funds are acquired via Government grant aid and corporate sponsorship.

**Product and Supplier Preferences:**

**6. How many flyers or other promotional print materials did the council commission or produce in the last year?**

We are advising you as per EIR Reg 12(4)(a) that the Council does not record this information.

**7. Which departments utilise these promotional materials?**

Promotional materials are used by many services but in particular by the Design Team and Childrens Services.

**8. What has been the total expenditure by the council on paper-based promotional materials over the last financial year?**

We are advising you as per EIR Reg 12(4)(a) that the Council does not record this information.

**9. Are these promotional materials sourced sustainably?**

Much of the printing is done in-house and recycled papers are used wherever possible

**Carbon Offset, Land, and Green Investments:**

**10. What is the council's carbon neutrality target date?**

In 2008 the City Council was a founding signatory of the Global Covenant of Mayors which has set a target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The Council's draft Climate Change Strategy further highlights "The Strategy highlights the City Council's priorities to take it to the year 2030 when it hopes to achieve a 55% reduction in Carbon emissions to 1990 levels which it signed up to last year as part of the Commitment of the Covenant of Mayors. This is an interim target as the City Council and its partners work together to achieve a common goal set by the UK Government of achieving a 100% reduction of Carbon emissions to from 1990 levels and possibly if it is ever possible to achieve this target by 2041 as laid down by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

**11. How much carbon does the council aim to offset annually?**

The Council does not currently purchase any offsets.

**12. Does the council have any land parcels suitable for afforestation or reforestation?**

This is currently under review.

**13. Details on the council's green or sustainability investments over the last three years?**

Please view the draft Climate Change Strategy and associated web pages accessible via these links:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-change-pathway/2>

This provides information on what the Council is doing in relation to each of the five pathways groups: Low emissions, Circular economy, nature-based, equitable, and resilience.

Specific grant funding has also been secured (alongside partners) within the last three years to enhance action on sustainability. This includes securing £50 million to create the UK's first all-electric bus city by 2025, £30 million grant funding to support the retrofit of houses, improving EPCs and reducing fuel poverty, £19 million in enhancing active travel in the city and £82 million for a new station building and transport interchange. The council are also working with partners to complete construction on a council-owned materials recycling facility (MRF) in Coventry, expected to be a 'world leading' recycling facility. More details on some of these key initiatives can be found below:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/news/article/4475/coventry-on-the-road-to-becoming-uk-s-first-all-electric-bus-city>

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/regeneration-1/rail-station-masterplan>

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/news/article/4704/-19m-plans-for-bus-cycle-and-walking-routes-in-south-coventry>

**Community Engagement and Benefits:**

**14. Current or planned community engagement initiatives related to sustainability or**

## **environmental awareness?**

Over the past few months the Climate Change team delivered a series of engagement sessions across the city at libraries, shopping centres, events, special interest groups and schools. We also hosted online webinars. Please see more here - <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-change-strategy-launch/2>

## **15. Studies or assessments on the benefits of green spaces or tree coverage?**

Please find link to the Council's Urban Tree Strategy:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/heritage-ecology-trees/coventry-urban-forestry-strategy-2022-2032>

Regulatory Framework and External Funding - Council's policies or frameworks concerning urban green spaces, afforestation, or reforestation. See Urban Forestry Strategy link:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/heritage-ecology-trees/coventry-urban-forestry-strategy-2022-2032>

External grants, funding, or partnerships for sustainability initiatives:

Urban Tree Challenge Fund accessed via Trees for Cities mass bid.

The draft Climate Change Strategy and associated web pages:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-change-pathway/2>

This provides information on what the Council is doing in relation to each of the five pathways groups; Low emissions, Circular economy, nature-based, equitable, and resilience. Specific grant funding has also been secured (alongside partners) within the last three years to enhance action on sustainability. This includes securing £50 million to create the UK's first all-electric bus city by 2025, £30 million grant funding to support the retrofit of houses, improving EPCs and reducing fuel poverty, £19 million in enhancing active travel in the city and £82 million for a new station building and transport interchange. The council are also working with partners to complete construction on a council-owned materials recycling facility (MRF) in Coventry, expected to be a 'world leading' recycling facility. More details on some of these key initiatives can be found below:

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## **Contact Information:**

### **16. Contacts for the department overseeing marketing and promotional campaigns, environmental officer and the person responsible for tree planting initiatives?**

You may email [climatechange@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@coventry.gov.uk)

Contacts for the department overseeing marketing and promotional campaigns and environmental officer:

[Tim.Wetherhill@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.Wetherhill@coventry.gov.uk) who is the person responsible for tree planting initiatives

## **Supplier Certification and Sustainability Goals:**

### **17. Consideration of sustainability or corporate responsibility when selecting suppliers?**

Please find link to the Council's Social Value & Sustainability Policy -

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/social-value-1/print>

### **18. Measures to support local biodiversity and specific biodiversity targets?**

Please find link to the Council's draft Climate Change Strategy -

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/draftclimatechangepstrategy>

Strategy -

**19. Planned environmental campaigns or tree planting initiatives for the next financial year and their projected budgets?**

After suffering damage to some site through the heat of 2022, we are restocking some sites during this year. New projects will recommence in 2024. The Council will continue to engage residents, businesses and community groups with the Climate Change Strategy and resulting Action Plan.

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For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**